

## Citizen Participation and Engagement

Township Supervisors and staff were particularly interested in assessing the openness of Township government and interest in engaging in Township activities. Very small numbers of respondents reported current participation in Ferguson Township activities, such as volunteer fire/ambulance services (10), local beautification projects (18), ad hoc committees (5), short-term projects (8), special events (31), Ferguson Township authorities/boards/commissions (5), or other elected official (3). Table 8 the percentages of respondents not currently involved who expressed interest in these positions. The majority of respondents indicated they were not interested in the volunteer opportunities. The numbers of individuals may be just as important as the percentages, however. The number of potential participants ranged from 34 interested in volunteering for fire/ambulance, 170 in working on local beautification projects, 206 in serving on ad hoc committees, 156 in donating professional services for short term projects, 369 in volunteering for special events, 115 in serving on Township authorities/boards/commissions, and 46 in running for elected office. **Table 8. Level of interest in volunteering**

	<b>Not interested</b>	<b>Somewhat interested</b>	<b>Very interested</b>
<b>Serve in the volunteer fire or ambulance services N=507</b>	473 93.3%	32 6.3%	2 0.4%
<b>Work on local beautification projects (gardens, trimming) N=497</b>	327 65.8%	156 31.4%	14 2.8%
<b>Serve on ad hoc committees related to specific topics N=504</b>	298 59.1%	185 36.7%	21 4.2%
<b>Donate professional services for short-term projects N=504</b>	348 69.0%	135 26.8%	21 4.2%
<b>Volunteer time for special events or activities N=483</b>	214 44.3%	252 52.2%	17 3.5%
<b>Serve on Ferguson Township authorities, boards, or commissions (such as zoning hearing board, planning commission, etc.) N=510</b>	397 77.8%	96 18.8%	17 3.3%
<b>Serve as an elected official (e.g., township supervisor) N=511</b>	465 91.0%	39 7.6%	7 1.4%

One for matching potential volunteers with opportunities is to create and maintain a ‘talent bank.’ This is a database that contains contact information and interests of potential volunteers so that individuals can be identified when an opportunity arises. Talent banks are used by many municipal governments in the Commonwealth, some in this region. Respondents to the survey showed relatively little enthusiasm for a talent bank in Ferguson Township. More than one-third (37.2%) were not interested in participating in a talent bank, 40.5% were somewhat interested, and less than one-quarter (22.3%) were moderately or very interested.