

DCHS Board Candidate Profile

Candidate: Joseph (Joe) Zitzelsberger
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Statement of Intent - Policy Interests & Priorities

- I was appointed to the board in April, 2024. Having just joined, I hope to remain on the board for at least the next full term to fully demonstrate my commitment to DCHS.
- My interest in remaining on the DCHS board stems from my care for animals, and the impact that they have on so many human lives. I've seen first hand the comfort that a companion animal can bring to a human in both good and bad times.
- DCHS has enacted many great programs over the last two decades. I want to continue all of the programs and processes that make sense and provide value, and to work to help DCHS move to the next level, particularly in relation to community outreach. In Dane County, we have several significant minority populations, and the DCHS connectivity with those communities has a great opportunity to grow.
- So many activities have a financial component, so we need to continue to make careful decisions about how funds are spent, as well as consider ways to increase income. DCHS has a uniquely recognizable presence across our county and all of southern Wisconsin. That may provide untapped opportunities for partnerships and fundraising.

Dane County Humane Society Background and Experience

- I volunteered with DCHS from 2000 to 2006. My favorite part of that was in the later years, picking up dogs from Lucky Dog Daycare (due to a partnership between Lucky Dog and DCHS to increase socialization) and returning them to the shelter. While I would have rather taken every one of them home, I met so many great dogs, and I know that they all went on to join great homes. That program was fantastic!
- My family adopted our first dog from DCHS back in 2002. It was such an excellent experience, and Sabrina was an amazing dog (lab and beagle mix). We've adopted from DCHS twice more since then. We generally look for senior dogs, or those that have special medical needs.
- My charitable giving has included DCHS for many years, but in 2022 I was able to increase my donation to a level to join the Director's Council.

Professional Background & Education/Training

- I've spent the last 27+ years working in technology at American Family Insurance. Prior to that, I worked at WIFC-FM radio while completing my communications degree at UW-Stevens Point.
- During my time at AmFam, I've added a certificate in Data Analytics from Madison College, and a Masters Certificate in Project Management from UW Madison's Wisconsin School of Business.
- In 2018, and again in 2022 and 2024, I was elected to the Waunakee Village Board. While on the board, I have chaired the police committee, chaired the finance committee, and been a member of the Waunakee Utilities Commission, and the Waunakee Plan Commission. In addition, I've worked on numerous annual public budgets for the Village of Waunakee, so I'm no stranger to having to make tough financial decisions.
- While not in elected office, I also served on the Waunakee Board of Review and the Waunakee Public Works Committee during various years starting in 2011.

Memberships and Affiliations

- DCHS Director's Council (2022-Present)
- Various IT-based certifications & associations