

City-County Merger Informational Meeting

Impact
on Ellisville

March
2019



Disclaimer...

This presentation was originally prepared based upon the Better Together Report issued on January 25, 2019 and based on the ballot language submitted to the Secretary of State by Better Together on January 25, 2019. The initiative petition language was withdrawn on Friday, February 8th by Better Together and was re-submitted on February 13th and withdrawn again on March 22nd and re-submitted on March 26th incorporating various changes.

And the Freeholders Initiative Petition issued by the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis, on February 14, 2019.

This presentation represents a general summary of the Better Together city-county merger proposal and the Freeholders Initiative Petition proposal as interpreted by city staff. The information is intended to provide a fair and objective presentation of the facts regarding the Better Together petition, as the City is prohibited from using public resources to support or oppose any ballot measure.

What is “Better Together”?

Better Together is a task force which has recently proposed a dramatic change to the government structure of St. Louis City and St. Louis County, along with all of the municipalities in the County.

The proposal calls for a Statewide Vote on a Constitutional Amendment in November 2020.

- Creates a new class of city – “A Metropolitan City”
- Merge St. Louis City & St. Louis County as a Metropolitan City
- Cities in St. Louis County (like Ellisville) to become “Municipal Districts” of the Metropolitan City

If Passed in November 2020, Effective Date is January 1, 2021.

- Transition period of two years to full implementation in January 2023
- First elections for Metropolitan City Council in November 2022, and take office January 2023
- First elections for Metro Mayor, Prosecutor and Assessor in November 2022, and take office January 2023

Metro City of St. Louis

The proposal is to change the Missouri State Constitution by combining St. Louis City, County and all municipalities into one government called Metro St. Louis.

- All existing cities (including Ellisville) to become Municipal Districts
- Partisan Elections for all positions in Metropolitan City
- Metropolitan City headed by elected Mayor (4 year term – 2023-2026)
- Metropolitan City Council Composed of 33 elected Councilmen by districts (2&4 year terms – 2023-24 for half and 2023-26 for other half)
- Prosecutor and Assessor independently elected at large
- During the transition – St. Louis County officials are Interim Mayor, Prosecutor & Assessor; Mayor of St. Louis to be “Transitional Mayor” who jointly with the Interim Mayor (County Executive) shall constitute “the chief executive officer of the metropolitan city”



November 2020



In order to change the Missouri Constitution to allow such a merger, Better Together is pushing for a state-wide vote in November of next year.

This would mean that every Missourian would have a vote on changing the governmental structure in St. Louis County and City, instead of just those citizens who live here.

Municipalities Become Municipal Districts



- A municipality shall continue its corporate existence as a “municipal district”
- “Municipal Districts” will be severely restricted in service responsibilities (Fire-EMS, Parks & Rec, and Enterprise Funds – Utilities, Trash, etc.)
- Governing body of existing municipalities at time of adoption of plan (January 2021 to be governing body of municipal districts in office on January 2021 to remain in office until April 2023) (Municipal Elections in 2021 and 2022 are cancelled)
- Budgets for municipal districts to be submitted annually for review and approval of Metro City. Transitional budgets for 2021 and 2022 same as 2019 budget
- Taxes proposed for municipal districts to be submitted for approval of Metro Council prior to submittal to voters

Municipalities Become Municipal Districts

- The boundaries of the “municipal district” may not be altered or changed except as provided by ordinance of the Metro City. Following the transition period, a municipal district may merge or consolidate with another municipal district or may be dissolved as authorized by ordinance of the Metro City
- The governing body shall serve as the Plan Commission (Zoning Authority is assigned to Metro City) and Board of adjustment for Metro City
- The governing body of a municipal district may not adopt ordinances inconsistent with the ordinances of Metro City



Metro City Provides General City Services

- “General City Service” shall mean ANY duty, service or function of the Metro City, a county or a city, now or in the future assigned by law, charter or ordinance of the Metropolitan City including:
 - Public Health, Safety and General Welfare;
 - Police, law enforcement and municipal courts;
 - Licensing, taxation and regulation of businesses, occupations professions, activities and things;
 - Transportation, infrastructure and public works;
 - Economic Development
- Metro City also responsible for all traditional St. Louis County functions
- Metro City to provide municipal district functions in areas that are not within municipal districts



Municipal Districts Provide Municipal District Services



- “Municipal District Service” shall mean any duty, service or function of the municipality immediately prior to the effective date of this section or in the future assigned to the municipal district by law, charter or ordinance of the Metro City and which is not otherwise a “general district service” provided or secured by the Metro City within the territory of the municipal district, including without limitation:
 - Fire, EMS and related services;
 - Parks & Recreation;
 - Proprietary and Enterprise Functions of the municipality (Trash, Utilities);
 - Administration of the Municipal District
- “Municipal Districts” to remain financially responsible only for outstanding obligations including debt & pension liabilities
- Metro City MAY assume obligations of municipal districts and STL Municipal Corporation
- Metro City to provide municipal district services in areas not otherwise included in municipal district

Special Districts Excluded from Metro City



- “Special District” shall mean, excluding school districts, any political subdivision, municipal corporation, body corporate and politic, taxing district, taxing sub-district, public corporation or quasi-public corporation, other than a municipality
- Examples – School District, Special School District, Junior College District, MSD, County Library District, Zoo-Museum District, Transportation Development Districts, Community Improvement Districts...



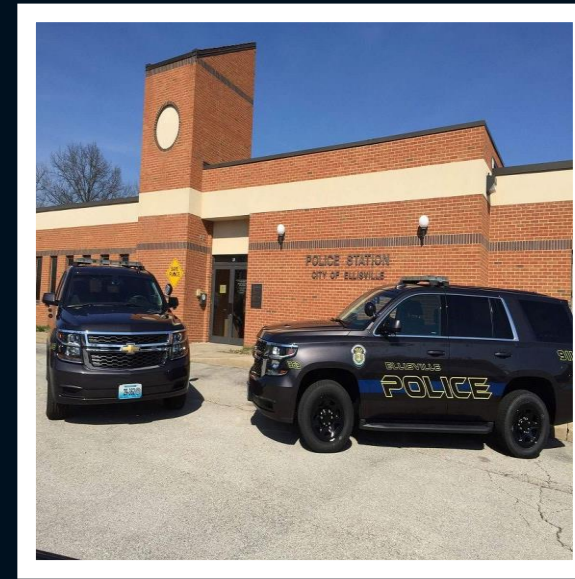
How does this affect us?

Residents of Ellisville would be significantly affected by this change.
We would lose local control and decision making that impacts our quality of life.
We would lose local access and accountability.



How does this affect us?

St. Louis, St. Louis County and all municipal police services would be combined into one mega police department. There would be no Ellisville Police Department; our own local police officers may not be available to take and respond to your calls for assistance.



How does this affect us?

All municipal streets, sidewalks and bridges would become the property and responsibility of the new Metro government. There would be no Ellisville Public Works Department; our own local public work employees may not be there to plow your streets, fill pot holes, or take your calls for service.



How does this affect us?

All municipal courts would be combined into one unit. The two circuit court districts servicing over St. Louis City and County would also be combined. There would be no Ellisville municipal courts; our own local court clerks may not be there to service your needs.



How does this affect us?

Local control over planning and zoning would cease. The New Metro City would be in charge of our planning and zoning. All permits and inspections would also be controlled by the Metro government.



As Residents We Will Be Asked To Decide, Is “Better Together” better for Ellisville?

Under the Better Together's proposed plan, municipalities would be left with their parks system, trash service and limited planning functions.



Financing of Services



- General City Services of the Metropolitan City to be funded primarily from sales taxes
- Municipal District Services to be funded primarily from property taxes
- Each municipal district is a sub-district of the Metro City and the Metro City can, with voter approval in the municipal district, levy different taxes within the municipal district to increase the level of general district services in the municipal district

Property to be Transferred to Metro City

- Property, contracts, records and personnel of municipal district relating to provision of a general district service shall be transferred to the Metro City
- What is included in the term “property”? Land, buildings, equipment? We do not know.

- Property encumbered by debt is not transferred until the debt is retired



Ellisville and other Municipal Revenues Redirected to Metro City are...



- Sales and Use Taxes previously approved by Municipal Voters the municipality to remain in effect BUT REDIRECTED to Metro City
- Taxes shared with “Cities”, such as, County Road & Bridge Refund, Cigarette Tax; State Gasoline, Motor Vehicle, and Motor Vehicle Fees
- Municipal Court Revenues
- Revenues from Business Licenses
- Revenues from Land Use Regulations
- Building Permit and Inspection Fees
- In addition, earnings taxes in the City of St. Louis to be redirected to Metro City, but will be phased out over 10 years

Sales Taxes*

Sales Tax (currently received in Ellisville)	2019 Ellisville Budget
1.25% General Sales Tax	\$2,800,000
0.50% Park & Stormwater Sales Tax	\$1,500,000
0.50% Capital Improvement Sales Tax	\$1,270,000
0.25% Prop P Sales Tax	\$490,000
Total	\$6,060,000

* Estimate based on proposed Constitutional Amendment and Ellisville 2019 Budget

Sales Tax Distribution

- All sales taxes levied by municipalities will continue as levied but shall be taxes paid to the METRO CITY
- The Metro City SHALL pass thru to the municipal district those sales taxes dedicated to outstanding obligations (debt) of the municipal district
- The Metro City MAY pass thru to the municipal district remaining sales tax revenues necessary for providing municipal district services
- Any remaining sales tax revenues MAY be used by the Metro City to finance general district services in the Metro City



Other Revenues Redirected*

Revenue Source	Amount in 2019 Budget
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$1,046,779
Licenses and Permits	\$708,900
Municipal Court	\$71,400
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$210,000
Total	\$2,037,079

* Estimate based on proposed Constitutional Amendment and Ellisville 2019 Budget

Ellisville's options to make up for Budget Shortfalls



- CUTS in GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COSTS
- CUTS in PARKS, RECREATION, and ARTS SERVICES
- ELIMINATE CITY PAYMENT FOR TRASH SERVICES
(Approx. \$180 per home)
- INCREASES IN PROPERTY TAXES, LICENSES AND FEES (with voter approval)

Ellisville District

Remaining Revenue Sources Under Better Together for Ellisville	Current Rates Levied by Ellisville	Additional Revenue Available to Ellisville
Real Estate Tax*	\$0.1410	\$340,000
Sewer Lateral Fee	\$28	\$94,000
Utility Taxes	7.00%	\$1,780,000
Park Revenue		\$338,100
Total		\$2,552,100

* Based on \$100 per assessed value

Ellisville District

Expenses for Remaining Operations Under Better Together for Ellisville		Estimated Reduced Expenditures **
Solid Waste & Recycling		\$650,000
Local Zoning		\$231,000
Sewer Lateral Program		\$156,000
Park Maintenance & etc.		\$941,000
Park & Recreation Programs		\$1,701,000
Total		\$3,679,000

Annual (Deficit)

(\$1,126,900)

Deficit of approximately 45%.

Board of Freeholders Plan



The Municipal League of Metropolitan St. Louis has started a petition drive of its own, using the existing State Constitution to create a Board of Freeholders.

- This petition is believed by the Municipal League to be an alternative approach to the state-wide vote process in that it:
 - allows residents of St. Louis City and County only, reviewing and voting on the governmental structure of St. Louis City and County
 - is already established in Article VI of the Missouri Constitution
 - if signatures from this petition are certified, the Mayor of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis County Executive have 10 days to each appoint nine eligible members to the Board and the Governor appoints one member (19 total members)

Board of Freeholders Plan

- The City and County members must be approved by the Board of Aldermen and the County Council, respectively
- The 19-member board is required to hold their first public meeting 30 days after the members are approved
- The board can take up to 12 months to develop a plan
- If the plan is approved by a majority of Freeholder members, the plan becomes available to the public for at least 90 days before a special election can take place.



Board of Freeholders Plan



The Municipal League of Metropolitan St. Louis' goals are...

- to conduct a transparent and deliberative exchange regarding the governmental structure and potential reforms involving the City and County
- to utilize this process using citizen input and affirmative methods to address the need for change in our region

What can I do?

1. Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors
2. Get informed
3. Sign a petition (whichever you choose)
4. Talk to your elected officials; local, state and federal



What can I do?



If you have comments or concerns, contact your elected officials

Elected Officials:

~~Steve Stenger – County Executive – 314.615.7016 – [sstenger@stlouisco.com](mailto:ssstenger@stlouisco.com)~~

Mark Harder – County Councilman – 314.615.5443 – mharder@stlouisco.com

Tim Fitch – County Councilman – 314.615.5438 – tfitch@stlouisco.com

Andrew Koenig – State Senator – 573.751.5568 – Andrew.Koenig@senate.mo.gov

Ann Wagner – U.S. Congresswomen – 636.779.5449 – wagner@house.gov

THANK YOU!



City of
Ellisville

Phone
636.227.9660

Website
www.Ellisville.MO.US