

PROFILES IN CITIZENSHIP: HOW TO KEEP THE REPUBLIC



Courtesy of Meagan Szydlowski and Christine Barbour

Meagan Szydlowski

Meagan Szydlowski was bitten by the politics bug as a child, when her father was elected to the city council in her home town. When we sat down to speak with her in July 2010, the young Republican was spending a summer in Washington, D.C., having been selected as one of five participants in Northern Illinois's Congressional Internship Program, working on Capitol Hill, and loving it.

On majoring in political science:

I'm just really, really happy that I found something I love so much, and that I've been able to turn it into my area of study and hopefully a career. I love this—political science is not just my major, it is my life—I read all the newspapers every day, check the web sites, and watch the news every day. It's pretty rewarding.

On keeping the republic:

Keeping the republic is all about involvement and interest. Don't be afraid to get involved right away—don't think you are too young or your voice doesn't matter. During campaigns they love young people and their energy and excitement, and you will be welcomed. . . . Alexander Hamilton in the Federalist Papers said, "The ingredients which constitute safety in the republican sense are a due dependence on the people, and a due responsibility." That basically sums up how important I think it is for people to be active and engaged.