

Don't ask if you don't plan to listen

Letter to the Editor

November 06, 2025

Recently, Lake Township residents received a survey from our township asking for input on local issues. Many of us took the time to fill it out, believing our voices would be heard and that our feedback would help guide township decisions. That is what public participation is supposed to mean.

But, after the results came in, it doesn't appear that the community's opinions were taken seriously. Decisions now being made go directly against what the majority of residents said they wanted. To many, it feels as if the survey was never truly about listening – it was about appearances.

If township leaders are going to ask for public input, they owe it to residents to respect it. Asking for feedback and then ignoring it isn't participation – it's manipulation. People in Lake Township care deeply about what happens here. We live here, we raise our families here and we're the ones who deal with the consequences of township decisions.

Local government should be built on trust and honesty. When that trust is broken, residents lose faith – and right now, many in Lake Township feel exactly that way.

If our leaders want to rebuild confidence, they need to prove that resident input actually matters.

It's time for Lake Township residents to stay engaged – attend board meetings, speak to neighbors and demand transparency. Our voices matter, but only if we keep using them.

Patricia Riss