

Ideas for Participation

- Post on social media about how local government affects daily life and ensures your community runs smoothly! Use the hashtag **#MoLocalGovWeek**. *Sample posts, graphics, logos and best practices are available as part of this toolkit.*
- Recognize Missouri Local Government Week through a resolution, *sample resolution available as part of this toolkit*. Explain the importance of Missouri Local Government Week to residents at a council meeting when resolution is presented for adoption.
- Volunteer recognition at a council/commission meeting or a special event, to honor residents who have volunteered their time for the betterment of the city.
- Educating residents through videos or flyers around town.
- Organize tours through departments that may be perceived as less interesting to illustrate to the community how important their work really is to the community. Host an open house at city hall or city facilities (i.e. fire department, water treatment facility) Hold tours so attendees can meet local employees.
- Sponsor a community service day. Coordinate with city staff, elected officials, local volunteer groups, charity and nonprofit organizations, schools and civic clubs. Some ideas include a cleanup project at a park, a workday at the animal shelter, etc.
- Host a “coffee with a Councilman or the Mayor.” During the meeting, residents can ask questions and hear updates on city projects and issues.
- Showcase utility equipment. Display police, fire and/or utility vehicles in one location for the public to view, have personnel on hand to educate and answer questions.
- Host a contest for students. Coordinate with area schools for an essay or poster contest. Students could be recognized at a city council meeting and at their schools.
- Send guest speakers to schools. Contact local schools or after-school programs to coordinate general or specific information sessions on municipal government and its services.
- Coordinate a story hour at a library, city hall or public park. Invite youth to attend, and have a special guest reader like a firefighter, police officer, city manager, or the mayor.
- Arrange a youth mentoring day. Work with teachers to match students with city leaders and department heads to be shadowed for a day to illustrate the impacts of their jobs.
- Hold mock City Council meetings. Have city officials go into the schools or invite students into council chambers to tackle a real-life issue.