

# **A Citizen Participation Check List**

**Try giving 5 minutes a week or 1 hour a month for Democracy!**

**Before, during, and between elections:**

**Choose what you as a citizen can and should do for our democracy:**

## **1. Get Acquainted With Your Elected Officials**

- Introduce yourself: at public meetings, through phone calls, emails, regular mail
- Ask their opinion on issues, learn their areas of interest and expertise

## **2. Observe Governmental Meetings**

[meetings of your city council, county board, state assembly, state senate & their committees]

- Attend in person (start to finish)
- Watch *via* your city's government access TV-channel or Wisconsin Eye
- Read newspaper accounts

## **3. Volunteer For A Citizen Committee**

- Get forms from school board, city or county clerk or their Web sites
- Attend the meetings, do the homework needed to be prepared to participate
- Demand the right to be consulted—to be a meaningful member

## **4. Follow An Issue**

- Study its various sides, talk to your friends and neighbors, talk with professionals in the field
- Talk to bureaucrats working on it, discuss it with your elected representatives

## **5. Let Your Elected Officials Know What You Think**

- Fill out and return their survey questionnaires
- Phone, email, regular mail, visit in person - before the crucial votes
- Attend and testify at public hearings

## **6. Make Time to Service for Jury Duty When Called**

- Learn the laws about compensation, time off, etc. from your employer & the county

## **7. Create Public Outrage Over Issues of Declining Democracy, Denial of Civil Liberties, Lack of Public Access to Public Processes**

- Write letters to the editor, talk to neighbors, contact elected officials
- Join organizations such as LWV, Common Cause, etc.

## **8. Get Involved in Each Election Cycle**

- Identify people you think should be elected officials and help them to be candidates
- Help organize candidate meetings, coffees, etc.
- Attend events where candidates are speaking, ask questions and persist in getting answers
- VOTE in Every PRIMARY AND ELECTION

## **9. Give A Day for Democracy**

- Be a poll worker on election days - call your municipal clerk