



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Civic Engagement Contest Announcement

SEPTEMBER 12 – Yesterday, a somber day of remembrance in our shared civic life, marked the kickoff of the 2023-24 MyImpact Challenge, a national civic engagement contest sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute (BRI). The goal of this contest is simple: foster a robust understanding of citizenship and get middle school and high school students active in their communities now!

Currently in its third year, BRI's MyImpact Challenge annually offers a \$10,000 Grand Prize (and \$40,000 in prizes overall) to students who design and execute an exemplary community service project that aligns with constitutional principles.

The contest encourages students to consider ways they can solve problems through non-profit and/or for-profit enterprises (not just through political activism). As such, BRI's program fosters the entrepreneurial "can do" spirit that Alexis de Tocqueville extolled in *Democracy in America* – and that scholars like Robert Putnam (of *Bowling Alone* fame) have lauded more recently.

Importantly, the Bill of Rights Institute provides lesson plans (and prizes!) for teachers –as well as live webinars and online support to students participating in MyImpact Challenge. Moreover, BRI's project-based learning competition includes features designed to deepen students' understanding of America's founding principles and their relevance to civic life today.

In addition to prize money, South Carolina students (and teachers) who win an award in the MyImpact Challenge competition will receive special recognition from S.C. Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver.

Project details are available at: <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/my-impact-challenge>. The competition is open to all students, regardless of school type (public, private, homeschool, etc.). **Deadline for submissions is 11:59 pm on Sunday, May 19, 2024.**