

FREEDOM'S FRAMEWORK

2026 LINCOLN DAY SPEECH CONTEST



The Spokane County Republican Party is excited to announce our annual Lincoln Day Speech Contest and invite passionate young people, ages 14-22, to participate and share their thoughts for this year's speech topic:

“The Consent of the Governed Is Not Theoretical—It’s Fundamental”

Historical background of the speech topic:

The phrase “**consent of the governed**” is not a lofty abstraction tucked into the pages of history—it is the bedrock of American democracy.

When the Founders declared independence in 1776, they asserted that governments derive “**their just powers from the consent of the governed**,” establishing a radical departure from monarchies and authoritarian rule.

This principle is not merely philosophical; it is operational. It defines how laws are made, how leaders are chosen, and how legitimacy is sustained.

Without consent, government becomes coercion. Consent is expressed through voting, civic engagement, and public discourse. It is renewed with every election, challenged through protest, and protected by the Constitution. The rule of law, separation of powers, and individual rights all hinge on this foundational idea.

To treat consent as theoretical is to risk erosion of liberty. When citizens disengage, power consolidates. When voices are silenced, legitimacy fades.

The consent of the governed is not a passive inheritance—it is an active duty. It demands participation, vigilance, and accountability. In a republic, freedom is not self-sustaining. It must be affirmed by the people. That affirmation is not optional—it is fundamental.

Speech Contest Information and Format:

- Research the topic from the perspective of our “Founder’s Intent” and create a 3-minute video of you presenting your speech highlighting a key point or points from your research, why the Founders believed it was important, why you believe it remains important today, how you will do your part to carry forward this critical “Freedom’s Framework” civic duty, and the impact it will have on our community, state and nation.
- Submit a video of you presenting your speech before February 14, 2026.
- Contestants must be available to attend and deliver their speech live at the Lincoln Day Gala
 - Date and Time of the event: Saturday March 21, 2026 5:00 to 9:00 pm
 - Location: Davenport Grand Hotel Ballroom
- The Lincoln Day Speech Contest Committee will evaluate the entries based on the following criteria:
 - Content (structure, originality, clarity)
 - Delivery (confidence, enthusiasm, presence)
 - Language (grammar, vocabulary, articulation)
 - Engagement (storytelling, humor, connection with the audience)

* **Contestants will be notified of the results no later than February 22, 2026**
- The top-3 finalists will be selected to deliver their speech live at the Lincoln Day Gala Saturday March 21, 2026
 - The Lincoln Day audience will vote to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners
 - 1st Place - \$1,500, 2nd Place - \$1,000, 3rd Place \$500
- How to Apply:
 - Go to: <https://spokanegop.com/lincoln-day-speeches>, complete the submission form, and attach the file with your speech
- For more information or if you have questions contact:
 - Morna Gilbert, Lincoln Day Speech Committee Chair, Morna6064@pm.me

