

Statement of Candidacy for Chairperson
By Willie Johnson, Jr.
July 28, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

I am asking you to vote for me as County Board Chairperson due to my leadership experience, community based participation, ability to work with persons of different political philosophies, and having had some management experience.

During the nearly fifteen and a half years I have been a county supervisor, for over half that tenure, I have been the chair or co-chair of a county board standing committee. From December, 2007 to April, 2012 served the board as the Judiciary, Safety, and General Services Committee chairman. From April, 2012 to the present, I have served as the co-chair of the Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee. I believe those responsibilities over eight and a half years has provided stability in the processing of county board work. Over those years, I have encouraged and will continue to welcome county department directors, division heads, other management and staff to contact county board supervisors and their offices to inform, educate, and consult during legislative cycles on proposed initiatives and actions which would benefit their units and county government in general.

Further, county government experience, over twenty seven years plus, and county board leadership has lent to opportunities to counsel supervisors as to how county board processes and procedures work, and county board members have come to me seeking a peacemaker in attempts to resolve disputes.

As a board member of the Wisconsin Counties Association for nine years and a WCA steering committee chair for two years since 2004, I have spoken on behalf of this Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and Milwaukee County government on positions crucial to the county. I have been able to work well with county supervisors, executives, coordinators, and constitutional officers from across the state, regardless of their political philosophy or party, an experience that been respectful and fruitful. Having been the President of the Wisconsin Counties Association from 2014-2015, I will leaving that office in September.

Finally, with respect to leadership, I have served on disadvantaged and small business boards and committees with the State Departments of Transportation, Commerce and Administration since 2001 representing the interests of minority, women, and small business entrepreneurs and their workers.

As a department head, I will be assertive and proactive on behalf of the county board and staff in spite of losses in funding, reduced staff positions, diminished duties and responsibilities due to Act 14 and other attempts to further erode county board power and status. To that end, I am in favor of the County Board Task Force to Strengthen and Reform the County Board's completion of its work to explore scheduling meetings so that supervisors are in a position to compensate for income lost when new board salaries are effective in April, 2015. Chair Staskunas plans to have meetings this summer and fall with the task force possibly providing recommendations this October.

I have had some management experience as the deputy director of a summer day camp and the temporary Human Service Supervisor for a Milwaukee County child welfare services unit of ten workers. The duties of the Human Service Supervisor involved assigning casework, advising staff on assignments, counseling workers, informing staff of training opportunities, communicating with neighborhood partners and with child welfare management staff of Milwaukee County Child Welfare Division.

With diminished resources before us on April, 2015, it is important that we are willing to work together and I will be ready to lead and support you. I will always have an open door policy, my cell phone number will be available to you and your staff. If you have any questions or concerns, I am ready to hear from you. Contact me if you have questions about my candidacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willie Johnson, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Willie Johnson, Jr.

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