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April 2019

Upcoming League Meetings

Thursday April 25
Black Jack City Hall

Monday April 29
Newly Elected Officials
Seminar

Thursday May 23 Installation
Dinner & Muni Awards

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April 25 Meeting– Black Jack City Hall

The next League meeting will be held at Black Jack City Hall, 12500 Old Jamestown Road. Black Jack, MO 63033; ([MAP](#)). Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:15.

The main agenda item will be the election of officers and board members for the 2019-20 year. The slate of candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee will be forwarded in advance of the meeting.

Program: We will also hear from Jennifer Vuitel of East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG). Since 2004, East-West Gateway Council of Governments has worked with the city of St. Louis and the Missouri counties of St. Charles, Franklin, Jefferson, and St. Louis to create, revise, and update the St. Louis Regional Hazard Mitigation

Plan. Hazard mitigation activities are actions that can be taken to protect people and property from natural hazards such as floods, severe storms, and extreme temperatures.

The Plan is updated every five years, and EWG is currently seeking input on the 2020-2025 Plan. The goal of the planning process is to identify the key actions and opportunities for each jurisdiction, but implementation of the plan is voluntary. The benefit to cities and school districts that adopt the plan is eligibility for hazard mitigation grants that can help pay for flood buyouts, tornado safe rooms, retrofitting infrastructure, and even generators.

Jennifer will explain in more detail how your municipality could benefit from participation in the program.

Muni Awards & 100th Leagues Installation Dinner

Since their inception, the MUNI Awards have provided an opportunity for League members from across the County to come together to recognize their fellow municipalities and take home a MUNI Award. You can be a winner this year by nominating your city or a group within your city for achievement in one of the following categories: Arts/Culture; Citizen Engagement; Collaboration; Parks/Recreation/Wellness; Public Safety, and Sustainability/ reservation. To nominate, send a letter to the League office identifying the city, organization or person and why that group or individual should be recognized for accomplishment in one of the designated categories. Nominations must be received at the Municipal League office by April 19. Winning a MUNI Award tells your residents what you are doing right for your community. Then, join us on May 23 at the Renaissance Hotel in Berkeley when the MUNI Awards will be presented and new Municipal League officers will be installed.

Park Planning Grants Available

The Municipal Park Grant Commission is accepting applications for quarterly planning grants. Applications are available on the Park website:

www.muniparkgrants.com. Applications are due by April 24 so that they can be reviewed by the Commissioners at their next meeting in May.

Planning grants can be used for park master plans, master plan updates or for specific park projects. Cities are eligible for up to \$6,400 and are required to match at least 20% of the planning cost. Cities can apply for planning grants annually. Having current, updated planning documents, cost analyses and public input increases the chances for receiving park construction grants.

If you have questions about the Planning Grant applications, please contact the Municipal League office at staff@stlmuni.org or 314-726-4747.



THE PARTNERS FOR NATIVE LANDSCAPING WORKSHOP

featuring **LARRY WEANER** author of *Garden Revolution*
at Danforth Plant Science Center

FRI MAR 29 | 5:30 - 9pm | \$25

Lecture by Larry Weaner, Reception, and Book Signing
Refreshments included.

SAT MAR 30 | 9am - 4pm | \$30

Homeowner's Workshop w/ Keynote address by Larry Weaner

Workshops about Gardening for Wildlife, Designing with Natives,
Landscape Maintenance, and more.

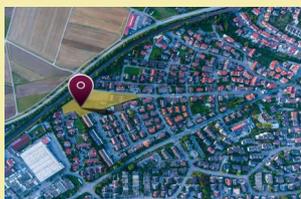
Resources, native plant sale, self guided tours, and book signing. Boxed lunch included.

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Presented by The Partners for Native Landscaping:



General Code Introduces eCode360 MapLink



Show where the possibilities for your community live—on an interactive zoning map

Just about every prospective business and property owner will ask these key questions:

"Where can I open my business?"

"What can I do with my property?"

With eCode360® MapLink™, finding the answers to these questions is as easy as clicking on a map.

Users can click a parcel on the map to view dimensional requirements, allowable uses and zoning districts. They can even search an intended land use to view a list of properties where that use is allowed. When your community's zoning information is presented visually like this, business and property owners can easily find opportunities that fit your community's vision for economic development.

eCode360 MapLink is a service that presents your community's Zoning Code data from eCode360 in an interactive map from ZoningHub™. As updates are made to your municipality's Zoning Code and posted on eCode360, the data is updated simultaneously in *MapLink*. With *MapLink*, you can be confident that business and property owners are always working with the most accurate zoning requirements—and your municipal staff doesn't have to lift a finger.

"As far as comparisons to other [services] like this, [MapLink] definitely offers more benefits," said Adam Jones, City Planner for The City of Crestwood, MO. *"The way setbacks, height restrictions and other standards are presented just by clicking on a property makes zoning information easy to interpret and use. It's going to positively impact the way that our residents and staff interact with our Codes,"* he adds.

To learn more about *MapLink* and how it can help grow your community, visit generalcode.com/MapLink or contact General Code's Missouri representative, Susan Lane at 314-603-6405 or 800-836-8834 or by email at lane@generalcode.com.



March Meeting Synopsis

At the March 28 meeting the membership unanimously approved a resolution opposing the Better Together plan. The resolution cited numerous reasons why the Better Together plan would be detrimental for the residents, businesses and local governments in the County. The resolution also supports the creation of a Board of Freeholders/Electors which would provide an open, public process for consideration of changes to the governmental structure of the City and County and, most importantly, a local vote.

The guest speaker was Dr. Terry Jones of UM - St. Louis who had been invited to provide analysis of the Better Together plan. Dr. Jones notes that the St. Louis region does need to continue to improve to compete against metropolitan areas in the US and worldwide. In response to Better Together's references to merged metropolitan areas, he indicates that research shows these mergers have been a mixed bag, at best.

St. Louis County has quality local governments, many with professional managers and involved citizens. He believes that regionalism has been very well received in the City and County with over 40 institutions and agencies that have been created for the provision of services and the welfare of the citizens. These include, among others, MSD, the Zoo-Museum District, and the Junior College District. He suggests that regionalism will be accepted incrementally by local residents.

He believes the Better Together plan would be detrimental to the City and County and is one of the most un-democratic proposals ever created. It was developed with no involvement of local officials or citizens. All constitutions and charters developed in Missouri and the US are citizen driven and require voter approval. The Better Together plan would charge the Mayor of St.

Louis and the County Executive with the task of creating the new charter which would be approved unless voted down by 2/3 of the new 33 member metropolitan council. Charter changes would require 2/3 approval by the voters.

The new Metro City would confiscate all local government property except parks. Municipal employees would have no guarantee of future jobs. The municipalities in the County would be termed "municipal districts" and would have little power other than overseeing parks and trash service. The metropolitan council could vote municipal districts out of existence with a majority vote.

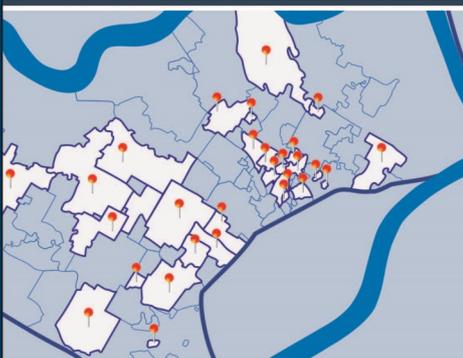
Dr. Jones indicated that he is working with other local researchers to complete a financial analysis of the plan, which should be released in the near future. Their initial research shows that the cost savings envisioned by supporters would be insufficient to cover the loss of taxes that are planned (the City earnings tax and 1/2 of the County property tax). The plan also makes no provision for the issuance of debt to finance large capital projects or other needs.

He said that past research shows no correlation between the number of cities and regional success. For example, Pittsburgh has a large number of suburbs and is thriving. He listed three fields that needed to compete on a world scale. These are: education, particularly college graduate; venture capital, which is doing well; and foreign born population who create jobs, where the region is not doing as well.

He suggested a 5-8 year to-do list for the region, which includes the coordination of transportation policy through Bi-State and East-West Gateway; economic development coordination for the entire region, including Southwest Illinois; and the consolidation of public health services.

We would like to thank Mayor Mike Schneider and the officials and employees of the City of Overland who hosted the meeting.

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Newly Elected Officials Seminar

The League will hold its Annual Seminar for Newly Elected Officials at 4:30 pm Monday, April 29 at the Maryland Heights Community Center, 2300 McKelvey Rd. 63043



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 municipal attorneys from the Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe law firm.

Topics that will be covered include:

- Role of the League
- Working with Neighboring Cities and Officials
- Overview of Municipal Structure and Authority
- Introduction to Your Municipal court
- Open Meetings (Sunshine) Law
- Conflict of Interest/Ethics

Invitations and registration materials have been sent to all newly elected League members and to all municipal clerks. You can also contact the office directly at 314-726-4747 or staff@stlmuni.org.

While the program is designed for new officials, current elected officials are welcome as well. The deadline for reservations and cancellations is Friday, April 26.

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Municipal League Resolution Adopted March 28, 2019

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 of 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

Board of Freeholders Initiative Petitions

We are asking elected officials and volunteers to turn in any petitions they currently have by April 15. The petitions will be submitted to the St. Louis County Election Board for an initial tabulation of certified signatures so that we can determine how many are still need.



You are encouraged to continue collecting signatures through the end of May. League staff will be scheduling multi-city municipal employee meetings

to educate the employees on the impact of the Better Together proposal. The meetings will be after working hours and participation will be completely volunteer. Once the dates and location are announced we will need your help in notifying the employees. Better Together has been holding meetings with municipal police departments, we feel it is important for all the employees to be informed on their future employment.

The elected officials in the City of Bridgeton have submitted over 1000 signatures to date. It is up to each elected official to do your part collecting signatures for the board of freeholds process. This will allow for a transparent, public forum for your constituents to express their opinions on the governmental structure by which they want to live.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There are two main joint resolutions (constitutional amendments) that the League is supporting. If either were to pass, the Governor would set the election date - either August or November of 2020. We would obviously prefer August so that if the BT proposal passed it would still require a local vote for approval. If the Governor were to pick November, our understanding is that the proposal with the highest number of votes would take precedence. That is, if our proposal got a higher number of votes than the BT proposal, it would still require a local vote. However, if the BT proposal got a higher number of votes then our proposal would be moot.

HJR 54 (Plocher) - constitutional amendment requiring ballots to merge or dissolve cities or counties only be approved if those cities or counties approve the ballot. General Laws Committee. Heard 3/27. Committee vote scheduled 4/8.

SJR 22 (Nasheed) - provides if any amendment to the Missouri Constitution directly modifies the form of government of one or more counties, cities, or towns then such amendment shall only go into effect if a majority of the voters in each affected county, city, or town vote in favor of the amendment. Local Government Committee. Heard 4/3

Other Bills of Interest:

HB 762 was third read on the House floor on April 4 and passed by a vote of 85-65. This bill, sponsored by Representative John Wiemann (R-St. Charles):

- requires municipalities to place all expenditures and vendor information on the Missouri Accountability Portal, maintained by the Office of Administration;
- levies a \$100 per day fine on municipalities for late filings; and
- municipalities that do not comply are subject to disincorporation proceedings.

SB 108, sponsored by Senator Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester). The bill modifies provisions relating to tax increment financing by redefining "blight," requiring independent third-party examiners to determine blight status, and removes economic development as a factor for TIF justification. Additionally, the bill limits conservation areas and prohibits flood plains from the provisions of the bill. Senator Jamilah Nasheed (D-St. Louis) amended the bill, changing the use of blight in St. Louis County. It passed the Senate on April 4.

SB 207 (Emery) - allows any city or village to establish, by ordinance, an administrative adjudication system for certain municipal code violations. Passed Committee 3/6. but has not yet moved to the floor.

HB 81 (Hill) - requires, small cities in St. Louis County, to disband police departments or contract for service. Currently in Rules Committee.

Local Government Summer Institute

The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis and the East-West Gateway Council of Governments is launching a new training opportunity for elected officials and municipal staff. The Local Government Summer Institute will offer targeted, in-depth professional development on a rotating set of topics each summer. The program will consist of three half-day workshops:

Friday, June 14 — Preparing Your Community for Disaster

- **Session 1: What To Expect When Disaster Strikes —** What elected officials and non-emergency staff can expect if there's a large-scale disaster.
- **Session 2: Joplin Panel —** Hear from first responders who were on duty during the Joplin tornado in 2011.

Friday July 12 — Leadership and Management

- **Developing new leaders in your community —** Programs your community can use to educate residents and encourage participation in local government.

Friday, August 9 — Good Governance 101

- **Session 1: Effective Meetings —** Using Robert's Rules to facilitate productive meeting management.
- **Session 2: Sunshine Law Compliance —** Casey Lawrence, Director of Sunshine Law Compliance Records and Management, Office of Missouri Attorney General.

Each workshop will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. at the Maryland Heights City Hall. Registration and more detailed information on each course will be available soon. For more information or questions, contact Frank Johnson at frank@ewgateway.org or 314-421-4220, or Pat Kelly at pkelly@stlmuni.org or 314-726-4748.



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