

RESOLUTION No. 164
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION D

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2018, voters across the state of Missouri will be asked to vote to increase the motor fuel (gas) tax by voting yes on Proposition D; and

WHEREAS, Proposition D, would initially increase Missouri's motor fuel tax by 2.5 cents per gallon, costing the average driver an additional \$1.28 per month, and in four years, when the tax is fully phased in at 10 cents per gallon, the cost to the average driver will be \$5.10 per month; and

WHEREAS, currently, Missouri has the second lowest motor fuel tax rate of all fifty states, with the State's current rate coming in at one-third of the national average; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's motor fuel tax was set as flat tax of 17 cents per gallon in 1996, nearly twenty-three years ago, and has not seen an increase since that time, and as a result has fallen well behind the rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, it is noted that Missouri has the seventh most miles of roads to maintain of any state but is ranked forty-seventh in funding transportation infrastructure, and its road and bridge infrastructure is in desperate need of repair, 12.5% of the State's 10,400 bridges are structurally deficient, as opposed to the national average of 8.9%, and nearly 900 bridges are rated as being in poor condition, and nearly 80% of the State's highway lanes are more than twenty-five years old while their life expectancy is only twenty years; and

WHEREAS, decades of underfunding have left Missouri and its municipalities an inadequate, inefficient, and potentially dangerous transportation network, and such neglect is holding back the economy of the State and the City of St. Louis, endangering driver and pedestrian safety because of the ongoing deterioration of already structurally deficient roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, the gasoline tax proposed by Proposition D is expected to generate \$288 million annually, thirty-percent of which is destined for Missouri's municipalities to use for local road and bridge maintenance and improvements, and it is estimated that \$5.5 million dollars of those funds will be allocated to the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the funds generated by Proposition D will have a significant benefit to the safety and efficiency of Missouri's and the City of St. Louis' roads and bridges, which are arteries of the State's and City's economy; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the motor fuel tax is the fairest way to fund transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvements because it is the people – including the trucking industry and out-of-state drivers travelling through the state – who pay it; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen recognizes and seeks to emphasize through this resolution the significant benefits that the

passage of Proposition D will have for the City of St. Louis, and therefore urges the voters of this City to learn more about these benefits and their importance to the economy and safety of the City, and that they exercise their privilege and vote on November 6th, 2018.

Introduced this 26th day of October 2018, by:

The Honorable Cara Spencer, Alderwoman 18th Ward

Adopted this 26th day of October 2018, as attested by: