

Jake LaDuke

2017 Wisconsin Towns Association Scholarship Program

“A federal republic form of government: What is it? Why does it work? Do we still have one?
Why are town governments critical to its success?”

A federal republic form of government divides the scope of authority amongst the federal, state and local governments. Division is defined based upon the areas to be handled, and whom of the political subdivisions is best suited to preside. So as not to have repetitive overlapping of jurisdictions, the law outlines whom is responsible for what – much like my mother clearly, and sometimes loudly, reminds us all what we should be doing for the family. However, our household form of governing is more like a monarchy rather than the federal republic in which they get to elect their representative in a democratic fashion.

This form of government works because it segregates duties and powers to the most applicable and relative governmental level. For example, the federal government would be the most appropriate level to handle terroristic threats as it affects the whole country, whereas determining if the bridge at Oak Valley Road needs replacement would be best handled by the town’s representatives. It also works because the people are in control through election of their representatives. Those representatives can restrict the power of other outside sources and thus be free or independent. This is in stark contrast to my school in which I think they want you to be a robot or some type of walking dead.

The federal constitution, state constitution, and local ordinances, bylaws, and resolutions all reflect that we still have a federal republic form of government. One does not have to look very far to see in the local newspaper, news on television, or even social media to discover how well this form of government works. Checks and balances, as well as accolades and negative comments, follow this well-established type of governing. However, again my personal experience reflects that my little sister does not have to follow the same rules as I do. She is spoiled to the core and can do as she wishes.

Lastly, why are town governments critical to its success? The simple answer to this question is because they are a part of the levels of government – of which each one is responsible for particular aspects. If not for town governments, who would take care that the interests and concerns of rural Wisconsin residents are being addressed? Whom better to represent the people that are not living in a metropolis than those living across the field, fence line or stream? They are elected by the people to serve and uphold the laws of all the governmental jurisdictions. We are so fortunate to have those willing to volunteer their time, talents, and experience towards the betterment of the community as a whole. I would like nothing more than to finish my college education, return to my roots, and give back to my community. I am willing to make that sacrifice even if it means living at home again and having to mow the lawn, shovel snow, and listen to my Dad (sometimes).

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read and consider my essay for your scholarship program.

Works Cited

“Q: What is a federal republic form of government?” *Reference**, www.reference.com/government-politics/federal-republic-form-government-fe88b589c2770b2e Accessed 25 May 2017.