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.
An Ordinance providing 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, that 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.

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

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

FILING DATE OF FOR CERTAIN OFFICES. The filing date for Offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen and Aldermen shall begin on the forth Monday in October and end on the first Monday in December.
PARTISAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the elections for the offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen, and Alderman shall be conducted as partisan and non-partisan elections and in certain cases provide for a top-two runoff elections.

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

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

PROCEDURE FOR A MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION. Allows the top two candidates in each of the Municipal Primary Elections held on the first Tuesday in February, 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.

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

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

VACANCIES. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the election to fill a
vacancy in the offices of Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Aldermen, or Alderman
shall be conducted as a partisan, primary election with the top-two winners in each partisan
election advancing to the Runoff Municipal Primary Election on the first Tuesday in March and
the top winner in each partisan election along with all Independent candidates shall advance to
the partisan General Election on the first Tuesday in April.

SEVERABILITY CLAUSE  The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of
this ordinance is declared invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the ordinance
which can be given effect without the invalid provision.
EMERGENCY CLAUSE. This being an ordinance for the immediate reservation of public peace, health and safety, it is hereby declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and Section 20 of Article IV of the Charter of the City of St. Louis and therefore this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.