

THE CITY OF ROLLA MUST SUPPORT ITS LIBRARY

We have ignored the needs of our Rolla Free Public Library for too long.

In 1987, when the City of Rolla abolished the city personal property tax in favor of a sales tax, they agreed to make payments to the library in lieu of the library's portion of the lost property tax. In 1995, the city stopped these payments to the library. Adjusting for inflation, these payments amount to \$35,000 annually. The city's contract with the county to assess and collect city real property taxes caused the library to lose an additional \$18,000 of tax revenue from the county.

Our priorities have been turned upside down. Rolla gives over \$200,000 annually to the Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism, but cannot find the money to properly maintain its library. As mayor, I will work to restore the entire \$53,000 to the Rolla Free Public Library.