

Elizabeth Kohl
109 Frigate Drive
Madison, WI 53705

February 15, 2016

Alder Denise DeMarb, Council President
Madison Common Council
Room 417
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Ms. Denise DeMarb,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my application for the vacant alder seat on the Madison Common Council for District # 11. I have attached my resume to the bottom of this letter which includes information on my work experience, education, and volunteer experience with civic, local, and nonprofit organizations.

I welcome the possibility of serving as Alder for District # 11. I have loved living in Madison for more than 40 years, attending the University of Wisconsin, raising two children here, owning two homes within the current boundaries of Alder District # 11, and inviting my parents to join my family by moving to Madison when they retired. I worked for the State of Wisconsin for 30 years. My work experience centered on executive management and administrative duties in complex organizations and developing and implementing multifaceted state-wide and national public policy initiatives primarily related to often contentious environmental, agricultural, and food safety issues. I retired in July 2011. Since retirement, I have focused my volunteer time working with the League of Women Voters and the Madison City Clerk's Office registering voters and becoming an election poll worker. Also, I enjoy gardening, hiking, bird watching, bicycling, reading, traveling, and spending time with my adult children.

Statement on Why I Wish to Serve

I wish to serve as the District 11 representative because I believe democracies and governments elected by the people can and do make significant, positive differences in the lives of most people and the communities where they live. My life has benefitted immensely not only by loving parents but also by living in a democracy that provided good education; a culture and civil society that often nurtured its children, families, and communities, and was often fair and equitable. My work experiences in state government taught me that people working together can affect policy and laws that protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This was possible because dedicated, diverse groups of citizens, government officials, stakeholders, businesses, and organizations worked together cooperatively to do so. For me, working as a civil servant in a democracy was both tremendously satisfying and challenging, yet the difficulties are less remembered because the result often can benefit society and individuals, and help sustain our democracy.

I firmly believe in the power of civil discourse, consensus building, and democratic decision-making processes. I believe citizens of a democracy have a responsibility to participate in their own governance to fulfill the public promise that a democratic government holds for its people. I want to serve as an Alder because I want to participate in Madison's democratic processes with its citizens and give back to my community. I want to contribute to making it possible for all people to have the opportunities I have had and benefits I have had growing up and living in a democracy.

I also want to serve the 11th Aldermanic District and the City of Madison because I believe I have the skills and experience that can serve the district well. I am committed to talk with, to listen to, and work with the people, organizations, and businesses of District 11 and assist them in achieving practical, workable, and sound public policy decisions and results. During my thirty years with state government, I worked with different interest groups with divergent views on controversial public issues to achieve agreed-upon solutions. I also worked successfully with civil servants in various state agencies to resolve large and small and easy and difficult administrative problems. Examples of public policy issues that I worked on with citizen groups and interest groups included natural resource conservation; point source and nonpoint source pollution; food safety; wholesale and retail business economics and trade practices; local food initiatives; public health issues; wastewater treatment; underground drinking water; fresh water in lakes and streams; climate change; hazardous and chemical waste issues; plant and pest diseases; agriculture issues related to pesticides, animal health, and sustainability; and consumer protection programs and laws.

Statement on What I Want to Accomplish

As an Alder, in the first year, I would want to:

1. Minimize any gap in the representation of the district because of the vacancy.

I believe I can minimize a potential gap because I am generally knowledgeable about municipal government and how it works. This knowledge will allow me to devote my time to listening and talking with the people of District 11. Second, I would want to listen to and talk to other Common Council members about their districts and the city's issues and interests. I believe I can 'get up to speed' quickly because I have extensive experience working with local and municipal governments (of all kinds), local and municipal government agencies, and local and municipal government officials. Also, I have extensive experience with government operating budgets and fiscal accounting as well as with financing revenues and allotments for government programs and operations. I worked on state government committees, for local and state government boards, and with legislative committees throughout my career. I am generally familiar and knowledgeable about how municipal governments are organized, their administrative functions and procedures, their systems of laws and administrative code, and the general roles and responsibilities of municipal elected officials.

E. Kohl, Page 3

I understand generally the principles and procedures to ensure open records and the accountability that elected officials and programs need. I believe this knowledge will help me minimize any gaps in representing District 11.

2. To listen to and talk with the #11 Alder District constituents to set an agenda based on what they are telling me the agenda and priorities should be. To accomplish this, I would focus most of my time as an Alder listening to and talking to people, organizations, and businesses in the District to learn about the issues people care about and understand the issues from the perspectives of citizens. Specifically, I would create listening sessions and talking sessions with the people, neighborhood associations, organizations, and businesses in the District. I would also talk to Chris Schmidt about current issues and work to create a smooth transition.
3. Represent the district effectively. I would want the people of the district to believe -- I am listening to them, working with them, accessible to them, and serving their interests well.

I am confident my work experience and skills are well suited to the role and responsibilities of an Alder listening to and working with people and groups and the issues facing the City of Madison. It is a time of serious fiscal constraints on public institutions, and the rising pace of change in most facets of our society signals a growing need and demand for ways to respectfully discuss critical issues, cooperate on solutions, and build effective working partnerships together.

Most likely, if I am selected to fill the vacant Alder position, I will seek election for the term beginning in April 2017. And, if I am not selected now, I would give serious consideration to running for the District 11 seat in the 2017 election.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kohl

Contact Information:

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Cell: 608-692-1917

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Resume

Elizabeth J. Kohl

109 Frigate Drive, Madison, WI 53705

Current:

I am retired. I retired in July 2011 after working for the State of Wisconsin for 30 years.

Education:

B. A. May 1978. Biology and Conservation of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Work Experience: 1976 to 2011

Summary: I worked for the State of Wisconsin from 1981 to 2011, primarily with responsibilities in executive management, administration, and developing and implementing state-wide and national public policy initiatives. Between 1981 and 1990, I worked as the Executive Director of the Mining Investment and Local Impact Fund Board and as a budget analyst in the Department of Administration, Division of Executive Budget and Policy (commonly known as the State Budget Office). From 1990 to 2011, I worked at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). DATCP holds broad legal responsibilities serving as the state equivalent of the federal USDA, EPA, FDA, and Federal Trade Commission. During this time period, my work responsibilities at DATCP focused on actively pursuing the stated mission and vision of DATCP:

Mission: On behalf of the people of Wisconsin, our mission is to assure:

- The safety and quality of food
- Fair business practices for the buyer and seller
- Efficient use of agricultural resources in a quality environment
- Consumer protection
- Healthy plants and animals
- The vitality of Wisconsin agriculture and commerce

Vision: We will strengthen service and compliance by:

- Building community relationships with consumers and businesses
- Being innovative
- Using resources effectively

Executive Policy Initiatives Advisor to the Secretary and DATCP Board of Directors.

Secretary's Office. Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), State of WI. Madison, WI. December 2008 to July 2011. **Duties:** develop public policy initiatives for the DATCP Board and DATCP Secretary and advise the Secretary on major state-wide and national public policy related to the DATCP mission, including:

E. Kohl Resume, Page 2

- Raw Milk. Evaluate legal and regulatory options for sale of raw milk in WI. Facilitate stakeholders consensus group to prepare report to Governor (2010 to 2011).
- Buy Local. Explore strategic ideas to promote local food initiatives.
- Climate Change. Implement 2008 WI Global Warming Task Force recommendations for Wisconsin agriculture.
- Federal Stimulus Funds (2009). Develop ideas for agricultural funding.
- State-National Manufactured Food Safety Regulatory Program Standards. Represent WI on national FDA Committee with 9 pilot states to implement national and state food safety regulatory program standard. Represent WI on national FDA and AFDO working committees developing policy and program ideas for national food safety.
- White House Food Safety Working Group (2009). On behalf of the Governor, develop a proposal to share with the Working Group to implement a national food safety network, integrating state and national authorities and roles for the proposed Federal Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 to protect public health.

Deputy Division Administrator, Food Safety Division, DATCP. State of WI. Madison, WI. July 2005 to December 2008. The Food Safety Division enforces Wisconsin's dairy, food, and meat safety laws, responds to food safety emergencies, and regulates deceptive food advertising and labeling. It licenses and inspects over 30,000 food, meat, and dairy businesses. In 2000, it had an annual operating budget of \$13 million and 200 employees located throughout WI, working from homes and central and regional offices. **Duties**: Responsible for managing the division budget and finances; personnel; facilities; information technology; business and administrative systems and all operational matters; executive oversight for division managers and supervisors and food, dairy, and meat program responsibilities; and strategic planning and organization activities to improve the effectiveness of food safety operations. **Special Project (2006 to 2011)**: Lead implementation of the national regulatory food safety program standards for manufactured food and retail food developed jointly by FDA and a nine-state pilot project, including WI.

Executive Policy Initiatives Advisor. Division of Agricultural Resource Management, DATCP, State of WI. Madison, WI. February 2002 to July 2005. **Duties**: Develop public policy initiatives and program strategies, tools, and solutions to sustain soil, land, and water resources and a viable agricultural economy using sound environmental practices related to the use of agri-chemicals and animal waste. **Special Projects**: 1) Facilitate stakeholders consensus group to develop legislation for the growth and siting of WI livestock facilities (2003 + 2004). Livestock Siting law enacted by WI. Legislature in 2004. 2) research possible agricultural impacts of climate change in Wisconsin and nationwide and prepare documentation and proposal to lead to the creation of Governor Doyle's Global Warming Task Force created in 2006.

Deputy Division Administrator, Food Safety Division, DATCP, State of WI. Madison, WI. January 2000 to February 2002. The Food Safety Division enforces Wisconsin's dairy, food, and meat safety laws, responds to food safety emergencies, and regulates deceptive food advertising and labeling. It licenses and inspects over 30,000 food, meat, and dairy businesses. In 2000, it had an annual operating budget of \$13 million and 200 employees located throughout WI, working from homes and central and regional offices. **Duties**: Responsible for managing the division budget and finances; personnel; facilities; information technology; business and administrative systems and all operational matters; executive oversight for division managers and supervisors and food, dairy, and meat program responsibilities; and strategic planning and organization activities to improve the effectiveness of food safety operations.

Director, Office of Policy and Program Analysis, Secretary's Office, DATCP, State of WI. Madison, WI. September 1997 to January 2000. **Duties**: On behalf of the DATCP Board and Secretary, lead evaluation of national and state policies related to the DATCP mission and its programs; evaluate and implement DATCP programs, services, and administrative business solutions to improve service delivery, regulatory effectiveness, and client satisfaction. Manage six professional policy and planning analysts. **Special Projects**: 1) Evaluate the twenty-year old, WI Farmland Preservation Program and propose effective changes to update and increase its effectiveness. Result: Working Lands Initiative workgroup report prepared in 2006 and Working Lands Initiatives law enacted by WI Legislature in 2009. 2) Analyze authorities, roles, and responsibilities of the WI, DATCP Animal Health Laboratory and the UW-Madison Veterinary School of Medicine Laboratory to explore the consolidation of the two laboratories. Facilitate a consensus workgroup of stakeholders, create a partnership between the Animal Health Division and the Veterinary School, consolidate the laboratories, and implement the transition (1998-1999).

Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), State of W. Madison, WI. April 1990 to September 1997. Report to the Board of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. DATCP has six divisions which have broad regulatory authority for food safety; public, animal, and plant health; consumer protection; trade practices between buyer and seller and producer and processor; and agri-chemical use and agricultural nonpoint source pollution; the conservation of agricultural soil, land, and water resources; and the marketing of WI. agricultural products. The six divisions included 15 bureaus, and approximately 75 programs and 700 employees. DATCP held broad legal responsibilities serving as the state equivalent of the federal USDA, EPA, FDA, and Federal Trade Commission. **Duties**: Responsible for managing the DATCP day-to-day department-wide, administrative operations and the DATCP executive management team. Responsible for DATCP finance, budget and accounting (in 1990 the annual budget was \$35 million and in 1997, the annual budget was \$60 million), human resources, information technology, procurement, and facilities management. Responsible for preparing three DATCP biennial budget proposals ('91-'93, '93-'95, + '95-'97). Responsible for leading the development of DATCP strategic planning and program goals; the oversight of DATCP programs, their

effectiveness, measuring program results, implementing business solutions; and leading the development and implementation of DATCP public policy initiatives. Serve as a primary DATCP representative to the Governor; WI. Legislature; state agencies; national, state, and local governments; and consumers, clients, organizations, and businesses affiliated with DATCP.

'Budget Team Leader,' (Bureau Director), Division of State Executive Budget and Policy (the State Budget Office), Department of Administration (DOA), State of WI. Madison, WI. November 1988 to April 1990. The State Budget Office staff is primarily responsible for preparing the Governor's biennial budget, monitoring the WI. Legislature's review of the budget, and overseeing state agency implementation of the budget. Budget Office staff are assigned responsibility for the oversight of specific state agency budgets, programs, and public policy initiatives. **Duties:** Supervise four professional budget analysts who were responsible for developing, evaluating, and overseeing the budget; administrative, fiscal, personnel, and program operations; and public policy initiatives for: the WI State Departments of Transportation; Development (Commerce); Natural Resources; Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection; and the Public Service Commission. **Special Project (1989 to 1990):** Manage the creation of the new Wisconsin Clean Water Fund program. Facilitated, staffed, and managed the Governor's Clean Water Fund Task Force to evaluate the state-wide impact of the elimination of EPA grants to states to build local wastewater treatment facilities. Instead, EPA was proposing states create new revolving loan fund programs with EPA seed money for local governments to finance wastewater treatment plants to meet the federal Clean Water Act standards for polluted water. The Task Force recommended the Governor create EPA's proposed revolving loan fund. I was also responsible for managing and developing the loan program components, creating a framework for a state lending entity (bank), creating an administrative partnership, with split state responsibilities whereby the Department of Natural Resources was responsible for the clean water and wastewater treatment components of the program and the Office of Capital Finance (DOA) was responsible for the bond financing and loan rates and requirements. I worked with local governments, legislators, state agencies, private industry, metropolitan sewage treatment districts, environmental groups, the federal EPA, and the Legislative Reference Bureau to draft the Clean Water Fund law which was enacted in late winter of 1990, passed unanimously by both houses of the WI Legislature, with the law including an initial \$750 million in bonding authority for the revolving loan fund as WI.'s contribution to the fund in addition to the EPA seed money.

Senior Budget Analyst, Division of State Executive Budget and Policy (State Budget Office), Department of Administration (DOA), State of WI. Madison, WI. November 1985 to November 1988. **Duties:** Responsible for analyzing and making recommendations to the Governor, Secretary of the Department of Administration, and the State Budget Director on public policy initiatives, biennial budgets, and fiscal and administrative issues related to wastewater treatment, public drinking water, groundwater, surface water, air, hazardous and toxic waste, brown fields, and recycling programs in the WI Department of Natural Resources and all programs in the WI. Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Work with

agencies Secretaries and staff; legislators; interest groups; stake-holders; Legislative Fiscal Bureau and Audit Bureau; Legislative Council; and Legislative Reference Bureau staff on behalf of the Governor's Office and the State Budget Director. Prepared the 1989-91 and 1987-89 biennial budgets for the Governor for all of DATCP and one DNR division.

Executive Director, Mining Investment and Local Impact Fund Board, State of WI. Madison, WI. July 1981 to November 1985. The nine-member Board consisted of two State Cabinet Secretaries and local government officials representing communities near the existing and proposed metallic mines. The Board met monthly. **Duties**: Responsible for the Board's administrative functions and the administrative activities to carry out the Board's responsibilities to assist counties and local governments with social and economic impacts that result or may result from metallic mining operations in areas where metallic mining had occurred, was occurring, and had the potential to occur. Assistance was provided primarily through the Board's grant program. I managed all aspects of the grant program and the Board's operating budget; served as the Board's representative with the local governments, Legislature, Native American communities, the press, local citizens, the mining companies, and state agency staff.

Legislative Research Assistant for Representative Mary Lou Munts, Chair of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Environmental Resources, Wisconsin State Legislature. Madison, WI. January 1981 to July 1981.

Research Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics, UW-Madison. Assist Dr. Richard Barrows, Professor of Agricultural Economics and Natural Resources in the five-year analysis and preparation of the WI. Farmland Preservation Report to the Wisconsin State Legislature. Madison, WI. March 1980 to January 1981.

Project Assistant. UW-Madison Environmental Awareness Center. Madison, WI. March 1979 to August 1980. Responsible for preparing the natural resources inventory for the Village and Town of Spring Green Extraterritorial Master Plan.

Natural Resource Management Crew Member. University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Madison, WI. Seasonal from September 1976 to September 1979.

Volunteer Experience: Civic, Local, and Nonprofit Organizations

- Madison City Clerk's Office
 - Volunteer, City of Madison Poll Worker (November 2011 to present)
 - Volunteer, Special Registration Deputy (to register voters) (2011 – present).
 - Volunteer, Madison City Clerk's Office, Election Rapid Response Team (2012 to present)
- Volunteer, League of Women Voters (2011 to present). Registering voters.
- Volunteer, WI Democratic Party. Registering voters (Fall 2012).

E. Kohl Resume, Page 6

- Member, Madison Audubon (2011 to present)
- Member, Olbrich Botanical Gardens (2013 to present)
- Temple Beth El member (1985 – present). Outreach Committee (2006 to 2014) and 75th Anniversary Commemorative Book Committee (2013 + 2014)
- Member, Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands (2009 to present) (historic and natural resource conservation for two lighthouses and natural habitat of the two islands off the tip of Door County).
- Volunteer. Madison Ballet's Annual **Nutcracker** rehearsals and performances. (1997 to 2006)
- Volunteer, Daughter's Girl Scout troop. 1994 to 1999.
- Volunteer, 'Arts Appreciation' Program. Glenn Stephens Elementary School, Madison Public Schools. (1991 to 1998).
- Volunteer. Team leader, Odyssey of the Mind Team. Madison Public Schools (1997)
- Volunteer Parent Coach. YMCA Boys Basketball Program. Two years, co-coach for my son's basketball team (1994 + 1995)
- Volunteer (1970 to 1976)
 - Big Sister to young boy (Wally, from age 7 to 11). Madison Big Brother, Big Sister
 - English language tutor, Hispanic adult woman, Madison Hispanic Community
 - Tutor 1st – 2nd Grade student (Vicki), Madison Marquette Elementary School

Contact Information:

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