

July 27, 2015

RE: Statement of Candidacy for Chairman

Dear County Board Colleagues,

Few would argue that we are not in strange and tumultuous times. The vote to replace Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic is only days away and whoever is elected will have fewer than nine months to serve this body. If the past is any guide, we will face additional challenges in the months ahead. This body needs leadership that will work to unite us and provide a strong voice for the work that we do. I ask for your vote and support on Thursday, July 30, 2015, and beyond.

There will be times when we disagree, but it is in those times especially that we all deserve a Chairperson who is fair and deals with each of us in an honest and straight forward manner. We need a Chairperson who will stand-up and provide a strong voice in support of the policy and budget role of this legislative branch, particularly against the ongoing over-reach of the County Executive.

In addition to my service on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, I have significant leadership and management experience in both the private and non-profit sectors - including several years of self-employment. These experiences include necessary tasks such as hiring and supervising qualified employees. I have successfully managed projects and services in a variety of environments and can perform well for you as your Chairman.

Given the time and resource constraints that we face, I propose a focused but achievable set of objectives. It is critical that we develop a sustainable staffing model to serve the extensive and variable needs of our department. We have implemented technology improvements and will continue to streamline operations, but we still need great staff to help us do the work of the people. We have a difficult budget process ahead, and many tough choices will be required, but together we will shape the County's policies and provide the necessary resources to carry them out. Soon, we will also need to adopt any changes affecting the next board. Any decision on changes to County Board operations should be made prior to January, to ensure everyone knows the basic ground rules before deciding to seek election. I remain open to your ideas in this area, too.

You have my firm commitment to fulfill the duties of Chairperson to the best of my abilities and to serve honorably. In this regard, I will serve as a full-time Chairman that is accessible and accountable to all members. If you need to talk, I will answer your call. If you want to meet, I will make time for you. It is important that your concerns and interests are known and understood. I will depend on you to keep me informed about priorities within your district.



For my part, I will work to make sure you have all the information you need to make the best decisions. At the end of our process, it is the County Board of Supervisors that sets the policy and budget of Milwaukee County. When we work together we are more powerful than any County Executive.

If you would like to discuss my candidacy or share your thoughts, please give me a call. I once again ask for your vote on Thursday because I am committed to serving your needs, building common ground and providing a strong voice on behalf of this Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theodore A. Lipscomb, Sr.', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Theodore A. Lipscomb, Sr.
Milwaukee County Supervisor
1st District