My aspirations at the time were more gender specific – I wanted to be a teacher.

As hokie as this sounds...I just wanted to make a difference.

Best Friend's Dad was a City Manager.

Graduated during 1980's recession and there was limited career-centered job availability.

Went back for my Masters at the University of Pittsburgh – Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.
**Why Local Government Management? Internship**

- Worked my way through graduate school at the Dandy Dollar Grocery Store – lost job due to store closure
- By chance, a professor asked... Do you know Lotus 1-2-3, or Quatro Pro?
  This changed my career trajectory.

**Why Local Government Management? Why Stay?**

- A chance to make a difference every day
- Every day is different: from barking dogs, to roads and commodes and flag poles.
- Chance to see a small group of dedicated folks making a positive difference in the community.

**Why Local Government Management? Rewarding**

- Personal satisfaction: open new parks, provide enhanced service or strategize for economic development for the your community's future.
  - Andy Romano Beachfront Park
  - Project DOX
  - Future Runway Extension
Joyce Shanahan, City of Ormond Beach, FL

Why Local Government Management? Encouragement

- Do what you love and love what you do.
- Develop some career specialization such as finance, planning, economic development, etc.
- Build a cohesive team.
- Don't be overly sensitive to personal criticism.

Why Local Government Management? To Change the World

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Meade