

Summary

Board Bill Number 77

As Amended

Primary Sponsor: Alderman John Muhammad

June 19, 2020

This Board Bill would submit to the qualified voters of the City of St. Louis a proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of St. Louis to maintain the Board of Aldermen as body of twenty-eight Aldermen representing twenty-eight wards, and preventing its reduction beginning December 31, 2021 and containing an emergency clause.

BOARD BILL NUMBER 77 AS AMENDED INTRODUCED BY: ALDERMAN JOHN COLLINS-MUHAMMAD/ALDERMAN JOSEPH VACCARO

1 An ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of the City of St. Louis a proposed
2 amendment to the Charter of the City of St. Louis to maintain the Board of Aldermen as body
3 of twenty-eight Aldermen representing twenty-eight wards, and preventing its reduction
4 beginning December 31, 2021, to a body of fourteen Aldermen representing fourteen wards as
5 called for under Article I, Section 3 of the City of St. Louis Charter; providing for an election
6 to be held for voting on the proposed amendment and the manner for the voting; and for the
7 publication, certification, deposit, and recording of this ordinance; and containing an emergency
8 clause.

9 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

10 **SECTION ONE.** This ordinance shall be known as the “Board of Aldermen Ward
11 Reduction Amendment Ordinance.” The following amendment to the Charter of the City of St.
12 Louis is hereby proposed and submitted to the voters of the City to be voted upon at an election
13 to be held as hereinafter provided.

14 **SECTION TWO.** Said proposed amendment is to be in the words and figures as follows:

15 A. Section 3 of Article I of the Charter of the City of St. Louis is hereby repealed and
16 enacted in lieu thereof is one amended Section within Article I, which shall be and read as
17 follows:

18 Section 3 Wards.

1 The City of St. Louis is hereby divided into twenty-eight wards, bounded and
2 numbered as the wards of the City now are; provided, that following the 2020 decennial
3 census of the United States of America and each decennial census thereafter, corrected
4 ward boundaries shall be established by ordinance which shall comprise as nearly as
5 practicable, compact and contiguous territory within straight lines, and contain as nearly
6 as may be the same number of inhabitants; such ordinance shall be adopted before the
7 end of the calendar year next succeeding the year in which the census is taken.

8 B. Section 3 of Article II of the Charter of the City of St. Louis is hereby repealed and
9 enacted in lieu thereof is one amended Section within Article II, which shall be and read as
10 follows:

11 Section 3 Aldermen.

12 At the general City election in 1915, one Alderman from each odd-numbered
13 ward shall be elected for a term of two years, and at the same election and every four
14 years thereafter, one Alderman from each even-numbered ward, and a President of the
15 Board of Aldermen, shall be elected for a term of four years. At the general City election
16 in 1917, and every four years thereafter, one Alderman from each odd-numbered ward
17 shall be elected for a term of four years.

18 C. Sections 1 and 2 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis are hereby
19 repealed and enacted in lieu thereof are two amended Sections within Article IV, which shall
20 be and read as follows:

1 Section 1 Composition.

2 The legislative power of the City of St. Louis shall be subject to the limitations
3 of this Charter, be vested in a Board of Aldermen consisting of a President, elected as
4 such by general ticket from the City at large, and twenty-eight members, one from each
5 ward, to be elected only by the qualified voters of the ward he or she is a candidate to
6 represent, and to be know as Alderman from the ward which he or she is elected.
7 Provided, that Aldermen heretofore elected shall remain in office until the end of the
8 terms for which they were, respectively elected, and provided further that in case of a
9 vacancy, the Alderman elected to fill such vacancy shall be chosen by the qualified
10 voters of the ward from which he or she is elected.

11 Section 2 Qualifications and Salary.

12 No person shall become and Alderman except a voter of at least twenty-five
13 years of age, and who shall have been next before his or her election five-years a citizen
14 of the United States, three-years a resident of the City of St. Louis, two-years an assessed
15 taxpayer of the City of St. Louis, and one-year a resident of the ward from which elected,
16 nor who shall have been convicted of malfeasance in office, bribery, or other corrupt
17 practice or crime; and if any Alderman be so convicted or shall at any time not be a
18 resident of such ward, the Alderman shall forfeit their office. The salary of each
19 Alderman shall be as established by ordinance.

20 **SECTION THREE.** All sections of the forgoing proposed amendment are hereby
21 declared to be independent sections and parts of sections. It is hereby declared to the be the

1 controlling legislative intent that if any section or part of a section, or the application thereof
2 to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, then the remaining sections and
3 parts of sections shall not be affected thereby, and is hereby declared that this amendment
4 would have been passed independently of such section or parts of a section so held to be
5 invalid.

6 **SECTION FOUR.**

7 A. The forgoing proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of St. Louis shall be
8 submitted to the qualified voters of the City at the April 6, 2021 election at which this proposal
9 may be lawfully submitted, and if said proposed amendment shall receive in its favor the
10 number of votes required by law, such amendment shall be adopted and become a part of the
11 Charter of the City of St. Louis from the date of said election or such other date as prescribed
12 in said amendment. Qualified voters of the City of St. Louis may at the election aforesaid vote
13 a ballot in substantially the following form:

14 OFFICIAL BALLOT

15 CHARTER AMENDMENT

16 (Board of Aldermen Ward Reduction Amendment)

17 Shall the Charter of the City of St. Louis be amended in accordance with the
18 Board of Aldermen Ward Reduction Amendment ordinance?

1 This amendment will prevent the restructuring of the Board of Aldermen of the
2 City of St. Louis by its reduction from a body of twenty-eight Aldermen representing
3 twenty-eight wards, to a body of fourteen Aldermen representing fourteen wards.

4 YES [] NO []

5 Instructions to Voters: If you are in favor of the question, place an X in the box
6 opposite 'YES'. If you are opposed to the question, place an X in the box opposite
7 'NO'.

8 B. The Board of Election Commissioners shall provide the ballots or voting machines or
9 both, and conduct the election and shall ascertain and certify the result thereof according to the
10 law. If voting machines are used, the aforesaid 'OFFICIAL BALLOT' shall be placed or posted
11 on the said voting machines wherever said machines are used under the direction of the Board
12 of Election Commissioners for the City of St. Louis and according to law.

13 **SECTION FIVE.** Upon the approval of this ordinance, it shall be published in the City
14 Journal, the official publication of the City of St. Louis, Missouri. Proof of the publication of
15 this ordinance shall be made by affidavit of the City Register, and such affidavit shall be filed
16 in the office of the City Register and a copy of such publication shall be attached thereto.

17 **SECTION SIX.** This being an ordinance calling for an election for submission to the
18 people of an amendment to the Charter of the City of St. Louis, it is hereby declared to be an
19 emergency measure and shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by
20 the Mayor.