



**NEWS from
Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds
FRED MILLER**

**May 5, 2020
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CONTACT:

Lake Shore High School Senior's Design To Be Featured on Voting Stickers

County Clerk Announces Winners of "I Voted" Sticker Design Contest

MACOMB COUNTY, MI -- Lake Shore High School Senior Kayla McCuen takes the top prize in the Macomb County "I Voted!" Sticker Design Contest, **Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds Fred Miller** announced today. The St. Clair Shores resident's design, which features two hands cradling the words "Your Vote Matters," will be featured on stickers presented to voters throughout Macomb County in an upcoming election.

Second and third-place winners included a pair of students from the Warren Consolidated School district -- Isabelle Deng, an 8th-grader at Grissom Middle School in Warren and Noora Koraeel, an 11th-grader at Sterling Heights High School. Elaina Johnson, a 2nd-grader from Hevel Elementary of Romeo Community Schools in Washington Township was recognized as a special Honorable Mention winner.

The contest, with the theme of "**YOUR VOTE/ OUR FUTURE**" was created and launched last year as a partnership between the Macomb County Clerk's Office, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, and the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD). Open to students in grades K-12 who are residents of or attend school within Macomb County, the contest required participants to have a current, past or future teacher sponsor their entries with designs either incorporating the words "I Voted!" or have space for words to be inserted for sticker production.

A total of 525 entries were submitted from 14 Macomb County school districts as well as from private and home-schooled students. 64 entries were awarded "finalist" status. The finalists' entries were reviewed, remotely, by a panel of judges which included members of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, judges from the 16th Circuit Court, city and township clerks, as well as representatives from the MISD and the Macomb County arts community.

Noting the significance of May 5 as both 'Teacher Appreciation Day' and Election Day throughout the state, Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds Fred Miller said, "Congratulations to the winners and all the participating student-artists. We were impressed with not only the level of response from area students but especially the thoughtfulness and creativity that clearly went into the designs. Judging from their passion for voting, the future is in good hands with these future citizens and leaders coming up."

Miller continued, "A special thanks to the teachers who encouraged their students' participation. It was not easy to fit extra things into already busy and complicated instructional calendars. Now to see the dedication and ingenuity of educators and parents alike during the pandemic gives us yet another reason to appreciate these dedicated professionals! Please know how much you are appreciated for fostering the next generation of leaders, especially during these trying times."

Over 70 teachers were listed as teacher-sponsors by the students, indicating broad participation from classrooms throughout Macomb County. Teachers Holly Bolen (Lake Shore), Mary Bullis (Warren Con), Jennifer Kay-Rivera (Warren Con), and Christine Wicker (Romeo) sponsored the winning entries.

May 5 is one of the four election dates approved by the State of Michigan. Locally, only the voters of Warren Woods Public Schools have an election joining over 200 jurisdictions across the state in conducting an election.

Students in 6th grade and above were asked to submit an Artist Vision Statement along with their designs. The first-place winner, Ms. McCue, wrote, "My sticker reflects upon the power of an individual. When it comes to elections, and anything for that matter, your voice matters. In my sticker, you can see a pair of hands cradling the words "Your Vote Matters." It's a reminder that you make a difference! I've always believed that it was not only your right, but a privilege to be able to make such an impact. In recent years, there had been a decline of people rushing to the polls. I work the state elections come March, 5AM to 9PM, and seeing people come to vote is a relief."

"Our democracy and free society are in many ways like a garden, requiring time, work, and consistent attention to realize our desired outcomes," Miller said. "Encouraging people to vote is one way of tending the garden. It is my hope that while students were creating their designs for this contest that they were prompted to think about the different ways in which we can participate in civic life."

The design images of contest winners, finalists and participants will be featured on the County Clerk's website (macombgov.org/ClerkRoD) as well as on social media channels.

Editor's note: winning sticker art attached



FIRST PLACE WINNER

Kayla McCuen, 12th Grade

Lake Shore High School, Lake Shore Public Schools

Teacher sponsor: Holly Bolen



SECOND PLACE

Isabelle Deng, 8th Grade
Grissom Middle School
Warren Con. Schools

Teacher sponsor:
Mary Bullis



THIRD PLACE

Noora Koreel, 11th Grade
Sterling Heights High School
Warren Con. Schools

Teacher sponsor:
Jennifer Kay-Rivera



HONORABLE MENTION

Elaina Johnson, 2nd Grade
Hevel Elementary School
Romeo Community Schools

Teacher sponsor:
Christine Wicker