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St. Tammany Chamber Hosts National Civics Bee® Regional Competition *Three Middle School Finalists to Advance to State Competition*

(COVINGTON, LA May 8, 2026) – The St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2026 National Civics Bee’s Regional Competition in Covington on May 4, 2026, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. Organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the National Civics Bee is an annual nonpartisan civics competition for middle school students that increases civic knowledge, skills and disposition among young Americans, their families and communities.

“Each year, the National Civics Bee reminds us how much promise and talent exists in communities across the country. Students step up with thoughtful solutions, bold ideas and a willingness to participate—exactly the qualities our democracy and workforce need. We are proud to support a program that strengthens civic knowledge and skills for all young people and helps build the foundation for a stronger future.” said Hilary Crow, Vice President, Civics, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Students across the Northshore submitted essays on issues in their communities with the top students selected to compete in this Regional Competition, a live event featuring two rounds of civics quiz questions followed by a Q&A in which students discussed their proposals for improving their communities. Henry Schneidau from St. Margaret Mary Catholic School in Slidell took first place, followed by Carolyn McCormick from Monteleone Junior High School in Mandeville and Kaysen Barlow from St. Tammany Junior High School in Slidell for second and third places, respectively. The judges for this year’s competition were Rick Dennie, Agent with New York Life Insurance; Lauren Navarre, COO/CFO with Arena Collective; and Bob Warren, Reporter and Editor with *The Times-Picayune* and Nola.com.

“We were incredibly proud to see these students confidently share their ideas and demonstrate such strong civic knowledge,” said Michelle Biggs, Vice President of the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce. “The enthusiasm in the room—from families, schools and community supporters—showed just how important it is to invest in the next generation of leaders. These students gave us a lot of hope for the future.”

The first-place winner received a \$500 cash prize, tablet and trophy and will advance—along with the other top finalists—to the state competition. The second and third-place winners received \$250 and \$125 in cash prizes, respectively, along with a tablet and trophy. All participants received a certificate. The top state winners will receive various prizes, up to

\$1,000. The state's first-place winner will earn a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Championship in the Fall of 2026, where they can win a grand prize of a \$100,000 contribution to an education savings plan. The second-place finalist will receive \$25,000, and the third-place National finalist will receive \$15,000.

Henry Schneidau, who earned first place in the Regional Competition, said participating in the event was both exciting and rewarding. "It was amazing. I never would have thought I would have won first, but yeah, it was a great experience," he said. He also shared that the competition helped him grow personally and build confidence in public speaking. "I think it was good for me to experience."

The St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the sponsors and supporters who helped make the Regional Competition possible, including Community Sponsors Arena Collective and Velocity Digital Media Company. Additional support was provided by in-kind donors Acquistapace's, Rainbow Child Care East St. Tammany, Red River Bank, Resource Bank, Sweet P's Treats and United Way of Southeast Louisiana.

The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry will host the National Civics Bee Louisiana State Finals on June 27, 2026, in Shreveport.

Photos and captions can be [downloaded here](#).

For more information on the National Civics Bee, visit StTammanyChamber.org/civicsbee. The student essay application portal for the 2027 National Civics Bee competition opens in September 2026.

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About St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce

[The St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce](#) promotes, supports and advocates for businesses with a commitment to the success of the Northshore. The Chamber is a catalyst for a community that prospers. With more than 1,000 member organizations, the Chamber stands on the frontlines of ensuring our community is primed for success through advocacy, business support, networking and promotion. Members range from multinational corporations with an interest on the Northshore to small local organizations that are the backbone of the community. As the local business community diversifies and grows, the Chamber remains focused on strengthening the business climate and economic vitality of St. Tammany.

About U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

[The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#) harnesses the power of business to create solutions for the good of America and the world. We anticipate, develop, and deploy solutions to challenges facing communities—today and tomorrow.

About the National Civics Bee®

The [National Civics Bee](#), a program of the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#), is an annual nonpartisan competition aimed at improving civics education and literacy among middle school students, their families, and communities. The National Civics Bee helps elevate civics as a national priority through a network of state, regional, and local organizations across the country. The National Civics Bee is made possible through the generous support of its founding partner, the Daniels Fund, as well as Carnegie Corporation of New York, Citizen Travelers, and other funders.