

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 6
OPPOSING UNIFICATION OF
THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AND ST. LOUIS COUNTY
VIA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, the proposed unification of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County to form a new form of government, now referred to as a “Metropolitan City” via constitutional amendment will disenfranchise and subvert the authority of the voters in the City and County by submitting a purely local matter to a state-wide vote; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen promotes the goals of economic development, public safety, and efficient use of tax dollars in local government and believes that such decisions in furtherance of those goals must be made directly by the voters of those localities or through their elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen believe, as did President Thomas Jefferson, that “The government closest to the people serves the people best,” and believes that local government is the foundation of American democracy, designed specifically to be accountable, available, and answerable to the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen believe that the right to vote is fundamental to the citizens of our nation, and the right to vote on purely local interests is fundamental to the citizens of those specific localities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen maintain that, when matters pertain solely to the interests of the citizens of a specific local governmental entity, the will of those citizens should not be subjugated to the will of the many who do not necessarily share those specific, common interests; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen have concerns regarding the proposal to unify the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County into a new form of government, currently referred to as a “Metropolitan City,” through an amendment to the Missouri Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen have concerns that the process currently proposed for such action would entail a state-wide referendum to decide matters concerning only the citizens of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen note that a process currently exists under the Missouri Constitution which allows the voters of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County, independently, to approve and effectuate a substantial portion of the changes necessary to complete the merger proposed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen contend that this process outlined in Article VI, Sections 30(a)-30(b) of the Missouri Constitution (more commonly known as the “Board of Freeholders” process which the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis is currently collecting signature petitions for) grants the citizens of these political subdivisions the

opportunity to petition the local governments for the changes desired and to approve these changes by a referendum of local voters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that:

1. The Board of Aldermen hereby oppose unification of the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County into a new form of government by means that would not allow the citizens of those political subdivisions to vote on their fate independently first, as it would disenfranchise local voters by submitting a purely local matter to a state-wide referendum; subjugate the will of the voters in those political subdivisions to the will of the many; and raise potential issues under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.
2. The Board of Aldermen recommend that, to the extent possible, any process to unify the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County first be achieved by local petition, proposal, and popular vote through a “Board of Freeholders” process pursuant to Article VI, Sections 30(a)-30(b) of the Missouri Constitution, so that the local voters directly affected by such unification may have their say before being subject to the vote of the entire state.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor of the City of St. Louis, the St. Louis County Executive, Members of the St. Louis County Council and the Governor of the State of Missouri.

**Introduced on this, the 26th day of April, 2019, by:
The Honorable John Collins – Muhammad, Alderman 21st Ward
Adopted this 26th day of April, 2019, as attested by:**

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen