

Harper [REDACTED]

English 6

Willow Wind LC

OMA Ashland Assay Contest

March 5, 2025

If was Mayor

Have you ever wondered how you could change something big, that would change the future? And if it could ever happen? In my experience, the people who reach for the stars, along with their dreams, seem to achieve something great. If I were mayor, I would strive to do what is best for the people of Ashland and work to bring our community together. Helping our town while doing it. Striving to make Ashland even better than it *already* is.

Something I would like to address is that there is a lot of trash near the train tracks and in our many parks. I want to reduce the amount of pollution in Ashland by having a group of people pick up trash in our parks every month. Our parks are beautiful, and the amount of trash should be taken care of. I feel that it would bring people together by helping our community in a *wonderful* way. Groups of volunteers would work together to pick up the garbage. Each person would have two trash bags, one recycling bag, gloves, and some would have trash grabbers. This would protect us from potential germs. We would do our best to recycle the things that could be recycled, and each group would go from park to park. Once all the parks were visited, we would go to the train tracks. After making sure no trains were supposed to be running, people would

spread out and pick up trash in Ashland's range. Then, we would go to the Valley View transfer station, to drop everything off there. It would spread positivity all around Ashland, hopefully making people feel that they contributed to a cause for the greater. I feel the parks would benefit and bring our people together with community work.

Another thing I would like to address is the homeless population. I would like to give them options for housing, and food. The numbers of people on the streets are great and growing. There are people out there who are being impacted greatly because of their situations. I would like to help them. This would look like people volunteering to make food and having designated days in the week for meals. For housing I would like to make a place for the homeless to sleep and have some warm place to stay during the winter. Also, just to just connect with others, because no one deserves to be alone. Everything would be set up in an accessible shelter. For example, the OHRA center. For the people who would not like to stay there, we can have bags of survival tools and food such as snacks and blankets outside. We would have a place to donate clothing just for the homeless, that would be full of secondhand clothing. I know these things are already being addressed, but I would like to address them further, because there is clearly still a need.

Also, I want to notice how many hard-working smart kids in Ashland and the local government might need them. I would be keen to have people to talk to these intelligent people and look at things from a child's perspective. To learn things from a different point of view. Each month, I would have a group of children, fifth through twelfth. It would be around 30 kids, and a group from our local government would talk to these people every two months. We would share our ideas, goals, and how to reach them. Each year, the group would be switched. We could show children around and teach them about the works of everything. It would encourage innovative ideas, and kids could know how things are, encouraging them in *their* dreams. It

would give a chance for the government to look at things differently, and for youth to have a chance to speak up about the things they think should improve. Our local government could change things they might never have thought of. Not only for the kids, but to help Ashland be better than it already is. Our home is our town, and we have to take care of it.

Ashland is gorgeous, and there are a few things that should be changed. By addressing areas of need, thinking creatively, and bringing out the beauty in our town, we will make our community stronger. Bringing our districts together. With the trash mostly gone, people will enjoy the parks more. While helping the homeless, more people will have food and homes. Having the help of the kids will widen the perspective for others. There are *so many* ways you can improve things, and *so many* chances to do it. So, if I were mayor, I would try my best to change things for the better