

CLOSE VOTES AND WHY I VOTED THIS WAY

End Producer requirement to recycle manufactured goods.

The vote was 8/6 and passed. The vote was a recommendation and not binding at this time.

I voted no because this is an unfunded mandate for manufacturing companies that will increase costs that will in the end be passed on to consumers in higher prices. It ends up being an invisible tax of sorts. Many manufactured goods that exist were made by companies no longer in business. These goods would be considered orphan goods and all manufacturers would be responsible for their recycling. This is an unfair government mandate on business in my view, as well as an unfair added burden to the consumer.

Vote to fund the library project:

The request for funding was 7.1M from the taxpayers, 4.3 from the State, 2.5 from fundraising and \$500,000 from the Library Endowment Fund.

I supported funding for the library by the City, not to exceed 5.5M, with 4.6M secured by the library endowment and 4.3M provided by the State. The cost is more equitably shared in this configuration. The parties will all be highly motivated to seek any and all tax credits and any applicable historical credits for this project. I believe this is a good partnership for the city that will result in a good outcome for the library here in Holyoke that will serve all of our citizens well.

I voted YES to fund the library at 5.5M

Feeding ban on cats

I voted no to the ban (or yes, to return it to committee for more work) because it is my opinion that a ban is not enforceable, it will not decrease the number of cats, it will cause well meaning residents who are actually addressing the problem to be subject to fines and legal problems, and it is not a humane response to the problem of abandoned animals by irresponsible people.

I am working on language to address this issue for the good of the cats and the good of the neighbors where a true nuisance exists.

Allowing chickens in the city

I voted no on this (by asking it to be taken out of committee) because we have not currently enforced our dog ordinances adequately, we have not resolved the ongoing cat issue and we also have many other ordinances on the books that are not currently enforced. Therefore, I do not believe we have the capacity within the city to enforce any new ordinance allowing farm animals in the city at this time.