

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE INITIATIVE PETITION REGARDING A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, ARTICLE VI AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A PETITION PROVIDING FOR THE BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS/ELECTORS**

**WHEREAS**, in late 2017, 57 St. Louis County municipalities and the St. Louis County Council passed resolutions opposing any and all legislation authorizing a statewide vote regarding or mandating a change in the government structure of St. Louis City and St. Louis County and the municipalities therein; and

**WHEREAS**, an initiative petition has been submitted to the Missouri Secretary of State regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to Article VI of the Constitution by repealing Section 30(a), 30(b), 31, 32(a), 32(b), 32(c), 33 and adopting one new Section to be known as Article VI, Section 30 which would provide for the formation of the Metropolitan City of St. Louis by consolidating St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis, including the municipalities currently located therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition was conceived, developed and written in secret, without the participation of those directly affected, by an unelected and unaccountable non-governmental organization, promoting their agenda, while the citizens in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County were not afforded the protection of the Missouri Sunshine Law which insures governmental transparency, openness and accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid initiative petition contains multiple provisions which are offensive to the municipalities in St. Louis, its residents, and the businesses which operate within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition eliminates the St. Louis County Council and the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and all governance therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid initiative petition would result in a statewide vote as opposed to the currently mandated constitutional vote requirement which is limited to the registered voters within the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County; and

**WHEREAS**, a statewide ballot dilutes the votes from within the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County and demonstrates contempt for the citizens of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County by denying them the sole right to determine their future and form of governance; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition causes the destruction of local governance, for which the majority of citizens in St. Louis County voted, enacted and have enjoyed for many decades; or, as in the case of the City of Florissant, for centuries; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition causes the elimination of all other municipal police departments in every municipality in St. Louis County, most of which are internationally accredited through CALEA or certified through the Missouri Police Chiefs' Association; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition causes the elimination of all municipal public works departments in every St. Louis County municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition causes the confiscation/seizure of property and assets that County municipalities have acquired and maintained over the years for the benefit its citizens and to provide services to them and directs these assets to be used by a thirty-three (33) member metro council headquartered in the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition mandates the confiscation/seizure of the tax dollars which are used by municipalities in the County to provide services to citizens and directs those tax dollars to a thirty-three (33) member metro city council operating out of the City of St. Louis to be spent however they choose; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition eliminates the function of the elected municipal leaders to legislate and control development, planning, zoning and growth within their communities and mandates that those decisions will be made by a more distant thirty-three (33) member metro council operating out of the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition eliminates the legislative function of every municipality in St. Louis County, to control where tax dollars are spent and mandates that those decisions will be made by a thirty-three (33) member metro council operating out of the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition eliminates each of the existing eighty-eight (88) municipalities within St. Louis County and supplants them with a 'metropolitan district' which is to be a subsidiary of and accountable to a metro government and no longer an independent municipal corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition mandates that the thirty-three (33) member metro council, headquartered in the City of St. Louis, will control all of the municipal tax dollars collected in St Louis County and for each of the eighty-eight (88) municipalities therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition permits the metro council to assume the financial obligations of the City of St. Louis whose debt is over \$2.8 billion; thereby forcing St Louis County residents to pay debts that they did not incur; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition suspends the regular scheduled election cycle and forces the citizens of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County to tolerate leaders for which they did not vote or approve; and

**WHEREAS**, the petition requires the elimination of every municipal court in St. Louis County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri Constitution currently provides for the formation of a Board of Freeholders/Electors as authorized by Article VI; Section 30(a) and 30(b) who shall have the power to consolidate the territories and governments of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis into one political subdivision, to consolidate and reorganize the County governments of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis or to otherwise formulate and adopt any other plan for the partial or complete government of all or any part of St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis desires to state its support for a Petition for the formation of a Board of Freeholders/Electors, as currently authorized by the Missouri Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the League believe that all discussions and votes on any plans to change their local government structure within St. Louis City and St. Louis County should be limited to the residents of the City and County and believe that the governing bodies of all municipalities in St. Louis County should also have significant involvement in any such discussions to advance the best interests of their residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis states its opposition to the petition initiative which proposes to unify St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis and which would eliminate local government resulting in the reduction of services provided to the residents of St. Louis County and affirms its support for a Petition for the formation of a Board of Freeholders/Electors as authorized by Article VI: Section 30(a) and 30(b) of the Missouri Constitution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the League urges the municipalities in St. Louis County, the St. Louis County Council, and the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, on behalf of their respective residents, to pass a similar resolution opposing the initiative petition and supporting the creation of a Board of Freeholders in the City and County.

Adopted by the Membership: March 28, 2019