



Secretary of State  
Paul D. Pate

## John Lewis Youth Leadership Award 2026 Nomination Form

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOMINATOR AND NOMINEE:

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#### Information about the nominator

Name and Title:

Phone:

Email:

Relationship to the nominee:

How long have you known the nominee?

#### Information about the nominee

Name:

Age:

Phone:

Email:

High School/College/University:

Organizations involved with:

**CRITERIA:**

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**Leadership:** The nominee is involved (either formally or informally) in the following roles and demonstrates the ability to guide people, exhibits empathy and is courageous in confronting challenges. As a leader, the nominee works with their community by participating in decision making, providing meaningful information, or completing hands on work.

**Commitment to Social Justice:** The nominee works to further civil and human rights, such as the right to vote, access to resources and opportunities and freedom from discrimination and/prejudice.

**Improve Quality of Life:** The nominee helps people in their community or in specific groups by: increasing awareness of problems, identifying and/or promoting solutions, increasing access to food or other basic needs, education, healthcare, voting, transportation, and employment, and increasing social connections and feelings of belonging.

**QUESTIONS:**

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**1. The nominee primarily works on the following social justice issues: (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Voting Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Racial Justice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Equity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	LGBTQ+ Rights
<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthcare (including reproductive rights)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Food/Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

**2. Identify the community (people or place) that the nominee advocates for and/or works with. Examples: High school students, unhoused people, women**

**3. Describe how the nominee has tried or is trying to improve the quality of life for people in their community. Please include a description of their specific activities or actions.**

4. **Give an example of an important success that the nominee has had or an outcome they had a role in achieving.**
  
5. **Describe a challenge (or challenges) that the nominee has overcome (either personally or in accomplishing their work).**

**Examples of supporting materials to include with this application:**

- Letters of recommendation or support for the nominee
- Photos of the nominee doing acts of service or in their leadership roles
- Copies of newspaper articles that mention the nominee and their activism
- Copies of published works by the nominee

Please complete and email the Nomination Form and supporting materials (limit 10 pages) to [jaime.rutan@sos.iowa.gov](mailto:jaime.rutan@sos.iowa.gov). Nominations open on January 1, 2026. All nominations and supporting materials must be received by April 30, 2026. If there are any questions, please contact us at the above email address or call 515-210-4634.