

Linda's Opening and Closing Statements at the Candidate Forum, October 23, 2013 at Holyoke High School

Good evening: Thanks to the Holyoke chamber and the Taxpayers Association for sponsoring this candidate forum. And thanks to all in attendance & watching from home tonight.

It has been my honor to serve as your Ward 5 City Councilor. I bring this experience along with my professional nursing and management leadership background to the table on your behalf.

I have always believed in a strong work ethic, doing homework and looking towards the future before making a decision on a matter. I am seeking re-election because I believe that I have made a positive difference for the people of Ward 5 and Holyoke. My main goals include:

Fighting to keep property taxes low, by keeping our budget under control. As your city councilor I know that if we don't make the hard decisions a State appointed control board will make them for us. I have hosted tax workshops so taxpayers can be sure they are fairly assessed and have consistently voted against excessive spending on non-essential matters.

Providing excellent constituent service by being accessible and responsive to your problems and questions. I have held many Ward 5 citizen forums to inform and hear from the public. When I have confirmed information I have informed residents of activities happening in Ward 5 and ensured that information is made publicly available.

Working to improve our quality of life so more people will want to live here and more businesses will want to locate here: by supporting positive developments such as the Dean Tech lab update, the Library renovation in a fiscally prudent manner and our new Senior Center. AND opposing programs that harm our community and endanger our public health such as the illegal needle exchange program, also strongly opposed by voters in Ward 5 twice in the past. AND supporting residents to understand and follow the law re: zoning and petitions for changes.

I have worked hard to make a positive difference for Holyoke. I look forward to our discussion tonight.

Closing Statement:

Good evening: Thanks to the Holyoke chamber and the Taxpayers Association for sponsoring this candidate forum. And thanks to and all in attendance and watching at home tonight.

It has been my honor to serve as your Ward 5 City Councilor for two terms. After 4 years on the council you know that you can count on me to fight for this ward, fight against the wasting of our tax dollars, fight against illegal needle exchange programs and put in the long hours to improve the quality of life in Holyoke. My constituents have come to know that I listen and follow through on issues and do the hard work to best represent the interests of our diverse ward. While we may not always agree on the issue, people know that I will put in the time to make a positive difference for everyone.

Many of you have come to know me for my record of independence, integrity and commitment to service. I have also become recognized for my ability to stand up on tough sometimes unpopular issues when necessary. We are in a difficult economic period for our city, having reached the levy ceiling. You will need leaders who can make difficult decisions for the greater good, not keep their boss or special interests appeased.

I offer my continued service as a strong voice for Ward 5 and an independent hard working representative for Holyoke .

On Tuesday November 5th I would be honored to have your vote. THANK YOU ALL