



Teacher Guide

Student Nomination Initiative

Background

Students will help select a name for the **Pilsen Post Office** (1859 S. Ashland) by researching and nominating a leader whose work has meaningfully impacted the community. This project explores neighborhood history, pride, and values, while broadening who we honor. Student voices will help guide a lasting community decision. The Pilsen Post Office is currently named after Cesar E. Chavez.

This is a short, classroom-based activity designed to:

- Connect **local history** to real-world civic action
- Highlight individuals who have made a **meaningful impact**
- Give students a voice in a process that will inform new **federal legislation**

Timeline

- **Program Launch:** April 8, 2026
- **Submission Deadline:** May 15, 2026

What You'll Do

Step 1: Introduce the Activity (10–15 minutes)

Explain to students:

- A local post office may be renamed
- They will help propose a name
- The Congressman's office will review submissions and select a name to make into federal law

Suggested prompt:

“Who in our community has made a lasting impact that deserves to be remembered?”

Step 2: Research & Discussion (30–60 minutes)

Students can:

- Work individually or in small groups (interdependent task)
- Research local figures (community leaders, educators, organizers, veterans, etc.)
- Discuss why their nominee matters

You may choose to:

- Provide a shortlist OR
- Let students generate their own ideas (recommended with guidance)

Step 3: Select One Classroom Nominee

Each class should:

- Discuss and agree on **one final nominee**
- This can be done by:
 - Class vote, Group presentations, Teacher-led consensus

Only one submission per classroom

Submission Requirements

1. Basic Information (Required)

- Nominee name
- How are they connected to the community
- Brief summary of their contributions

2. Student Component (Choose One)

Students may submit in any of the following formats:

- Short written explanation (recommended: 300–500 words)
- Poster or Visual Project (with brief caption)
- Photos or Video (1–2 minutes)
- Presentation Slides

Focus on **clarity and effort**

Eligibility Criteria for Nominees

To be considered, nominees must:

- Be **deceased**
- Have a **clear connection to the local community**
- Have made meaningful contributions through:
 - Public service, Military Service, Education, Labor or community organizing, Civil rights or advocacy

Tips for Students

Encourage students to think about:

- What connection did this person have to our area?
- What problem did this person help solve?
- Who did they help?
- Why does their story matter today?
- Why should their name be remembered in a public space?

Submission Instructions (submission link should not be made public)

- Submit **one entry per classroom. (One per period if multiple classes)**
- Use the official submission form: <https://forms.gle/SRkP1HZMyG3MnJpk8>
- Deadline: **May 15, 2026**

What Happens Next

- Submissions will be reviewed by the Congressman's office using the **RUBRIC** attached
- A small group of finalists may be selected
- The final choice will help inform legislation introduced in May

Support

If you have questions or need support, please contact:

Adrian Calderon, adrian.calderon@mail.house.gov, (773) 805-7053

Thank You

We appreciate your time and the work you do to support your students. Your classroom's participation helps connect learning to real civic engagement in our community.