

2025 Wisconsin Towns Association Scholarship Essay

“The standard health, comfort, and happiness experienced by an individual or group” is how “quality of life” is defined by Oxford Languages. A great quality of life does not just mean materialistic items but includes safety, education, and access to opportunities. For a town to truly express a great quality of life their local government officials should focus on the everyday experiences, big or little, that affect its citizens' lives. In my community, town government officials should work to prioritize transportation, public safety, and economic opportunities to significantly improve the quality of life.

An accessible and reliable town road system allows residents to drive to work, attend school, utilize their healthcare services and travel to community activities. It is vital to have proper funding available to maintain roads, fill in potholes, fix emergency damage, clear snowy streets, and salt icy roads to keep the families of our community safe. Having adequate transportation including quality road maintenance is essential to citizens everyday life to keep the public happy, healthy, and safe. Even economic value ties into transportation with improving the movement of products on our roads. Altogether in Wisconsin, towns are responsible for 61,673 miles worth of roads, which is over half of Wisconsin's highways. With roads being the largest expense of the town budget, it is essential for our local government officials to prioritize transportation. Our town utilizes a road management system that utilizes the most cost effective maintenance schedule for maintaining the roads. This ensures timely road improvements with enough money in reserve for road maintenance, snow removal, and emergency repairs. Prioritizing transportation within our town helps connect people to essential services, keeps

people safe, and promotes economic growth, which are all effective in achieving a higher quality of life.

A good town government is quick to change and adapt to the needs of the town. Jumping on top of economic opportunities and advancements can be a great aide in providing citizens with the resources they may need. An example of this is the advancements of digital and technological access, like broadband internet. By expanding access to reliable and affordable internet more people can work from home, complete online educational courses, and have access to helpful resources through websites. In addition, with the ongoing surge in technology more online resources like digital government portals have been, and can easily be made accessible for towns all over the state, especially in more rural townships. Utilizing and adapting with these technological advancements can help people stay connected and posted with their own townships while also opening up their own opportunities to enhance work, education, and social connection. Having these job security opportunities at home along with expanded reliable education options go hand in hand with the necessities and wants that go into a great quality of life.

Finally, prioritizing public safety is essential for any strong and thriving community. Providing fire protection and ambulance service is an important consideration for our town. Knowing there are reliable emergency services available provides people with a sense of security. When people feel safe in their town they're more likely to support local businesses, comfortably socialize with neighbors, and feel more secure living in a rural area. As a child of my township's law enforcement officer, I have seen the effective and important work that goes

into keeping our town residents happy and safe. It is entirely meaningful to take priority in the safety of our town's people and animals. I have seen many cases where my father answered calls for loose animals on the roads, endangering drivers and the animal. One memorable example was when my father responded to a call involving horses walking down the roadway. He was able to respond and safely get the horses off the road, possibly preventing a potentially dangerous car accident. Incidents like this are an example of our town officials working to protect the citizens and animals of the town. From issuing public nuisance citations to saving animals this is important work that keeps our citizens feel happy, heard, and safe. When people know their town cares about protecting them and the animals in the community it allows them to reach a higher quality of life.

In conclusion, improving the quality of life in our town begins by recognizing and focusing on the everyday needs of the people who live here. To improve the quality of life, our town should prioritize transportation, support technological advances to improve economic opportunities, and emphasize public safety for our residents. By focusing on these items, local officials can create a community that is more connected, secure, and full of opportunities. With these priorities in place residents can reach an improved quality of life that helps make the town a great place to live.

Works Cited

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