



Haddonfield Civic Association  
PO Box 323 | Haddonfield, NJ 08033  
[HaddonfieldCivic.com](http://HaddonfieldCivic.com)

## **Bradshaw Literary Award 2025 Prompt**

**The election for Haddonfield Commissioners is this May 2025. If you were running for Commissioner (and possibly Mayor), what would your civic platform include, your priorities, and why?**

### **Henry Cowan 2025 Bradshaw Literary Award Recipient**

Walking downtown King's Highway anyone can feel the unique nature of our haddonfield community. Haddonfield is a town defined by heritage, mutual support, and civic engagement. I believe our municipal government should sponsor activities that reflect this identity by a civic platform revolving around three key features: enhancing and preserving or Haddonfield history, embracing new volunteer opportunities for Haddonfield residence and involving students in our town government

Haddonfield's history is essential to our community identity. From the World War I plaque that the entrance of our high school to the Indian King Tavern Museum downtown, we encounter relics of our past all over Haddonfield. I never understood the full extent of our rich history until I began. I work at the Haddonfield historic Society, researching former Haddonfield memorial high school principal and loyal community member William "Bull" Reynolds. Interacting with our amazing historian, Dr. David Platt, and studying documents from the town's past, I saw firsthand the rich nature of Haddonfield history and the absolute necessity for us to continue to preserve it. As

commissioner, I would immediately direct substantial amounts of funding towards historical society, allowing for the hiring of another historian and greater efforts into studying and sharing our hedge heritage.

In addition, I would increase community service opportunities, sponsored by our town, government. As an executive board member of the high school's Leo club, I have seen the amazing impact that volunteering has had on me and my fellow students by inspiring tremendous personal growth as students have learned greater empathy for those less fortunate. As a commissioner, I would sponsor townwide service projects for the less fortunate communities, working with volunteer organization, stretches stand with Camden to help surrounding areas that are not as privileged as haddonfield. Not just helping the surroundings commute these, this would also contribute to a stronger haddonfield, as it would form a connection between residents of our town.

Finally, I would aim to involve students in our municipal government across the country, people feel out of touch with their elected officials, often thinking that the government does not recognize them or their struggles. Many citizens, especially teens, feel apathetic about our political system, leading to low rates of voter turnout among the young Americans and a particular lack of involvement in our local government. I would change this by involving high school students directly in municipal government initiatives. By placing students into important roles on projects being worked on by the burrow, such as our candlelight shopping, have them shadow important, elected officials in our town. We could inspire greater Civic engagement that will last a lifetime.

By embracing our community through volunteerism, greater government involvement for youth, and historic preservation, I would inspire all residents of our town to further strive for a tightly knit community. And in most other towns, these initiatives would not be possible due to their ambitious scope. However, with Haddonfield, a unique spirit in heritage through these initiatives would inspire a closer community and forged a better town.

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To find out more about the HCA, contact:

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