

I think that the leaders of Wisconsin can implement many things to get younger adults to participate as board members. I think that the most prominent way is to get the youth more directly involved with the town government. My mom has served as the Clerk for the Town of Green Valley since I was born. If she wasn't Clerk I would have no clue how all of the town government works. I have been able to learn about how the meetings work, how elections are held, and how much work goes into keeping things running smoothly. I was able to serve as an election inspector for an election held in my town.

Another way to get younger people to serve as board members is to post more on social media. Town government has been around forever and it hasn't really changed much. Social media is something almost every younger person has. If each township had a designated account it would make it easier for the youth to ask questions and be involved. The social media account could be run by a designated person, which creates a more appealing job for the youth. Youth are more likely to understand and use technology in a positive manner on a daily basis. There could be posts about local elections, updates for notices, and board meetings.

Additionally, I think another way kids could get involved in town government is by having a program through schools. First, we should start with a program for elementary schoolers. I think that this class for children in elementary school would be a lot more hands-on. It would be interesting for them to take field trips to the courthouse and then the town hall. They could get tours, have lunch, do some art projects, write a summary, and at the end of the program maybe they could even hold mock elections. Their parents could come and vote on their topics like in a real election. At the end of the day,

they could count the votes and announce the results. This would create a memorable experience for them to become excited about the town government.

Moreover, if we were to continue this program for middle school students it would be more content-based material and fewer art projects. The middle schoolers could see how a real election works by shadowing an inspector, or poll worker. At the end of the night, the student could observe tallying of the paper ballots and totaling the results. This would help middle schoolers get a more solid understanding of town government.

Furthermore, I think it would be most beneficial to continue this program for high school students as this will directly affect them once they are able to vote. Therefore, they need to understand how elections work. In high school, we learn about how government works on a presidential level, but we rarely learn how town government works. If we were to have a class dedicated to government on the town level, I think this would really get the youth involved. This course could involve interviewing people in positions in townships surrounding the schools. This course could also involve coming up with a mock election and ballot where fellow high schoolers could vote during lunch or study hall. Students could serve as election inspectors, workers, and voters. Also, I feel it would be beneficial if there was a guest speaker from each position held in the nearest township. Townships near where I live hold board meetings once a month, and I think it would be extremely beneficial if a history class were to attend them. Thus, high school students will feel more comfortable with the voting process and town government in general.

Overall, if you would like youth to participate in town government I think the best way would be to have a program through the school. If you were to start this program

with kids in elementary and middle school this would get them exposed to and interested in town government. When these kids reach high school you could offer a class specifically about town government. The kids who remember having fun in elementary school would be more likely to take this class. Town government is essential to our lives and is a great place to have your voice be heard; the youth are our future leaders and need to understand the basics of town government so they can confidently step into leadership roles in the future.