

**REFORM
ST. LOUIS**



Together, we can reform St. Louis.

A PROJECT OF SHOW ME INTEGRITY & LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METRO ST. LOUIS



What we'll cover

1. The Problem
2. Our Coalition
3. The Policy
4. The Plan to Win
5. How to get involved
6. Questions and Comments



The Problem



Conflicts of Interest

Currently, laws in St. Louis do not prohibit Alderpersons from engaging in conflicts of interest that are outlawed in other cities. From the ability to draw their own ward lines to not requiring recusal in situations of conflicts of interest, Alderpersons are not required to work in the interest of the people.

Unaccountable Leaders

We have seen in recent weeks the need to fix the Board of Aldermen. Whether it's going against the will of voters, or ignoring widespread calls for change, the time has come for structural reform. We need leaders who are accountable to the people - and we need a structure to hold them to account.

Divided Communities

As a result of Alderpersons drawing their own ward lines, many communities are divided and split up based on the political will of the Alderperson. Alders can draw lines to ensure re-election - which often breaks apart communities throughout our city. We can - and must - do better.



Our Coalition

Over the past few months, we've formed a broad and diverse coalition of reformers, and we are prepared to launch our campaign to reform St. Louis.

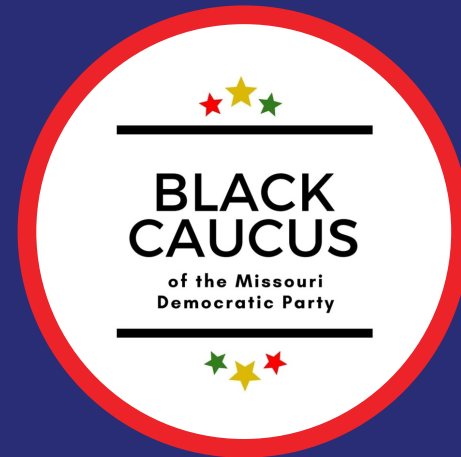
Members Include:

Jami Cox, Policy Committee Chair
LaShana Lewis, Organizing Committee Chair
Anne Sappington, Fundraising Committee Chair
Kathleen Farrell, Messaging Committee Chair
Theodore Floros, FOCUS STL Impact Fellow
Torrey Park, Nonprofit Consultant
Sophie Aroesty, Community Volunteer
Joan Hubbard, Community Volunteer
Wally Siewert, former UMSL Professor
Alderdwoman Christine Ingrassia
Benjamin Singer, Executive Director
Show Me Integrity
Taylor Jackson, Director of Campaigns
Jada Peten, Organizer
Alan Zagier, FOCUS STL Impact Fellow
Anthony Atencio, FOCUS STL Impact Fellow
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Ruth Ehresman, Women's Voices Raised
Max Carp, WashU College Democrats
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Missouri Healthcare for All
League of Women Voters of Metro STL
Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



League of Women
Voters of Metro
STL



Black Caucus of the
Missouri Democratic
Party



Missouri Faith
Voices



Women's Voices
Raised for Social
Justice



Missouri Health Care
for All



St. Louis Association of
Community Organizations
(SLACO)



Nahuel Fefer,
Community Advocate



Rabbi Susan Talve



Rev. Darryl Gray
Civil Rights Leader



Alderwoman
Christine Ingrassia



Yinka Faleti
former Secretary of
State candidate



St. Louis Young
Democrats



Gena Gunn McClendon, PhD
Voting Rights Advocate



LaShana Lewis
CEO of L.M. Lewis
Consulting



JP Johnson
Community Organizer



Jami Cox
Co-Host of the
BlackTea Podcast



Wally Siewert
former UMSL Political
Theory Professor



JAMI COX
Policy Committee Chair
Co-Host of the BlackTea Podcast &
Schwarzman Scholar



ANNE SAPPINGTON
Fundraising Committee Chair
League of Women Voters of Metro
St. Louis Board Member



KATHLEEN FARRELL
Messaging Committee Chair
St. Louis City Unit Leader at League
of Women Voters



LASHANA LEWIS
Organizing Committee Chair
CEO of L. M. Lewis Consulting



TAYLOR JACKSON
Director of Campaigns at
Show Me Integrity



JADA PETEN
Campaign Organizer
St. Louis Organizer & Activist



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THE POLICY

The Charter Amendment

✓ Independent People's Redistricting Commission

The Commission will consist of nine members who meet eligibility criteria, and will be selected by five Oversight Committee Members. This would give the power to draw ward boundary maps to an equitably selected independent citizens commission, who would be required to hold public hearings and keep neighborhoods and communities together

This proposal helps give voters the ability to hold leaders accountable when they fail to act in the public interest.

✓ Conflict of Interest Reforms

Did you know that alderpersons are not required to recuse themselves when they have conflicts of interest? This is unlike other cities' policies.

Our proposal includes (1) prohibiting lobbyists, aldermen & others with conflicts of interest from serving on the independent commission, and (2) prohibiting aldermen from taking actions on policies where they have a personal or financial conflict of interest related to the legislation being considered

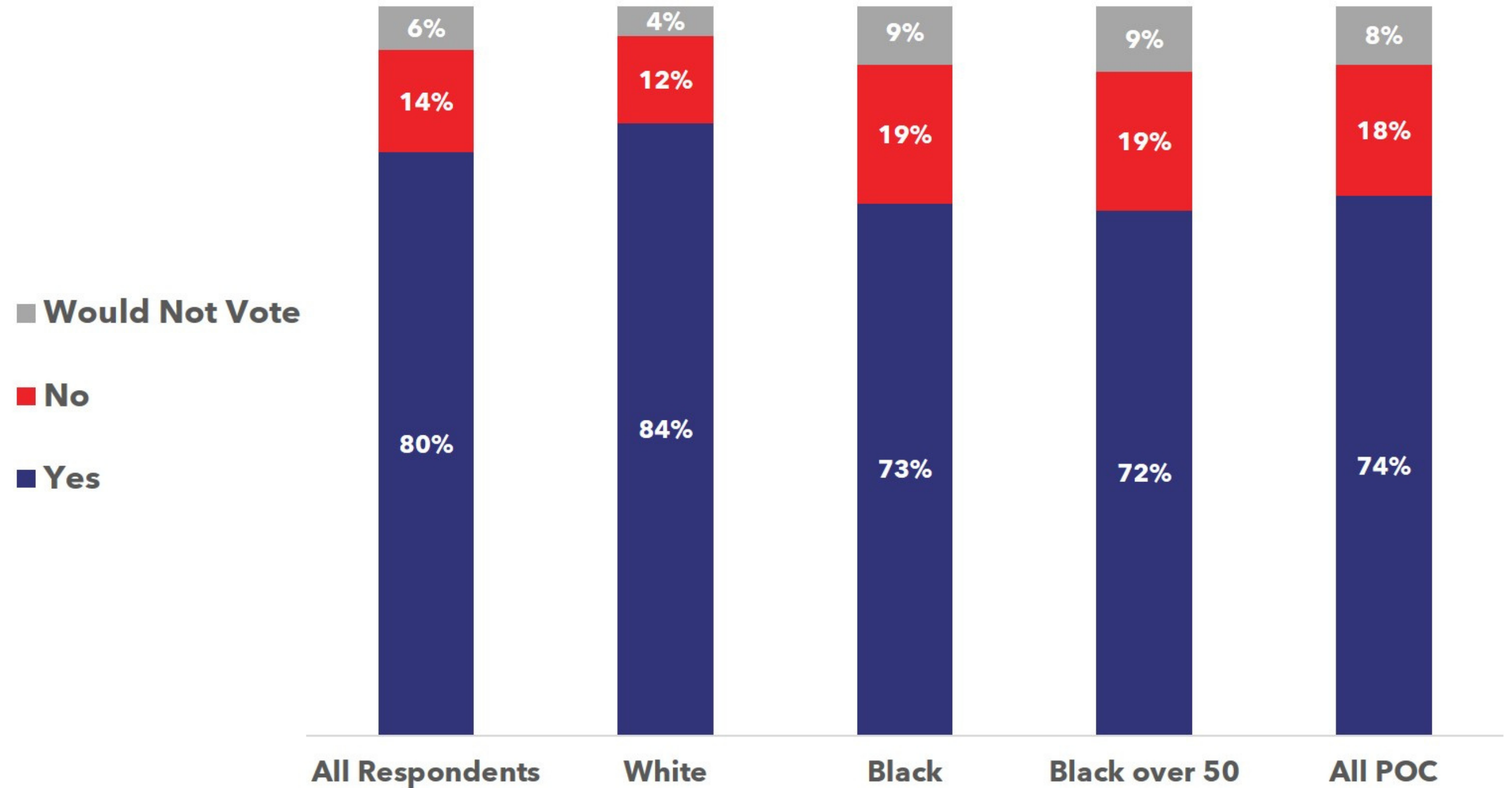
✓ Transparency at Board

Our proposal also includes language around transparency and accountability. The policy would require that Aldermen's financial disclosure statements be posted online and open to the public without having to request them.

This ensures the public can hold Aldermen accountable for potential conflict of interests, and ensure equitable decisions are made at the Board of Aldermen.

Shall the City of St. Louis do all three: create an Independent Redistricting Commission, require online disclosure statements, and require recusal in situations of conflicts of interest?

80% of respondents would vote yes making all three of these changes, if they voted today on the policy.



BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall Article IV of the City of St. Louis Charter be amended to:

- Prohibit Alderpersons from taking actions on policies where they have a personal or financial conflict of interest;
- Require that Alderpersons' financial disclosure statements be open to the public;
- Have ward boundary maps drawn by an independent citizens commission, which shall have a diverse group of members, hold public hearings, and draw maps that keep neighborhoods and communities together;
- Prohibit lobbyists, Alderpersons, and others with conflicts of interest from serving on the independent citizens commission; and
- Protect the rights of voters by prohibiting the Board of Alderpersons from overturning the will of the people on voting methods for municipal offices without a public vote?

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

- The Commission shall consist of nine members that represents the demographic makeup of the City or a committee that is diverse with regard to race, ethnicity, gender identity, ability, and more.
- The application period shall remain open until at least 50 applications are received including at least one applicant from each ward.
- An Oversight Committee composed of five people - 1 representative from Planning & Urban Design, and 3 retired judges & 1 rep from the Comptroller's office - will select four commission members at random.
- At least two of the four drawn members must identify as a member of a traditionally under represented group as described previously.
- These four members will then select the final five members

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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- Certain requirements must be met for the ward map that is drawn by the Commission:
 - Wards shall be composed of contiguous territory.
 - **Wards shall be designed to minimize the division of and maintain the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest**
 - Wards shall be designed to be compact in form
 - Wards shall be designed using geographically identifiable boundaries
 - Once a plan is made, there shall be at **least three public hearings, held in north, south, and central St. Louis City**, on different dates to receive public comments on the preliminary plan.



NEXT STEPS

PROGRESS & OUR PLAN

We launched our exploratory campaign on Feb 1 with the goal of raising \$100,000 by March 1. We're proud to have exceeded this goal with a swell of community support.

We began signature gathering operations at the March 2 municipal elections, and had nearly 200 people around St. Louis collecting signatures that day. We are over halfway to our monthly goal - at just a week in!

Our goal is to raise \$300,000, recruit volunteers for April to collect signatures, and get this on the ballot for a November special election.

Get Involved

✓ Sign up to volunteer

We need folks collecting signatures all throughout St. Louis between now & June. We're collecting every weekend, at the April 6 election, and other times that work for you.

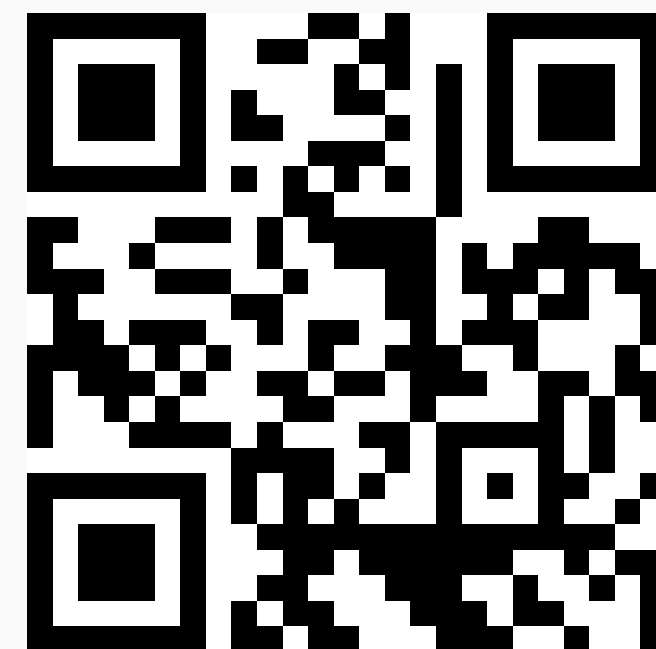
Link here: bit.ly/getinvolvedreformstl



✓ Donate to our campaign

We'll need to raise \$300,000 to see this campaign through November. We've already raised over \$100,000 - our first big goal - but we can't stop the momentum now.

Donate here: bit.ly/reformstlgive





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Questions? Comments?

Email Dir. of Campaigns Taylor Jackson at
taylor@showmeintegrity.org
or visit reformstlouis.org