

Q and A with Missouri Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe

Wallace Architects had the opportunity to discuss Affordable Housing, among other topics, with Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe.

Q: Can you tell us a bit more about your background and upbringing, and how you got into business and eventually government?

A: I was raised in North St. Louis, the youngest of six, by a single mother. My mom worked three jobs to support us, so I observed from my earliest days, her incredible work-ethic. As I got older, I worked not just to have spending money of my own, but to help her put food on the table and pay the bills. At the age of 15, I began washing cars for Dave Sinclair Ford. I did not know it at the time, but my mother and Mr. Sinclair instilled in me not only the necessity, but also the great value and satisfaction that comes from hard work and treating people with respect. I have endeavored to apply these lessons in every area of my life, which ultimately led me to running for the Missouri Senate in 2010. God gave me the opportunity to be successful in business, so I perceived the right, and logical, next step was to help create a business environment in Missouri that better allows small businesses to start, compete, and thrive.

Q: What is the role of the Lieutenant Governor's office with regard to seniors and veterans, and how does that relate to affordable housing policy?

A: By statute, the Lieutenant Governor is Missouri's official advocate for seniors. While not statutory, the office has also become the unofficial advocate for veterans. Both of these roles are critically important and are part of what makes being Lieutenant Governor such a privilege. Both of these groups have contributed greatly to the state of Missouri, yet significant components of both populations

Q: How has that upbringing shaped your views on public policy in general, and in particular, on affordable housing?

A: While my upbringing may have been more humble than others, I had the great fortune of a strong mother and older siblings. My mother refused government assistance because she thought it should be used for "those who could not work". Looking back, it is obvious to me that we would certainly have qualified for various forms of public assistance, but that is not what my mother wanted to do to support her family. Reflecting on her actions and her attitudes has been invaluable in shaping my public policy opinions, particularly those relating to public housing. I remain persuaded that the overwhelming majority of Missourians want to work and support their families themselves, but sometimes circumstances beyond their control make this difficult. When a spouse leaves, dies or is unable to work, it can be difficult to pay the rent and make ends meet. In these instances, affordable housing, not free housing, is essential.

Q: You were appointed Lt. Governor when Gov. Parson ascended to the governorship; this year, you are on a statewide ballot for the first time. After representing several counties in the state Senate, what has it been like to serve statewide, and what are some interesting things that you've learned?

A: The greatest honors of my life were being elected to the senate and being asked to assume the role of Lieutenant Governor by Governor Parson. Many days I feel like I do not deserve to be in this position, but I am grateful for the opportunity to first represent the citizens of Missouri's Sixth Senate District, and now the state as a whole. Though



Q: Did you have any role in working to help reinstate Missouri's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, and if so, what was that role?

A: During my time in the senate I participated in multiple conversations and negotiations relating to Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and helped advance legislation making the program more sustainable. As Lieutenant Governor, and as an MHDC member, I voted in support of the 2020 draft QAP and anticipate voting in favor of restarting the state portion of the program – making sure it continues to be responsible to the taxpayers who fund it, and use common sense values to implement it.

face challenges in acquiring affordable housing. I have the pleasure of serving on the Missouri Housing Development Commission as well as working with the Missouri Veterans Commission, Area Agencies on Aging, and multiple charitable organizations. My service on behalf of veterans and seniors is intended to recognize their past and current contributions, but also to ensure their quality of life, including affordable and accessible housing.

the geography of the state may change, one of the most amazing discoveries has been the consistent, the traditional values of Missourians. My wife Claudia and I have been incredibly blessed; we value family and hard-work, we are deeply grounded in our faith, and we want to keep the government at an arm's length. I never have a conversation with Missourians where I do not learn something, and I rarely have one where someone does not provide sound advice based upon their perspectives. That I am trusted with this advice, and that I get to learn from all with whom I speak, is a privilege and a responsibility I pray I never take for granted.

Welcome Greg Ward

Tulsa, Oklahoma based Architect, Greg Ward, joined the Wallace Architects Team in July 2020 as a full time Construction Analyst. Greg comes to our firm with over 30 years of Architectural Experience, including helping take the firm that he co-owned as President for 20+ years from initial startup and zero employees up to 130 employees. Post hiring at Wallace, Greg will maintain his home base in Tulsa while performing Construction Analyst duties in Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. Greg's collegiate alma mater for his Architectural degree, Oklahoma State University, is the same as Wallace Architect's late Founder, Kurt Wallace – both Cowboys. Greg is knowledgeable, patient and an all-around good family guy – we are happy to call Greg a part of our Wallace Team.



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