

Representative Government

Name and Number: _____

Earlier you completed a lesson where you mapped out the local government in your community. Whether you live in Sterling Heights, Utica or Shelby Township, your parents had the chance to elect a group of people to make and enforce the local laws of your community. In addition, they did not elect just one person to make and enforce the laws, but in fact there is a whole group of people that work together. These people represent the citizens of your community.



Rick Stathakis



Michael Taylor



Thom Dionne

If you remember, Rick Stathakis is the Supervisor of Shelby Township, Michael Taylor is the Mayor of Sterling Heights and Thom Dionne is the Mayor of Utica. These gentlemen don't work alone. They work together with a board of trustees or city council, all elected by the people in the community, to work together to make and enforce laws and protect our rights.

When people elect representatives to make laws for them and be their leaders it is called **representative government**. We elect these representatives by voting. Try this.....

Step One

All at the same time everyone in your class should try to convince your teacher that you should have ten extra minutes of recess today. You can't get up, but you want to make sure your teacher hears your reasons of why you should get this extra time. Ready, Go!

How did that go? Did you get what you wanted? List the problems your class encountered here.

Step Two

Get into groups of five or six (maybe the table you are sitting at), talk as a group and write down at least three reasons why you should get ten extra minutes of recess.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In addition, is there anything you are willing to do to get that ten extra minutes of recess?

1. _____

Now, pick one person from your group to represent you in a meeting with your teacher. When they are done meeting have them report back to the group the decision that was made.

Hopefully in this lesson you learned that everyone screaming at your teacher didn't get you what you wanted, but by sending a representative to work together in a small group achieved your goal.