

Summary
Board Bill Number 160
Introduced by Alderwoman Sharon Tyus
January 14, 2022

This Board Bill provides partisan and non-partisan elections, for the filing date of certain Offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen and Aldermen, to the forth Monday in October and ending on the first Monday in December, moving the Municipal Primary Election to the first Tuesday in February, to create a Runoff Municipal Primary Election on the first Tuesday in March.

It allows the top two candidates in each of the partisan primary elections, in which there are three or more candidates and no candidate received over 50 percent of the total vote in the partisan election to then compete in a Runoff Municipal Primary Election to be held 4 weeks after the Municipal Primary Election, and providing in elections which there are only two candidates in the partisan elections for the offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen and Aldermen, that the candidate that receives the highest amount of votes shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the Municipal General Election on the first Tuesday in April to compete against any other winners of the other partisan elections and any Non-Partisan Candidate that files the proper petition.

BOARD BILL NUMBER 160 INTRODUCED BY: ALDERWOMAN SHARON TYUS / PRESIDENT LEWIS REED/ ALDERWOMAN DWINDERLIN EVANS/ ALDERMAN JOSEPH VACARRO/ ALDERWOMAN MARLENE DAVIS/ ALDERWOMAN PAMELA BOYD/ ALDERMAN JEFFREY BOYD/ ALDERWOAM LISA MIDDLEBROOK/ ALDERMAN JOHN COLLINS-MUHAMMAD

1 An Ordinances providing partisan and non-partisan elections, for the filing date of certain
2 Offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen and Aldermen, to the forth
3 Monday in October and ending on the first Monday in December, moving the Municipal
4 Primary Election to the first Tuesday in February, to create a Runoff Municipal Primary Election
5 on the first Tuesday in March, that allows the top two candidates in each of the partisan primary
6 elections, in which there are three or more candidates and no candidate received over 50 percent
7 of the total vote in the partisan election to then compete in a Runoff Municipal Primary Election
8 to be held 4 weeks after the Municipal Primary Election, and providing in elections which there
9 are only two candidates in the partisan elections for the offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President
10 of the Board of Aldermen and Aldermen, that the candidate that receives the highest amount of
11 votes shall be declared the winner and shall advance to the Municipal General Election on the
12 first Tuesday in April to compete against any other winners of the other partisan elections and
13 any Non-Partisan Candidate that files the proper petition.

14 WHEREAS, it is critical to representative democracy to ensure that winning candidates in city
15 elections have broad support from voters across St. Louis City and it is also critical to have a fair
16 and democratic process for candidates to obtain broad support from voters across St. Louis City.

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

1 **FILING DATE OF FOR CERTAIN OFFICES.** The filing date for Offices of Mayor,
2 Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen and Aldermen shall begin on the forth Monday
3 in October and end on the first Monday in December.

4 **PARTISIAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
5 contrary, the elections for the offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of
6 Aldermen, and Alderman shall be conducted as partisan and non-partisan elections and in certain
7 cases provide for a top-two runoff elections.

8 **DATE OF MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION.** Providing for a Municipal Primary
9 Election to be held on the first Tuesday in February.

10 **CREATING A MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION RUNOFF DATE.** A Municipal
11 Primary Election Runoff is authorized to be held on the on the first Tuesday in March.

12 **PROCEDURE FOR A MUNICIPAL PRIMRY ELECTION.** Allows the top two candidates
13 in each of the Municipal Primary Elections held on the first Tuesday in February, in which there
14 are three or more candidates and no candidate received over 50 percent of the total vote in the
15 partisan election to then compete in a Runoff Municipal Primary Election to be held 4 weeks
16 after the Municipal Primary Election, and providing in elections which there are only two
17 candidates in the partisan elections for the offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board
18 of Aldermen and Aldermen, that the candidate that receives the highest amount of votes shall be
19 declared the winner and shall advance to the Municipal General Election on the first Tuesday in

1 April to compete against any other winners of the other partisan elections and any non-partisan
2 Candidate that files the proper petition.

3 **CONDUCT OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to
4 the contrary, in the primary election for the offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the
5 Board of Aldermen, and Aldermen, voters shall select a single candidates for each office. If no
6 candidate receives greater than 50 percent of the vote, then the two candidates receiving the most
7 votes for each partisan election for said office shall advance to the Runoff Municipal Primary
8 Election on the first Tuesday in March and the winner of the each partisan election for said office
9 in the Runoff Municipal Primary Election along with all Independent non-partisan candidates
10 shall advance to the general election. The candidate for each office receiving the most votes in
11 the general election shall be declared the winner.

12 **BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.** Notwithstanding any other
13 provision of law to the contrary, for the primary partisan municipal election for the offices of
14 Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen, and Alderman, the instructions on the
15 ballot for each office shall state, "VOTE FOR A SINGLE CANDIDATES NAME ONLY" being
16 written in uppercase.

17 **VACANCIES.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the election to fill a
18 vacancy in the offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen, or Alderman
19 shall be conducted as a partisan, primary election with the top-two winners in each partisan
20 election advancing to the Runoff Municipal Primary Election on the first Tuesday in March and

1 the top winner in each partisan election along with all Independent candidates shall advance to
2 the partisan General Election on the first Tuesday in April.

3 **SEVERABILITY CLAUSE** The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of
4 this ordinance is declared invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the ordinance
5 which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

6 **EMERGENCY CLAUSE.** This being an ordinance for the immediate reservation of public
7 peace, health and safety, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of
8 Sections 19 and Section 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis and therefore this
9 ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.