



## South Dakota Secretary of State

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### **SECRETARY MONAE L. JOHNSON REQUESTS STATEWIDE NOMINATIONS FOR JOHN LEWIS YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**PIERRE, S.D.** — Secretary of State Monae L. Johnson is urging South Dakotans to nominate outstanding young leaders for the John Lewis Youth Leadership Award, a statewide recognition honoring the legacy of Congressman John Lewis and individuals who are making a measurable impact through civic engagement and community service.

Following the award's first year in South Dakota, the Secretary of States Office is focused on expanding participation and ensuring nominations reflect communities across the state.

"We know there are young leaders in every corner of South Dakota doing meaningful work," said Secretary Johnson. "This is an opportunity to make sure their efforts are recognized, and their stories are shared."

Nominees must be 25 years old or younger at the time of the award presentation and demonstrate clear civic leadership, a commitment to improving their communities, and meaningful engagement with civil rights issues, including but not limited to voting rights. Individuals may be recognized for their impact through advocacy, community leadership, or creative work.

Community members, educators, and local leaders are encouraged to submit nominations by completing the official nomination form and emailing it to [elections@state.sd.us](mailto:elections@state.sd.us). Submissions must include a photo of the nominee and may include up to ten pages of supporting materials, such as news coverage, letters of recommendation, or examples of the nominee's work.

Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. CT on November 1, 2026.

"Recognition matters," Johnson said. "By nominating these individuals, we are highlighting the importance of civic engagement and encouraging our next generation to get involved."

For more information about the John Lewis Youth Leadership Award, visit <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/voting/college-students.aspx>