



**2023**

# **BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**VOTER GUIDE**

**WARD 11**

**MARCH 7TH, APRIL 4TH ELECTION DAY**



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## **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**

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## **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 11 2021
- WARDS 2011
- NEIGHBORHOODS
- BLOCKS
- PARCELS
- BUILDING FOOTPRINTS
- PARKS

# WARD 11

Adopted on 12/27/2021

City of St. Louis - Planning & Urban Design Agency

# Voting Locations

Polls open from 6am-7pm

**YOU CAN VOTE AT ANY LOCATION.**

**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 11 Candidates



**Laura Keys**



**Carla Wright**

# 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.

## Carla Wright

I am blessed to own my home for more than 20 years in the same community that I love and was raised in and has been a part of for more than 50 yrs. For decades in many ways, we have been overlooked, underserved and ignored. I have spent my entire life advocating for decent, affordable housing, providing comfort to the homeless, managing child daycare centers that allowed mothers to re-enter the workforce and take care of their families, helping recovering addicts to turn their lives around, counseling those who lost the will to live, instilling hope in them and heightening community awareness about the crisis of missing persons.

I have tried to take the pulse of the community, asking residents what they want and need then seeking to translate that into fair and equitable policies. If I am honored to be elected as the ninth ward alderperson I will listen to the people and help craft legislation to address their concerns about crime, economic opportunities and overall quality of life.

My history with the New 11th ward is not only growing up but being raised. My mind overflows with a flood of childhood memories visiting Fairgrounds Park with my siblings, cousins and grandfather. The bittersweet feeling in remembering the last day of seeing many of my friends from Ashland Elementary School as we stood and smiled for our eighth-grade graduation picture. Thinking of my first day at Beaumont high school and the excitement that I felt with selected to join the PomPom Squad. I am an alumnus of Harriss-Stowe State University.

I have experienced being a provider of social services and a recipient. I have advocated for city residents here in St. Louis, Missouri's capital Jefferson City and in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital fighting for the people, fighting for justice standing on the right side of history. By becoming an alderperson I will gain the ability to vote on and write legislation to make changes that the people want and that will improve the 11th Ward. I want to focus on closing the wealth gap, eliminating crime and more attention on mental health care, and services needed.

My work experience includes being a top producer with American National Life Insurance where I was a member of the President's Club. I am certified by the state of Missouri as a director of child daycare facilities with an unlimited number of children (99 or more). I have owned and operated a COVID testing business that served thousands of city residents..

## Laura Keys

Did not respond.

## Question 2

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

### Carla Wright

The most important role of an alderperson is to represent the will of the people they serve by crafting and participating in legislation that is in the best interest of city residents and enhances the overall quality of life in the city.

### Laura Keys

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?

### Carla Wright

I will regularly involve the community, seeking their input by surveys, in-person and zoom ward meetings, talking to local businesspersons, visiting community associations, block units, churches and schools.

### Laura Keys

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)?

### Carla Wright

When TIFS are considered they should distributed fairly and approved by the community that is impacted by the TIF. When these special taxing districts are formed, residents in the boundaries of the TIF should be represented in the governance of the TIF so they can have a say in the policies and operation of the TIF.

### Laura Keys

Did not respond.

## Question 5

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

### Carla Wright

To advocate for the schools and the educational programs that are desired by the community. And to work closely with the community, school board and the superintendent to achieve agreed upon goals and objectives that adequately prepare students to cope with the future challenges awaiting them as they take their place in society.

### Laura Keys

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?

### Carla Wright

Implement programs that protect the residents as well as programs and training that provides alternatives to criminal activity, creating jobs and opportunities to establish businesses.

### Laura Keys

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?

### Carla Wright

Continuing to maintain local control would allow the residents through their elected officials to have closer oversight and say so over the policies, procedures and operations of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. We should continue to resist efforts on the state level to interfere with and undermine the authority the city has related to its control of the police department.

### Laura Keys

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?**

### **Carla Wright**

The Board of Aldermen through the public safety committee can exercise oversight of the police department, compel the chief of police and the public safety director to report to the aldermanic committee and participate in hearings and craft legislation that directly addresses professional standards to which the police hierarchy must adhere.

### **Laura Keys**

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.)**

### **Carla Wright**

I support UBI and in my opinion it should be extended to our unhoused and high-risk individuals, seniors, disabled and low-income homeowners.

### **Laura Keys**

Did not respond.

## Question 10

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

### Carla Wright

I support building more tiny houses, providing mandatory training and completion of life skills programs; employment referrals and mental health care access.

### Laura Keys

Did not respond.

## Question 11

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

### Carla Wright

Utilize a portion of the American Rescue Plan Monies allocated to the city by the federal government.

### Laura Keys

Did not respond.

## Question 12

What are some of your biggest priorities for ARPA spending?

### Carla Wright

Economic development, expanding light rail, affordable housing, fixing roads and bridges, crime prevention, create more jobs and businesses, improve the school system, provide more mental health care services.

### Laura Keys

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?

### Carla Wright

I plan to make public transit more accessible across the city by supporting efforts by the greenway efforts to connect all of the metrolink stations and working with Metro to add more routes and increase the number of bus shelters and frequency of trips throughout the system.

### Laura Keys

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?

### Carla Wright

Ban synthetic chemical-based herbicides and pesticides, encourage the use of natural herbicide and pest control solutions; continue to work closely with environmental groups to advocate for environmentally friendly policies that enhance public health and limit exposure to harmful pollutants.

### Laura Keys

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?

### Carla Wright

I would be in favor of women's choice and any health care necessary for their safety. I will advocate for more age-appropriate sex education programs and information available to schools and community groups.

### Laura Keys

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?

### Carla Wright

I will introduce legislative proposals to allow residents to vote on establishing rent control and encourage home ownership opportunities for all.

### Laura Keys

Did not respond.

## Question 17

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

### Carla Wright

Yes, I support the demand for reparations. The city of St. Louis benefitted in its origins from participation in the enslavement economy. Slave labor contributed to the development of agriculture, barge traffic, construction of buildings, trade and finance.

### Laura Keys

Did not respond.

## Question 18

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

### Carla Wright

I am against privatization. It removes oversight and control of the residents over city services and hands it over to private companies more concerned with profit than service.

### Laura Keys

Did not respond.

# Question 19

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

## **Carla Wright**

I am against the two merging. I don't think that is a good fit at this time. The plan put forth by Better Together actually indicates the county would benefit more than the city from the merger. This lopsided result would not be in the interest of city residents.

## **Laura Keys**

Did not respond.