



# PEOPLE OVER POLITICS: EMPOWERING ST. LOUISANS TO HOLD LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE

## *2022 Proposition R Ballot Measure Policy Overview*

St. Louisans deserve a Board of Aldermen that can move our city forward at this important crossroad. Currently, laws in St. Louis allow Alderpersons to engage in conflicts of interest that are illegal in other cities. **But it doesn't have to be this way.** Proposition R for Reform will take long overdue reforms directly to voters to decrease the influence of big money by stopping aldermanic conflicts of interest, while adding independence, transparency, and equity to the redistricting process. **Together, we will make our officials more accountable to ALL St. Louisans. Together, we will reform St. Louis.**

- **Prohibit alderpersons from taking official actions where they have a personal or financial conflict of interest** related to the legislation being considered.
  - Ensure the public knows if an alderperson has a conflict of interest by requiring disclosure statements to be posted on the city website.
  - Require alderpersons to wait at least one year before becoming lobbyists influencing city policy, bringing St. Louis in line with other leading cities around the country.
- **Give the power to draw ward boundary maps to an independent citizens commission composed of diverse, qualified city voters that must hold public hearings and keep neighborhoods together.**
  - Prohibit lobbyists, aldermen, and others with conflicts of interest from serving on the commission.
  - An oversight committee (including retired judges) selects the first four commission members randomly from a pool of interested city voters, requiring at least one applicant from each ward. The first four members then select the remaining five members from the applicant pool to balance racial, geographic, gender, and other diversity requirements.
  - This policy is not about the number of wards—only how they're drawn.
- **Prohibit the Board of Aldermen from overriding the will of the people.**
  - Require a public vote on any changes to the way we vote for municipal offices (mayor, comptroller, president of the Board of Aldermen, and alderman).
  - For example, if the Board of Aldermen wanted to repeal approval voting, that would need to go to a public vote.
- **Remove gendered language in the law** by having all members legally called “alderpersons.”

Paid for by Show Me Integrity Action Fund, Mike Pridmore, Treasurer  
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## **April 5, 2022 ballot title**

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

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

- *Prohibit Aldermen from taking actions on matters pending before the Board of Aldermen where they have a personal or financial conflict of interest;*
- *Require that Aldermen's financial disclosure statements be open to the public;*
- *Have ward boundary maps drawn by an independent citizens commission after each decennial census; and*
- *Prohibit the Board of Aldermen from changing voter-enacted voting methods for municipal offices without first submitting such changes to the voters?*

## **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 the policy has the community support to pass.

Proposition R for Reform is polling at 80%.

## **Questions?**

Contact [reformstlouis@showmeintegrity.org](mailto:reformstlouis@showmeintegrity.org). Learn more and join us at [ReformStLouis.org](https://ReformStLouis.org).

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