

1034 S. Brentwood Blvd.
Suite 410
Richmond Heights, MO
63117

Phone (314) 726-4747
Fax (314) 726-1520

Email: staff@stlmuni.org

www.stlmuni.org



MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS

LINKING LOCAL COMMUNITIES | STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

What does the Better Together proposal mean for municipalities?

As the official voice of St. Louis' regional municipalities, the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis has concerns about a proposed plan from the Better Together to combine St. Louis City and County into one metropolitan city. It would make sweeping changes to governance in our region, including:

- Eliminate all the existing municipalities in the region, making them districts in a new metropolitan city
- Eliminate municipal police departments that serve their local communities
- Put in place a regional government led by a person who was not elected to that position

We are especially concerned that this massive change would be put in place through a statewide vote, rather than being debated and decided on by those impacted. **The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis has policy supporting the possibility of a reintegration of St. Louis City into St. Louis County, but we believe any change related to local governments should be decided by local residents.**

What is the Municipal League's plan?

Due to our concerns, on January 24, members of the Municipal League voted to begin an initiative petition process to form a Board of Freeholders, which would consider changes to the governance structure in the St. Louis region. If the Municipal League is able to collect 20,000 signatures from St. Louis City and County residents, the process would go as follows:

- The Mayor of the City of St. Louis would appoint nine members, the St. Louis County executive would appoint nine members, and the Missouri governor would appoint one member to a Board of Freeholders.
- City and county members must be approved by the Board of Aldermen and County Council.
- The board could take up to twelve months to develop a plan through public deliberation.
- If a plan is developed and approved by a majority of Freeholders, it would be placed on the ballot during a special election. The plan must be available to the public for at least 90 days before a special election can take place.
- **Most importantly, this plan would be voted on by residents of St. Louis City and County – those who would be impacted.**

The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis is undertaking this effort because we believe it allows for a public, transparent process to determine the best governmental structure for the future of St. Louis City and St. Louis County.