



September 25, 2025

Dear West Virginia Educators:

The West Virginia Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission, in collaboration with Beta Beta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is pleased to announce the 42nd Annual Poster Competition. Each year students throughout the state of West Virginia have shared their artistic abilities by submitting their entries as a way of celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The mission of the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission is to celebrate the occasion of the 42nd Annual Poster Competition by depicting the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The poster must focus on this quotation by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

Classroom teachers are asked to assist students in the development of original slogans/captions to be used in the development of the poster. All work must be original. If pictures are used to develop the posters, the source must be given. The famous quote must be incorporated into the artistic work. All entries must be received by Friday, December 5, 2025. Entries may be mailed to:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Contest
Attn: Patricia Wilson
PO Box 382
Institute, WV 25112

Deliveries can be made in person at the First Baptist Church, 432 Shrewsbury Street, Charleston, WV on Friday December 5, 2025 between the hours of 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Winning entries will be on display in the Great Hall of the WV Culture Center. Final information about winning entries will be sent to schools by December 19, 2025. Awards will be presented on Saturday, January 17, 2026 at the Culture Center in the State Capitol Complex in Charleston, WV.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Wilson, Chairman, Awards Committee
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

Email: wvmlk20@gmail.com

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
STATE HOLIDAY COMMISSION
42nd ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST
(Guidelines for the 2026 Celebration)**

The Annual Poster Competition is designed to celebrate the life and dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. and to reaffirm the American ideals of freedom, justice, and opportunity for all.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all West Virginia residents (Students in grades K-12).

Poster size cannot exceed 36 inches by 48 inches.

FORMAT

Student entries may be in any format. The style and the selected media must be explained on the attached entry form. Entries without this information will not be judged.

MEDIA

Pencil, crayon, pen and ink, watercolor, acrylic, serigraph wood block, photography, and mixed media.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Each entrant is allowed only one entry which may not exceed these dimensions: 36 inches by 48 inches. Posters that are submitted as a joint entry (completed by two or more students) will be disqualified. All entries will become the property of the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission. All work must be original and not created from the internet. ***Print the name, grade, and school of the student on the envelope and on the back of the poster. Attach the envelope, with the completed entry form on page 4) on the back of the poster. Also print the student's grade name and school on the back of the poster.*** The poster must focus on this quotation by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: “

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

AWARDS AND PRIZES

There will be three prizes (first, second and third) in each category:

Categories by Grade Level: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

CALENDAR AND DEADLINES

December 5, 2025 is the deadline for receipt of posters by mail or delivery in person. Entries must be mailed to:

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Contest
West Virginia Holiday Commission
Attn: Patricia Wilson
PO Box 382
Institute, WV 25112**

**Entries can be delivered in person on December 5, 2025 only to:
First Baptist Church, 432 Shrewsbury Street
Charleston, WV**

Hours for Delivery: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

December 9-13, 2025: Judging of entries

December 19, 2025: Notification forwarded to poster contest winners via text or email

January 17, 2026: Awards Presentation and Luncheon held at the WV Culture Center.

Students with winning entries and their family members will be invited to attend the Awards Luncheon at the Culture Center in Charleston, WV. Teachers and principals will also be invited.

January – February 28, 2026: Winning posters will be exhibited at the WV Culture Center

