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February 26, 2019

Dear Sixth Grade Teacher:

The Alaska Municipal League is proud to announce the **“If I Were Mayor, I Would ...” Essay Contest** for sixth grade students around the state. The contest is an effort to engage young Alaskans in the issues of their city government and is designed to give them an opportunity to use grade-specific language art skills and civics/social studies knowledge to creatively voice their opinions. We would like to invite you and your students to participate in this year’s contest.

We hope that you will use this event as an opportunity to invite your local mayor or municipal officials into the classroom to discuss the role of public service leaders in your community. We feel this is a unique opportunity not only for young people around the state to express their views, but also for mayors and other local elected officials to hear from youth.

AML believes in helping young people around the state become better citizens. We are looking for essays that have fresh ideas and organized content. The essay should be relevant as well as original and display a clear understanding of the topic as well as the writing process.

**Teachers are asked to review the essays and send only the five best essays from each class. Entries are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26, 2019.** There will be one winner selected from each of AML’s ten districts, from around the state. Winners of the contest will be announced at the AML Board of Directors Meeting on May 08, 2019, and their essay will be featured on our website.

I have enclosed more detailed contest information. We hope this will be a great experience for you and your class. If you have any questions about the contest, please contact Teresa Cleveland toll free at 1-877-636-1325 or e-mail [teresa@akml.org](mailto:teresa@akml.org). Information may also be found at [www.akml.org](http://www.akml.org).

Thank you in advance for participating in this opportunity to enhance civic participation among the youth of our state.

Sincerely,

Teresa Cleveland  
Program Coordinator