



**MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
OF METRO ST. LOUIS**

LINKING LOCAL COMMUNITIES
STRENGTHENING LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

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DUES STATEMENT
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS
July 7, 2017

Municipality: Chesterfield

Dues Amount: \$7122

Please send your check to: Municipal League of Metro St. Louis
1034 S. Brentwood Blvd., Suite 410
Richmond Heights, MO 63117

Due Date: August 31, 2017

This statement is for the League's fiscal year: July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018.

This will be the third consecutive year without a dues increase.

Thank you for your continued support of League activities.



MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS

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ANNUAL REPORT OF LEAGUE ACTIVITIES AND DUES STATEMENT

DATE: July 7, 2017
FROM: Pat Kelly, Executive Director

Dear Members:

I would like to express my appreciation to our Immediate Past President, Mayor Barry Glantz of Creve Coeur and the League Board members for their leadership and assistance during the past year. It was filled with many changes and learning experiences. Last year we launched a new website designed to be a resource for members, affiliates and the general public. We continue to update it to make the site more useful for members and the community. Features on the website include job postings, community calendars and Associate Member listings with contact information and links. Please visit the site at www.stlmuni.org.

The staff continues to pursue additional Associate Members, with ten new members joining the nine new associates from last year. Associate membership provides these companies with an opportunity to attend League meetings and discuss how their products and services might be of interest to your municipality.

I also want to take this time to thank Suaune Myers, who retired from the League in January after working here for nearly three years. She was responsible for the Park Grant Commission administration and did an excellent job in that capacity.

COURT CASES

In 2015, the Missouri General Assembly passed SB 5, which limited municipal revenue from court fines and implemented other requirements for St. Louis County municipalities only. The State had appealed a lower court decision invalidating the law and in May the Supreme Court upheld the lower court ruling. This means that County municipalities will have the same 20% traffic fine revenue as the rest of the state and that local government standards from SB 5 are unconstitutional. This was a major victory for League members.

Similarly, County legislation passed in 2015 to require standards for municipal police departments with the final determination of compliance to be made by the County Executive. The circuit court determined that St. Louis County does not have this authority to set standards and regulate municipal police departments. The County elected to appeal this decision and the circuit court ruling was upheld. We would like to offer our thanks to the municipal attorneys who worked on this case - Paul Martin, Carl Lumley, Kevin O'Keefe, Bob Jones and John Hessel.

One additional case that is scheduled to argued on July 11 concerns a challenge to the one cent sales tax distribution system. It is being heard in Cole County and if the court rules that the law is invalid, the financial consequences for most municipalities and the County would be devastating.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Below are some of the main bills affecting local governments which PASSED during the 2017 session.

HB 451 (Austin) - Specifies that a change in population shall not remove a city, county, or political subdivision from the operation of a law. Supported by the League. No action by the Governor to-date.

HB 1194 (Chipman) - Prohibits political subdivisions from requiring a minimum wage that exceeds the requirements of state law. No action by the Governor to-date.

SB 111 (Hegeman) - Political subdivisions with an unenhanced bond rating of AA+ or higher shall issue such debts through a competitive process unless such political subdivision employs the services of a municipal advisor as defined in the act. Political subdivisions may use a negotiated or competitive process. This requirement shall not apply when the bonds are sold to a government entity, when the principal amount of the bonds issued does not exceed \$12,500,000, or to bonds issued for refinance. Municipal advisors engaged by a political subdivision with respect to a particular issue of securities shall be independent. No action by the Governor to-date.

SB 112 (Schatz) - Authorizes a public safety sales tax for certain 4th class cities including Rock Hill, Pacific and Eureka. The bill also requires the State Department of Revenue to notify any political subdivision failing to submit its annual financial report under section 105.145. Non-compliant entities shall have 30 days to submit the report or face a \$500 per day fine. No action by the Governor to-date

SB 128 (Dixon) - Defendants must be given a date and time to appear on court for minor traffic violations at the time of the citation. Failure to provide the information shall void the citation. No action by the Governor to-date

SB 182 (Onder) - Prohibits political subdivisions from requiring project labor agreements for public works projects.
SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Bills of Interest which FAILED included:

HB 104 (Love) - Repeals prevailing wages laws

HB 275 (Spencer) - Prohibition on the use of automated traffic enforcement systems

HB 548 (Curtman) - Prohibits the use of municipal funds for advocacy

HB 608 (Anderson) - Requirements for short term rentals (Air B&B)

HB 656 (Rhodes) - Small cell deployment act

HJR 13 (Bahr) - Constitutional amendment to enact term limits for municipal and county officials

SB 105 (Wallingford) - streamlined sales tax

We were successful in defeating some detrimental issues due to the many contacts made by our members with their legislators.

In January the League held its second Legislative reception. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for interaction with legislators locally, rather than in Jefferson City. We appreciate the positive response from members and legislators. Another reception is planned for January 2018.

LEAGUE RE-ESTABLISHES LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

One of the best ways for legislators to work together for the benefit of the region is to have regular meetings to discuss localized issues. The League helped to re-establish and is coordinating meetings of the St. Louis Regional Caucus to help facilitate these important conversations. We appreciate the valuable assistance of the Co-Chairs - Representative Dean Plocher and Senator Jill Schupp.

TRAINING ACADEMY & MEETINGS CONTINUE TO ASSIST LOCAL OFFICIALS

The League established a Training Academy in 2012-13 to help members stay current on a variety of topics. In 2016-17 we offered the following formal training programs: Personnel; Board of Adjustment; Planning & Zoning, Elections; Municipal Courts; Sunshine Law; Right-of-Way Issues; Municipal Finance; Parliamentary Procedure, and a Legislative Recap.

Academy programs are available for in-person attendance or through a webinar format using a computer. They are scheduled monthly from 12:00 to 1:15 pm to allow elected officials and others to attend from their home or business office via webinar. Each session costs \$20 per person or the city can join for a year for \$75-\$250 depending on size. This allows officials to access all past (recorded) and future training.

We have had a tremendous amount of pro bono support from the law firm of Cunningham, Vogel and Rost (CVR) and specifically attorney Erin Seele. This has allowed us to offer high quality, low cost programming not only in St. Louis County, but throughout the State. We could not offer this service with CVR. THANK YOU!

PROPOSITION P PROVIDES PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

In April, County voters approved Proposition P, a one-half cent public safety sales tax. It is projected to generate \$80 million annually, with \$46 million to the County and \$34 million to the municipalities. This projects to \$50 per capita for cities and villages which must be used for public safety. The law does not define public safety so each community will need to make a determination of the definition of public safety. Collection of the tax will begin in October and the first distribution from the state should arrive in December.

POLICE CHIEFS WORKING ON LOCAL STANDARDS

Throughout the last year, the St. Louis Area Police Chiefs' Association (SLAPCA) has been working on the development of standards for local police service. These standards are being finalized by a committee and will be presented to the chiefs very soon. Information will also be presented to elected officials. The chiefs feel very strongly that the implementation of standards will help restore public trust of local departments to the benefit of the officers and the community. League staff has been active in this effort.

DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CITY AND COUNTY

A previously established League City-County Collaborative Committee continued to meet during the year with appointees from the Stenger and Slay administrations. A new member from Mayor Krewson's staff has been named. At a League meeting in the fall, the membership approved a motion to continue discussions with City and County officials to determine if there are additional cooperative efforts that might be advantageous to each government and the municipalities in the County.

In the meantime, Better Together continues to release simplistic reports that purportedly show that our region is spending too much for local government services. What they fail to acknowledge is that the voters in each community are willing to support taxes to maintain and enhance the quality local government services they are receiving and there is no evidence to support their contention that such service levels could be maintained in some type of consolidated government structure.

What is also troubling is that Missouri legislative leaders have offered opinions that the General Assembly should consider changes to the governmental structure of the City and County. Whatever plan may be developed would require a STATEWIDE vote, rather than a vote of local residents. This could be one of the major issues we face in 2017-18 and the support of all of our members will be crucial in the effort to defeat what would likely be a proposal that does not have the best interests of City and County residents in mind. I hope we can count on your support.

LEAGUE COMMITTEES

Legislative Affairs Committee - Our 2016 Legislative Affairs Committee, chaired by Mayor Scott Douglass of Clarkson Valley worked diligently to review our policy booklet and bring recommendations for amendments and changes to the membership. The revised policy booklet was approved in October.

Other committee members were: Councilman Chuck Caverly, Maryland Heights; City Administrator Bola Akande, Brentwood; Mayor Terry Briggs, Bridgeton; Mayor Felicity Buckley, Shrewsbury; City Administrator Matt Conley, St. Ann; Mayor Jon Dalton, Town & Country; Councilman Randy Logan, Chesterfield; Mayor Norm McCourt, Black Jack; Councilman Ralph McDaniel, Berkeley; Mayor Viola Murphy, Cool Valley; Mayor Tim Pogue, Ballwin; Mayor Harold Sanger, Clayton; City Administrator Bob Shelton, Frontenac; Mayor Ruth Springer, Olivette.

PARKS AND TRAILS COOPERATION

In 2000, voters approved the first 1/10 cent sales tax for parks and trails and the Great Rivers Greenway effort was created. Funds go to Great Rivers Greenway for regional trails, to St. Louis County Parks, and to municipalities for parks. In 2013,

voters approved a 3/16 cent to help fund improvements for the Arch grounds. A portion of the new tax was allocated to the municipal park grant, which doubled the grant funds to \$7 million annually. When the law was first proposed, the League recommended that the municipal funds be controlled by a commission made up of municipal appointees, rather than controlled by an outside entity. The Municipal Parks Grants Commission strives to keep administrative costs low and ensure that the annual collections are fully allocated to cities each year. The Commission asked for League help in ensuring the program runs smoothly and effectively to update parks throughout the County. The Commission feels strongly that this is the route to deliver on the promise made to voters who approved both taxes. Nearly \$55 million has been awarded to over 310 municipal park projects! Like all our efforts, this highly efficient and effective program could not be possible without the help of many local officials who must actually supervise the park improvements. It is another great example of both centralized and decentralized efforts leading to high quality facilities across our county and our region.

ENSURING THAT THE MUNICIPAL VOICE IS HEARD

The League, acting on its own initiative or responding to requests from other agencies, ensures that the mission of municipalities is understood. At times, some jump to the conclusion that because we have a large number of municipalities, one or two negative items end up in the news, or due to frustrations with state or federal governments, that cities must be "part of the problem." By meeting with other organizations, or even partnering with them on efforts like establishing the tax for parks or building the new communications system, attitudes remain positive. The League frequently is asked to recommend names of officials who can serve on boards or commissions such as the Boundary Commission, Park Grant Commission, committees at East West Gateway, MoDOT, MSD's rate commission or County committees. All federal highway funds are channeled through East West Gateway and League staff has assisted cities in securing such funds for many years. Also, the League has a representative on the East West Gateway board of directors.

Our committees frequently meet with members of other organizations or the legislature prior to making recommendations on various policy issues. We also try to work with our universities when they are conducting research for the legislature or other groups. Staff also attends and acts as a resource for other local municipal organizations such as the Metro Mayors, Suburban Mayors, City Managers' Association, City Clerks' Association and Municipal Finance Officers' Association. Together, citizens, the media, civic groups and others have a much better understanding of the important services provided by municipalities and how all our individual pieces of stained glass, all unique but similar, end up in a beautiful mosaic, as noted by one civic leader.

In closing, the Board and staff want to thank all of you for your great interest and participation. We all benefit from hundreds of talented individuals who give so much to help the League, our members and the citizens we serve. Please continue your wonderful cooperative efforts as we end this fiscal year and embark on another under the leadership of our new President, Councilman Chuck Caverly of Maryland Heights and a very engaged board of directors. And don't be bashful about your input. If you have good ideas, please let us know. It should be a challenging year as we continue to promote best practices, work with a state legislature subject to fairly regular turnover due to term limits, and consider the work of Better Together to reorganize local government. We look forward to another year of serving our members and planning for the League's 100th anniversary in 2018.

Membership Services

Membership



The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis is a wholly owned instrumentality of its member municipalities. Regular membership is limited to the municipalities wholly or partly within the County, St. Louis County government and the City of St. Louis. Other entities may join as Associate Members. A vast majority of municipalities are members.

Reference Services



The League serves as a reference center for information covering a wide variety of topics. Extensive files and a reference library enable members to obtain copies of model ordinances, current reports, court decisions, etc. The League staff collects data, particularly recent revenue figures, which are, in turn, made available to the membership. Technical queries are forwarded to experienced officials in various specialty areas for detailed answers.

Informational Training



The League sponsors or co-sponsors special seminars and workshops on matters of current interest. Program topics have included training for newly elected officials, municipal redistricting, neighborhood preservation tax credits, open meetings law, setting property tax rates and personnel disciplinary processes.

Communications



Publications include a monthly Newsletter, which features brief items of timely importance, and an annual Directory of Municipal Officials of St. Louis County. Legislative updates are sent to members every Friday during the legislative session.

Representation/Lobbying



A major objective of the League is to present the views of members to County, State, and Federal governing bodies and agencies. After the membership formulates its legislative agenda, the League promotes the policies before the General Assembly and assures that concerns are communicated to legislators. The League monitors all legislative actions, maintains a computer link with Jefferson City to provide members with quick comprehensive reporting, and reviews every bill introduced in the legislature.

Membership Surveys



The League has conducted surveys of the membership on a number of topics including business licenses, municipal parks and recreation programs, salt storage facilities, computer usage, solid waste programs, and worker's compensation insurance costs. This information is used to develop training programs and co-ops, or simply to share methods and ideas among members.

Leadership on Municipal Issues

Municipal Finance



Strong municipalities require stable finances. The League works hard to create and preserve the tools necessary to pay for modern services. This may take the form of local option taxes and fees or a fair share of state or federal taxes. Among other issues, the League:

- Worked for municipal authority to enact capital improvements sales tax, parks and stormwater tax, the use tax, and a regional parks tax with a local component.
- Filed an amicus brief against the property tax freeze statutes in a successful case to allow inflationary growth.
- Led efforts to settle legal challenges with cell phone companies to ensure that cities would receive back taxes and future taxes.

New Challenges

Periodically, technical advances, court decisions or other factors require adaptation. The League calls its members together to adopt policies dealing with major changes, such as telecommunication deregulation. Model policies or ordinances are created reflecting the values of the League members.

Environment



- Coordinated application with Missouri Department of Natural Resources resulting in an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for 15 member municipalities.
- Coordinated with County Health Department to allocate recycling carts to cities.

- In partnership with the County, and State, promoted stormwater bond issues with a municipal component offering grants to cities.

Governmental Structure and Boundaries



- Promoted the plan for a Boundary Commission to oversee orderly incorporation, rather than forced boundary changes and worked with St. Louis County for mutual modifications.

Federal Issues



- Contacted federal elected officials and local agencies on the impact of the Intermodal Transportation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Mandatory Drug Testing and Telecommunication reforms.
- Worked with appropriate officials to eliminate or reduce the municipal costs associated with the Federal Clean Water Act.
- Annually, the League works with other governments in the region to prioritize transportation funding.
- The League encourages MODOT, East-West Gateway, Bi-State and others to assemble teams of municipal officials to ensure that local issues are included in discussions regarding major highways, Metrolink and trails.

Public Safety

- Led the successful ballot initiative to authorize a countywide sales tax to construct and maintain an interoperable communications system and provide upgrades to the County's emergency siren system.

Affiliations

The League maintains a working relationship with many organizations due to their interest in municipal government. The League also works closely with the Missouri Municipal League. Regionally, the League represents the membership on the Boards of the East-West Gateway Council of Governments and other metropolitan and county-wide agencies and groups seeking input from the municipal perspective.



Linking Local Communities -
Strengthening Local Government

Mission

The mission of the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis is to provide a vehicle for cooperation in formulating and promoting municipal policy at the Federal, State, and local levels for the purpose of enhancing the welfare and common destiny of municipalities and citizens. The League will provide effective leadership and decision-making in a regional context through facilitation with other organizations and systems. Furthermore, the League will offer timely assistance to members by researching and disseminating information on topics of importance.

Since its creation in 1918 by six St. Louis County municipalities, the Municipal League's goals have been to strengthen the quality of municipal government in the St. Louis metropolitan area; to provide a cooperative vehicle for joint action and representation of the needs of municipal governments to County, State and Federal officials and agencies; and to assist member governments in their efforts to solve problems of contemporary urban life. Today, League members represent over 94% of the population of St. Louis County. Both St. Louis County Government and the City of St. Louis are full members of the League.

The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis is a county-wide, nonpartisan, voluntary, not-for-profit corporation. The League develops positions through an extensive committee structure. General membership meetings are held each year at which programs of municipal interest are presented and League policy is debated and decided by all members. The membership elects an Executive Board, which consists of the President, Vice President, Finance Chairman and seven other members, all of whom must hold an elected position within their respective municipalities. Past presidents also serve on the Board while still in office. A staff of three employees manages the day-to-day activities of the League.



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