

Carol M. Thompson

October 6, 2009

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Kim Painter
Tom Slockett
County Administration Building
913 S. Dubuque St.
Iowa City IA 52240

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OCT 14 2009

Tom Slockett
COUNTY AUDITOR

Dear Committee Members:

I served on the Board of Supervisors with Mike Lehman for six years, and I believe Mike is uniquely qualified for appointment to the vacant seat on the board. His experience and understanding of county government make him ready to be a fully-functioning member of the board from day one.

Mike is a good listener who pays attention to all members of the community. He is fair in his judgments and makes even-handed decisions after he hears all sides of an issue. During our time on the board together I found him to be respected by staff and citizens alike. His moderate approach means that he is often able to mediate in contentious situations.

Anyone who serves on the board is called upon to learn new skills and Mike never shirked that responsibility. I especially admired his energy and diligence in learning about the county budget process.

Mike is a hard worker and thinks carefully about each vote. He doesn't reach a decision until he has done careful research and feels that he fully understands the issue. He is willing to put in whatever work it takes to come to a well-reasoned decision.

To me, Mike Lehman exemplifies the kind of leader a democratic government requires. If I were to name one quality I admire most about him, it would be that he is fair. Even if it means going against his friends or political allies, he is fair and always willing to give a reasoned argument for his decisions. I think most citizens who contacted him during his time on the board found him accessible and always willing to hear them out. Although he didn't win his last election, he had the next-highest vote tally, and I believe that shows that many county voters would be happy to see him appointed.

Sincerely,

Carol Thompson
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