



WHITESTOWN YOUTH COUNCIL



PURPOSE: The purpose of the Whitestown Youth Council is to empower our young citizens to get involved in local government and impact their community. Our Youth Councilors will participate in the Town's decision-making process and develop programs for our youth. Some studies have shown that a large percentage of high school students know little about their governments and how they function. These students are the leaders of tomorrow. It is important to expose them to municipal government, and to encourage regular and active civic engagement among youth. The goal of the Whitestown Youth Council is to provide a way for young people to have a voice in their community concerning issues of importance to their generation and peers. The Whitestown Youth Council will provide advice and counsel to the elected Whitestown Town Council about matters important to Whitestown's youth. Youth Councilors will make decisions and take action to potentially improve their community.

MEMBERS: Students currently enrolled in 9-12 grades from any of the Boone County School Districts that serve Whitestown are welcome to be Youth Councilors; that includes Lebanon High School, Zionsville Community High School and Traders Point Christian High School. Home-schooled students, or students who live in Whitestown but attend private schools outside of those listed, may also apply directly to their respective Town Council Representative for consideration. The Whitestown Youth Council will consist of a total seven (7) members. Each of the Town's five (5) Council Member shall appoint one member to the board. The President and Vice President of the Town Council will each get to make an additional appointment. All Youth Councilors must be Whitestown residents, living within Whitestown's Municipal Boundaries. The length of term for each member shall be one (1) year with additional terms possible.

POWERS: The Whitestown Youth Council will have the ability to influence local government and forge change. Youth Councilors will identify issues critical to their peer group, then discuss and create action plans for solutions to those issues/concerns. The Youth Council will discuss Town events, programs and projects, and serve as an advisory board to the Town Council. Resolutions and Ordinances passed by the Youth Council will be voted on by the elected Whitestown Town Council and, if passed, become law. Additionally, the Youth Council can implement and participate in a variety of youth-identified community initiatives.

MEETINGS: The Youth Council will meet a minimum of 3 to 6 times per year, immediately prior to regularly scheduled Town Council meetings (a half hour before) and then 'shadow' elected Town Councilors during regular Town Council meetings. During the Youth Council meetings, Youth Council members may bring proposals, second motions and vote on drafted Resolutions and Ordinances. The Youth Council may be called upon to advise the Whitestown Town Council during their meetings. Parents of Youth Councilors must be present during all meetings. The Youth Council shall report on their activities to the elected Town Council three (3) times per term.

THE YOUTH COUNCIL EXISTS TO:

- empower and provide a voice for our young residents in local government
- give them a formal role in local decision making
- teach civics
- foster leadership skills in our future Town leaders
- create public policy about concerns affecting our young constituents
- provide a forum where young residents can discuss concerns/issues specific to their age group
- recognize the unique insights of our younger generation
- provide real-world experience with elected and advisory bodies of government
- offer our young people a meaningful and visible advisory role in local government

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- RJ Rollins (Lebanon High School) Appointed 10/12/2016
- Eli Moore (Zionsville High School) Appointed 2/8/2017
- Alex Smith (Lebanon High School) Appointed 9/13/17
- Leah Kerkhoff (Lebanon High School) Appointed 9/13/17
- Vacant
- Vacant
- Vacant

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT:

Tanya Sumner, Director of Public Relations

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OR

Dax Norton, Town Manager

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TO APPLY:

Email your letter of interest to your Town Council Representative:

Eric Miller, Town Council President: emiller@whitestown.in.gov

Susan Austin, Town Council Vice President: saustin@whitestown.in.gov

Kevin Russell: krussell@whitestown.in.gov

Clinton Bohm: cbohm@whitestown.in.gov

Jeffrey Wishek: jwishek@whitestown.in.gov

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