

RECEIVED

MAY 31 2019

LANCASTER COUNTY  
CLERK

May 28, 2019

Mr. Dan Nolte, Lancaster County Clerk  
Mr. Pat Condon, Lancaster County Attorney  
Ms. Rachel Garver, Lancaster County Treasurer

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this letter as my formal application for the position of Lancaster County Board, District 2.

My name is Jim Ballard, and as you may know I ran for the County Board in the 2016 election against Ms. Brinkman, losing by a very narrow margin. I believe going through that process demonstrates I have a passion about serving the community as a member of the County Board.

I was born and raised in Grand Island, attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Broadcasting and my Master's Degree in Journalism. I have been married to my wife Barb for almost 32 years and have three wonderful grown children. I have lived in District for nearly 26 years.

If I have the opportunity to serve in this position, I promise to be held to the highest standards with the responsibility of decision making for the people of Lancaster County. I am a firm believer that most decisions made by the Board are not determined by politics or political affiliation, but should be made with common sense and what is deemed as most beneficial for the people we represent.

I would also serve based on the four core principles I ran on in 2016. First and foremost a commitment to be a good steward of the county's tax dollars, making sure the county has a budget that is effective, efficient and makes good sense. Secondly, I would promote an environment in Lancaster County that attracts and keeps businesses. This can be best accomplished by having a solid economic plan that creates and supports small businesses in our community. Next, I would make it a priority to equip our law enforcement and court system with the necessary funding that ensures our citizens are safe, guaranteeing their quality of life is maintained and protected. Finally, I would continue looking toward the future and help make decisions that are proactive in creating a vision for Lancaster County, thus preparing us for future growth and development.

I believe I have the experience and knowledge that makes me the best candidate for this position. I bring many strengths to the table. I've worked in both the public and the private sector. While working for UNL I was held accountable for making sure tax dollars were used wisely, parlaying them into more dollars in promotion of the university. As a small business owner, I've had to make tough choices on a regular basis, many times dealing with the budget and personnel decisions.

I also have the advantage of living and owning a business in the rural part of the county, while also owning a business in Lincoln's Haymarket. As co-owner in our family business, James Arthur Vineyards, I believe I have a very good understanding to the needs and issues of the rural community. While being a

farming operation, although non-traditional crops, we experience the same issues as those who make their living in the rural part of Lancaster County. At the same time, as a co-owner with my wife of the From Nebraska Gift Shop, I have a very good understanding of the business climate in the urban setting of our community. The experience I have garnered as a small business owner is invaluable and would serve me well as a County Commissioner.

The position of a Lancaster County Board member requires the upmost integrity, ethical responsibility and leadership. I firmly believe I possess all three traits. I strive to reach and maintain a high moral compass and an ethical approach in all areas of my life. As for leadership, I believe through the various boards and committees I have served on over the years, I have developed a leadership style and the skills that fit perfectly with the responsibilities of a County Commissioner. I have served in leadership roles at the local level as President of Parkview Christian School Board, the state level as President of the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association on two different occasion and at a national level as Chair of WineAmerica, the country's only advocacy group that represents all US wineries, just to name a few. I am also a graduate of Leadership Lincoln and the Nebraska LEAD program which helped my hone much of my leadership style.

I have been blessed in many ways and have always had the desire to give back to the place I call home. They say timing is everything, and fortunately at this point in my life I have to ability and the opportunity to serve as a member of the Lancaster County Board.

I would be more than happy to provide any other information you may require. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you soon.



Jim Ballard  
1503 W. Raymond Rd  
Raymond, NE 68428  
402.783.5200  
402.890.1965 (cell)

*jimbarb87@windstream.net*  
*javwines@windstream.net*