



Racine County Youth in Governance
209 North Main Street
Burlington, WI 53105
262-767-2929
(FAX) 262-767-2949

WHY YOUTH IN GOVERNANCE?

Youth leadership development is critical in building civic capacity and long-term community sustainability in Racine County. Programs that teach useful skills and build the self-confidence of young people ensure capable, effective leaders for the next generation. In addition, recent national trends including an increase in youth civic service and new emphasis on civic education in schools indicate a growing need for leadership training to ensure young people are prepared to participate in political and civic life.

Racine County and Racine County government value the youth of our community. In response to the lack of leadership opportunities for Racine County youth, the Racine County Board of Supervisors developed and continue to support the Youth In Governance program.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Youth In Governance program is to create a model of youth empowerment within Racine County, through direct participation in local government. The overall goal is to bring the youth voice to community issues and concerns while fostering the development of confident, independent, and motivated youth leaders. Youth participating in Youth In Governance will be selected to sit on each of the following five Racine County Board Committees:

- **Economic Development and Land Use Planning** – Oversight of all matters relating to economic development, zoning, soil and land conservation, planning, lake shore protections, industrial development, real estate descriptions, surveying, solid waste, sanitation, air monitoring, code administration, and land information officer, housing authority, economic development, environment, and primary workforce development .
- **Finance and Human Resources** – Oversight of matters related to finance, taxes, insurance, tax titles, licenses, equalization, claims, purchasing, bonds, personnel, employee benefits, veterans, finance director, information systems, county clerk, human resources, civil service, corporation counsel, county treasurer and any other related items.
- **Government Services** – shall have referred to it matters related to changes in rules or ordinances associated with the constitutional offices and their departments (clerk of courts, county treasurer, register of deeds, county clerk, sheriff, district attorney), and with all matters related to circuit courts, the criminal justice system, the circuit court judges of the county, dispatch, the jail, alternatives to incarceration/rehabilitation, water patrol, the public defender, the medical examiner, emergency management, the family court commissioner, the judicial court commissioners, probate court, traffic safety, jail diversion and other issues related to the legal system and public safety.
- **Health and Human Development** – Addresses all matters related to the delivery of human services including public assistance, the detention of juveniles, nursing care, nursing home care or chronically mentally ill persons in need of care, county health commission, Ridgewood Care Center, county health officer, women’s commission, child support, family support advisory committee, veteran’s service, community action agency, housing authority, long term support planning committee, commission on aging, and prevention and workforce development (secondary).
- **Public Works, Parks and Facilities** – Oversees matters related to parks, recreations, highways, roads, dams, museums, county fairs, harbor/marina development, all grounds maintenance and existing buildings, new construction, and engineering.

LENGTH OF TERM

Youth members will serve a one-year term (May - May each year). There are no term limits, but returning members must re-apply.

MEMBERSHIP

The Youth In Governance program consists of a maximum of 10 youth participants. No more than two youth will serve on a committee. The requirements to participate in the Youth In Governance are:

- Must be a high school freshman, sophomore or junior at the time of application
- Must have a GPA of 2.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale
- Must be a Racine County resident
- Must be able to attend the committee meetings, typically occurring once or twice a month

Committee meetings are held in a professional, formal manner, based on Robert's Rules of Order. Each youth member will have a non-binding advisory vote on the committee. The youth members will be included in all open session discussions and votes at the committee level, but will not participate in portions of a meeting which are held in closed session. Youth will not participate in debate during a full County Board meeting; however they may participate in the public comment period, as any citizen would. Youth members will not be paid a stipend or mileage for attending meetings.

APPLICATION PROCESS

After being nominated youth applicants will be required to complete a written application along with a written recommendation. The application consists of basic contact information, school, GPA, and questions about their intended objectives for the Youth In Governance program and how the program will increase their civic awareness and leadership skills. The Racine County Youth In Governance Committee will interview selected youth applicants and make final recommendations to the Racine County Board Chairman for official appointment.

MENTORS

One adult member from each committee will serve as a mentor to the youth representatives. The mentor's role is to offer support and guidance to youth participants throughout their tenure on the committee.

RECOGNITION

Youth In Governance representatives who complete the program will be recognized for their contributions at a Racine County Board meeting the following May. The Racine County Government Services Committee will recognize both youth and mentors by hosting a reception and provide Youth In Governance representatives a certificate of appreciation.



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Racine County UW-Extension
209 North Main Street, Burlington, WI 53105
262-767-2929 – 711 Wisconsin Relay
uwextension@goracine.org; <http://racine.uwex.edu/>



Racine County Youth In Governance is a program of Racine County Board of Supervisors in partnership with Racine County UW-Extension.

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.

Special thanks to Washburn County UW-Extension for providing the framework for this application.

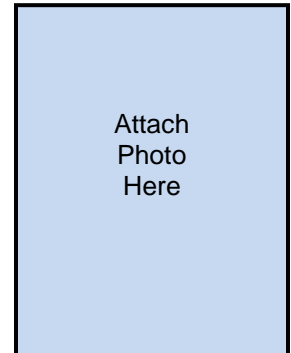


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APPLICATION

Please hand write (print) this form. NO typing or additional sheets allowed.

Last Name: _____ First: _____ M.I. _____
Street Address: _____
City _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
Birthdate: ____ / ____ / ____ Gender: M F
School: _____ Grade: _____ GPA (4.0 Scale) _____



1. Why are you interested in participating in Youth In Governance?
2. Rank your interest in Racine County Board Committees – 1st greatest interest – 5th least interest. *For more information about Racine County Board Committees please visit: <http://www.racineco.com/racinecountyboard>*
 - _____ Economic Development and Land Use Planning
 - _____ Finance and Human Resources
 - _____ Government Services
 - _____ Public Works, Parks and Facilities
 - _____ Health and Human Development
3. What qualities do you possess that would benefit the committee you serve on?
4. How would you benefit from serving on a Racine County Board committee?
5. How would the Racine County Board and the community benefit from your representation on a county committee?

6. Who is your Racine County Board Supervisor?

For more information about the Racine County Board please visit: <http://www.racineco.com/racinecountyboard>

7. Please note any leadership positions you have held.

8. If selected, will you be able to serve for one year and commit your time and energy to this important role?

_____ Yes _____ No

The Youth in Governance program requires regular committee meeting attendance to be successful. In the context of your other activities/commitments, please describe how you would be able to commit to at least two committee meetings per month (usually Monday – Thursday evenings.)

9. Is there any information you would like to add?

10. Race and ethnicity (responses are used for government reporting requirements for UW-Extension programs.)

- Race (circle one):
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1) American Indian or Alaskan Native | 4) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander |
| 2) Asian | 5) White |
| 3) Black or African American | 6) More than One Race |
| | 7) Undetermined |

Ethnicity (circle one): 1) Hispanic/Latino 2) Non-Hispanic/Latino

**If you require reasonable accommodation to participate in the program and/or meetings due to a disability, please contact the Racine County UW-Extension office in advance of the interviews. Please note that transportation will not be provided.

**Please note that photographers/videographers will be taking videos and pictures of Youth in Governance representatives. UW-Extension will use these videos and pictures in a manner consistent with UW-Extension’s mission. Your attendance at these events indicates your consent for your image to be recorded and used in this manner.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I, Parent/Guardian (Print Name): _____ acknowledge that youth participating in Youth In Governance will complete an evaluation of the program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM AND REFERENCE FORM BY MARCH 3, 2017 TO:



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REFERENCE FORM

THIS FORM IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE CANDIDATE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE FOR SUBMISSION ALONG WITH THEIR APPLICATION.

Name of Youth Applicant: _____

As part of the process for selecting youth representatives on various Racine County Board Committees, the Selection Committee is seeking recommendation and information for each candidate. Please provide us your input regarding the following areas:

	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>
• Leadership qualities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Maturity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Interest in service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Responsibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
• Positive attitude	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide additional comments in the space below, including how you know the applicant:

Print Your Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone#: _____



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THANK YOU!