



## PEOPLE OVER POLITICS: PUTTING ST. LOUISANS FIRST—NOT SPECIAL INTERESTS

### *2021 Ballot Measure Policy Overview*

St. Louisans deserve a Board of Aldermen that prioritizes our city—not special interests. Currently, inadequate laws in St. Louis allow aldermen to engage in conflicts of interest that are outlawed in other cities. **But it doesn't have to be this way.** Our community coalition is taking a desperately needed reform measure directly to voters to stop gerrymandering, increase transparency at the Board of Aldermen, and make our leaders accountable to ALL St. Louisans. **Together, we will Reform St. Louis:**

- **Prohibit aldermen from taking official actions where they have a personal or financial conflict of interest** related to the legislation being considered.
  - Require that aldermen's financial disclosure statements and conflict of interest statements be posted online and open to the public without having to request them.
  - Prohibit aldermen and their employees from becoming lobbyists to influence city policy for at least one year after leaving office.
  - This will bring St. Louis in line with other leading cities around the country.
- **Give the power to draw ward boundary maps to an equitably selected Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission** so voters can select their officials, instead of the other way around.
  - Require the commission to hold public hearings, maintain transparent records, and keep neighborhoods and communities together.
  - Prohibit lobbyists, aldermen, and others with conflicts of interest from serving on the independent commission.
  - Open the application process for city voters to serve on the commission, which requires at least one applicant from every ward. Retired judges select the first few members randomly, who must then select the remaining members from the pool of applicants to balance racial, geographic, gender, and other diversity requirements.
- **Keep the Board of Aldermen accountable to all voters**, by protecting the right of voters to select all the candidates they approve of in every aldermanic election.
  - Some aldermen want to go back to being able to win with 30%. This provision will stop that, protect voters' rights, and require aldermen to have broad support to get elected.
- **Remove gendered language in the law** by having all members legally called "alderpersons."

## Draft Ballot Summary Language

**Proposition R.** Proposed by Initiative Petition.

Shall the City of St. Louis Charter be amended to:

- *Prohibit aldermen from taking actions on policies where they have a personal or financial conflict of interest related to the legislation being considered*
- *Require that aldermen's financial disclosure statements be posted online and open to the public without having to request them*
- *Give the power to draw ward boundary maps to an equitably selected independent citizens commission, who would be required to hold public hearings, maintain transparent records, and keep neighborhoods and communities together*
- *Prohibit lobbyists, aldermen, and others with conflicts of interest from serving on the independent commission*
- *Protect the right of voters to select all the candidates they approve of in every aldermanic election?*

## A Community-Driven Process

Volunteers created this policy in consultation with national experts, using the following principles:

- Process: A fair voice in government for ALL St. Louisans comes from equitable representation, both at the reform campaign decision-making table and in the policy proposal that we create together. All coalition partners welcome and encourage critical engagement, including requests for any information and clarification needed by any other partners during decision-making, in order to produce informed and committed consensus.
- Ensure that every St. Louisan has a fair voice in government that comes from equitable representation, of, by, and for the people.
- Ensure a government that is open and accountable to all St. Louisans, not to special interests, and that will work to address historical and ongoing racial disparities in our city.
- Ensure that no single special interest, or elected office holder with a conflict of interest, can prioritize their personal or organizational interests above the public good by exercising an outsized influence over specific policy proposals that will impact those interests.
- Ensure the policy has the community support to pass.

Currently every piece of the policy is polling at 75% or higher.

## Questions?

Contact Campaign Director Taylor Jackson at [taylor@showmeintegrity.org](mailto:taylor@showmeintegrity.org).

*Show Me Integrity is a movement for a more ethical, effective government of, by, and for the people.*

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