

Jessica Melton  
Magnolia Dreams Inn  
104 E Bleeker St  
Magnolia, NC 28453  
March 28, 2025

North Carolina League of Municipalities  
Board of Directors Nominating Committee  
434 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1900  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of Mayor Dawn Ward's nomination to the North Carolina League of Municipalities Board of Directors.

It has been more than a year since I first met Mayor Ward here in Magnolia. During the election, she took the time to reach out to local business owners to invite us to have a conversation about the town and how the local government could support us. I was immediately impressed that she wanted to listen first. She arrived in town at a moment when we needed a change and her approach towards local governance has been transformative. As a small town with large obstacles, Mayor Ward has had her work cut out for her, but she continues to tackle each challenge by choosing to listen first. It has been a long time since this town has felt like local government is here to serve the people, but under Mayor Ward's watch, community members have been given more opportunities to share their thoughts and talents to improve the lives of their neighbors through the creation of the Mayor's Advisory Council, the revitalization of the Recreation/Community Engagement Committee, and the new Planning Board. Like all small towns, Magnolia must find ways to do more with less, and with each day that Mayor Ward is in office, she is working for the betterment of all, finding creative, cost-effective options to address our needs.

While Mayor Ward is newer to the political sphere, she possesses a lifetime of skills and experiences that have helped her excel as our mayor. The ability to listen, to consider creative approaches, and clearly explain town decisions are skills some veteran politicians have yet to learn. The North Carolina League of Municipalities Board of Directors would benefit greatly from her humble and compassionate approach to leadership. I wholeheartedly recommend her nomination.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions at [jess.melton@gmail.com](mailto:jess.melton@gmail.com)

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Melton', written in a cursive style.

Jessica Melton

Owner, Magnolia Dreams Inn