



APRIL 2015

April 23 Meeting in Clarkson Valley

Upcoming League Meetings

- Thursday, April 23, Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Clarkson Valley
Wednesday, April 29, Newly Elected Officials Seminar, 4:30 pm, Maryland Heights
Wednesday, May 27, MUNI Awards and Installation Dinner, Greenbriar Country Club, Kirkwood

The next membership meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Thursday, April 23 at the Forest Hills Country Club, 36 Forest Club Dr. in Clarkson Valley (Map). From I-270, go west on I-64, Hwy 40 about 6 miles to the Olive/Clarkson exit. Turn left (south) and go 2.8 miles to Forest Club Dr. This is the 2nd street after Kehrs Mill Rd. Turn right on Forest

Club and follow it to the country club.)

Program: Having been in office for a little over three months, County Executive Steve Stenger has implemented a number of changes in the office and brought in new staff members. He has accepted our invitation to address the membership at the April 23 meeting.

The main item of business will be the election of officers and board members for the 2015-16 year. The report of the Nominating Committee will be sent along with the regular meeting notice.

Nominations may also be made from the floor for board or officer positions.

Training Academy Program on Grants - April 23

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The next Municipal Officials Training Academy program will cover grant programs for cities. It is set for Thursday, April 23 from noon to 1:15 p.m.

Officials are invited to attend via Webinar or in person at Frontenac City Hall, 2nd floor training room.

The speakers will be Murray Pounds, Parks Director, Kirkwood; Jason Lange, East-West Gateway Council of Govern-

ments and David Berger, St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste District.

The topics to be covered include:

- General grant writing elements;
Transportation project funding grants;
Recycling grants;
Parks & recreation grants;
Potential grant uses; and
Grant application process and tips for applying.

The cost is \$10 per

person unless the city has an annual subscription. Please make checks payable to the St. Louis County Municipal League.

Register by Tuesday, April 21 to ensure that all materials can be emailed prior to the session.

Click here to register for the webinar. For in person attendance, contact the League office at 314-726-4747 or by email at staff@stlmuni.org as space is limited.

March Meeting Synopsis

At the March meeting, the membership heard a presentation from Dr. Tranel who is the author of a study of local government best practices from across the country. This was done as a part of the HCR 25 local government study that was



Dr. Mark Tranel

approved by the legislature in 2013. Dr. Tranel noted that the study did not make recommendations on these best practices, but only presented options from other states and metropolitan areas.

He indicated that Missouri (and the St. Louis area) has one of the highest concentrations of local governments in the U.S. with over 950 municipalities.

He described two types of approaches taken by states to address local government issues. Facilitative strategies have three components:

- expanding authority to use regional councils of government or areawide districts to provide local services;
- establishing a statewide benchmarking system to provide the public and policy-makers with information about local productivity and progress; and

- state funding to support local planning studies to enable shared or consolidated services and merger or dissolution of local units.

State directive strategies would:

- strengthen the authority and capacity of counties to serve as regional governments, expand their scope of authorized services, and sort-out and mandate transfer of functional responsibilities between counties and cities;
- eliminate or reduce the number of "non-viable" units having very limited size and functional responsibilities or weak financial bases; or
- create metropolitan authorities to provide services on an area-wide or regional basis.

He identified 10 states with initiatives to restructure local government and highlighted the main components of each. He concluded that there has been minimal consolidation of local governments due to these programs, but there has been a robust response to shared service provision and efficiency measures.

President Douglass stated that the legislature is considering a stepped increase to the state gas tax of 2 cents per year for three years and indexing increases to inflation in subsequent years. Florissant Mayor Tom Schneider reported that the East-West Gateway Board of Directors had taken the unusual step of adopting a resolution of support without having it on the meeting agenda. Mayor Schneider then introduced Greg Horn, MODOT District Engineer. Mr. Horn said that Missouri's revenue for the Transportation Department would be dropping from \$1.3 billion to \$325 million. This would not be enough

to allow Missouri to match dedicated federal dollars and they would be lost to other states. The current MODOT plan for the \$325 million budget would only allow maintenance on primary roads, mainly interstate highways, while secondary roads would receive snow plowing and pothole patching only. He indicated that up to 90 bridges could close in 10 years.

Mr. Horn said that SB 540 would provide enough revenue to provide maintenance service on the entire road system, but no major new construction. 30% of the funds would be allocated to cities and counties. The bill was recently voted out of Senate Committee.



Mr. Greg Horn

Following Mr. Horn's presentation, the membership voted to support SB 540 to provide needed funding for Missouri's highway system.

Thanks to our meeting hosts: Mayor Mike Moeller and the officials and staff of the City of Maryland Heights.

Legislative Update

The legislature continues to debate a number of important bills for local governments. These are listed below. Please check the bill link and our weekly updates for current status. If you are not on our email list and would like to receive the messages, send your email address to staff@stlmuni.org. Bills below are listed by subject matter.

Municipal Courts

[SB 5](#) (Schmitt) - Passed Senate 2/12. The original bill reduced the percentage of revenue cities can receive from court fines and costs from 30% to 10% by 2017. It was amended in the Senate to: 1) limit revenue from traffic on interstate highways to 5%; 2) prohibit pool cities from receiving one cent sales tax revenue if they don't comply with the law; and 3) require a disincorporation vote for non compliance with the law. House Speaker John Diehl announced that he has been working to craft a revised version of this bill. It was heard in the House Civil & Criminal Proceedings Committee April 8.

[HB 278](#) (Cornejo, R) - Defines moving violations, rather than traffic violations, for calculations of percentage of court costs for cities. Allows general taxes but not earmarked taxes (such as capital improvements sales taxes) in the calculation of general operating revenue. Retains current 30% threshold. Passed Transportation Committee March 31.

Taxes, Including Sales Taxes

[HB 812](#) (Leara) - Would ensure that pool cities in St. Louis County would receive at least half of the sales tax generated within their borders, along with pool areas of point-of-sale cities. Passed Local Government Committee March 17. Referred to Select Committee on State & Local Government. Passed Committee April 2 with an amendment to authorize a

public safety sales tax for unincorporated St. Louis County.

[SB 437](#) (Walsh) - Would change one cent sales tax distribution to all pool. Also increases 1/4 cent sales tax to 1/2 cent and ends sharing of this tax resulting in a point-of-sale distribution. SB 437 was heard in the Local Government Committee March 18.

[HB 194](#) (Redmon) - If a municipality has not passed a local use tax, the sales tax on titling of out of state purchases of vehicles will end in November of 2016. Current law prohibits cities from placing this question on the ballot after November 2016. This bill allows a vote through November 2016 and anytime thereafter. Passed Ways & Means Committee April 9.

[HB 590](#) (Koenig) - Eliminates income taxes and replaces them with a state sales tax on most goods AND services. Cumulative state and local taxes could not exceed 10%. Passed Ways & Means Committee March 4.

[SB 223](#) (Schatz) - Prohibits inflationary growth in property tax rates. Heard in Ways & Means Committee March 5.

Telecommunications

[SB 222](#) (Schatz) and [HB 662](#) (Ross) - Bans political subdivisions from requiring or necessitating the removal or relocation of infrastructure owned by a communication service provider lawfully located in certain areas unless the political subdivision agrees to pay the infrastructure owner reasonable costs of removal or relocation or retains a contractor who is in good standing with the infrastructure owner. SB 222 passed the Commerce & Environment Committee on April

7 and HB 662 was heard in the Telecommunications Committee on February 25.

Municipal Governments

[HB 245](#) (Butler) - Establishes standards for local governments including among others, a balanced annual budget, a capital improvements plan, annual audit, insurance, and defined police services. If the municipality is not meeting standards the bill establishes a process whereby assistance can be offered. Also requires police departments with high percentage of minority traffic stops over a 3 year period to be disbanded. Local Government Committee.

[HB 741](#) (Burns) - Would require the County Council to place on the ballot a question to disincorporate any municipality in the County if a petition is submitted by 25% of registered voters in the municipality. Requires only a majority vote of the public. Passed Local Government Committee March 17. Passed Select Committee on State & Local Government April 2.

[HB 511](#) (Matthews) - Currently deals with annexations in Eureka. The amendment to delete the Boundary Commission statute was taken out of the bill. Passed House April 9.

St. Louis County Municipal League
121 S. Meramec Ave.
Clayton, MO 63105

The April 23 meeting will be at Forest Hills Country Club in Clarkson Valley. County Executive Stenger will be the guest speaker.

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www.stlmuni.org*

Newly Elected Officials Seminar April 29

The League will hold its Annual Seminar for Newly Elected Officials at 4:30 pm Wednesday, April 29 at the Maryland Heights City Hall, 11911 Dorsett Rd., approximately 3/4 mile east of I-270.

The cost is \$30 which includes materials and a buffet dinner.

We hope all of our newly elected officials will join us for an informative introduction to municipal government presented by League Past President Rich Magee, Mayor of Glendale and municipal attorneys from the Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe law firm.

Topics that will be covered include:

- Understanding Mayor/Council Powers,

- Roberts Rules of Order
- Open Meetings Law
- The Authority of Boards and Commissions
- Conflict of Interest/Ethics
- Legal Issues/Zoning Decisions

While the program is designed for new officials, experienced officials are welcome as well. The deadline for reservations and cancellations is Tuesday, April 28.

Invitations and registration materials have been sent to all newly elected League members and to all municipal clerks.

MSD Annual Report Available

The Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is designed to provide an overview of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's (MSD) work. This year, it commemorates 60 years of MSD service. Using non-technical language, it provides a snapshot of District activities from the most recent fiscal year, July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. http://www.stlmsd.com/sites/default/files/annual_report/2014PAFR_1.pdf