



Kenosha County Youth in Governance
19600 – 75th Street, P.O. Box 550
Bristol, WI 53104
262-857-1945
(FAX) 262-857-1998

BACKGROUND

Youth leadership development is critical in building civic capacity and long-term community sustainability in Kenosha 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.

Data from a local Search Institute survey in 2006 documented that only 23% of youth perceive that their communities value youth and only 27% believe that youth are given useful roles in the community. These results were among the lowest of all the assets measured in the survey and were lower than similar assets measured at the national level.

Kenosha County and Kenosha County government value the youth of our community. In response to the lack of leadership opportunities for Kenosha County youth as reported in the 2006 Search Institute survey, the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors have developed the Youth In Governance (YIG) program.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Youth In Governance program is to create a model of youth empowerment within Kenosha 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 nine the Kenosha County Board Committees:

- **Administration** – Oversees matters related to personnel.
- **Building & Grounds** – Oversight of all county occupied buildings.
- **Extension Education & Conservation** – Oversees matters relating to the University of Wisconsin-Extension office.
- **Finance** – Oversees all matters related to finances, purchasing, budgets, and taxes.
- **Highway & Parks** – Oversight of matters related to highways, roads, dams, parks, recreation, and Dept. Public Works
- **Human Services** – Oversees all matters relating to community health, aging services, Brookside, public welfare, child support and Dept Human Services.
- **Judiciary & Law** – Oversight of all matters related to law enforcement, court system, Sheriff's Dept., Office of Juvenile Intake, Emergency Services, Medical Examiner & District Attorney.
- **Land Use** – Addresses all matters related to land use planning, zoning, shore land and floodplain issues, subdivision control, sanitation and Dept. of Planning & Development.
- **Legislative** – Oversight of all matters relating to the policies and rules of procedure of the County Board, intergovernmental relations and communications, proposed legislation and Corporation Counsel office.

LENGTH OF TERM

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

MEMBERSHIP

The proposed Youth In Governance program will consist of a maximum of 18 youth members. No more than two youth members will serve on a county board committee. The requirements to participate in the Youth In Governance are:

- Must be a high school student in 10th or 11th grade
- Must have a GPA of 2.5 or greater
- Must be a Kenosha County resident
- Must be able to attend the monthly meetings
- Must be able to attend additional committee meetings that are combined with other committees

Kenosha County Board 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; however, they will not be provided an opportunity for participation in the debate on the County Board floor. Youth members will not be paid a stipend or mileage for attending meetings.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Prospective youth members will be required to fill out a written application. The application consists of basic contact information, school, GPA, and short answer questions about their intended objectives for the Youth In Governance program and how the program will increase their civic awareness and leadership skills. The application will include a written recommendation from a school staff member.

A committee convened by the Kenosha County UW-Extension office will do selection of youth members which may include an interview. The Extension Education Committee will recommend youth members to the Youth In Governance program for appointment by the County Board Chairman to the selected county board committee.

MENTORS

One member from each county board committee will serve as a mentor to the Youth In Governance youth committee member(s). The mentor's role is to offer support and guidance to Youth In Governance youth member throughout their tenure on the committee.

RECOGNITION

Each April Youth In Governance members will be recognized for their contributions. The Kenosha County Extension Education Committee will recognize both youth and mentors by hosting a reception and provide YIG members a certificate of appreciation from the Kenosha County Board Chairman.



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

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 IX and American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.



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NOMINATION FORM

Teacher/Staff Member Name: _____ Name of School: _____
 School Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

	First Name	Last Name	Street Address	City/Zip	Grade
1.					10 / 11
2.					10 / 11
3.					10 / 11
4.					10 / 11
5.					10 / 11

Please return completed form by January 29, 2010, to:



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THANK YOU!