

## Dagna Simmons Statement to the Board on 2/23/2021

My comments today are about the retirement of Woodbury County Treasurer Michael Clayton, effective April 2.

During the discussion at the February 16 Board meeting, there appeared to be support for a selection process that would include receiving applications and conducting interviews. The League of Women Voters Sioux City would support that process because it is clear, transparent and open to all people of Woodbury County.

Based on the discussion at the Board meeting last week, there would be 40 days, beginning April 2, to complete this process. LWV SC recommends using that time to publicize the opening, use a panel to review all applicants and to submit to the Board of Supervisors to make the final selection.

LWV SC is also committed to making deliberate efforts to ensure that Woodbury County is a place where different perspectives are respectfully heard and every individual feels a sense of welcome, belonging, and inclusion. One way of achieving this is by having all government entities reflect the diversity within the community.

LWV SC views this vacancy as an opportunity for more diversity and equity in Woodbury County Government. It is possible that this process, as outlined previously, could result in qualified candidates for this position that are women, Black, Native, or Hispanic.

We encourage you to view all qualified applicants through the lens of DEI – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. I did some online research about the demographics of Woodbury County. Information varies on different websites, but I think it is accurate to say that Woodbury

County is approximately 25-30% people of color. And we don't need to do research to know that it is 50% female.

In summary, LWV SC is requesting that Woodbury County Board of Supervisors view this appointment process as a beginning of increasing the diversity and equity within county government – not just for this vacancy but as part of the future.

Thank you.