

STATEMENT OF INTEREST FOR COUNTY BOARD CHAIR  
FROM SUPERVISOR WILLIE JOHNSON, JR.

Good Morning Supervisors,

Welcome to the new Supervisors and congratulations to all Milwaukee County Board Supervisors after their election to a two year term. I am asking you to vote for me to become County Board Chair because of my leadership experience, ability to work with persons of different political philosophies, and because of my experience as a county employee.

It is my hope that during this term County Supervisors will continue to be respectful and cordial toward each other. I have been a Supervisor for twenty years and remember some Supervisors being disrespectful to other county supervisors and staff members earlier during my tenure. As County Board Chair, I will work to promote collegiality which involves cooperation between colleagues who share responsibility.

Having been in office for twenty years, I will be available to any county supervisor to discuss and to listen to any concerns, problems, and possible solutions to matters facing any colleague. For years, county board members have come to me seeking a peacemaker to resolve disputes and I have been available to counsel county supervisors as to how county board processes and procedures work.

I began my county government career as a Financial Assistance Worker in late 1987 to become in 1988 a Caseworker, child welfare social worker, and Interim Unit Supervisor for some months during eleven and a half years in the county child welfare division before election to the Milwaukee County Board.

Since 2004, I have been a member of the County Board's Finance Committee, was for four years the Co-Chair of the Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee, served eight of twelve years as Chair of the Judiciary, Safety, and General Services Committee, was a member of the Economic and Community Development Committee for fifteen years, served on the Health and Human Needs Committee for eight years, and was member of the Personnel Committee for six years. I have served on the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for six years.

During the past twenty years, I have encouraged and welcomed county department directors, division heads, other management and staff to contact county board supervisors and their offices to inform, consult, and educate during legislative cycles on proposed initiatives and actions which would or could benefit their units and county government in general.

As a board member of the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) for fourteen years, past WCA President, and a WCA Steering committee chair for two years, I have spoken on behalf of this County Board and County Government on positions and policies crucial to Milwaukee County Government. I have been able to work well with county supervisors, executives, coordinators, and constitutional officers from across the state, an experience that's been respectful and fruitful. For the past two years, I have been President of the Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation representing the county.

As a department head, I will be assertive and proactive on behalf of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. Given my experience, I expect to represent the County Board well for the next two years. I will appreciate your support; vote for me to be County Board Chair. Willie Johnson, Jr. Thank You.