

## **Rachel Garver Kick-Off Speech, March 1, 2018**

by Rachel Garver, Candidate for Lancaster County Treasurer

Tonight, I enthusiastically kickoff my campaign for the Office of Lancaster County Treasurer. After much thought, consulting with family and friends, and prayer, I have concluded that now is the time to join over 26,000 women nationwide who are running for elective office this year.

For months, I have been deeply troubled by the revelations at the County Treasurer's Office. The citizens of Lancaster County deserve honest, intelligent, qualified and experienced leadership in the Office of County Treasurer. I have the experience. I have the education. And, thanks to my wonderful parents, Rev. Jay Schmidt, and my schoolteacher mom, Barbara Schmidt, I have rock solid integrity.

For 24 years, I have worked in the University of Nebraska – Lincoln's Student Accounts, providing billing and collection services. By introducing and utilizing cutting-edge technology, our department has taken long lines of students waiting for service to virtually no lines. Pretty amazing considering we serve over 26,000 enrolled students. I have experience responding to Federal regulations and maintaining confidential student accounts, all while providing a service that is streamlined, accessible online 24/7, and, most importantly, respectful. I will bring my extensive experience to the Office of Treasurer to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and deliver reliable, honest, customer-friendly service to our taxpayers.

In today's workplace climate, it has become apparent that as a society we need to break the glass ceiling that is limiting women's contributions. My candidacy will demonstrate to all girls and boys, women and men, that women are qualified and capable. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we need greater gender balance in business and governmental leadership to ensure a fair and respectful workplace for all. I will bring that balance.

To effectively serve our increasingly diverse community, I will encourage and support diversity among the County Treasurer's Office staff. Recognizing the pressures upon the middle class today, I value organized labor as a cornerstone to building and maintaining the American middle class.

I am by nature a problem-solver who enjoys new challenges. I take my fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of Nebraska and Lancaster County seriously. I value each staff member for their knowledge and ideas. I have enjoyed working with and serving the public throughout my career.

I look forward to meeting with people across the city of Lincoln and throughout Lancaster County to discuss the need for accountability and transparency in the Office of County Treasurer. I will be conducting a campaign based on door-to-door conversations, neighborhood by neighborhood.

This campaign will take all of us working together to get the vote out. Consider volunteering to walk a precinct, staff a phone bank, deliver yard signs, or whatever you feel

comfortable fitting into your busy schedule. Consider donating so we have the funds to get the word out.

Tonight, I ask for your vote on May 15<sup>th</sup>, the Primary election, and November 6<sup>th</sup>, the General election. It would be a great honor to serve as your next County Treasurer.