

LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2023-2024 MEMBERSHIP
INTERESTED STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY BEFORE MARCH 24 DEADLINE

The Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) is accepting applications for membership from high school students who have an interest in representing the voices of young people around the state. LYAC is an annually appointed body composed entirely of students that tackle issues affecting the youth of Louisiana. The purpose of LYAC is to facilitate communication between youth and the legislature, and to give students a unique opportunity to be involved in the workings of state government. The Council studies and addresses a variety of issues of importance to young people such as education, mental health, civic engagement, the environment, and school safety.

Members of the Council are selected from a large pool of applicants who display a strong interest in civic involvement. The thirty-one members include three students representing each of the six congressional districts and the remaining serve at large. Applicants must be between the ages of fourteen and nineteen and enrolled in a public or private high school, charter school, home school, or GED skills program during the 2023-2024 school year.

The deadline to apply is March 24, 2023. The application may be accessed at civiced.louisiana.gov and then by clicking on LYAC at the top of the page. All applicants are required to submit two recommendation letters in addition to the eight short essay questions and application form. For additional information, please contact Megan Bella at bellam@legis.la.gov or 225-342-2370.

Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council

Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(225) 342-2370
bellam@legis.la.gov

Staff:

Megan Bella
Documents and Records
Louisiana Senate



What Is LYAC?

Now in its sixteenth year, the Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) is a body created by state law which is composed entirely of high school students with an interest in representing the voices of young people across the state. It opens the line of communication between youth and the legislature and gives students the opportunity to be involved in the workings of government. The thirty-one student members are appointed each year, three from each of the state's congressional districts and the remaining members at large. The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education oversees the work of LYAC and selects its membership.

LYAC Application Process

Applicants must be entering grades 9-12, and be enrolled in a public or private high school, a home school program, or a GED skills program, for the 2023-2024 school year. To apply, fill out the application completely. A parent or legal guardian must sign and submit a consent form. Two recommendation letters are also required. Recommendation letters should be submitted by a school administrator, teacher, or representative of a community or school-sponsored club or organization (with a civic mission). The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education is responsible for the appointment of members. The deadline for submission is March 24, 2023.

LYAC Website

https://house.louisiana.gov/civiced/default_LYAC

Application, parental consent form, and two letters of recommendation should be emailed to bellam@legis.la.gov.

Recommendation letters can also be mailed to:

Louisiana Commission on Civic Education

c/o Megan Bella

Louisiana Senate

PO Box 94183

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Mission

Our mission is to foster a greater appreciation and understanding of civic participation among Louisiana's young people. As citizens and the future leaders of our state, we believe that in order to improve our state, it is fundamental that we be active and engaged to enact positive change, and influence our governmental system for the better. By facilitating discussion, provoking thought, and encouraging action on the part of our peers, the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council strives to have an integral part in forming our future.

Purpose

"To examine and facilitate communication between youth and the legislature regarding issues of importance to youth, including but not limited to education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in local and state government, safe environments for youth, substance abuse, underage drinking, emotional and physical health, poverty, litter and environmental control, driver's licenses, and youth access to state and local services."

History

In the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature, lawmakers overwhelmingly approved Senate Bill 46 by then-Senator Gerald "Jerry" Theunissen. The bill, which became Act 118, created LYAC. The bill grew out of Sen. Theunissen's visit to an 8th grade class at a south Louisiana high school as part of his participation in the Legislators Back to School Program, a national effort that encourages lawmakers to meet with students to put a face on public service and to promote a greater understanding of how representative democracy works. As part of his classroom visit, Sen. Theunissen challenged the students to help him draft legislation for lawmakers to consider that would be meaningful to young people across the state.

The students accepted the challenge and the idea for LYAC was born. The students helped draft the proposed new law, met with key state officials and lawmakers to gain support for their bill, and testified before legislative committees considering the measure. On June 25, 2007, then-Governor Kathleen Blanco signed the bill into law and in 2008 the first council was born.