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Dear Artisans, Art Instructors and Contestants:

I am excited to announce the 2018 Congressional Art Competition. Each year, I am so impressed by the outstanding talent in our area, and am looking forward to seeing your submissions this year.

Missouri's Eighth Congressional District Art Competition is one of the largest and most successful art competitions in the nation, recognizing and encouraging artistic talent in the District. I am proud to announce the theme for this year's contest is "Our Nation, Our District, Our Community."

As I travel across the 30 counties that make up Missouri's 8th Congressional District, I am always astounded by the strong spirit, sense of community and work ethic I see from folks in our area. Whether it's helping farmers in a neighboring state recover from wildfires or cleaning up right outside our front doors after major floods devastated our area last spring, the spirit of Missourians is selfless, hardworking and unwavering.

This year, all five district offices in Missouri's 8th Congressional District will host an art competition where two pieces will be selected from each region. The contacts listed below will coordinate each local competition and entry deadlines. After regional pieces are selected, winners will be included in the "Best of Show" Art Competition during the first week of May. The five regional offices and points of contact are outlined below. The competition rules from the 2017 Congressional Art Competition can be found [here](#); however, rules for 2018 have not been released yet and are subject to change.

Cape Girardeau: Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Mississippi, New Madrid, Perry and Scott Counties

Contact: Leslie Herbst, 573-335-0101 or leslie.herbst@mail.house.gov

Poplar Bluff: Butler, Carter, Dunklin, Pemiscot, Ripley and Stoddard Counties

Contact: Kyle Aubuchon, 573-609-2996 or kyle.aubuchon@mail.house.gov

Farmington: Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Reynolds, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Wayne and Washington Counties

Contact: Donna Hickman, 573-756-9755 or donna.hickman@mail.house.gov

Rolla: Crawford, Dent, Phelps, Shannon, Texas, and Wright Counties

Contact: Bennie Cook, 573-364-2455 or bennie.cook@mail.house.gov

West Plains: Douglas, Howell, Oregon, and Ozark Counties

Contact: Heather Kamps, 417-255-1515 or heather.kamps@mail.house.gov

I look forward to reviewing your submissions and enjoying Missourians' talent!

Sincerely,
Jason