



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2025

Eau Claire, WI – The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce has been named as the official Wisconsin State Partner for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s National Civics Bee®, an annual competition that inspires young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. It is a nonpartisan initiative to enhance civic literacy, skills, and participation.

As the State Partner, the Chamber will coordinate the 2026 Wisconsin State Civics Bee, offering middle school students from across Wisconsin the opportunity to participate in a single statewide competition hosted in Eau Claire in late spring/early summer 2026. The state champion will advance to the National Civics Bee finals in Washington, D.C.

The essay submission portal is now open, with applications accepted through February 3, 2026. Competition entry begins with submitting an essay that answers four questions related to a community challenge or opportunity, along with a proposed solution. All Wisconsin 6th–8th grade students, from public, private, charter, and homeschool settings, are invited to take part!

Notably, the Eau Claire region has produced the past two consecutive Wisconsin State Civics Bee champions:

- **Rya M.**, DeLong Middle School – inaugural 2024 State Civics Bee winner
- **Leila C.**, South Middle School – 2025 State Civics Bee winner

“We are honored to bring the National Civics Bee back to Wisconsin,” said David Minor, President/CEO of the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce. “With two state champions in a row emerging from our local schools, our region clearly exemplifies civic learning, engagement, and leadership.”

“This unique opportunity empowers Wisconsin youth to strengthen their understanding of civics and grow as engaged citizens,” added Tina Probst, Director of Workforce and Emerging Talent. “We look forward to collaborating with schools, sponsors, and families statewide.”

For essay guidelines, resources, and details on how schools, students, families, and sponsors can get involved, please visit: <https://www.eauclairechamber.org/workforce/national-civics-bee/>.

About the National Civics Bee®

The National Civics Bee® is an initiative by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, in partnership with local and state chambers of commerce nationwide. Focused on middle school students, the Bee encourages civic understanding, active citizenship, and engagement through essay submissions and live quiz formats.

Media Contact:

Tina Probst
Director of Workforce and Emerging Talent
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
probst@eauclairechamber.org; 715-858-0617