



2023

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

VOTER GUIDE

WARD 1

MARCH 7TH, APRIL 4TH ELECTION DAY



Important Dates



Register to vote by 02/08



Request a mail in absentee ballot by 2/22



Vote absentee in person by 03/06

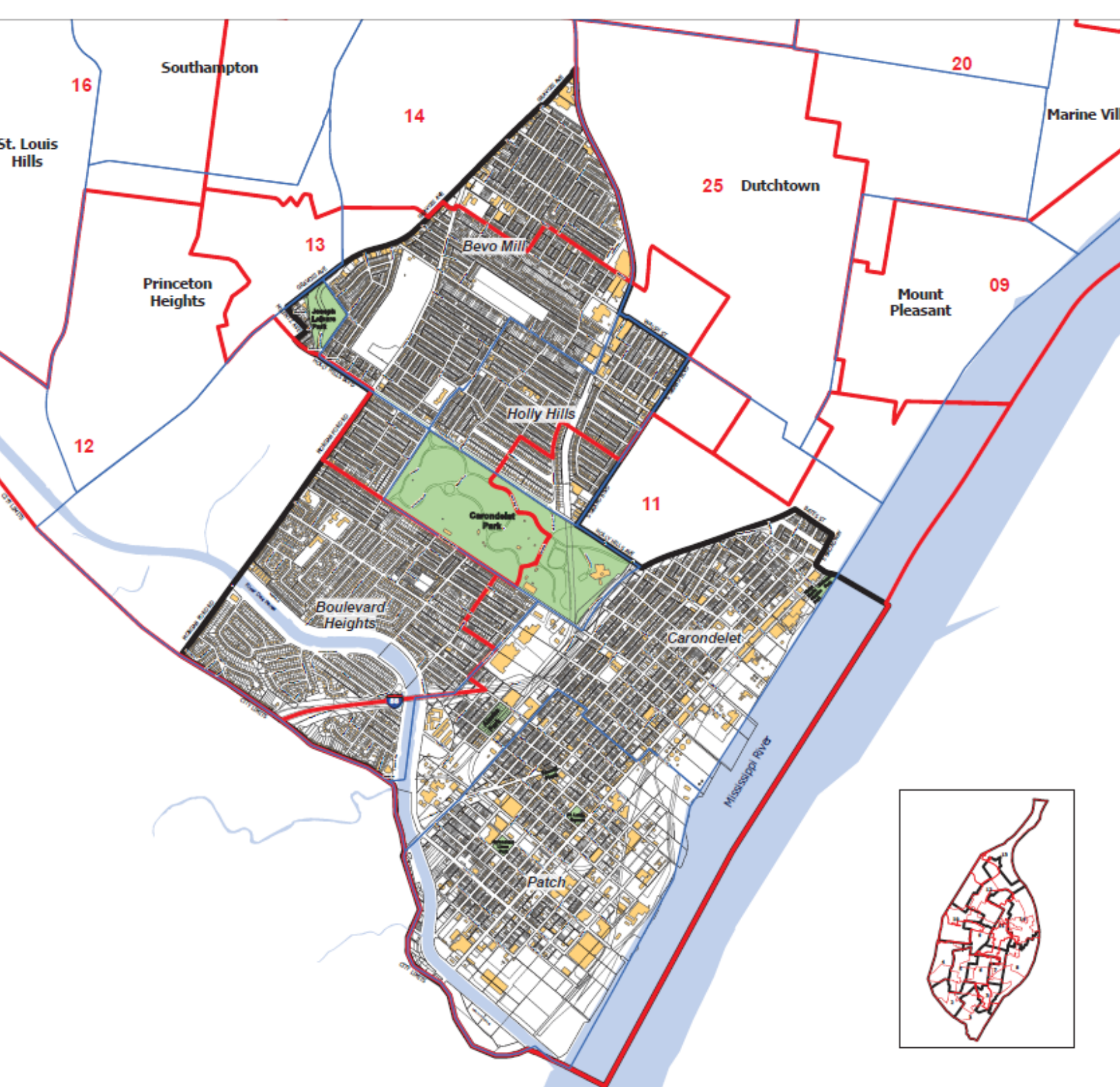


March 7th, April 4th ELECTION DAY

Role of the BOA

The Board of Aldermen is the legislative body of the City of St. Louis and creates, passes, and amends local laws, as well as approves the City's budget every year. There are now fourteen aldermen, after ward reduction, one from each ward in the City and a Board of Aldermen President.

**All candidates running for the Board of Alderman were sent these questions.
Answers are copied verbatim without any editing.**



Legend

- WARD 1 (Adopted on 12/27/2021)
- WARDS 2011
- NEIGHBORHOODS
- BLOCKS
- PARCELS
- BUILDING (Color from 2012)
- PARKS

WARD 1

Adopted on 12/27/2021

City of St. Louis - Planning & Urban Design Agency


PLANNING & URBAN DESIGN AGENCY
Under the Planning and Urban Design Agency for the City of St. Louis, under the authority of the City of St. Louis Charter, Chapter 10, Article 10, Section 10-100. The preparation of this map was financed in part through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Community Development Administration under the provision of Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383 42 USC 5301 et seq.)
Map Printed July 2022 by J&J MAPS, LLC, 2100 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103

Voting Locations

Polls open from 6am-7pm

YOU CAN VOTE AT ANY LOCATION.

MARCH 7TH, APRIL 4TH ELECTION DAY

Buder Library

4401 Hampton Ave

Central Library

1303 Olive St

Friendly Temple Missionary Church

5544 Dr. MLK Dr

Hamilton Elementary School

5819 West Minster Pl

Missouri School For The Blind

3867 Magnolia Ave

Nance Elementary School

8959 Riverview Blvd

Newstead M. B. Church

725 Bellerive Blvd

Our Lady of Sorrows Church

5020 Rhodes Ave

Salvation Army Temple Corps

2740 Arsenal St

Schlafly Library

225 N. Euclid Ave

Woodward Elementary School

725 Bellerive Blvd

Voter ID Requirements

Show one of the forms of acceptable identification and sign the poll book to obtain your ballot:

- A nonexpired Missouri driver or non-driver license;
- A nonexpired military ID, including a veteran's ID card;
- A nonexpired United States passport; or
- Another photo ID issued by the United States or the state of Missouri which is either not expired or expired after the date of the most recent general election.

Ward 1 Candidates



Anne Schweitzer



Matthew Kotraba



Tony Kirchner

All candidates running for the Board of Alderman were sent these questions.
Answers are copied verbatim without any editing.

Question 1

Please provide a 250-word introduction explaining why you feel that voters in your ward should elect you as their representation to the Board of Aldermen.

Alder Anne Schweitzer

With your support, I was elected to represent the current 13th Ward in 2021, winning both the preliminary and runoff elections handily.

I am now running for election in new Ward 1, which includes parts of the current 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Wards in southwest St. Louis. I am the only incumbent alderperson seeking this position.

The Ward is 61.53% White; 19.81% African American; 8.15% Hispanic; 5.2% Asian; 0.57% American Indian. There is no problem facing that entire city that is also not a challenge in some neighborhood in the Ward.

Having done the job for two years, I have gained the experience to help constituents navigate city services, learned the intricacies of working with city departments and city officials, and have shown up to almost every neighborhood meeting and community event in the new 1st Ward since the lines were drawn.

I have strong relationships within the City administration and with the leadership of the Board of Aldermen.

I have enough experience in the office to help ease the transition, while having the energy of a newcomer and the openness to trying things differently than they've been done in the past. It's been an honor to serve, and I hope to be able to continue.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 2

What do you believe to be the most important role(s) of an Alderperson?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

My most important role as an alderperson is representing my constituents at City Hall.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 3

What is your plan for maximizing community participation around legislative processes in order to make things more accessible and transparent in St. Louis?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

I communicate with constituents constantly, with a regular newsletter and through social media. I attend every gathering of residents I am aware of. I share my mobile number and email address – and I actually return calls and answer emails. I support participatory budgeting.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 4

TIF: Although TIFs and other sorts of tax incentives and credits are intended to be used to spur development in blighted areas, in St. Louis they are overwhelmingly used in wealthier areas. What should be done differently (please be specific)?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

The City has made good deals with developers in the past and bad deals. Mostly bad deals, until recently.

I support the efforts of the Mayor's Office to overhaul this process as well as legislation introduced at the Board of Aldermen to change the parameters around tax incentives and other subsidies.

First, we need to prioritize education and getting the needed resources to our schools. The St. Louis Public School District should be held harmless in every deal made with a developer. Second, every commercial project assisted by the City should clearly spell out the obligation to pay a prevailing wage to those working on the project and the opportunity for those subsequently employed by the project to organize.

Third, every major project assisted by the City should have a Community Benefit Agreement as a condition of public involvement.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 5

What role do you believe that Alderpersons should play in education in the City of St. Louis?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

As a City, we need to make every decision in government by thinking about how it will affect kids, schools, and the future of our city. We need to pressure the state to provide more funding to schools and work in partnership with the schools every day, not just when there is a crisis. As a Board of Aldermen, we need tax incentive reform so that public schools are getting every tax dollar possible. We need to continue to support a moratorium on new schools until capacity and demand are better matched up. As an Alderwoman, I've spent time in every school in my ward.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 6

How would you more effectively address intra community violence and harm in the city of St. Louis, and more specifically in your ward?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

I support the efforts of the Dutchtown Coalition for Youth and Cure Violence in resolving conflict and providing positive outlets for young people in our community. I support STL Youth Jobs and efforts in the city to match the right response with each problem, instead of a one-size-fits-all approach. In my ward, I am working with neighborhood groups and Legal Services of Eastern Missouri to address issues of vacancy that can lead to negative outcomes for neighbors. I believe that poverty is the father of crime, so forwarding affordable housing efforts, addressing food deserts, providing quality education, transit, and job opportunities that come with a \$15 minimum wage and fair working conditions, keeping our parks clean, building up local business sectors, planting trees and keeping up vacant houses until they can be filled with a family... all of those things build a community with less aptitude for violence

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 7

One of the first bills proposed in this upcoming State legislative session included returning local control of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department back to the state of Missouri. What is your stance on local control and pre-emptive attacks on local policy?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

Decades of state control didn't "fix" the crime problems. Local control has brought us closer, allowing the City administration to implement policies (a reform of secondary employment, stronger civilian oversight, body cameras, an outside chief, supervision by a Public Safety Director, fixing 911, sending the best responders to answer calls) that a state-controlled Department mostly managed to avoid doing.

I don't believe the state should be deciding how issues are handled locally, but I do believe the state should recognize that the St. Louis region is the economic engine of the state and that more resources are needed to keep it so. I believe the best thing that the state can do to address issues of crime is support schools and put in place common sense gun legislation.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 8

In what ways should the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department be more accountable to the residents of this city? How would you ensure that SLMPD achieves those standards of accountability?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

I supported the recent legislation strengthening the Citizen Review Board and process in the city. I also believe that communication is a big piece of building trust, and it feels like everyone in city government is pointing fingers at each other for dropping the ball when every department is dealing with a similar lack of resources and staff.

I believe in the importance of crisis intervention training, and more training in general, that will allow for a better prepared department. Sometimes, the best person to show up when there is an issue is not a person with a gun. I support the work of the Opioid Task Force and other intervention programs like Cure Violence (though not only Cure Violence) that find other ways to keep our community safe without officer involvement.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 9

With the passage of BB 116, we will see the beginnings of a Universal Basic Income program for residents of the city. The current program outlines that you have to be a city resident, have a child(ren) under the age of 18 enrolled in the public school district, and not exceed 170% of the Federal Poverty Level. How do you feel about this Universal Basic Income? If you support UBI, how would you seek to expand this program to include those that don't fall under these current requirements? (I.E. Homeless, those city residents who chose to enroll students into city charter schools, etc.)

Alder Anne Schweitzer

I supported the ARPA expenditure for this program because I believe that having money is the only real way to alleviate poverty. Although I have talked to some people who have various reservations about the philosophy of the program itself, I do not generally share them. My concern for UBI, as for every City project, is in the details of its implementation. If this program goes well, I would consider any expansion of UBI that the City can afford and responsibly administer.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 10

What concrete steps will you take to alleviate homelessness in the City of St. Louis?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

I believe that a permanent roof for everyone without one should be the City's first priority in providing homeless services. Homelessness in St Louis is a classic mismatch of need and opportunity. We have a significant and largely unserved population of unhoused individuals and families – and a significant stock of actual vacant houses. It is only the City's decision to spend money on other things, many of them useful but less urgent, that prevents us from matching them up. I am actively supporting the work of Peter and Paul Community Services to build a new shelter in the new 1st ward and work with affordable housing nonprofits to identify projects in my ward.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 11

How do you plan to fund needed infrastructure improvements in the city, particularly in areas impacted by flooding?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

Right now, the city has unprecedented funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act, through Build Back Better, and through the Rams and opioid settlements, Infrastructure improvements, and within the hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure that the courts have required MSD to set aside must be central in budgeting these funds.

In the 13th ward, there is an area that floods most of the time that there are heavy rains. I've worked with residents to get in touch with MSD to make sure they are able to receive the money they are due from issues caused by system failures, as well as put pressure on MSD to better prepare the infrastructure in that area for these occurrences. I'm also working with residents to consider rain gardens on their properties.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 12

What are some of your biggest priorities for ARPA spending?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

Infrastructure improvements must be central in budgeting these funds. I also believe as much of the money as possible should be used to recruit and retain public employees so that services can be delivered and the City can be competitive in the job market. Addressing poverty, climate change, traffic violence, services to seniors and youth, and other issues that were put on the back burner while addressing immediate COVID concerns are also important. \$500m is a lot of money, and it makes sense to spend it in transformative ways, not just in one way.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 13

One of the greatest factors around increasing economic mobility in the region is through increasing public transit access. How do you plan to make public transit more accessible across the city?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

Public transit should be accessible, safe, frequent, useful – and free to its riders. Every development project with public funding in it should include a CBA, and every CBA should include support for public transit. I support MetroLink expansion, particularly in the North/South alignment long championed by the Mayor. I worked to restart the sidewalk program in the city, which had stalled. I am communicating with utilities and the Streets Department about how contracts work between the two and what efforts take place to make sure all work is done well, fits into a timeline of improvements that don't waste money, and that utilities are helping to maintain and repair streets after work is done. A large-scale effort of this kind happened in Kansas City, and my goal is to move those discussions forward in St. Louis. I am open to discussions about how ward capital is allocated (if need is added a criteria, I believe the new 1st Ward would actually receive more than it currently does), and I believe that federal funds need to be invested in infrastructure improvements. I agree that a citywide plan for these improvements is necessary, but it can't hold up needed work that has already experienced years of delay.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 14

Issues of environmental racism affect many families in St Louis. How do you plan to address issues such as lead poisoning, food apartheid, illegal dumping, and air quality that leads to higher rates of asthma?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

Racism is a public health crisis. COVID-19 exposed so many of our failings as a society, but the biggest exposure is the disparity between cases and death in the Black and white populations in St. Louis. Our Health Department needs to be focused on addressing these disparities at every turn and I will support programs and funding to do so. I volunteer with Feed the People Garden Project in the 13th ward which grows and donates food to those who need it.

I support the efforts of community gardens to bring people closer to their food and therefore more resilient while also cleaning up neighborhoods and the soil. I support the lead abatement program in the St. Louis City health department. I support prosecuting those who dump illegally in our city and also organize cleanups in the neighborhoods of my ward. I co-founded the Young Friends of Forest ReLeaf which is an organization that plants trees in St. Louis. I will stand with a community when a corporation pollutes their neighborhood.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 15

How will you use your position on the Board of Alderman to increase access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care including but not limited to abortion care, pregnancy, and postpartum support?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

I am outspoken on my belief that abortion is healthcare. I don't shy away from the issue. I supported the ARPA allocation of \$1.75m of funding to the Reproductive Equity Fund which provides access to abortion through logistical support including but not limited to the funding of childcare, transportation, and other logistical support needs.

I also supported the Resolution declaring the city as a sexual and reproductive healthcare safe zone, ensuring the people's rights to that freedom. I regularly participate in discussions with the City Health Department and the county health department about how to support their work providing crucial health services.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 16

With more than 25% of renters in the city of St. Louis being rent-burdened, what is your plan to expand access to affordable housing and advocate for renter protections throughout the city?

Alder Anne Schweitzer

I support a tenant's bill of rights and right to counsel. I work with St. Joseph Housing Initiative in my ward to identify vacant properties that have potential to become affordable homes.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 17

Do you support the demand for a citywide reparations process? Please explain your position.

Alder Anne Schweitzer

Yes. It is time for St. Louis to commit to addressing the significant harms caused by generations of racist policies and practices. I am interested to learn the recommendations of the Mayor's special committee.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 18

What is your position on privatization as it relates to city assets? Please explain your position.

Alder Anne Schweitzer

I am against privatization of City assets by sale or long-term lease without a public vote, and then I'd likely vote no.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.

Question 19

What is your position on city/county reunification? Please explain your position.

Alder Anne Schweitzer

The City and St. Louis county need to find ways to work together in the areas of public safety, public health, education, transportation, tourism/hospitality, homeless services, and economic development. I am glad that the St. Louis County Executive and the Mayor get along well and are committed to working together. Unification could not take place without a public vote.

Matthew Kotraba and Tony Kirchner

Did not respond.