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IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN OUR DAILY LIVES

Local government provides order, protects us from others, and protects us from ourselves. It enforces rules set down by the state legislature and the federal government. Rules are made to protect all citizens of a community. When all citizens have individual rights and responsibilities towards each other, it can be called a Democracy.

In a Democracy, individuals have the right to choose what governmental services are best for them. With that choice comes the responsibility to help provide the services. This responsibility will be carried out by the paying of taxes and involvement in local government.

Involvement by young people like me is important. Schools have classes where we are taught how to get involved and to practice voting in elections. When we see good things happening in government and elected officials respecting the rights of the people they represent, we feel more comfortable getting involved.

The makeup of local government is: A clerk, supervisor, treasurer, and two trustees. Area of governing is usually 36 square miles. They have responsibilities of road and sign care, election administration, clean-up days, protection of lakes & streams, parks & trails, and security such as police and fire protection. These services are paid for by the adoption of an annual budget; voted on by the local community.

Every year our local government tries to pave a certain amount of our roads. They have to work within the annual budget, and yet try to provide good roads for the community. Signs are put up on these roads to direct fire departments and fire officials to where their services are needed.

On clean up day, members of the township are allowed to gather items that they would like to get rid of and drop it off at the township hall. This service keeps the community clean for ourselves and others.

Parks and trails are a joint effort of people in the community and the township board. The parks and trails are a nice way to get outside and enjoy the community without a fee.

Aside from the regular services, the township gives money to local youth groups and community organizations.

State and Federal Judge John Forest Dillon said that eliminating local government would be "so great a folly, and so great a wrong." -Wikipedia.

In summary, I believe that without local government, we would have no order. People would have no protection from "survival of the fittest" behavior.