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SECRETARY of STATE
ALEXI GIANNOULIAS

John Lewis Youth Leadership Award — Nominator Form

About the Award

The John Lewis Leadership Award honors young Illinoisans who have made outstanding civic contributions to their communities. Established by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) in 2021, the award recognizes the legacy of Congressman John Lewis, a lifelong advocate for voting rights and youth engagement in democracy.

Award Criteria

Your nominee's work should demonstrate the following strengths:

Leadership

- Shows empathy, inspires others, and courageously faces challenges
- Involves community members in decision-making, keeps them informed, and includes them in their work

Commitment to Social Justice

- Advances civil and human rights, such as voting rights, fair access to resources and opportunities, and freedom from discrimination

Quality of Life Improvement

- Raises awareness of problems about community issues
- Promotes solutions and improves access to basic needs (food, education, healthcare, voting, transportation or employment)
- Strengthens community connections and belonging

Application Requirements

A complete application includes:

- Nominator Form
- A completed Nominee Form
- 2 to 10 exhibits that show the nominee's work and impact

Email all materials to jlyouthaward@ilsos.gov. For the current deadline and detailed instructions, visit ilsos.gov/special/john-lewis-award.

Note: Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. The nominee must be an Illinois resident, and their work must benefit at least part of an Illinois community.

Nominee Information (Complete this section about the person you are nominating)

First and Last Name: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address (Street): _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Current School (if attending high school, trade school, college, or university):

_____

Current Grade (if attending): _____

Organization where they work or volunteer (if applicable): _____

Nominator Information (Complete this section about yourself)

First and Last Name: _____

Employer or Volunteer Organization: _____

Job or Volunteer Title: _____

Relationship to Nominee (teacher, professor, supervisor, colleague, fellow volunteer):

_____

How long have you known the nominee: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Questions for Nominator

1. In 5 sentences or less, briefly summarize why you believe your nominee deserves this award based on their social justice work.

2. Check the main social justice issue that your nominee's work addresses.

   ☐ Poverty ☐ Immigration ☐ Housing

   ☐ Environment ☐ Voting Rights ☐ LGBTQ+ Rights or Gender Equity

   ☐ Food or Nutrition ☐ Education ☐ Health Care (Including Reproductive Rights)

   ☐ Safety ☐ Racial Justice ☐ Other: _____

3. What actions has your nominee taken to demonstrate youth leadership? Describe the community served, time devoted, and improvements achieved. A community can be geographic (example: low-income residents of Mt. Vernon) or issue-focused (example: LGBTQ+ teens' rights and safety).

4. Describe at least 1 positive outcome from your nominee's advocacy.

5. Describe at least 1 challenge your nominee faced and how they overcame it while working on their issue or with their community.

6. How does your nominee's work described reflect the spirit of Congressman John Lewis' advocacy?

7. If selected as the winner, how would this impact the community the nominee serves?

Nominator Signature (Electronic signature accepted)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contact Us

If you have any questions, contact us at 312-814-1148 or jlyouthaward@ilsos.gov.