



**Current**  
Young Professionals

GREATER GREEN BAY CHAMBER

**Young Professional  
Advisory Council (YPAC)**

# **Guide for Civic Engagement in Greater Green Bay, Wisconsin**

*Created for Young Professionals by Young  
Professionals (Fall 2022)*

# Table of Contents

## Overview and About the Guide.....Pg. 2

- About the Greater Green Bay Chamber.....Pg. 2
- About Current Young Professionals (CYP).....Pg. 2
- About the Young Professional Advisory Council (YPAC).....Pg. 2
- About the Guide for Civic Engagement.....Pg. 2

## Civic Learning Opportunities.....Pgs. 3-4

- Municipality Based Learning Programs.....Pg. 3
- Video Based Learning Programs.....Pg. 3
- Leadership Green Bay.....Pg. 4

## Civic Involvement Opportunities.....Pgs. 5-8

- Vote in EVERY Election.....Pg. 5
- Engage with Your Elected Officials.....Pg. 5
- Join a Neighborhood Association.....Pg. 6
- View or Attend City Council or County Board Meetings.....Pg. 6
- View or Attend School Board Meetings.....Pg. 7
- Volunteer with a Civic Organization.....Pg. 7
- Volunteer for a Government Board or Commission.....Pg. 8
- Volunteer on a Non-profit Board.....Pg. 8
- Become a Poll Worker.....Pg. 9
- Volunteer for a Campaign or Candidate.....Pg. 9
- Run for Elected Office.....Pg. 9

## Overview and About The Guide

### About the Greater Green Bay Chamber

The Greater Green Bay Chamber exists to build a greater Green Bay by helping businesses succeed. Our members represent 88,000 employees – that’s more than two-thirds of the Brown County workforce.

The Chamber is the convener, bringing together resources to enhance economic, workforce and community development. We are the champions of business development for Greater Green Bay because strong business builds a strong community. VISION

The Greater Green Bay Chamber will be acclaimed as a leader in building prosperous businesses and a thriving community.

**Mission:** To strengthen member businesses by enhancing economic and workforce development, resulting in improved quality of life in our community and region.

**Vision:** To strengthen member businesses by enhancing economic and workforce development, resulting in improved quality of life in our community and region.

---

### About Current Young Professionals (CYP)

Current Young Professionals provides an opportunity for individuals to participate in professional development, social networking and community engagement opportunities within Greater Green Bay.

**Mission:** We provide a platform that inspires, challenges and empowers young professionals to drive meaningful change in Greater Green Bay.

**Vision:** Enhance the vitality of the Greater Green Bay community by developing a thriving community of young talent and leadership.

---

### About the Young Professional Advisory Council (YPAC)

YPAC is a committee of Current members who work with local government and business leaders through social, economic, and civic matters to shape the future of Greater Green Bay.

YPAC members are responsible for brainstorming ways for us to advance our purpose in the community, ask meaningful questions of the group and elected officials, and execute tasks that support resource development and event planning. They provide strategic input for the group’s purpose and weigh-in on the young professional experience in Green Bay.

---

### About the Guide for Civic Engagement

The Guide for Civic Engagement was created by the YPAC Committee of Current Young Professionals in the summer of 2022 and first published for distribution in the Fall of 2022. The goal of the guide is for it to be a resource for young professionals who are looking to be civically engaged in our community. Whether new to the Greater Green Bay area or someone who grew up here, the resource is meant to help you get involved. We hope you enjoy it!

## Civic Learning Opportunities

### Municipality-Based Learning Programs

Several towns and villages in the Greater Green Bay area offer programming or classes to help citizens better understand how local government works and functions. These are great resources for learning exactly what local government is responsible for, their powers, how taxes work, as well as your rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

#### **Village of Ashwaubenon Public Safety Citizens Academy**

- Annual program that teaches the public about the responsibilities of Public Safety Officers and individual responsibilities as a citizen.
- [Village of Ashwaubenon - Citizen Academy/VIPS](https://ashwaubenon.gov/government/departments/public-safety/community-programs/citizens-academy-vips/)  
(<https://ashwaubenon.gov/government/departments/public-safety/community-programs/citizens-academy-vips/>)

#### **Village of Bellevue Citizens Academy**

- Free annual program that provides an opportunity for village residents and representatives from area businesses to learn about local government and its various operations.
- Touches on everything from finances/taxes, public works, parks & recreation, fire & police services, housing & zoning, economic development, and more.
- [Village of Bellevue - Citizen Academy](https://www.villageofbellevuewi.gov/residents/citizen_academy)  
([https://www.villageofbellevuewi.gov/residents/citizen\\_academy](https://www.villageofbellevuewi.gov/residents/citizen_academy))

#### **Village of Howard Citizens Academy**

- Free annual program that provides an opportunity for residents and representatives from area businesses to learn about local government and its various operations.
- Touches on Howard's history, structure of government, public safety, finances, budgeting, elections and the Clerk's Office, planning & development and public works & infrastructure.
- [Village of Howard Citizens Academy](https://villageofhoward.com/CivicAlerts.aspx) (<https://villageofhoward.com/CivicAlerts.aspx>)

---

### Video-Based Learning Programs

These quick and easy-to-digest videos will give an overview of how local government works, why local government is important, and why you should participate in your government.

#### **City Government 101**

- From Florida, but the same basic concepts apply to Wisconsin.
- [Click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhPvbctOfVQ) or type into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhPvbctOfVQ>

#### **Local Government in Wisconsin | Michael R. Ford | UW-Oshkosh**

- Wisconsin government in depth and detail.
- [Click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX3OzV9lbRE) or type into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX3OzV9lbRE>

#### **Local Government: Where Democracy Goes to Live | Ryan Coonerty | TEDxSantaCruz**

- Why serving for local government is important.
- [Click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WF-0Z0oKojk) or type into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WF-0Z0oKojk>

#### **Innovation in Local Government | Jason Reynar | TEDxCollingwood**

- See how this small town in Canada used innovative thinking to improve the services delivered by local government. What innovation could young professionals bring to our community?
- [Click here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqVSyhoROcs) or type into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqVSyhoROcs>

## Civic Learning Opportunities Continued

### Leadership Green Bay

Challenge your thinking and get exposed to the Greater Green Bay community with Leadership Green Bay, a program of the Greater Green Bay Chamber. Listen to expert speakers, participate in team-building activities and get opportunities to meet and build connections with other civic-minded individuals. The goal of the program is to foster community-building and leadership skills so classmates can go out and improve the quality of life for everyone in the community. You'll also work as a team on a project to benefit the community. Several current and former CYP members have taken part in Leadership Green Bay and can attest to the benefits of the program.

- [Click here](https://www.greatergbc.org/talent-education/talent-development/leadership-green-bay) or type into your browser: <https://www.greatergbc.org/talent-education/talent-development/leadership-green-bay>

# Civic Involvement Opportunities

## Vote in EVERY Election

The first step to civic involvement is simply... voting! Your vote is your voice in local government, don't waste it! Traditionally younger persons have voted at lower rates than other demographics - let's change that together! Ensure you are registered to vote, make sure you understand how to vote, where to vote and when to vote. Research the candidates in your local elections so you are informed on who you are voting for and what the candidates stand for and want to accomplish. Utilize opportunities for early voting or absentee voting if you don't think you'll be able to make it on election day.

Most importantly, be sure to vote in EVERY election, not just major elections. Local elections are just as, if not more important, than federal elections as they will have a more direct impact to your local community.

Visit [MyVote Wisconsin](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/) by [clicking here](#) or typing the following into your browser:  
<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

---

## Engage with your Elected Officials

Is there an issue you feel strongly about that you want your elected officials to be aware of? Do you want to advocate for a position or a specific vote? Perhaps you have a problem or issue that you'd like help with from the local government? Reach out and contact your elected officials! They need your feedback and can often help with specific issues you might be experiencing, or even provide guidance in how to engage properly with your town, city or village. Elected officials have a civic duty to engage with ALL of their constituents, not just those they agree with or share a political party with. Many are accessible via social media, have websites, official email addresses and phone numbers.

- [Visit MyVote Wisconsin - My Elected Officials](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Elected-Officials) by [clicking here](#) or typing the following into your browser: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Elected-Officials>
- [Visit Brown County Board of Supervisors](https://www.browncountywi.gov/government/county_board/) by [clicking here](#) or typing the following into your browser: [https://www.browncountywi.gov/government/county\\_board/](https://www.browncountywi.gov/government/county_board/)
- [Visit Green Bay Common Council](https://greenbaywi.gov/617/Common-Council) by [clicking here](#) or typing the following into your browser: <https://greenbaywi.gov/617/Common-Council>
- [View the Wisconsin State Legislature Map](https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/#) by [clicking here](#) or typing the following into your browser: <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/#>
- [View Wisconsin US Senators](https://www.senate.gov/states/WI/intro.htm) by [clicking here](#) or typing the following into your browser: <https://www.senate.gov/states/WI/intro.htm>
- [View Wisconsin US Representatives](https://www.house.gov/representatives#state-wisconsin) by [clicking here](#) or typing the following into your browser: <https://www.house.gov/representatives#state-wisconsin>

## Civic Involvement Opportunities Continued

### Join a Neighborhood Association

One of the best ways to get to know your neighbors and your community is by joining your local neighborhood association. These are hyper-local groups of neighbors who are trying to improve the quality of life in the community in which they live by working together to solve challenges before they become major issues.

- [View Green Bay Neighborhoods by clicking here](https://gbneighborhoods.org/) or typing the following into your browser: <https://gbneighborhoods.org/>
- [Find your Green Bay Neighborhood Association by clicking here](https://greenbaywi.gov/428/Find-My-Neighborhood-Association) or typing the following into your browser: <https://greenbaywi.gov/428/Find-My-Neighborhood-Association>

---

### View or Attend City Council/Board Meetings

Government meetings are usually open to the public, and many are available via online meeting or live streaming. Participating in council meetings are a great way to stay informed and educated about the issues and initiatives happening in local government. Attending meetings in person offers the opportunity to get a true front seat to your local government and the ability to offer input to your municipal council/board.

Want to attend or speak at a meeting but don't want to go it alone? Reach out to YPAC!

- [Visit MyVote Wisconsin - My Elected Officials by clicking here](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Elected-Officials) or typing the following into your browser: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Elected-Officials>
- [Visit Brown County Board of Supervisors by clicking here](https://www.browncountywi.gov/government/county_board/) or typing the following into your browser: [https://www.browncountywi.gov/government/county\\_board/](https://www.browncountywi.gov/government/county_board/)
- [Visit Green Bay Common Council by clicking here](https://greenbaywi.gov/617/Common-Council) or typing the following into your browser: <https://greenbaywi.gov/617/Common-Council>



## Civic Involvement Opportunities Continued

### View or Attend School Board Meetings

School boards guide the direction of public schools in our area. School board members are elected officials and are accountable to students, parents, district staff and the constituents who elected them to serve. Not a parent yourself? That's OK! Public education benefits everyone in a community, even if you don't have children yourself. Having an educated community is integral for having a strong workforce, reducing crime and many other aspects of society.

- Click [Green Bay Area Public School District - Board of Education](https://www.gbaps.org/our_district/board_of_education) to learn more or type this link into your browser: [https://www.gbaps.org/our\\_district/board\\_of\\_education](https://www.gbaps.org/our_district/board_of_education)
- Click [Ashwaubenon School District - Board of Education](https://www.ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us/district/members.cfm) to learn more or type this link into your browser: <https://www.ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us/district/members.cfm>
- Click [Denmark School District - Board of Education](https://www.denmark.k12.wi.us/district/schoolboard.cfm) to learn more or type this link into your browser: <https://www.denmark.k12.wi.us/district/schoolboard.cfm>
- Click [Unified School District of De Pere - Board of Education](https://www.deperek12.org/district/board-of-education) to learn more or type this link into your browser: <https://www.deperek12.org/district/board-of-education>
- Click [School District of West De Pere - Board of Education](https://www.wdpsd.com/district/board-of-education.cfm) to learn more or type this link into your browser: <https://www.wdpsd.com/district/board-of-education.cfm>
- Click [Howard-Suamico School District - Board of Education](https://www.hssdschools.org/district/board-of-education) to learn more or type this link into your browser: <https://www.hssdschools.org/district/board-of-education>
- Click [Luxemburg-Casco School District - Board of Education](https://www.luxcasco.k12.wi.us/district/board-of-education) to learn more or type this link into your browser: <https://www.luxcasco.k12.wi.us/district/board-of-education>
- Click [Pulaski Community School District - Board of Education](https://www.pulaskischools.org/boe) to learn more or type this link into your browser: <https://www.pulaskischools.org/boe>
- Click [Wrightstown Community School District - Board of Education](https://www.wrightstown.k12.wi.us/district/school_board.cfm) to learn more or type this link into your browser: [https://www.wrightstown.k12.wi.us/district/school\\_board.cfm](https://www.wrightstown.k12.wi.us/district/school_board.cfm)

### Volunteer with a Civic Organization

Civic organizations are part of small and large communities and represent a group of individuals who regular meet and serve communities in a variety of ways. Many civic organizations are looking for young professionals to become members and engage in leadership. A few examples of civic organizations are shared below. There are many more than what we have listed.

- [Lions](https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator): <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator>
- [Kiwanis](https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/find-a-club): <https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/find-a-club>
- [Optimist](https://www.optimist.org/member/clubdirectory/club.cfm?district=23): <https://www.optimist.org/member/clubdirectory/club.cfm?district=23>
- [Rotary](https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/rotary-clubs): <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/rotary-clubs>



## Civic Involvement Opportunities Continued

### Government Board/Commission Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering to join a board or committee with your local municipality is a great way to give back to the community in which you live. It also gives you the opportunity to have a say in your community and help shape the future of the Greater Green Bay area. Nearly all municipalities have opportunities to contribute to local government.

- [Brown County](https://www.browncountywi.gov/government/committees/): <https://www.browncountywi.gov/government/committees/>
- [Green Bay](https://greenbaywi.gov/507/Boards-Commissions-Committees): <https://greenbaywi.gov/507/Boards-Commissions-Committees>
- [Allouez](https://www.villageofallouezwi.gov/community/committees/): <https://www.villageofallouezwi.gov/community/committees/>
- [Ashwaubenon](https://ashwaubenon.com/government/departments/administration/boards-committees/): <https://ashwaubenon.com/government/departments/administration/boards-committees/>
- [Bellevue](https://www.villageofbellevuewi.gov/government/boards_and_commissions): [https://www.villageofbellevuewi.gov/government/boards\\_and\\_commissions](https://www.villageofbellevuewi.gov/government/boards_and_commissions)
- [De Pere](https://www.deperewi.gov/departments/photos/index.php?structureid=123): <https://www.deperewi.gov/departments/photos/index.php?structureid=123>
- [Hobart](https://www.hobart-wi.org/committees-boards-commissions): <https://www.hobart-wi.org/committees-boards-commissions>
- [Howard](https://villageofhoward.com/196/Boards-Commissions): <https://villageofhoward.com/196/Boards-Commissions>
- [Ledgeview](https://www.ledgeviewwisconsin.com/committee/): <https://www.ledgeviewwisconsin.com/committee/>
- [Suamico](https://www.suamico.org/government/boards_commissions_committies/index.php): [https://www.suamico.org/government/boards\\_commissions\\_committies/index.php](https://www.suamico.org/government/boards_commissions_committies/index.php)

---

### Non-profit Board/Commission Volunteer Opportunities

Another way to engage with your community is by joining a board or committee of a non-profit organization. These organizations exist to improve some aspects of the lives of citizens in the Greater Green Bay area. Because of the vast number of non-profit organizations in our area, you are sure to find a community cause that matches your passion.

- [Volunteer Center of Brown County - Board Opportunities](https://volunteergb.galaxydigital.com/need/): <https://volunteergb.galaxydigital.com/need/>
- [Green Bay Non-Profits and Charities](https://greatnonprofits.org/city/green-bay/WI): <https://greatnonprofits.org/city/green-bay/WI>

## Civic Involvement Opportunities Continued

### Become a Poll Worker

Poll workers help ensure our elections run safely, securely and smoothly. There is always a need for citizens to volunteer to work the polls. Nearly anyone can volunteer as long as you are a resident of Brown County. Wisconsin state law requires employers to provide unpaid time off to employees who are selected as election officials, but ask your employer if you can use any volunteer time-off benefits as well!

- [MyVote.WI.Gov - Become a Poll Worker](https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Become-PollWorker): <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Become-PollWorker>
- [City of Green Bay Poll Workers](https://greenbaywi.gov/1047/Poll-Workers): <https://greenbaywi.gov/1047/Poll-Workers>

*\*Note: some Poll Worker positions are paid positions.*

---

### Volunteer for a Campaign/Candidate

Each election cycle, your neighbors, friends and average citizens step up to run for an elected position - they need your help! There are multitudes of opportunities to support a candidate for local office - gathering signatures to get someone on the ballot, fundraising, canvassing (knocking on doors, spreading knowledge or literature), etc. Get involved with a candidate, learn their platform and help spread their message!

---

### Run for Elected Office

One of the final steps in civic engagement is running for a local office yourself! There are a multitude of elected positions available in our community and state that could benefit from your skills, experience and ideas. We need more young professionals in elected positions to advocate for issues that affect us!

- [UW-Madison - Local Government Extension - Running for Elected Office](https://localgovernment.extension.wisc.edu/elections/): <https://localgovernment.extension.wisc.edu/elections/>
- [Wisconsin Elections Commission](https://elections.wi.gov/): <https://elections.wi.gov/>
- [City of Green Bay - Running for Office](https://greenbaywi.gov/1046/Running-for-Office): <https://greenbaywi.gov/1046/Running-for-Office>