

Summary

Board Bill Number 8

Primary Sponsor: Alderwoman Shameem Clark-Hubbard

Date: May 1, 2020

Overall Purpose/Reasons for the Board Bill

The reason for the Board Bill is to consent to the request of the City Mental Health Board and place before the voters of the City of St. Louis at the November 3, 2020 election a proposal to increase the tax rate for the community children's services from the current 19 cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation to 25 cents, which is the maximum authorized by state statute. Pursuant to Sec. 210.860 the community children's services fund has been administered by the City Mental Health Board since its initial passage in 2004.

The tax increase is desired due to the need to increase early childhood services programming for children aged five years and younger, services which cannot be provided from current funds.

If approved by the voters, the tax would yield approximately \$2.3 million dollars annually.

What the Board Bill Will Do

The Board Bill will direct the Board of Election Commissioners to place on the November 2020 ballot the question of whether the community children's services fund levy should be increased from the current 19 cents per hundred assessed value by 6 cents to 25 cents. The ballot language specifies that the purpose is providing additional funding for community children's services, in particular early childhood services for children aged five years and under"...

The Main Components of the Board Bill

- Call of the election for the purpose
- Directions to the Board of Election Commissioners
- If the proposition is approved proceeds therefrom will be deposited as required by section 210.860 RSMo. to the credit of the community children's services fund for the purpose of funding programs and services, in particular early childhood services for children aged five and under
- The board bill contains an emergency clause

The Impact of the Board Bill to the Community

Currently in the City of St. Louis there are 225 licensed early childhood centers and homes serving almost 10,000 children between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years. Yet there are hundreds more children who could benefit from these programs if they were available. Research

shows that high quality, affordable early childhood programs are essential to children, families and our community.

Early childhood programs not only allow parents to successfully participate in today's workforce, but they also help children develop the positive behaviors and relationships that boost kindergarten readiness and reduce the effects of toxic stressors elsewhere in their lives. Children in early childcare programs form strong social and intellectual skills that they carry through the years, making them more likely to graduate high school. The young children of today will blossom into the healthy, high-achieving adults of tomorrow, reducing the strain on public resources to support social services.

The Community Children's Services Fund proposes a property tax increase of 6 cents which brings the tax to the maximum 25 cents allowed by statute. The tax increase is estimated to generate \$2.3 million, all of which would be dedicated to early childhood programs in our City's most vulnerable neighborhoods. Support for early childhood programs in our City require many different funding sources to be braided together in order to create a high-quality system for our precious young children. The increase to the Community Children's Services Fund administered by Saint Louis MHB adds one more crucial source to the array of resources that are needed.

When joined together the variety of funds can be used to increase and sustain the quality of these programs through operating support grants. The funds could also be used to build the capacity of the early childhood staff, through increased compensation and training. This investment in high-quality, comprehensive, and accessible early childhood programs will ensure children have the skills they need to lead successful lives, creating stronger, more vibrant communities now and for future generations in St. Louis.

**BOARD BILL NUMBER 8 INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN SHAMEEM CLARK/
HUBBARD/ALDERMAN JOSEPH VACCARO/ALDERMAN JOHN MUHAMMAD/
ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE INGRASSIA/ALDERWOMAN PAM BOYD/
ALDERMAN JACK COATAR/ALDERWOMAN LISA MIDDLEBROOK/ALDERMAN
TOM OLDENBURG/ALDERWOMAN SARAH MARTIN/ALDERMAN JEFFREY
BOYD/ALDERMAN BRANDON BOSLEY/ ALDERWOMAN BETH MURPHY**

1 An ordinance calling and providing for the holding of an election in the City of St. Louis
2 on November 3, 2020, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City of St.
3 Louis a proposal to levy and collect a property tax of six cents per each one hundred dollars of
4 assessed valuation in addition to the current authorized levy of nineteen cents per each one hundred
5 dollars of assessed valuation as provided for in Section 210.860 R.S. Mo. for the purpose of
6 providing additional funding to the community children’s’ services fund and in particular to fund
7 early childhood services to children aged five years and younger.

8 **WHEREAS**, an affordable, equitable and quality early childhood educational system is
9 vital to improving the life outcomes of the children of the City of St. Louis; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the current early childhood educational system is not meeting the critical
11 needs of the children of the City of St. Louis, being plagued by fragmentation, underfunding, and
12 the need for better professional development for individuals providing the services; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, the Community Children’s Services Fund is authorized by state statute to
14 support prevention programs that promote healthy family lifestyles among children and youth and
15 which strengthen families; and,

16 **WHEREAS**, the Community Children’s Services Fund has not had a tax increase since
17 the voter’s approved a nineteen cent per hundred assessed value levy in 2004; and,

18 **WHEREAS**, with the approval of the voters of the City of St. Louis the Community
19 Children’s Services fund may increase the tax by six cents per hundred dollars assessed valuation
20 which will raise an additional estimated \$2.2 million dollars; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Alderman of the City does now find and determine that it is
2 desirable and in the public interest that the proposition hereinafter provided for be submitted to the
3 qualified electors of the City at a special election to be held for that purpose.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** An election shall be held and the same is hereby called and ordered to be
6 held in the City of St. Louis, Missouri on the 3rd day of November, 2020, at which there shall be
7 submitted to the qualified electors of said City, the proposition as hereinafter set forth in Section
8 3 of this ordinance.

9 **SECTION 2.** That the polling places in the various wards and precincts in the City of St.
10 Louis where at the said proposition shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said City shall
11 be those polling places established or to be established by the Board of Election Commissioners
12 for the City of St. Louis, as provided by law.

13 **SECTION 3.** The notice of the submission of the said proposition at the said election
14 shall be given jointly by the said Board of Election Commissioners and by the City Register of the
15 City of St. Louis by publication in the City Journal, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, and in at least one
16 other weekly newspaper serving citizens of the City of St. Louis, twice, the first publication
17 occurring in the second week prior to the election and the second publication occurring within one
18 (1) week prior to the election, which said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

1 **NOTICE OF BALLOT PROPOSITION ELECTION**
2 **THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

3 Tuesday, November 3, 2020

4 **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a ballot proposition election will be held in the City
5 of St. Louis Missouri on Tuesday, the 3rd of November, 2020

6 Commencing at six o'clock in the morning and closing at seven o'clock in the evening on
7 said date.

8 The polling places in the various wards and precincts of the City of St. Louis where at the
9 said proposition shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said City shall be those polling
10 places designated by the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of St. Louis, Missouri,
11 separate notice of which will be given by said Board.

12 Subject to such modifications as may be required by the use of an electronic voting system,
13 the ballots to be used at said election shall be substantially the following form, to-wit:

14 **OFFICIAL BALLOT**

15 **PROPOSITION ELECTION**

16 Instructions to voters:

17 To vote in favor of the proposition submitted upon this ballot, place a cross (X) mark in
18 the square opposite the word "YES"; and, to vote against the said proposition, place a cross (X)
19 mark in the square opposite the word "NO".

20 **PROPOSITION ____**

21 Shall the City of St. Louis levy an additional tax of six cents per each one hundred dollars
22 (\$100.00) of assessed valuation as authorized by Section 210.860 R.S.MO. for the purpose of

1 providing additional funding for community children’s services, in particular early childhood
2 services for children aged five years and under, in addition to the current levy of nineteen cents
3 per each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation?

4 YES

5 NO

6 This notice is given pursuant to Ordinance No. _____ of the City of St. Louis,
7 Missouri, approved the _____ day of _____, 2020.

8 **IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we the undersigned Board of Election Commissioners for the
9 City of St. Louis, Missouri, and the Register of said City, have hereunto set our hands under the
10 seal of said City, in the City of St. Louis, State of Missouri, this _____ day of _____,
11 2022.

12 _____
13 Member, Board of Election Commissioners

14
15
16 _____
17 Member, Board of Election Commissioners

18
19
20 _____
21 Member, Board of Election Commissioners

22
23
24 _____
25 Chairman, Board of Election Commissioners

26
27
28 _____
29 Secretary, Board of Election Commissioners

30
31
32
33 [space for Board seal]

1 _____
2 City Register

3
4
5
6 [space for City seal]

7
8

9 Proof of the publication of said notice shall be made by affidavits of the publishers of said
10 newspapers, with a copy of such publication attached thereto, and such affidavits shall be filed
11 with the City Register.

12 **SECTION 4.** The Board of Election Commissioners for the City of St. Louis, Missouri,
13 shall provide the ballots, conduct the election, and certify the results of said election to the Board
14 of Alderman of the City of St. Louis, as required by law.

15 **SECTION 5.** That immediately upon the passage and approval of this ordinance, the Clerk
16 of the Board of Alderman shall certify a copy thereof to the Board of Election Commissioners for
17 the City of St. Louis, Missouri for action and proceedings by said Board in accordance herewith
18 and as required by law.

19 **SECTION 6.** Upon the approval of the six-cent tax levy by the qualified electors of the
20 City of St. Louis, the tax so approved shall be imposed upon all taxable property within the City
21 of St. Louis and the proceeds therefrom shall be deposited in as required by Section 210.860 R.S.
22 Mo. to the credit of the Community Children’s Services Fund for the purpose of funding programs
23 and services, in particular early childhood services for children aged five years and under.

24 **SECTION 7.** This being an ordinance for the preservation of public peace, health and
25 safety, and providing for submission to the people, it is hereby declared to be an emergency

1 measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St.
2 Louis and therefore this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and
3 approval by the Mayor.

**BOARD BILL NUMBER 8
FISCAL NOTE**

Preparer's Name: William J. Kuehling, Thompson Coburn LLP on behalf of City of St. Louis
Mental Health Board

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Bill Sponsor: Alderman Shameem Clark-Hubbard

Bill Synopsis:	Board Bill Number 8 will consent to the request of the City Mental Health Board and direct the Board of Election Commissioners to hold an election in November 2020 on the question of increasing the levy for the community children's services fund from 19 cents per hundred of assessed value to 25 cents per hundred. The increase would be for the purpose of increasing early childhood services programming for children aged 5 years and younger which cannot currently be provided with existing funds.
Type of Impact:	If approved the tax increase would provide an additional \$2.3 million dollars to the community children's services fund administered by the City Mental Health Board. The funds would be used to provide early childcare services to children in the City aged five years and younger. This funding would increase and sustain quality programs and help build the capacity within the city of early childcare staff.
Agencies Affected:	The proposal will have no fiscal impact on any City of St. Louis Department.

SECTION A

Does this bill authorize:

- An expansion of services which entails additional costs beyond that approved in the current adopted city budget? Yes No
- An undertaking of a new service for which no funding is provided in the current adopted city budget? Yes No
- A commitment of city funding in the future under certain specified conditions? Yes No.
- An issuance of bonds, notes and lease-purchase agreements which may require additional funding beyond that approved in the current adopted city budget? Yes No
- An execution or initiation of an activity as a result of federal or state mandates or requirements? Yes No
- A capital improvement project that increases operating costs over the current adopted city budget? Yes No
- A capital improvement project that requires funding not approved in the current adopted city budget or that will require funding in future years? Yes No

If the answer is yes to any of the above questions, then a fiscal note must be attached to the board bill. Complete Section B of the form below.

SECTION B

- Does the bill require the construction of any new physical facilities? ___ Yes X No

- If yes, describe the facilities and provide the estimated cost:

- Is the bill estimated to have a direct fiscal impact on any city department or office?
___ Yes X No

- If yes, describe the facilities and provide the estimated cost:

- Does the bill create a program or administrative subdivision? ___ Yes X No

- If yes, then is there a similar existing program or administrative subdivision?
___ Yes X No

- If yes, explain how the proposed programs or administrative subdivisions may overlap:

- Describe the annual operating, equipment and maintenance costs that would result from the proposed bill, as well as any funding sources:

Complete the chart below to list the total estimated expenditures required of the City resulting from the proposed board bill and any estimated savings or additional revenue.

NOT APPLICABLE

FINANCIAL Estimate of Impact on General Fund			
Fiscal Impact	Year 1 (current)	Year 2	Year 3
Additional Expenditures			
Additional Revenue			
Net			
FINANCIAL Estimate of Impact on Special Funds			
Fiscal Impact	Year 1 (current)	Year 2	Year 3
Additional Expenditures			
Additional Revenue			
Net			

- Describe any assumptions used in preparing this fiscal note:

- List any sources of information (including any City officials, agencies or departments) used in preparing this fiscal note:

- Have the financial estimates of this bill been verified by the City Budget Division? _____ Yes ___X___ No

- If yes, by whom? _____