

If I Were the Mayor

By Greer

If I were the mayor of Morgantown, West Virginia, I would build an advanced representative democracy. I would make the town a safer and more likable place overall. My goal is for the citizens of Morgantown to love the look, the smell, and the sound of our beautiful city evolving- one step at a time. My name is Benjamin Greer Lambert, and this is what I'd do if I were the mayor.

The things that keep popping up in Morgantown are alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. I have seen the effects of what these terrible things can do to our citizens as I have grown up. A lot of car accidents have happened from drunk drivers. Police should search for people selling illegal drugs such as heroin and prescription painkillers and throw them in county jail until further prosecution. We should tax alcohol, drugs, and tobacco at a tax rate of 17.5 percent. Hopefully the consumers of the products will realize that they are spending too much money on the products and stop buying them, thereby stopping their use. This is just one of the ways our city will become safer.

Drunk driving isn't the only problem on our roads. Our roads are bumpy- with *a lot* of pot holes- therefore making them unsafe. This is something the citizens of Morgantown complain *a lot* about. You see, as citizens of Morgantown, these people are not too pleased when they find out their undercarriage or tires have been damaged by Morgantown's roads. We must take action and find some way to make money to pave the roads. We could host fund raisers. We could use the extra tax from some citizens that have made the bad decision of using drug, alcohol, and tobacco (especially with the higher prices) to fund this. Whatever we do, we must find a way to pave the roads.

Where do roads take us? Fun places for kids and adults to spend time - but wait- Morgantown doesn't really have any! As a child, I have realized our recreational centers are not that attractive looking- or that much fun to be at. Our local pools are very dirty and beat up, our parks aren't clean, there are hardly *any* sidewalks for people to run or walk on, and there is nothing to do in the winter but go out on the front lawn and build a snowman. Morgantown needs to clean up recreation centers, pave

new sidewalks, and add more buildings to do something in *all* of the seasons. The children will have more stuff to do other than get into trouble.

Speaking of trouble: we shouldn't have as much of it as we do. Around the town I will see ambulances and fire trucks- but I hardly ever see any police cars. Morgantown needs more police officers to keep our growing population safe. We should find some way to get more cops to come to Morgantown and inspire children to be police for the town's future. This is a process that will hopefully avoid crimes such as murder, rape, and robbery.

Police protect tons of citizens. Some of them are kids and where do they go? School! A lot of kids in my elementary school *bate* learning. The worst thing I've probably *ever* heard a fellow student say about school is, "Oh, great! I'm back in prison!" He said this when he entered the school on a Monday. Why, I think the idea of learning subjects such as math, reading, science, and social studies is a very splendid idea! The state of West Virginia is ranked low on the "National Standards of Education" list. We shall turn the direction in which our state is going around. Teachers in Morgantown try their hardest, but some kids really are not eager to learn. We should make sure children get the education they need, and I for one am very tired of kids putting (I quote) "I dunno" on the questions of their quizzes. We shall improve the education of children by allowing teachers to slow down the steps of whatever subject they are teaching, making sure the child understands the subject. We should put the kids who want to learn in advanced classes. We will probably rank higher on the "National Standards of Education" if we achieve this.

These are just some of the things I would do if I were mayor. I believe that if we do these things that the town will grow into something incredible. I want our city to change into something amazing. I love the city of Morgantown and that's what I would do if to make it better.