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Berlin City Council
City Hall
Berlin, NH

Dear Councilors,

I am a 10-year resident of Berlin who retired here after a 40-year career as a Massachusetts lawyer. While there, I also taught paralegal courses as an adjunct instructor at the Community College level.

Since being in Berlin, I have engaged my fellow citizens on social media and other forums on issues of public concern. In the course of that, I have been alarmed at the lack of basic understanding among many citizens about how our American government is designed to function at all levels, Federal, State, and Municipal. Increasingly, people who have limited education in civics are entering the political arena in Berlin, both as campaigners and candidates, and actually spreading disinformation about how government works, mostly unchallenged.

In response to this phenomenon, as I find my efforts to educate these citizens on social media most overwhelming, I am requesting that this board rise to the occasion to provide a free public resource for all who choose to access it, providing facts about the structure and function of American Government, perhaps on a weekly basis, at City Hall. This can be done just as it is in most college courses, with a textbook on the subject and an attached lesson plan. It need not be re-invented. Any number of experienced civics educators could teach it, or some combination thereof, and I am convinced none would require compensation, as I know several who are equally disturbed by this growing deficiency in public citizenship. If you agree, I would be happy to be asked to teach it, either alone, or with other similarly experienced civics educators. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,
Ted Bosen