

May 30, 2019

Dan Nolte, Lancaster County Clerk
555 S. 10th Street, Room 108
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Mr. Nolte:

It is with honor and humility that I submit this letter of application and the enclosed resume in consideration for the vacant District 2 seat on the Lancaster County Board. I am a registered voter and reside in District 2. My educational accomplishments include a BA in Public Administration and an MA in Management; and I have spent my career as a servant leader, working in and with public and nonprofit organizations. I have solid legislative and administrative knowledge and experience that I believe will be an asset in my role as a County Commissioner.

A summary of my related professional experience includes budget and program planning and administration; legislation analysis, interpretation, and drafting; public and government relations; and human resource management. As a past state and region employee I have organized communities to create plans for addressing their health and social challenges. As a nonprofit executive, I have analyzed community needs and secured evidence-based and best practice programming, and budget revenue, to improve quality of life. My experience on volunteer and appointed boards and committees has allowed me to use my voice to influence policy and budget priorities locally and statewide.

I am applying for this vacancy because I have a personal investment in the outcomes of northwest Lancaster County. This district has been my home for most of life. Throughout my upbringing I have watched this area of the county grow and develop firsthand. When my parents built our family home in the Highlands, in 1979, it was the 13th residence in the then Lancaster County development, and the land adjacent US Highway 34 was a cattle farm. As an adult, I worked with my neighbors on the Highlands Neighborhood Association to lead a grassroots effort to ensure the safety of children crossing into Fallbrook to attend Schoo Middle School.

I became more familiar with challenges faced by the rural residents of District 2 during my campaign for Legislative District 21, when I advocated for fair zoning in new developments to protect rural well water; and gained an understanding of the needs,

resources, and interests of Malcolm and Raymond residence by attending village board meetings and events. Most recently, I worked with Kissel-Kohout to advocate for safe and well-maintained county roads and bridges as a Legislative Aide.

My history working with suburban and rural Lancaster County constituents on zoning and safety issues, administering and collaborating with programs impacted by the Board (e.g., Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, Region V Systems, Lancaster County Health Department, and Human Services), and advocating on behalf of the County on state legislative issues has provided me with some direct insight regarding the responsibilities of the position. Comparison of my Knowledge, skills, and experience indicate that I am an exceptional candidate. I am eager to learn and serve thoughtfully and believe I have the capacity to make an immediate impact as Lancaster County's District 2 Board Commissioner. I can be contacted at (402)202-5401, or via email at tamicsoper@hotmail.com, and I would appreciate an opportunity discuss this matter further. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tami C. Soper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tami C. Soper

Tami Soper

Maximizer, Ideation,
Activator, Strategic,
Individualization

Tami C Soper

1127 Trimble Street
Lincoln, NE 68522
402.202.5401
tamicsoper@gmail.com

Skills

Government Affairs ♦ Public Relations ♦ Fundraising ♦ Leadership ♦ Team Building

Experience

Nebraska Legislature / Legislative Aide

JULY 2017 - PRESENT, LINCOLN, NE

Research and analyze federal, state and local laws and policies related to human services, education, workforce development, and corrections priorities. Author studies, reports, and other legislative communication. Secure and coordinate advocates. Draft legislation, talking points and testimony. Represent Senator and district on boards and committees. Gather information from legislative and executive branch staff and officials, and mitigate constituent challenges. Educate internal and external stakeholders about policies and the legislative process.

Doane University / Adjunct Instructor

JANUARY 2018 - JUNE 2018, CRETE, NE

Provide political science education in an accredited higher learning institution. Develop syllabus, prepare content, and select relevant text. Utilize Blackboard LMS to manage course content, student discussion, attendance, and grading.

National Hemophilia Foundation / Executive Director

JUNE 2015 - JUNE 2016, LINCOLN, NE

Developed agency operations and program plan. Planned, secured and administered \$280,000 annual budget and managed financials. Developed and maintained corporate funding partnerships. Coordinated and supervised development and program activities. Planned and implemented communications and public relations activities. Promoted public awareness about Hemophilia, including state and federal policy advocacy.

Omaha Home for Boys / Development Director

OCTOBER 2012 - MAY 2015, OMAHA, NE

Created and administered development plan and \$3 million budget annually. Selected, trained, and coached personnel. Administered fundraising events and direct mail appeals annually. Researched and prioritized grantors; directed proposal development. Supervised agency marketing and public relations. Engaged community and donors in annual fundraising dinner (securing over \$100,000 in revenue and hosting 400+ guest). Increased Golf Tournament participation by 170%. Increased board participation from 10% to 100%.

KVC Behavioral Healthcare / Government Affairs Director

OCTOBER 2009 - MAY 2012, NEBRASKA

Developed and administered annual Government Affairs plan and \$500K budget. Selected, trained and coached department personnel in multiple locations. Educated and partnered with elected and appointed officials, and contract lobbyist to advocate for

legislation and public policy. Created communication channels for provider feedback. Planned and administered marketing and public relations activities; served as media contact. Researched grant opportunities; prepared proposals and reports as required. Coordinated fund-raising and other events, and solicited corporate and individual contributions. Facilitated legislative change resulting in a \$57million savings. Planned and produced annual conference for foster families hosting more than 500 individuals.

Nebraska Unicameral / Legislative Aide

MARCH 2005 - OCTOBER 2009, LINCOLN, NE

Researched, analyzed and interpreted state and federal statutes and regulations related to child welfare, health and human services and education priorities. Authored legislative bills and resolutions, interim study and other legislative reports, senator testimony and speeches, and coordinated stakeholder testimony. Partnered with executive and judicial branches of government, lobbyists, constituents and interest groups for policy change. Represented senator on boards and commissions. Maintained constituent communication and resolved concerns. Educated the public and policy stakeholders about the legislative process.

Education

Doane University / Master of Arts - Management/Leadership

AUGUST 2009 - DECEMBER 2010, LINCOLN, NE

GPA: 3.98

Doane University / Bachelor of Arts - Public Administration

JULY 2007 - MAY 2009, LINCOLN, NE

GPA: 4.0

Military

US Air Force / 155 Air Refueling National Guard Unit

AUGUST 1989 - JULY 2005, LINCOLN, NE

DISCHARGE: Honorable

Security Police Squadron - Law Enforcement/Security Admin Specialist

Security Clearance: Secret

Affiliations

CDC, SAMHSA, ACF (Federal agencies): Contract grant review
1993-Present

Anti-defamation League's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute: Contract
anti-bias trainer
1995-Present

Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska: Contract Development Director/Grant Writer
2016-Present

Bridges Out of Poverty: Contract trainer
2018-Present

Habitat for Humanities: Board Director
2017-Present

Awards

YWCA Tribute to Women - 2008 Honoree

May 29, 2019

Barbara A. Baier
727 South 18th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support Tami Soper to fill the open seat on the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners, representing District 2. Tami has been a resident of northwest Lincoln for most of her life. She attended Arnold Elementary and Goodrich Junior High, graduating from Lincoln High School. As one of the first families to build in the Highlands, she has seen the area grow and change.

I have known Tami for nearly 25 years. First, as an outreach worker at the former Lincoln Action Program, now Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties. Tami is a hard worker with a unique ability to understand and help people from a diversity of backgrounds. Her life experience is broad, starting with serving our country in the U.S. Air Force for six years, to leading nonprofit organizations to working as a Legislative Aide for the Nebraska Legislature. She has experience successfully managing and administering nonprofit budgets, experience as an effective development director, and the ability to lead a diversity of people to work together on common goals. She understands the funding relationship between local and state government. She has experience working on statewide and local education issues.

Tami possesses a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership. She understands how to effectively handle challenges. For much of her daughter's childhood, Tami was a single parent, balancing the demands of career and child rearing. Her daughter, like herself, has excelled in education.

Tami is a committed community volunteer, having served on the boards of Lighthouse, ACLU, Malone Community Center, and Habitat for Humanity. She has also served on the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department Advisory Board, the Lincoln/Lancaster County Women's Commission, the Mayor's Women's Commission, and the Highlands Neighborhood Association.

As a former candidate for the Nebraska Legislature, Tami dug deep to learn about the pressing issues impacting northwest Lancaster County. She has a strong record as an advocate for clean rural water. She championed safe crossing markers at Highway 34 leading to the Fallbrook neighborhood, helping to ensure the safety of students as they attended School Middle School.

Though Tami's resume is impressive, what I have truly admired is her ability to bridge cultural differences. As a woman of color, she understands the challenges facing minority communities. She advocates for positive change by emphasizing education. She has often provided her excellent skills as a grant writer, free of charge, to many fledging organizations, many of which have grown from Lincoln's multicultural communities. Tami's understanding of diversity is inclusive. I have known Tami to be a

strong supporter of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community for many years. She can be counted on as a friend to anyone who is in need, regardless of background.

In closing, I have lived in Lincoln for over 40 years. In that time, I do not recall one representative serving on the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners who could be called as representing the City and County's diversity. Tami Soper is an incredibly energetic woman of color with a wide range of successful experiences working with people from all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. If appointed to the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners, Tami Soper will prove to be an asset for all, while bringing a much-needed voice of Lincoln and Lancaster County minorities.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Baier