

Home Address *

[REDACTED]

Zip Code *

[REDACTED]

Home Phone

[REDACTED]

Mobile Phone Number *

[REDACTED]

High School *

- West Aurora
- East Aurora
- Metea Valley
- Waubonsee Valley
- Illinois Math and Science Academy
- Option 6
- Other:

Aldermanic District

If you do not know your Aldermanic District, please leave blank.

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Why do you want to join the Aurora Youth Council? *

I have been an Aurora resident my whole life and jumped at the opportunity to give back to the community that raised me. I have seen firsthand the problems and challenges kids here face and I want to make a difference by having a voice in this council. I am actively involved in YMCA Youth and Government and it has taught me to be a contributing member in local government and to do my part as a member of the large family that is Aurora. My mother Mary Kate Sweeney helped the Irvin campaign and we attended the election night party together last spring. Seeing residents with common goals come together and be able to enjoy the rewards of their hard work inspired me. I love this town and see lots of potential for its future, and I want to play a part in reaching that potential. Engaging with government representatives at a personal level and working with other youths appeals to me and my need to help. I am a deeply empathetic person and this city holds a place in my heart that drives me to want each citizen to feel safe, acknowledged, and happy here. I feel called to this council to help build the city that built me.

Name one issue you care deeply about. *

As a public high school student at Waubonsie, I interact daily with teenagers from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. Seeing the wide gap between social classes is disheartening and eye-opening as I am reminded that not everyone has the same opportunities growing up, and that may affect their futures. I believe that with the right tools for success, anyone can reach their full potential. With this as my ideal, I seek to give opportunities to youths in Aurora who come from families that may not be able to provide their children with all that some parents are able to. I want a way to interact with kids and empower them to know that they can accomplish anything they work hard for. No matter where they come from, each child can rise above their situation and create a promising future for themselves. Instilling self-confidence at a young age is crucial for a child's development as they grow older and become more aware of life's injustices. This is an issue I see in Aurora as I hear people in my school allude to West and East Aurora as "ghetto" schools. Changing that stereotype is so important so that students in these schools feel just as deserving and intelligent as students in wealthier schools, because they are. I came from Fischer Middle School, and at Waubonsie many Still and Scullen students regarded Fischer kids with distaste as we were seen as poor/ghetto in comparison to their lifestyles. Dismantling the socioeconomic hierarchy students rank themselves into is needed for the growth and development of this city. If the problem is not addressed, it will not be solved and Aurora will remain divided by social class for generations to come.

How did you hear about the Aurora Youth Council *

- School
- Newspaper
- Social Media
- Flyer
- Friend
- Other:

Which social media sites do you use? *

Facebook

Instagram

Snapchat

LinkedIn

Other: Twitter

Submit your resume to InnovateAurora@aurora-il.org with Aurora Youth Council in the Subject Line. Applications are due September 30, 2017.

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