

# 19-year-old college student runs for city council

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Mary-Pat Hector (center) campaigns with her friends in her race for a seat on the city council of Stonecrest, Georgia. Photo from: Hector and Washington Post

Mary-Pat Hector is 19 years old. In March, she could become an elected government leader.

Hector lives in the city of Stonecrest, Georgia. They are holding an election for the city council. Hector hopes to win a seat.

Hector was involved in her community at a young age.

## Community Activist At Early Age

At 11 years old, she noticed crime was getting bad in her neighborhood. She put together a protest of 50 students.

Local leaders ignored her. So she called in to the radio show of Reverend Al Sharpton. He is a famous civil rights leader who has fought for fair treatment of African-Americans. He came to Georgia to meet her.

After that, Hector met President Barack Obama at the White House. She joined in a talk about civil rights.

### **Election Night Motivated Her**

On Election Night, Hector and her friends made a promise. They would run for public office.

Hector is running against four other people in her area.

### **Is She Too Young?**

Not everyone liked that Hector was running. Another candidate said she is too young.

To Hector, it made no sense. She was 18, old enough to vote in the upcoming election. She should be able to run too, she thought.

And so she fought back.

### **Local Lawyer Helps Out**

Marvin Arrington Jr. is a lawyer. He helped prove to the city government that she should be able to run. They decided she could stay on the ballot.

Having the voice of a younger person in government is important, Arrington said.

Hector wants to prove that a 19-year-old woman can do the job.

### **Young People Need A Voice In Government**

Hector said many people support her. Still, some think she is too young to run. Some people wondered if she could do that job. Her school work might get in the way, they said.

Hector wants to lead other young people. She wants them to have a voice in the government.

Hector says that the best way to see change is to make it yourself.

## Quiz

- 1 Read the section "Community Activist At Early Age."
- According to this section, why did Hector FIRST start to work in her community?
- (A) She wanted to meet the president.
  - (B) She wanted to help local leaders.
  - (C) She saw more crime in her area.
  - (D) She heard about ways to help on the radio.
- 2 What is one reason why some people DO NOT like Hector running for office?
- (A) They do not like her ideas.
  - (B) They think she is too young.
  - (C) They do not like her personality.
  - (D) They think she is not a good leader.
- 3 Which sentence from the article BEST explains why Hector thinks it is important to run for office?
- (A) Hector was involved in her community at a young age.
  - (B) Hector is running against four other people in her area.
  - (C) Hector said many people support her.
  - (D) Hector says that the best way to see change is to make it yourself.
- 4 Read the section "Local Lawyer Helps Out."
- Why does Marvin Arrington Jr. think it is a good idea for Hector to run for office?
- (A) He thinks young people's ideas are important.
  - (B) He thinks the other candidates are not very good.
  - (C) He likes that Hector talked about civil rights with President Obama.
  - (D) He likes that Hector is friends with Reverend Al Sharpton.