



My name is David Alvey, and I am running for the office of Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City Kansas.

My decision to run for Mayor did not come easily nor quickly. One question has been at the center of this decision: "Why do I want to be Mayor?". The short answer is simply this: I want to deliver quality services and meaningful tax relief to the citizens of Wyandotte County/KCK.

Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County have made great progress in the past twenty years. The consolidation of the city and county governments, the Kansas Speedway, the Legends, Prescott Plaza, Rainbow Boulevard and many other developments have brought real value to our community and generated new sources of income for the Unified Government to provide the tax relief that our citizens need. However, that tax relief has not happened.

One promise of consolidation was to provide more and better services at a lower cost. Those savings haven't shown up. A key promise of the Speedway and the Legends was that the projects would generate new revenues that would be used to reduce property taxes. All that we have seen is a 4 mil reduction in the property tax rate- only about a \$15-\$20 savings for the average homeowner PER YEAR! The promise to make meaningful cuts in property taxes for the folks who have paid the freight all these years has not been fulfilled.

Even worse, in the past four years Mayor Holland has laid more burdens on us. The citizens of the county have spent \$250,000 per year to provide full-time bodyguards for the Mayor, bodyguards who attend his church on Sundays, bodyguards who go with him to funerals in our city, bodyguards who travel with him into the state capital on official business. This security expense is on top of the specially constructed "safe room" in the Mayor's office on the 9th floor of City Hall, and the **taxpayer-provided** security system at his home. No other Mayor in the history of KCK has ever needed a bodyguard. I believe that those police officers assigned full-time to the Mayor ought to be allowed to do the job that they want to do: protect **ALL** of the citizens of KCK.

Another burden that Mayor Holland has laid upon us is the cost of burying electrical lines. In the past year, the Mayor authored an ordinance that requires the Board of Public Utilities to bury electrical lines underground, at an additional cost of \$7 million dollars to us. In other places, the city pays the cost of burying electrical lines. But the Mayor did not want to take responsibility for these costs, so he found a way to hide the costs on your BPU bill. The bottom line is the same: Mayor Holland is laying new burdens on us. What is more, the Mayor wants to underground infrastructure all across the City, costing us even more as we move forward.

And this brings us to the PILOT- the Payment in lieu of taxes. Take a look at your BPU bill and find the PILOT. It is basically a tax on your BPU bill from the Unified Government. In 2008 the PILOT was 7.9%. In 2009, in the economic emergency following the Great Recession, the Unified Government raised the PILOT to 12.8%, **with the promise** that it would be reduced once the emergency was over. After seven years it is still at 11.9%, and so we have yet another promise unfulfilled.

In 2013, Mayor Holland wanted to remove the PILOT from the BPU bill. Of course, he still wanted the money that the PILOT brought in; he just didn't want to have it show up on the BPU bill as an expense from the Unified Government. The solution: just take a revenue transfer in the same amount from the BPU, and make the Board raise the electricity and water rates on customers to generate the revenue for the UG. I fought this move because I felt it was not transparent: the money going to the UG should not be hidden in our electricity and water rates, but shown on our bill for what it is: a tax from the UG.

The long and short of it all is this: the Unified Government has a job to do: provide quality services to our citizens without placing excessive burdens on them. We all know that government needs money to function: UG employees deserve a living wage and benefits sufficient to care for their families; streets need to be improved, sidewalks built, emergency services provided. We all know that such services are not free. But as elected leaders we must wisely spend each dollar.

We should collect the taxes we need to do the job that needs to be done: not a dollar more, and not a dollar less. We do not need to spend money on bodyguards; we do not need to spend money burying electrical lines.

When elected Mayor I will bring my passion for honest, smart government to the Unified Government. I will fight constantly to make sure that our Unified Government simply does what any government should do: provide good services to its citizens without burdening them with unnecessary taxes, fees, or other costs. Our one goal must be to give our residents, each and every day, another reason to be proud of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.

I ask my fellow proud citizens of the Dotte to give me a chance to do the good work that must be done for the families and neighborhoods of Wyandotte County. I would be humbled to receive your vote; I would be humbled to be given the opportunity to fight for you as your full-time Mayor.