

Good Afternoon Commissioners.

My name is Devin Self and I live just north of County Line Road and my property would touch the boundary of Golden.

I strongly support the formation and incorporation of the City of Golden.

Mayor Roberts stated in his response to Golden that due to growth demands it is certainly possible that annexation could result in his city extending into Miami County. No County can stop a landowner from annexing into another city and rezoning the property to a logistics park because the Kansas Home Rule which passed in 1960 empowers cities to self-govern on issues such as annexation and rezoning leaving the county powerless in these matters.

The incorporation of Golden is the only option residents have to protect themselves by electing a representative government that can give them a voice and a seat at the table. I think most here would agree that decisions made for our communities should be made by the people who make up that community. No longer would another city miles away be able to dictate the future of this community that we all love dearly.

I also hear this claim that taxes are going to significantly increase for the residents. I don't know where these thoughts are coming from. According to the League of Kansas Municipalities, in 2017 of the 625 incorporated cities in Kansas over 80% of them were of the Third Class (same as Golden), and over 50% had populations of less than 500 (Golden would have 700). How are these cities able to afford and justify incorporating then? I believe it would be in the Board's best interest to settle this matter as soon as possible given this was the single most stated reason for those against the formation of Golden.

In closing, I believe it is your constitutional obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of your county. Golden is the way to do that and only you hold the power to make that happen.

To steal the lyrics from one of my favorite songs "It has to start somewhere. It has to start sometime. What better place than here. What better time than now?"

Thank you very much for your time.

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