

# Participating through the Community

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Making democracy work for Alberta's future

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All  
politics  
is local.

Most politicians started their political involvement and engagement in their own communities, volunteering for local charities, sitting on local boards, serving as members of service organizations and being active in community projects. This experience is invaluable in learning how decisions are made.



The Alberta Teachers' Association

[www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca)

A significant number of teachers are already community oriented but might not think of their contributions as political. In fact, community involvement is one of the major building blocks of politics. It gives teachers many opportunities to gain an understanding of policy making and to influence decision making.

### **By being active in their communities, teachers can**

- act as ambassadors for their profession,
- raise the profile of public education and build support among Albertans for teachers' role in society and
- discover the linkages between the challenges they face in school and the challenges they face elsewhere.

Community involvement can also help teachers who decide to run for office by providing an immediate source of support from fellow volunteers or board members. Teachers might even recruit skilled volunteers from community groups to work on their campaign. Having performed community service is, in fact, seen by many as a vital prerequisite to being elected, because public service implies an intimate knowledge of the issues that affect Albertans and displays a willingness and commitment to help and work with others to effect positive changes in the community.

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For further information, please contact

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