Before too much more time runs away, we hope you have thought about the final recount totals from the May 3 election in Iron County.

The recount took place late in May, and the final, official totals showed that Forest Park's measure to extend its bonding for one year lost by a single vote. (It was originally called a tie—one more "no" vote was found during the recount.)

The recount also resulted in Iron River Township's operating millage failing by a single vote—no change.

The part of the story that got our attention was comments by the county clerk, who said she had heard people lamenting they forgot to vote on May. They had intended to vote, but they got busy or else forgot or else didn't think their one vote would have made much of a difference.

But in an election decided by a single vote, they would have made all the difference.

It's a good lesson to one and all. In order for democracy to work, people have to start getting informed and interested in local matters and how state and national issues affect them.

If the knowing, interested people don't get involved or give up and put their attention elsewhere, it's bad news for democracy. There are too many lobby groups, political committees and business groups gearing up to pull the wool over your eyes once again in 2012, armed with simple-minded logic that won't make sense if you think about it for a while. Swallow our pablum: It's good for you!

Slogans or substance? Partisanship or practical solutions? Standing back … or getting involved and interested? A one-vote election victory is a good time to think about these things.

--Peter Nocerini