



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: May 9th, 2016
To: Brian Kischnick, City Manager
From: Aileen Dickson, Troy City Clerk
Saim Raza, NEXT Assistant
Subject: REV-Up Troy

History

The Troy City Clerk's Office plays a crucial role in our local democracy. The office runs elections, from registering voters to coordinating with Election Inspectors across 31 precincts on busy election days. In this packed election year, dozens of inspectors are needed to work the multiple elections. Thousands of postcards were printed to advertise the position, and while they were effective, a stronger initiative was needed. NEXT Assistant Saim Raza, graduate of Troy High School and a student at Harvard College on leave, initiated a program to recruit Election Inspectors from Troy Schools in January 2016.

Saim repeatedly met with students, teachers, counselors, and guidance office staff at Troy High and Troy Athens to recruit young people. He also made a presentation to the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) at the Troy Public Library. The results were an unprecedented showing in young Troy residents serving as Election Inspectors. In typical cycles, about five students work in the election. This year, 50 signed up, and over 45 showed up to work on the day of the Presidential Primary Election on March 8th. Aileen Dickson, the Troy City Clerk, stated that in her 15 years working for the city, she had never seen so many young people work as Election Inspectors. The recruitment of the Inspectors is only one part of a broader initiative- REV-Up Troy.

REV-Up Troy is an initiative to get students involved in government. Over 1000 high school seniors graduate from Troy schools every year, and a great percentage of them aren't connected to their local government. REV consists of three parts- Register, Educate, and Vote. It involves student-led registration drives in the spring and fall, continuing to recruit students as inspectors throughout the year, and educating young people about democracy and elections. This initiative will hopefully foster greater connections between Troy youth and their local democracy.

REV-Up Troy

Register · Educate · Vote

Let's get students
involved in government!

Register

- » Voter registration drives: Spring and Fall
- » Student involvement will generate more student involvement
- » Recruit students to work during elections

Educate

- » Present and explain voting and election laws
- » Distribute information packets, voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications
- » Provide mock election assistance

Vote

- » Encourage voting in all elections
- » Introduce students to ballots and proposal language
- » Equip students with voting precinct and absentee ballot instructions