

MGI

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE

An Interview with St. Peters' Alderman Terri Violet



Alderman Terri Violet
St. Peters, Missouri

St. Peters' alderman Terri Violet is Missouri's first local government official to become a Certified Municipal Official through the Missouri Municipal League's Municipal Governance Institute.

Violet has resided in St. Peters for more than 25 years and has served as an alderman since 2012.

Alderman Violet is the first woman veteran on the St. Peters Board of Aldermen. At the completion of six years in military service, she received an honorable discharge from the United States Navy.

What sparked your interest in local government?

I served as a neighborhood watch captain in my subdivision and began working with the elected officials and members of our police department to keep our neighborhood and community a safe place to live. As I became more in tune with my local government, I could envision ways to help the City grow and prosper.

What advice would you give to a new local official, or someone considering getting involved with local government?

If you are a new local official, I highly suggest you take time to go through the Missouri Municipal League's Municipal Governance Institute (MGI). The next step is to be involved with your community. Visit businesses, schools and events where you can speak with residents to hear their thoughts and concerns.

If you are considering running for local office, study the current issues within your local government. Make an appointment with an official in your community to hear their perspective on current issues. Go to the council meetings as often as possible and volunteer regularly on a city board or in a city-sponsored program.

What challenges do you face as a local government official?

Communication with residents seems to be a bit of a challenge for most communities. This can sometimes

be resolved by thinking outside the box. For me, the use of e-newsletters and a paper newsletter handed out at resident homeowner meetings has worked very well.

What made you decide to seek your certification with the Missouri Municipal League through the Municipal Governance Institute?

I want to further my education and learn how to serve the residents in my community better. This program offers a variety of courses that has made me more confident in my position.

How has the Missouri Governance Institute helped you in local government?

Governing has many aspects to be an effective elected official. The MGI teaches up-to-date details that are necessary to govern efficiently. The Certified Municipal Official Program gave me confidence to govern.

What classes did you personally find most helpful in the certification program?

The Sunshine Law and ethics classes stood out to me most. I believe that residents look to their elected officials to have high ethical standards. Both of these classes gave me the resources I needed.

What advice would you give someone who is thinking about becoming a certified municipal official?

Go through this program! The most informed, newly elected official will learn new information. Continue your education and improve yourself.

What would you tell someone who is not familiar with the Municipal Governance Institute and what suggestions would you have about getting certified?

This program was born to help you succeed as an elected official and to benefit your community. Every class has a valuable purpose, so if your goal is to help your community prosper and to be a healthy, safe and a desirable place to live, this learning opportunity is something you shouldn't pass up. Contact the Missouri Municipal League and begin learning today! □

Do you want to learn more about the Municipal Governance Institute? Visit www.mocities.com to get started today!