

**Be not simply good, be good for something.  
-Henry David Thoreau**

Thoreau's quote speaks of service, responsibility, and the greater good. A County Commissioner has the ability and duty to serve others and affect change; all while remembering that it is an honor to serve and with that honor comes responsibility.

In these current economic times, there is more to be done with less. And, because of the fight for limited resources, there is a need for governing bodies as well as public and private entities to come together to address the needs of residents. Individuals and families are struggling. As monies decrease, there is a greater need for local entities to supply the needed safety net. The newly outlined guidances on service prioritization and accompanying decision principles created by the current Board of Commissioners allow for a road map for the newly defined mission and role of the Washtenaw County policy makers.

The five guidances are responsive, prudent, focused, proactive, and most importantly, attainable. The six decision principles provide metrics in the quest for achieving the outlined guidances. In terms of the decision principles, the desire for effective investments, efficient provision of services, holistic understanding and approach to issues, and support for evidence-based success is evident.

I believe in the presented guidances and support the decision principles. It is my hope to have the opportunity to work with the current commissioners to do the work with which they have tasked themselves. It is clear that this board believes in the good that it can do and takes its responsibility seriously. Although the tasks at hand are large, challenging and intricate, the potential for good is great and the desire to create solutions to address complex issues is clear. I hope to be a part of this board; a board that is willing to tackle difficult problems

rather than shies away from them or pretends that they do not exist or waits for someone else to potentially help. I also appreciate that the board recognizes the need for collaboration. If these guidances are to be met effectively, collaboration will be necessary. The apparent lack of ego in service of accomplishing this important work is refreshing.

The guidances on service prioritization and decision principles created by the Board of Commissioners are not simply good; they are good for something. I would be honored to be a member of a group who is dedicated to working together to serve others and believes that creating effective and practical solutions to complex issues is not only its duty, but privilege.