FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wisconsin Civics Games finals set for Feb. 23 in Madison**

MADISON – The Wisconsin Civics Games, an effort by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation to address a decline in civic education and engagement, will get underway in early 2019.

Schools interested in registering a team should sign up at [wisconsincivicsgames.com](http://www.wisconsincivicsgames.com/) by Nov. 5.

The inaugural competition will kick off with bowls at each participating high school during the week of Jan. 10, 2019. Winning teams will advance to regional competitions, which will be held the week of Feb. 2, 2019.

Finally, the Civics Games will culminate in a statewide championship on Feb. 23, 2019, at the State Capitol in Madison. The two highest scoring teams from each of the seven regions will compete in Madison. Teams can include up to four students.

Newspapers across the state will sponsor Civics Games teams and, beginning Oct. 15, they will highlight stories that provide real-life, local examples of how the political process works and how it affects them.

"Newspapers are critical to the civic life of a community," said WNA Executive Director Beth Bennett. "It's their role to inform the public and encourage a dialogue.

"We hope the Civics Games will build on that important mission by empowering and encouraging young men and women across Wisconsin to become engaged with government on a local and statewide level.”

Each team that signs up to participate will be mailed a teacher toolkit to help students prepare. Additional resources to help students get ready for the Civics Games are available online at wisconsincivicsgames.com.

"I want our students to feel as passionate about public service as I do," said WNA Foundation Board Member Eve Galanter, who previously served on the Madison Common Council and as former U.S. Senator Herb Kohl's district director. "I believe the concept of team competition will appeal to students and encourage the next generation to help restore the civic and civil engagement that has been part of our democratic process in Wisconsin for so long."

The Civics Games are done in partnership with WisconsinEye, Wisconsin Policy Forum, WisPolitics.com and the Girl Scout Councils of Wisconsin. Sponsors include the Evjue Foundation, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Local Government Institute of Wisconsin, Polco.us, Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership, Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

For more information or to sign up to participate in the Civics Games, go to wisconsincivicsgames.com.

**About the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation**

*The Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation is a not-for-profit organization created in 1980 to support programs that foster excellence in journalism, engage current and future newspaper leaders and invest in our communities. The foundation solicits, manages and disburses funds and other resources for the benefit of Wisconsin’s newspaper industry.*