

# If I Were Mayor

By Jad Chahin

If I Were Mayor, that would be an eye-opener, to say the least. Sure, I face odd circumstances on a day-to-day basis, but nothing like the predicament of practically operating an entire city. It would spark huge global news, everyone hollering, "Why would they put a fourteen-year-old in charge!" If, once, I woke up with an envelope in the mail proclaiming that I would be required to be mayor, I would be shocked, too. Imagine the responsibility that comes with having such a role! However, I would use my political power to benefit the people of Lake Oswego positively. I would alter how the city operates to make it more direct for the people and improve the average quality of life one endures.

Now, you may be experiencing mixed emotions from such a bold claim. Indeed, you aren't alone. I gamble the whole city would be racing to have me impeached and end my short-lived "ruling." With that in mind, my foremost rule of action is to clarify my intentions. My prioritized objective would be to make Lake Oswego more for the people. Most people will be suspicious about allowing me to command the city. Therefore, lunging Lake Oswego into a democratic socialist system would reduce the mayor's control and let the people talk with themselves to take action for the city.

Implementing a democratic socialist system has numerous benefits, both community-wise and personal-wise. Multiple problems and struggles from day-to-day life could finally be expressed for the community. With this approach, decisions would be voted on by more people. A council could be assembled, with each person in counsel representing a primary neighborhood or area in Lake Oswego. Whenever people need a new bill, they can consult the corresponding council member about their opinions. If the law gets approved by the individual leader, it will then be out for voting. Then, if the bill wins the majority, it will be sent to me. Finally, two other primary council members will act with me to decide on the bill. These people will be highly knowledgeable and favored among the people to ensure fair voting to the morals of the people.

To make the system easier to understand, we will name the first council the discussion council and the secondary council the decision council. There will be more rules to ensure more order, such as a limit to how many bills can be suggested per every member of the discussion council. My goal with this system will be to ensure the community has more chances to reach out. It will bring many problems to light, and it is a self-operating system that only needs a little maintenance due to its simple nature.

Also, this would relieve many citizens' tension from allowing a fourteen-year-old to make decisions because, logically, the average person will have vastly more wisdom and experience than me. With this system, I will have a lot more free time on my hands. That means I will nonetheless be capable of living my life as a typical teen. These plans will need

much more consideration and polishing, which the people will provide before finalization. However, a fair balance between political leaders and the public will ensure the city stays in place.

My secondary rule of action would be to improve the quality of life of the people in Lake Oswego. I've lived in Lake Oswego for the better part of eight years, so I have a vast understanding of what could be improved. It is of utmost importance to look to the past to benefit the present. It is safe to say that Lake Oswego would majorly benefit from preparing more for icy conditions. Every year, our power goes out without fail. It should be a common expectation that our city has good snow preparations, which Lake Oswego has yet to show me. I would introduce multiple bills to help reduce the overall struggles throughout snowy temperatures.

My "expertise" in living in Lake Oswego allows me to know this city's ups and downs; for your convenience, I'll list a few of them below with a reason.

-- Public transportation: We need more public transportation to allow easier access to places like Portland and work areas.

-- Public School Funding: Education is one of the sole things of importance for youth, and improving public school funding will give students a better education.

-- Parks equipment and resources: For the quality of life of the people, adding exercise and informational equipment at parks will allow more reasons to visit and increase the health of the people.

My third rule of action will be to gain everyone's support. While making anyone mayor at fourteen seems like an unreasonable and chaotic response, many screaming benefits would arise from doing so. Bringing youth to a political system might solve many government corruption problems. It is a fact that our brains are still developing and are very impressionable. This fact alone makes us more tailored for the tough challenges being a major might bring because we naturally tend to adapt and change. I have thought about how to improve this city, and I have freely expressed it to anyone who reads this. By putting me in charge, politics surrounding Lake Oswego will be simplified. I believe the answer to a majority of problems is more straightforward than what people perceive. I think that a natural human tendency is to think of a complicated answer for any issue. I think how humans have developed has made it so we always look for the more complicated solution. The answer could be right in front of us and we wouldn't realize! I think that it is time to make a change. I think it is finally time for a new solution. I know that even at fourteen, my youth and desires would make Lake Oswego better for the people and send politics upward in the right direction.