

In this day and age, everyone has a say in the way our government is run and the opportunities it offers. Because of our American past, we have a voice in our future. Township Electors are able to voice concerns and suggestions about governmental actions at the annual meeting on Township Day, which is the second Tuesday in March. Limited rights and authorities are given to electors at these meetings as a path to legislative action.

If I were an elector with an action I wanted incorporated into the township government, there would be a few steps I would take. An issue within our town is the declining condition of the roads. They are riddled with potholes, and there are consistent sinkholes on the street where I live. There are many ways for someone to get hurt or for property to need repairing. Therefore, I would like to fix the roads.

To begin this process, I would draw up a petition for other electors to sign prior to Township Day. This would show that I am not the only one who believes in the issue and provide more of a cause to pass the action. Next, I would attend the Township meeting. This is the time where I can voice my concerns and truly have a chance of having them resolved. It is the most important time for an elector to speak up. I would bring to the Board my petition and explain what I believe needs to be done. After, I would inform them of any statistics I could find relating to the topic that would strengthen my case, such as accidents or vehicle damage caused by the poor road conditions. Finally, I would inform them of one of the electors' rights stated in the Minnesota Statutes 365.10 Subdivision 4: "...electors may vote money to repair and build roads and bridges. They may also vote as much money as they consider expedient for the good of the town for other town expenses..." This right clearly states that, as electors, we have the right to voice our opinion about how spending goes towards our infrastructure for the good of the community.

Townships are the oldest form of government, and they are still necessary today. This is because they are the most direct form of government. To expand, the board cannot approve of any spending without direct input from the community. I believe it is very important that citizens are involved and aren't afraid to present to the board. They are here to help us, not the other way around. Therefore, when the second Tuesday of March comes around, I will make sure to bring up any problems I see, and I will exercise my rights and authorities granted to me at the meeting to encourage solutions as the people see fit.