

# City of Martinsville: Youth Advisory Committee



*Martinsville*  
A CITY WITHOUT LIMITS

# Youth Advisory Committee

- The purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to “provide local students a voice in their municipal government, build an understanding of governance and leadership, and provide opportunities to engage and serve the community.”
- The mission of the Youth Advisory Committee is to be guided by the belief that local involvement at a young age is crucial to ensuring a well-informed and engaged citizenry in the future and to provide an opportunity for members to become equipped with the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to become active contributors in the community now and in the future.





# Our Vision

Embrace a strong sense of responsibility for the welfare of their city and its residents

Understand the importance of civic advocacy and take an active role in driving meaningful change in their community.

They take responsibility for making their peers, especially those from marginalized groups, feel acknowledged, respected, and understood, and stand up for their needs.

- OR They feel a duty to ensure that their peers, particularly those from underserved communities, are recognized, respected, and heard, and to speak up in their defense.
- OR They are dedicated to helping their peers, especially those from diverse backgrounds, feel appreciated, respected, and understood, and to champion their causes.

Gain a deep understanding of the roles and responsibilities of councils, boards, and commissions, fostering relationships with local officials through sustained civic engagement.

Develop the confidence to share their knowledge of local governance with others, empowering their peers and those less informed about the role of local government.

Student Led Committee where members are responsible for leading meetings, discussions, and decision-making, with minimal direct input from Staff Advisors and no input from outside individuals.

*Comfortably interact with people from different backgrounds and understand the value of these connections*



## Promoting Civic Engagement Among Youth By:

Giving them a *formal role* in local government decision-making

Offering *real-world experience* with elected and advisory bodies

*Teaching* them about the role of Councils, boards, and commission

Providing them with an *opportunity* to develop *leadership skills* and learn how local government operations

*Increasing voice and communication* between youth and adults and the youth themselves

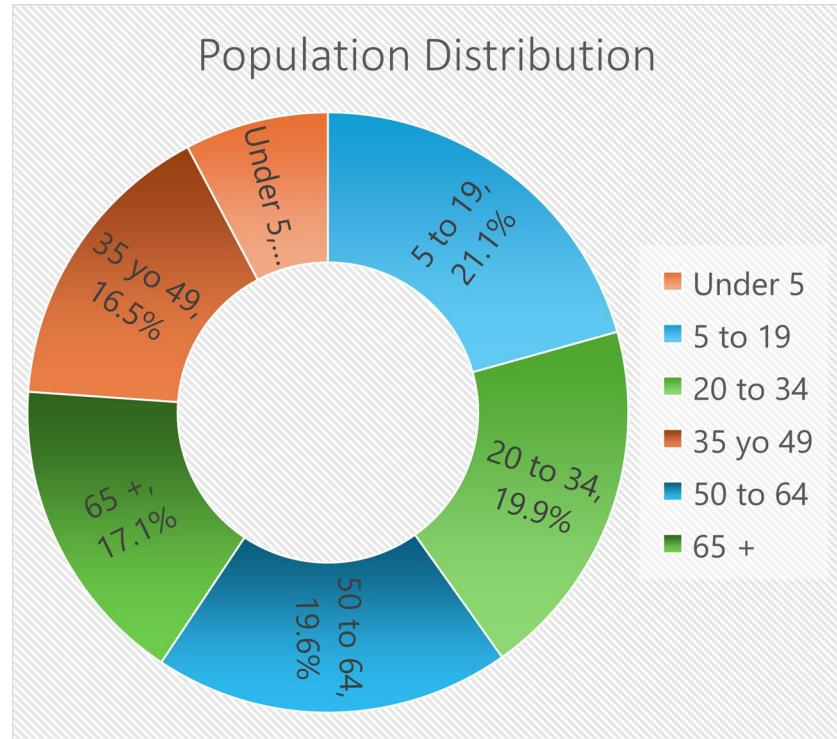
*Increasing youth volunteerism*

Enhancing *civic education*

# WHY ESTABLISH A YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

According to the Census Bureau, 24.6 percent of the U.S. population is under the age of 18. In Martinsville, 25.4 percent or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the City population is under the age of 19.

It goes without saying that young people are the future of our communities. Therefore, it is vitally important that they are vested with the **knowledge, skills, and abilities to be the next generation of local leaders**.



Among six age groups – 0 to 4, 5 to 19, 20 to 34, 35 to 49, 50 to 64, and 65 and older – the **5 to 19** group was the fastest growing between **2010** and **2022**, with its population increasing by **20.2%**.

## The Local Youth

- A Youth Committee is an advisory body composed of local youth (usually high school-aged). A Youth Committee allows the local youth to have a voice in government decisions.

## The Local Government

- A Youth Committee can provide advice and counsel to the local governing body and its affiliated advisory and regulatory boards, as well as other community organizations.

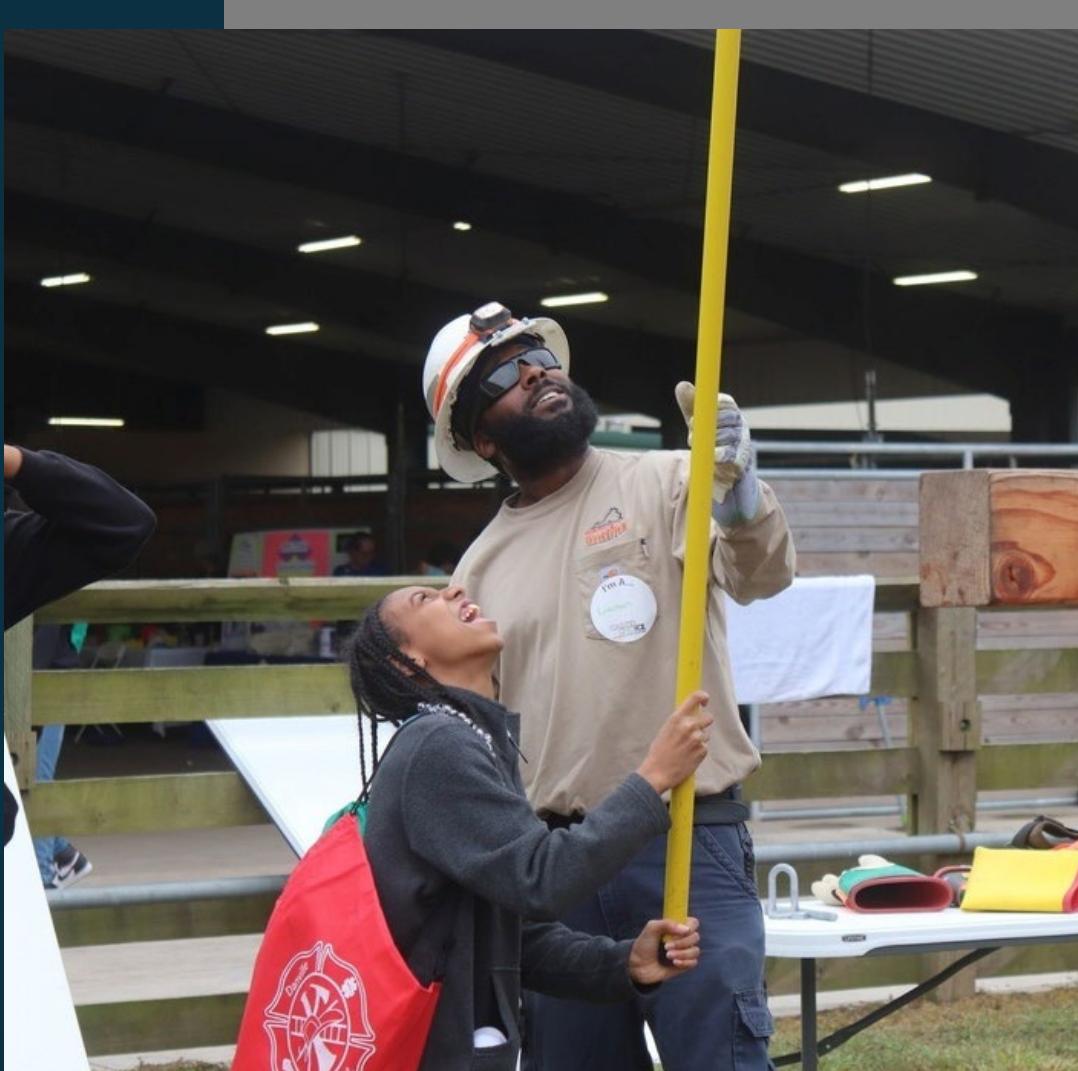
## The Community

- Additionally, Youth Committee can implement and participate in various youth-identified community initiatives.

# Membership and Eligibility

- Applications are open to high school sophomores and juniors who reside in the City of Martinsville, VA.
- Prospective members must submit an application to the Youth Advisory Committee, which will be reviewed by current General Body Members and a panel of Staff Interviewers from the City of Martinsville.
- Selection will be based on interest in civic engagement, leadership qualities, and a willingness to commit to participating in the Youth Advisory Committee's activities.





## Who are we looking for?

- We are not focused solely on students with straight A's; we want students who are curious, who embrace challenges, and who are eager to contribute to the world around them through acts of service and kindness.
- The Three C's
  - Character
  - Creativity
  - Commitment