RULES FOR 2027 REGIONAL
TEXAS CITIZEN BEE COMPETITION

WHAT IS THE TEXAS CITIZEN BEE?

The Texas Citizen Bee is a statewide civic education program and competition. Regional competitions occur in each educational resource center region, and winning students advance to the state competition. The Sumners Foundation and the Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas sponsor this program.

ELIGIBILITY

Students who are in the 9th-12th grades

*****NEW–Beginning with the 2028 Citizen Bee competition cycle, a student who wins 1st place at the State Citizen Bee will no longer be eligible to compete at future regional and state competitions. *****

WHAT DOES THE COMPETITION LOOK LIKE?

Students take a 35-question multiple-choice test covering content from the categories below, and then answer one question verbally from each of the following categories:

- The Constitution
- Documents and Court Cases
- People/Events
- Civic Values and Skills--Only tested in the written portion of the contest
- Current Events--Topics and range of dates will be identified. Current Events will only be tested on the written portion of the contest at the Regional level.

Students prepare for all levels of competition by utilizing the Texas Citizen Bee Study Guide, www.citizenbee.org. The study guide is also available as a PDF for download found in "Frequently Asked Questions." This year's guide will be updated with new content and posted by September 15th. Challenges regarding the accuracy of any material in *The Texas Citizen Bee Study Guide* must be submitted in writing. The teacher/sponsor should email the concern to **txcitizenbee@gmail.com** or to **Jan Miller at jan.miller@texasbar.com** no later than January 15 of the competition year.

CURRENT EVENTS

Citizen Bee questions in the Current Events category will be based on several sources. There are no Competition Guide entries for this category. The time frame for this year's regional current events questions will be **September 1, 2026, to January 15th, 2027.**

For the Current Events portion of Citizen Bee, study the following:

- National news stories
- International news stories
- Texas news stories
- Major actions of Congress
- Newsworthy stories related to the President of the United States
- National and Texas elections and politics
- Major issues before the Supreme Court in their **2025-26 and 2026-27 terms**

Technology requirements to participate:

- The written test will be conducted using Google Forms. If the written competition is in-person, students will need access to a device (such as a phone, tablet, or laptop) to take the assessment. If the written competition is virtual, students will need a device (a tablet or laptop) that can access Google and Zoom simultaneously. Phones will not do this.
- Technology for the verbal test (if needed) will be determined by the regional coordinator.
- If a contestant has an issue with these requirements, please contact the regional coordinator for assistance.

General Rules:

1. Each region will determine the competition's virtual and/or face-to-face components and communicate this to each sponsor and student. * *Specific rules will be sent to registered teachers and contestants.*

2. If any part of the competition is virtual, each student will need an independent monitor visible behind them on camera during the competition. A teacher may serve as a monitor for one or more students, provided they are visible. The location where the student competes must be secure, such as a school or library, but not a personal home. Home-schooled students must secure a location, approved by the regional or state coordinator, with an independent monitor for the virtual competition, as parents are not permitted to serve in this role.

3. No reference material or electronic retrieval systems may be used during the written and verbal rounds of the competition.

4. The Written Test includes 35 multiple-choice questions from the competition categories and current events. Students have 20 minutes to complete it. The TEN students scoring the highest on the written test will advance to the verbal rounds.

5. The Verbal Question Rounds will require each student to answer one question from each of the following categories:

    - People/Events
    - Documents and Court Cases
    - Constitution

    Students will be able to see the question they are to answer. They have 45 seconds to answer. After 35 seconds, a ten-second warning will be given.

    The judges rule on the answer and base their ruling on a student's first response at the end of the time or when a student answers. The head judge will raise a Correct sign to indicate a correct answer or an Incorrect sign to indicate an incorrect answer.

If a student answers “I don’t know” but then answers “I don’t know,” it will be considered the first response. The judges cannot ask students to repeat, clarify, or elaborate on answers.

If the moderator asks a student to provide a person's name, they must give the full name as it appears in the Citizen Bee Study Guide. Examples from the website include the following: if the answer is “John Quincy Adams,” “Adams” or “John Adams” would both be incorrect; if the answer is “John F. Kennedy,” “JFK” or “Kennedy” would not be correct. An example in current events would be if the question asked for the current governor of Texas, the answer would have to be “Greg Abbott,” not just “Abbott” to be correct. Students will not be asked the name of a Supreme Court case in the verbal round, but will be asked questions related to the content of the case.

6. **Appeal Procedure for the Verbal Question Round**
   When the judges have rendered their decision, the student is allowed to appeal. **Only the student may appeal an answer he or she has given.** Once the judges’ decision is given, students must declare their intention to appeal and state the reason for the appeal **before** the next student is called. The announcer will pause briefly to allow time for this. The judges will take a brief timeout to review the appeal and render a decision. Their ruling and the reasoning behind it will be explained to the student. The judges’ decision is final. Once the appeal has been resolved, the next question will begin.

7. **Tiebreakers for the Competition**-- The contest coordinator will use the following procedures in case of a tie in either the written or oral competition:

   <u>WRITTEN Test Round</u>
   - Step 1 – Review the scores for the Constitution section to see if one student scored higher. If the tie remains, proceed to Step 2.
   - Step 2--Review the Documents and the Court Cases section scores to see if one student scored higher. If the tie remains, proceed to Step 3.
   - Step 3--Review the scores of the People, Events, Civic Values, and Skills section to see if one student scored higher. If the tie remains, proceed to Step 4.
   - Step 4--Review the scores of the Current Events sections to see if one student scored higher. If the tie remains, the tied students will advance to the Oral Competition.

   <u>VERBAL Question Round</u>
   - Step 1—Overall Written - The student with the higher score in the overall written section is declared the winner. If the tie remains, proceed to Step 2.
   - Step 2—Constitution Section -The student with the higher score in the Constitution section of the written component is declared the winner. If a tie remains, the judges proceed to Step 3.
   - Step 3—Documents and Court Cases Section - The student with the higher score on the written Documents and Court Cases section is declared the winner. If a tie remains, the judges will proceed to Step 4.
   - Step 4—People/Event Section -The student with the higher score in the People/Event of the written section is declared the winner.

   If there is a tie for 1st through 3rd place after the four steps listed above, the tied students will compete in a head-to-head questioning session covering the three categories from the verbal rounds. If there is still a tie after the head-to-head questioning at the regional competition, the contest official will contact the state coordinator for a resolution.

8. **<u>Disqualification — If, at any point, a student is disruptive, exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct, or is coached in any way, the student is immediately disqualified from the competition.</u>**

Regional Awards

1st Place-- $250 gift card--Qualifies for the State Citizen Bee Competition
2nd Place-- $100 gift card
3rd Place-- $50 gift card