

To whom it may concern,

Born and raised in Northeast Nebraska, I am a native of our great state. Currently, I reside in North Lincoln in the Russian Bottoms. With easy access to downtown and a quick exit to our beautiful rural communities, I wouldn't trade my location.

When I was notified that this seat was being vacated I knew that it was an opportunity I needed to pursue. In truth, holding public office has always been a dream of mine. While some seek an opportunity to climb the ladder, or spring themselves into a more recognizable spot, my passion is different.

As for many folks who hold local and county office, my desire is to serve my community. I have always carried with me a firm belief that the most fulfilling life we can lead is one in the service of others. It was my upbringing that served to mold this belief. I was brought up by an Army veteran and union factory worker. He showed me the value of an education, and the importance of serving your community. In tandem, my mother introduced me to community service at a young age. It was because of her persuasion that I have been involved with organizations like the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Serving on the executive committee in a variety of roles for more than a decade, I was able to immerse myself in service to a population who deserves nothing short of our fullest devotion.

Outside of this, I have tailored my academic experience to meet my ambitions. I received a B.A. in History and Politics from Midland University in Fremont. Currently, I am in pursuit of an M.A. in Integrated Media Communications from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Understanding every tidbit of the former, while crucial, becomes highly effective when paired with the principles of the latter.

In my time on this earth, I have always worked to find and create opportunities to be useful to those around me. Beyond my participation in the Relay For Life, I have been fortunate enough to work with Legal Aid of Nebraska, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, and Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, and now the DHHS working with ServeNebraska. Each of these organizations have not only served as professional opportunities, but have allowed me to aid in meeting the needs of those less fortunate, those in need in our state. While this is only a portion of my story, I feel that it highlights some integral parts.

Finally, I understand that I am seeking an elected office. So allow me to share a few thoughts. First, I am seeking this position because I care about my community. I care about making Lancaster County the best it can be, and serving it to the best of my ability. I believe that this position will allow me to just that.

Secondly, I have decided to apply to this position because I am a firm believer that each government agency, board, and elected body must accurately represent its community. While not discrediting the current slate of commissioners, and offering my absolute respect to their service, I would like to offer that the addition of a younger commissioner could prove beneficial. As a member of the Millennial generation, building on the experience and expertise of the other members, I believe I can bring a different perspective to the table, in an effort to help move this county forward.

Third, I jumped at the opportunity to join the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners because county government is crucial to our state's development. It is obvious that city and statewide elections receive a bulk of the attention from the general public. However, in a state like ours, working on behalf of our rural communities, those forgotten towns on the outskirts, also need a voice. County government and organizations like the Board of Commissioners are charged with the crucial and ever important job of providing that. I would be delighted to take on that role and extremely energized to help lead the way.

The fourth and final piece I will offer is this. As my academic track suggests, communication and government are mutual things. When paired together, the result is effective organization and decision-making. Not to mention a more well-informed electorate. If chosen for this position, the first thing I will do is work to aggressively reach out through various platforms to connect with my constituency. As a result, I will be able to meet my base but work vigorously to engage a new base of community members to participate with the body.

In closing, due to my extensive community service experience, my political organizing experience, my ability to cultivate community interest, and my passion for serving others, I believe that I am the best candidate for this position.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Michael D. Wilson

## **Michael D. Wilson**

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Lincoln, NE 68508

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### **Education**

Midland University (2013 - 2017)  
Bachelor of Arts - History

University of Nebraska - Lincoln (2018 - Present)  
Master of Arts - Integrated Media Communications

### **Professional Experience**

Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) (Summer 2018)  
Social Media Strategist - Intern

Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (2017 - Present)  
Social Media Assistant

Legal Aid of Nebraska (Summer 2017)  
Equal Justice Corps Fellow

### **Community Involvement**

Relay For Life of Dodge County (2005 - 2017)  
Recruitment Chair / Missions Coordinator

### **Professional Certifications**

Hootsuite Platform Certification  
Advanced Google Analytics Certificate

### **Skills and Abilities**

Social Media / Data Analytics / Graphic Design / Adobe Suite / Copywriting  
Event Coordination / Microsoft Office / Macintosh OS

### **Portfolio**

<https://michaeldwilson.weebly.com>