

Recently, I qualified for the ballot to run for the open Sioux Falls School Board seat. I came into the process after contacting the organization Run For Something, who supports people running for local offices. They informed me that the only person running for office was a Republican. I decided to enter the race so that this person would not run unopposed. It appears that they were unaware of Dawn Marie Johnson's candidacy, which I myself only learned of too late. While Good Friday was the deadline to turn in a nominating petition, it was also the deadline to withdraw. I've had a chance to speak to Dawn Marie and learn about her background and career in the field of education, which I declare much superior to my own.

It is a condemnation of our first-past-the-post voting system (as opposed to ranked choice voting, *a.k.a.* instant runoff voting) that in a three-way race one candidate will act as a spoiler, siphoning votes from one candidate in favor of someone a majority of voters would not have gotten behind, instead electing a different candidate by a plurality. I got into this race to ensure a competitive election so that I could make sure the children of Sioux Falls continue to receive an education based in facts and not ideology and that is still my goal. I have every confidence that Dawn Marie Johnson will— if elected— work faithfully and effectively toward that goal. I may not be able to remove myself from the ballot, but I can step as out of the way as possible and enthusiastically throw my support behind her; with this statement, I hereby do so. If you planned on voting for me, I deeply appreciate your support but I urge you to instead vote for Dawn Marie Johnson.

Humbly yours,
Nick Zachariasen