

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2019

MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS SUBMITS PETITION SIGNATURES; CALLS FOR BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS

Board of Freeholders process allows for local voters to consider changes to governance structure in St. Louis and St. Louis County

St. Louis, Mo. – Staff of the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis today submitted final signatures calling for the formation of a Board of Freeholders to the election boards in St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

More than 15,500 registered voters from St. Louis County, and more than 4,000 from St. Louis City, signed petitions calling for the formation of a board of freeholders/electors. Unique to the county of St. Louis and the city of St. Louis, the Board of Freeholders exists as a [constitutionally-authorized process](#) to modify the governmental structure of these two political subdivisions.

The next steps are defined in the Missouri Constitution:

1. Signatures are certified.
2. The Mayor of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis County Executive have 10 days to name nine eligible voters each to the Board, who must be approved by the Board of Aldermen and the County Council, respectively.
3. The Governor of Missouri also names one person.
4. These 19 individuals must convene within 14 days of their appointments, then have up to 12 months to consider changes to the governance structure in St. Louis City and St. Louis County, and must do so in a fully transparent manner.
5. Their recommendation(s) are then voted on by registered voters of the two counties, not less than 90 days after publishing the plan.

“The Board of Freeholders process gives all residents an opportunity to be engaged in making decisions about their local government,” said Pat Kelly, executive director, Municipal League of Metro St. Louis. “While the process is defined, the outcome is not, and that is what transparent and democratic government delivers to us. Whether or not we all agree with the outcome, we will all be able to witness the validity of the process.”

“Our thanks go out to everyone who helped collect signatures, including the 15,000 county and 4,000 city residents who agreed to support this process.”

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Media Contact: Kelly Ferrara (314) 221-2251; Kelly@StratCommRx.com

About Municipal League of Metro St. Louis

The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis advocates for effective and efficient policy, collaborates with local partners, and educates members on best practices in local government for our region, our members, and our residents. This regional organization celebrated its 100th year in 2018 as a leader in issues-based governance.