

Your Personal Goals for this Session:

If elected chair, I want to become more identifiable as a county spokesperson. This was difficult during the pandemic as it was more prudent to allow the experts to make public comments. I want to attend as many WCA sessions as possible.

Items and issues you feel should be organizational priorities this session:

More streamlining of form and function, make sure the new committee format goes smoothly or at least with as few bumps as possible.

(Additional) Chair and Vice Candidacy Questions:

The following questions are intended for supervisors interested in running for chair or vice.

If you are elected, are there things you will try to change or do differently as County Board Chair/Vice Chair?

The upcoming Richland County Board session will be pivotal as the transition more completely to the administration model with less dependency on the traditional Committee structure. However, it will be equally important that we, as a Board, do not lose sight of what we want our County to be. In other words, do we strip services down to bare bones or can we preserve some of the extras that make our County such a great place to live? The administrator's office needs to be completed as well as the development of a cohesive plan for the Courthouse/ Judicial Center. The board room should be revamped so we can hold County meetings there again. Outdoor signage at the Courthouse needs improvement so visitors don't have to guess where the entrance and exits are. The ambulance/emergency government garage needs to be completed and the results of the County-wide emergency medical survey must be carefully analyzed to develop a County-wide strategy.

Other ongoing challenges include the development of a sustainable solution for the Campus/Symons area. Things will not stay the same. A personal goal would be the creation of a county park on the hill behind the campus ensuring the preservation of that area. A new challenge is the hiring of the right individual to head the Health and Human Services department. That person must continue the positive trend established by the present director towards the reduction of county tax levy applied for institutional care. The tower/communication project must be fast tracked. We have, for too long, depended on a jury rigged system for our emergency radio system.

How would you describe the style you will use in working with your fellow Supervisors, County committees, County Administrator and other staff?

My management style is collaborative to a point. My practice when I was employed as an underwriting director was to hire good people and let them do their jobs, only giving advice and direction when necessary. The same holds true as a county board chair. We have exceptional talent on our board and among county employees. An environment that will allow them freedom of thought and design is absolutely necessary as we move ahead.