

## **Letter to Ann Arbor**

Yousef Rabhi

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Dear Ann Arbor,

As many of you know, I have been considering a run for mayor. It has been a journey that has led me to think deeply about my hometown and the direction that I envision for the future. The process that I followed to make a decision on whether or not to run was extensive. It led me through months of thoughtful consideration to a decision that I feel good about.

My process began by taking a few months to meet with members of the community to discuss my vision, experience, energy and passion. I also wanted to hear their vision for Ann Arbor and its future. The outpouring of support for my candidacy was overwhelming and I am grateful to this community for their belief in me and the work that we can do together.

A key component of my process was to take some time to think through this decision for myself. I took the time over the New Years to retreat from the potential race for mayor and evaluate my future in service to this community. I considered the great passion that I hold in my heart for issues of social justice, environmental sustainability and local economic resilience. While pondering how best I could serve the community now and into the future, I took a walk in the Arb to clear my mind and focus on my path. As Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, I am honored to lead that body in setting policies which affect all county residents. It's a large job and one I did not consider leaving in a casual manner.

After many weeks of consideration, dialogue and debate, I have decided that now is not the right time for me to run for mayor. While this was a difficult decision to make, I want you to know that it was truly my own. No one convinced me to back out; it was just the right thing for me to do.

Having announced my decision, I want to be clear that this does not constitute a retreat from my passion and ideals. In fact, considering this process reaffirmed my commitment to the community and my passion to serve its people. I will stay on as Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and continue to prioritize transparency, process and respect. As a Board we have accomplished a tremendous amount and made necessary changes to ensure fiscal sustainability for the County. I take my role on the Board seriously and wish to see this work through.

Thank you to everyone in this unique and wonderful community who called, wrote, emailed or even considered me to run for mayor. I look forward to partnering with you and the next mayor of Ann Arbor as we have lots of great work to do. We can accomplish amazing things when we all work together!

Yousef Rabhi