

ORDINANCE #69431
Board Bill No. 295
Committee Substitute
As Amended

An Ordinance repealing Section One, part 86.040 of Ordinance 56716, pertaining to the opening of bids, codified as Section 5.58.040 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis, and enacting a new provision on the same subject matter which allows a local bidder to match the lowest bid when the lowest bid is from a non-local bidder; enacting a new provision on the same subject matter; containing severability clause.

WHEREAS, local businesses which seek to enter into contracts with the City of St. Louis are at a competitive disadvantage with businesses from other areas because of the higher administrative costs of doing business in the City;

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis desires to encourage businesses to remain in the City and to relocate to the City;

WHEREAS, by enacting a local preference law that allows a local firm to match the lowest bid when its bid is within 2% percent of the lowest bid, the City hopes to encourage and stimulate local business.

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

SECTION ONE. Section One, part 86.040, Ordinance 56716 is hereby repealed.

SECTION TWO. Enacted in lieu thereof is the following new section.

5.58.040 - Opening of bids.

A. Proposals shall be opened at the time and place fixed by the advertisement, in the presence of such bidders as desire to be present, and shall be open to the inspection of bidders.

B. The bids shall not be materially modified or amended as to price, specification or otherwise, nor substitutions placed thereon, after opening except when the lowest bid is from a non-local bidder. When the lowest bid is from a non-local bidder, any local bidder within two percent of the lowest bid may match the lowest bid. If a local bidder matches the lowest bid, then the Supply Commissioner may select the bid from the local bidder. If more than one local bidder is within two percent of the lowest bid, then only the lowest local bidder may match the bid. In all other circumstances, modification, supplementation or amendment shall cause rejection of the bid. For purposes of this chapter, local bidder means a bidder whose principal place of business is within the City of St. Louis, has had a valid business license for at least one year, and is current in payment of local taxes. Principal place of business shall be defined as the business's physical office, plant, or site where a majority (51%) of the full-time employees, chief officer, and managers of the business regularly work and conduct business, or where the plant or office and equipment required for the furnishing of the goods or performance of the services provided to the City, as required by the contract, are physically located in the City of St. Louis for at least one taxable year immediately prior to the date of the bid.

C. Bids may be for one or more or all the articles advertised for, but there shall be a specific bid on each article. The award may be made to the lowest bidder for any article, or to the lowest bidder for the entire requisition or any part thereof, but the Board of Standardization may reject any or all bids or any part of any bid.

SECTION THREE. Severability.

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.

Approved: April 29, 2013