

**Summary****Board Bill Number 38****Introduced by: Alderman John Collins-Muhammad****May 27, 2021**

The bill proposes an amendment to the Charter that would repeal the Charter sections which provide for the reduction of the Board of Aldermen from a body of twenty-eight aldermen to a body of fourteen aldermen and, in lieu thereof, enact new provisions to maintain the Board of Aldermen as a body of twenty-eight aldermen. The bill calls for an election for the proposed amendment to be voted on by the qualified voters of the City, and if it should pass with the required majority the proposed amendment would become effective.

**BOARD BILL NUMBER 38 INTRODUCED BY: ALDERMAN JOHN COLLINS MUHAMMAD**

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

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

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

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

14 A. **Section 3 of Article I of the Charter of the City of St. Louis** is hereby repealed and  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

16 Section 3 - WARDS

17 The City of St. Louis is hereby divided into twenty-eight wards, bounded and numbered as  
18 the wards of the City now are; provided, that following the 2020 decennial census of the United  
19 States of America and each decennial census thereafter, corrected ward boundaries shall be  
20 established by ordinance which shall comprise as nearly as practicable, compact and contiguous  
21 territory within straight lines, and contain as nearly as may be the same number of inhabitants;

1 such ordinance shall be adopted before the end of the calendar year next succeeding the year in  
2 which the census is taken.

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

5 Section 3 – ALDERMEN

6 At the general City election in 1915, one Alderman from each odd-numbered ward shall  
7 be elected for a term of two years, and at the same election and every four years thereafter, one  
8 Alderman from each even-numbered ward, and a President of the Board of Aldermen, shall be  
9 elected for a term of four years. At the general City election in 1917, and every four years  
10 thereafter, one Alderman from each odd-numbered ward shall be elected for a term of four years.

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

14 Section 1 – COMPOSITION

15 The legislative power of the City of St. Louis shall be subject to the limitations of this  
16 Charter, be vested in a Board of Aldermen consisting of a President, elected as such by general  
17 ticket from the City at large, and twenty-eight members, one from each ward, to be elected only  
18 by the qualified voters of the ward he or she is a candidate to represent, and to be know as Alderman  
19 from the ward which he or she is elected. Provided, that Aldermen heretofore elected shall remain  
20 in office until the end of the terms for which they were, respectively elected, and provided further

1 that in case of a vacancy, the Alderman elected to fill such vacancy shall be chosen by the qualified  
2 voters of the ward from which he or she is elected.

3 **Section 2 – QUALIFICATIONS AND SALARY**

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

11 **SECTION THREE.** All sections of the forgoing proposed amendment are hereby declared  
12 to be independent sections and parts of sections. It is hereby declared to the be the controlling  
13 legislative intent that if any section or part of a section, or the application thereof to any person or  
14 circumstance is held invalid for any reason, then the remaining sections and parts of sections shall  
15 not be affected thereby, and is hereby declared that this amendment would have been passed  
16 independently of such section or parts of a section so held to be invalid.

17 **SECTION FOUR.**

18 A. The forgoing proposed amendment to the Charter of the City of St. Louis shall be submitted  
19 to the qualified voters of the City at the August 2, 2022, election at which this proposal may be  
20 lawfully submitted, and if said proposed amendment shall receive in its favor the number of votes  
21 required by law, such amendment shall be adopted and become a part of the Charter of the City of  
22 St. Louis from the date of said election or such other date as prescribed in said amendment.

1 Qualified voters of the City of St. Louis may at the election aforesaid vote a ballot in substantially  
2 the following form:

3 OFFICIAL BALLOT

4 CHARTER AMENDMENT

5 (Board of Aldermen Ward Reduction Amendment)

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

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

11 YES [ ] NO [ ]

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

14 **SECTION FIVE.** The Board of Election Commissioners shall provide the ballots or voting  
15 machines or both, and conduct the election and shall ascertain and certify the result thereof  
16 according to the law. If voting machines are used, the aforesaid 'OFFICIAL BALLOT' shall be  
17 placed or posted on the said voting machines wherever said machines are used under the direction  
18 of the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of St. Louis and according to law.

19 **SECTION SIX.** Upon the approval of this ordinance, it shall be published in the City  
20 Journal, the official publication of the City of St. Louis, Missouri. Proof of the publication of this  
21 ordinance shall be made by affidavit of the City Register, and such affidavit shall be filed in the  
22 office of the City Register and a copy of such publication shall be attached thereto.

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

**BOARD BILL NUMBER 38**  
**City Charter Sections Repealed**

**CHARTER ARTICLE I – INCORPORATION**

Section 3 - WARDS

Until December 31, 2021 the city is hereby divided into 28 wards, bounded and numbered as the wards of the city now are; Beginning January 1, 2022, and thereafter, the city shall be divided into 14 wards, which ward boundaries shall be based upon the 2020 decennial census of the United States of America, and each decennial census thereafter, and corrected ward boundaries shall be established by ordinance which shall comprise as nearly as practicable, compact and contiguous territory within straight lines, and contain as nearly as may be the same number of inhabitants; such ordinance shall be adopted before the end of the calendar year next succeeding the year the census is taken, with an effective date of the first day of the subsequent calendar year.

**CHARTER ARTICLE II - ELECTIONS**

Section 3 - ALDERMEN

At the general city election in 1915 one alderman from each odd-numbered ward shall be elected for a term of two years, and at the same election, and every four years thereafter, one alderman from each even-numbered ward, and a president of the board of aldermen, shall be elected, each for a term of four years; however, the aldermen from each odd-numbered ward, shall be elected at the general city election in 2021 shall be elected for a term of two years; the aldermen from each odd-numbered ward, shall be elected at the general city election in 2023 shall be elected for a term of two years; the aldermen from each odd-numbered ward, shall be elected at the general city election in 2025, and every four years thereafter, shall be elected for a term of four years. At the general city election in 2023, and every four years thereafter, one alderman from each even-

numbered ward and a president of the board of aldermen shall be elected, each for a term of four years.

## **CHARTER ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

### **Section 1 - COMPOSITION**

The legislative power of the City of St. Louis shall, subject to the limitations of this charter, be vested in a board of aldermen consisting of a president, and twenty-eight members before the first day of the annual general session of the board of aldermen in April, 2023, and of a president, elected as such by general ticket from the city at large, and fourteen (14) members thereafter, one from each ward, to be elected only by the qualified voters of the ward he or she is a candidate to represent, and to be known as alderman or alderwoman from the ward from which elected. Provided, that aldermen heretofore elected shall remain in office until the end of the terms for which they were, respectively, elected, and provided further that in case of a vacancy, the alderman or alderwoman elected to fill such a vacancy shall be chosen by the qualified voters of the ward from which he or she is elected.

### **Section 2 – QUALIFICATIONS AND SALARY**

No person shall become an alderman except a voter at least twenty-five years of age, and who shall have been next before his or her election five years a citizen of the United States, three years a resident of the city, two years an assessed taxpayer of the city, and one year a resident of the ward from which elected, nor who shall have been convicted of malfeasance in office, bribery, or other corrupt practice or crime; and if any alderman shall be so convicted or shall at any time not be a resident of such ward, the alderman shall thereby forfeit the office. However, in the event that an alderman ceases to reside within the ward to which he or she was elected due solely to redistricting of the wards pursuant to Article I, Section 3 of this Charter, said alderman shall not



immediately forfeit office, but shall remain in office with all attendant powers and duties during the remainder of said alderman's then-existing term of office, and until qualification of the alderman of the redistricted ward elected at the next succeeding general city election. The salary of each alderman shall be as established by ordinance.