

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

Whereas, the Missouri Constitution outlines a process for the residents of St. Louis City and St. Louis County to vote on their governmental structure through the establishment of a Board of Freeholders by petition or appointment by the County Executive, Mayor of St. Louis, and Governor of Missouri; and

Whereas, some Missourians may seek a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to bypass the voters of St. Louis City and St. Louis County; and

Whereas, a statewide vote on such an important matter of local government structure would set a precedent that could lead to subsequent statewide votes mandating the consolidation of counties, school districts, and other political subdivisions throughout Missouri, against the wishes of voters in those political subdivisions; and

Whereas, in 1962, the voters of Missouri overwhelmingly rejected, by a vote of 74% to 26%, a constitutional amendment to merge the governments of St. Louis and St. Louis County; and

Whereas, the appropriate way for those wishing to change the structure of St. Louis City and County government is to convince the voters of St. Louis City and County of the benefits of such changes, not to convince voters elsewhere in Missouri; and

Whereas, the St. Louis County Council, which governs the largest county in the state of Missouri with nearly one million residents, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, which governs the second-largest city in the state of Missouri with over 315,000 residents, should have a major voice in all discussions of St. Louis regional governance; and

Whereas, the governing bodies of all municipalities in St. Louis County should also have significant involvement in any such discussions to advance the best interests of their residents; and

Whereas, the St. Louis County Council and 57 of the 89 municipalities in St. Louis County have passed resolutions opposing a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment to change the structure of St. Louis City and County government:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby oppose any statewide vote or legislative mandate on governmental reorganization regarding the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County and the municipalities therein; and

Be It Further Resolved that the General Assembly does not take a position on whether St. Louis City and St. Louis County should consolidate or should otherwise change their government structure; and

Be It Further Resolved that the General Assembly supports the people of St. Louis City and St. Louis County having a productive discussion about the reorganization and/or consolidation of their governments and improving their regional governance however they best see fit.

Resolution

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