

Aging Boomer here. A question for you youngsters<sup>1</sup>:

Where's my relief?

The Town of Madbury continues to succeed at being a great place to live and raise a family.

Q. How do we keep it that way?

A. We work at it. It actually doesn't take care of itself.

My Boomer age mates and I have been working at this for a few decades now but we are starting to fade off into the sunset. Who is next?

Gen-X: Over to you!

Millennials: Take note. Your turn will come.

Did you see the Annie E Casey *2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book* rankings for overall child well-being in the 50 states? (Google it). If you are a child in the US, you will be lucky to grow up in New Hampshire.

If you are a child in New Hampshire you will be lucky to grow up in Madbury: feel safe, know your neighbors, attend a good school, you might even attend a Town Meeting and hear civil discourse among people with different views (a too-rare opportunity lately).

I have read that for most people government is a distant, nearly irrelevant part of their lives. Folks may be lulled into thinking that government functions don't require their attention or involvement: "THEY" will fix the roads, "THEY" will plow the snow, "THEY" will take care of everything.

In a small town like ours, there is no remote, mysterious "THEY". "THEY", dear reader, is you and I.

The Madbury Board of Selectmen is a gerontocracy of experienced public office holders, all over 70. Other boards and commissions are heavily populated with older folks. Retired people are a tremendous resource: they bring a lifetime of experience and are generally more available than working folks. But we need more younger contributors to be learning the ropes and filling the succession pipeline.

We anticipate the need for two new selectmen in the next two elections. The Planning Board has an empty seat. The Zoning Board could use an infusion of youth. Our several other boards and commissions are disproportionately populated by retired people.

Would you like to feel like you belong here? Lean in. Become a real part of it. Public service in this small town is rewarding. Make your name appear on page 4 or 5 of next year's annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Sterndale

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<sup>1</sup> Anyone under 60!