



2023

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

VOTER GUIDE

WARD 14



Important Dates



Register to vote by 02/08



Request a mail in absentee ballot by 2/22



Vote absentee in person by 03/06

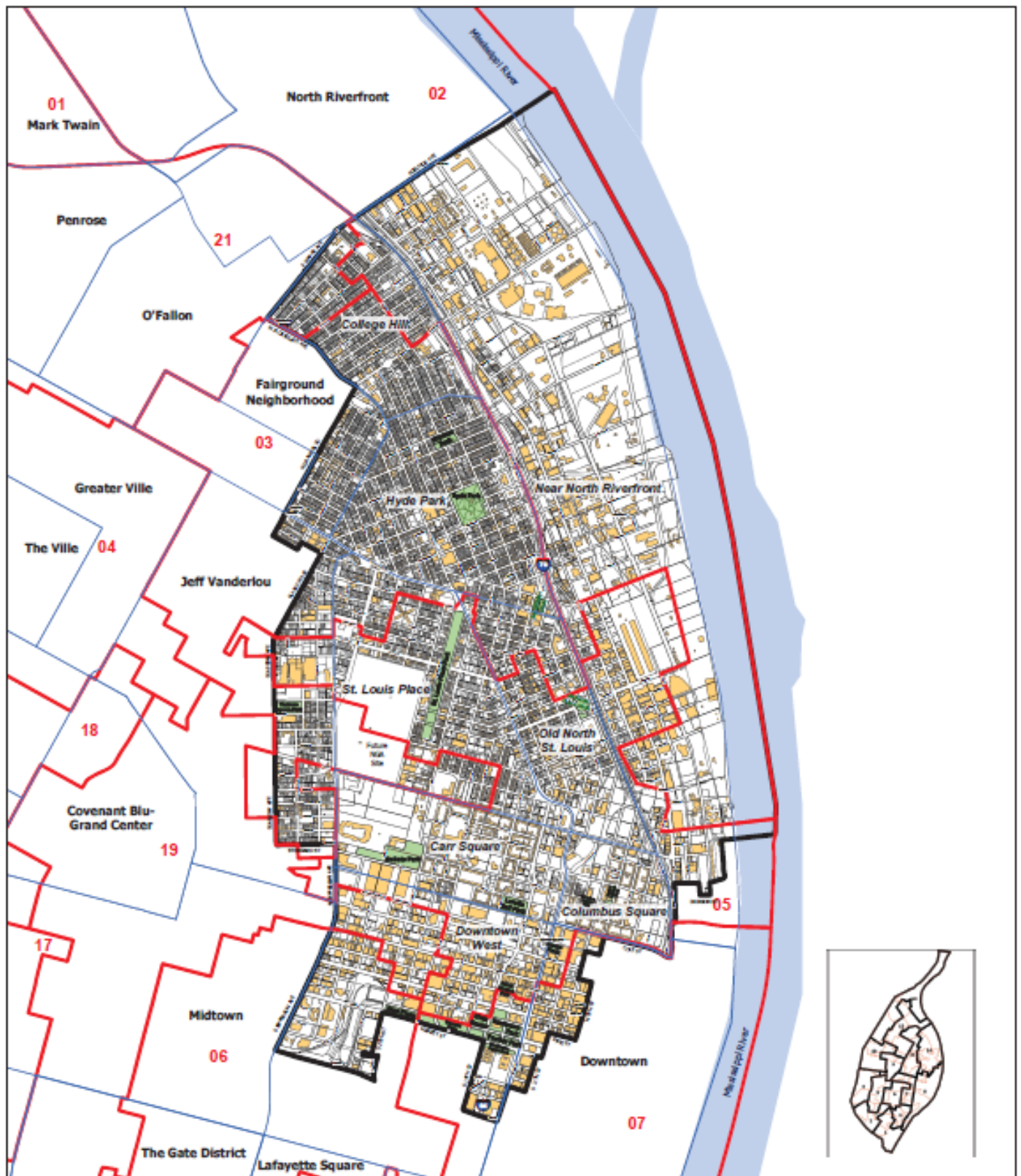


March 7th, April 4th ELECTION DAY








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 14 2021
-  WARDS 2011
-  NEIGHBORHOODS
-  BLOCKS
-  PARCELS
-  BUILDING FOOTPRINTS
-  PARKS

WARD 14

Adopted on 12/27/2021

City of St. Louis - Planning & Urban Design Agency

CITY OF ST. LOUIS
PLANNING

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1000 MARKET STREET, SUITE 1000
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102
PH: 314.488.2000
WWW.CITYOFSTLOUIS.GOV

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 14 Candidates



James Page



Rasheen Aldridge



Ebony Washington



Brandon Bosley

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.

Rasheen Aldridge

As a proud North St. Louis native and advocate, I am the best choice for Alderman because I have firsthand knowledge of the problems facing our city – as well as how challenging it is to implement change. I led the fight for a \$15 minimum wage, served on the Ferguson Commission, and became the youngest African American Committeeman in city history. Since 2019, I have represented District 78 in Jefferson City.

These experiences will be an asset in representing the people of the 14th Ward. I understand that the issues facing Ward 14 are unique and require specific solutions. As a progressive, I will work to address the lack of affordable housing and job opportunities, and improve access to quality education in our community. I will also fight for policies that address racial and social justice, and ensure that marginalized communities in Ward 14 are not left behind. Furthermore, as a candidate who prioritizes equity, I will strive to ensure that all residents of Ward 14 have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Ebony Washington

I am Ebony Washington, candidate for the new 14th ward Alderwoman. I have been a lifelong resident of the ward and have been engaged with helping members of our neighborhood since middle school. I believe that I am qualified to represent the voters in my ward for the following reasons: I'm young educated progressive and I believe we need new ideas to move our neighborhood and our city forward. I am a lifelong resident of the old 5th ward and I have been an active member within our ward for many years, simply because I understand the plight of our neighbors.

I am an energetic single mother of Twin 14yr old boys and I'm deeply concerned about the issues that are important to everyday people and what the future will look like for our seniors as well as young people in our city. I also have an extensive background involved with helping those in need which more than qualifies me to represent you. Currently I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice as well as a Master's in Business Administration.

I am also a licensed Missouri Realtor and Life insurance agent. Throughout my tenure I've founded multiple organizations to educate minority communities about financial and economic literacy. I've also mentored at risk youth throughout our city and have extended my expertise tremendously to domestic violence programs, substance abuse programs, and the Heart-to-Heart organization to assist detained youth. My work history and life experience has made me a well-rounded progressive individual and I would be honored to serve you as your next Alderperson of the 14th ward.

My concerns are to work with other city leaders, stakeholders, and community driven projects to provide services for our seniors, enhance the quality of education for our children, and to make our neighborhoods safer, to enable a thriving, economically sound community for the betterment of our ward and city.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

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Question 2

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

Rasheen Aldridge

First and foremost, it is crucial for an Alderperson to ensure that city government is responsive to the needs of the residents. This means building relationships with the community and being an accessible resource for information and assistance. This could include holding regular office hours, town hall meetings, and being available to residents via phone and email.

But as vital as this role is, providing constituent services should be just the ground floor of an Alderperson's work. Our city is in need of transformative change, which requires elected leaders who will “think big” about the big issues facing St. Louis. As elected officials, I believe Alderpersons should also be more policy-driven and embrace their role as legislators. I plan to use my position and power to examine why certain needs aren’t being met, and then work to actively create, pass, and implement long-term policies that will create structural change and address the fundamental problems driving inequity in our city.

Ebony Washington

I believe the most important role of an Alderperson is to vote the interests of those they were elected to represent. Alderperson should have strong leadership skills, a deep understanding of the community and its needs, good communication skills, the ability to work well with others, and a commitment to making positive changes for the community. Additionally, a great alderperson should be honest, transparent, and accountable to their constituents.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

Question 3

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

Rasheen Aldridge

My campaign team utilizes both in-person and digital strategies to facilitate open communication with voters in St. Louis ahead of the election – and I’ll use those same tools once elected. Ward meetings focused on issues such as infrastructure development and housing zoning allow me to receive input and engage in open dialogue on policy matters directly affecting my community. Door-to-door canvassing has also allowed me to both personally connect with constituents and engage campaign volunteers in meaningful conversations around important legislative issues.

Digitally, my campaign's social media presence and email list allow me to maintain connections with the community beyond in-person events and provide updates on the progress of the campaign to a wider audience. These online platforms provide additional paths of

Tools such as these and more have been instrumental in how my campaign operates, and provide a great demonstration of how I will utilize them in office to ensure that residents feel educated about legislative processes and have ample opportunities to participate.

Furthermore, I will work to implement participatory budgeting, which allows community members to have a say in how ward capital is distributed, instead of just leaving it to the alderperson. This will empower residents to take an active role in shaping the future of their community, and increase transparency and accountability in the legislative process.

Ebony Washington

My plan for maximizing community participation around legislative processes to make things more transparent is to increase more engagement of residents by informing them of the parameters that are already in place, to let their voices be heard as well as where they can find information about what's happening in their community.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

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)?

Rasheen Aldridge

Tax incentives and credits in St. Louis have long been abused and disproportionately used in wealthier areas, rather than in areas that truly need it. A solution I hope to implement to ensure these incentives are being used for their intended purpose, is community benefit agreements, which would ensure that TIFs and other incentives are used in a way that benefits the community in the long term. By including community input and long-term community stake in development deals, TIFs can be used strategically to ensure that they are making a real difference in the lives of residents.

I will also work to put clawback provisions in place, to allow the city to recoup funds if a development does not fulfill its promises. This would prevent developers from receiving incentives if they are unable to deliver on their commitments to the community. Additionally, affordable housing measures should be included to ensure that any new development is accessible to all residents.

Currently, TIFs are being given away like candy to developers, without proper oversight and without consideration for the long-term benefits to the community. It is important that we change this and start being strategic about how we use TIFs and other incentives, so that they can truly make a difference in the lives of St. Louis residents, especially in the areas that need it the most.

Ebony Washington

We should take a look into how we are using TIFS throughout the entire city and we should revisit the ones we have to assure that projects are moving in the best interest of the community.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

Question 5

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

Rasheen Aldridge

As an Alderperson, I believe one of the most important roles we can play in education in St. Louis is that of a cheerleader and advocate for our institutions. This means working to change the way people look at our city and education, and putting funding in place to help increase the quality of education for our students.

By partnering with the public school foundation, extra funding can be put towards strengthening and building the infrastructure of public schools and schools in the St. Louis area. Additionally, collaborating with the elected school board to support their priorities is crucial in ensuring that our students have access to a high-quality education.

While the Board of Aldermen do not have direct oversight of the schools, we can play a critical role in delivering the resources that our schools need to succeed. This includes working to ensure that there are wraparound services available to uplift students through community centers and after-school programming.

Clarifying budget priorities will be crucial in achieving these goals. As an Alderman, I will advocate for education as a priority in the city's budget and ensure funding is allocated in a way that supports students and educators.

Ebony Washington

I believe that the board should assure that we are making decisions that are in the best interests of our students and that we should foster a better relationship with SLPS to see what the barriers are to quality education in our city schools.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

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?

Rasheen Aldridge

Addressing intra-community violence and harm in Ward 14 and the greater communities of St. Louis requires a multilevel approach that addresses the root causes of these issues. In many communities, including those in my ward, violence is a symptom of deeper issues such as long-term disinvestment, school closures, lack of quality jobs, and lack of access to quality healthcare and community resources. These are generational issues that cannot be solved through enforcement alone.

As an Alderman, I will work to spearhead legislation that personally invests in North St. Louis communities that have been disinvested for a long time. This includes working to bring quality jobs and economic development to the area, improving access to healthcare and community resources, and ensuring that children have access to safe and nurturing environments to grow and learn.

I will also work with the Urban League to create block captain programs that empower residents to take ownership of their neighborhoods and report issues that arise. This will not only give people a reason to care about their community, but it will also help to create a sense of community and shared responsibility for addressing violence and harm.

In addition, I will work to implement a comprehensive approach to solving violence that includes not just enforcement but also prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation. This includes investing in programs that provide job training, education, and mental health services for at-risk youth and adults.

Ebony Washington

We need to take a holistic approach to addressing crime in our neighborhoods. I believe that the police and community have to work together to address crime. We need to implement neighborhood watch, block captains, and efficient communication with police.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

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?

Rasheen Aldridge

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) must be more accountable to the residents of this city in order to build trust and promote community safety. A change I will encourage is to have police officers physically walk within the community rather than drive around. This will allow officers to foster relationships with residents, understand the specific concerns of the community, and develop a sense of trust and partnership.

Another important aspect of accountability is transparency. Information about the actions of the SLMPD should be easily accessible to the public, especially in cases of police shootings. This is a necessary step to build trust and understanding between the community and the police department.

To ensure that the SLMPD achieves these standards of accountability, I will work to give tools to the civilian oversight board and protect its independence. This includes providing the board with the resources and authority to effectively investigate and address complaints of police misconduct.

Furthermore, fostering a relationship between police officers and the community is crucial to ensuring accountability. This can be achieved through community policing initiatives, regular meetings between community leaders and police officials, and investing in community-based programs that promote positive interactions between residents and the police.

Ebony Washington

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James Page and Brandon Bosley

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?

Rasheen Aldridge

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Ebony Washington

The Police should be more accountable to the community by fostering better relationships and as a whole we all should be working together for the safety of our city. I would assure that there is more accountability by seeing what the true issues are and working together with the police and other city officials to address them.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

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.)

Rasheen Aldridge

I support the Universal Basic Income (UBI) program outlined in BB 116, as it is a step in the right direction towards helping St. Louis families get back on their feet. However, I believe this program is only a start and requires extensive expansions to cover residents who fall outside of the current requirements and are some of the groups who would benefit most from this type of support.

A swath of residents not currently included in the program is the homeless population. These individuals are among the most vulnerable in our city and should not be excluded from accessing the support provided by UBI. Additionally, there are families who send their students to non-public schools who are in poverty and would also benefit from this type of support.

To expand this program to include these groups of residents, I would propose to expand the eligibility requirements to all city residents regardless of location and where their children go to school. This would ensure that all residents have an equal opportunity to access the support provided by UBI. Additionally, I would seek to take other actions to improve people's lives, such as creating more affordable housing options, increasing access to quality education and healthcare, and addressing the negative impacts of automation on the job landscape. The influence of automation has dramatically shifted the job landscape and it is up to leaders to confront these consequences in the years to come.

Ebony Washington

We should revisit what happened before local control and what has happened since local control to see what would be in the best interest our city.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

Question 10

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

Rasheen Aldridge

As an Alderman, I will take a multifaceted approach to address homelessness in our communities. First and foremost, I will file a homeless bill of rights on both the state and local level. This bill will ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness are not criminalized or penalized for their housing status. This is a crucial step in addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing individuals with the resources and support they need to get back on their feet.

Next, I will work to expand the tiny homes program in our city. This program provides transitional housing and offers a step towards permanent housing solutions, rather than forcing individuals to move from shelter to shelter. By expanding this program and providing social workers in our communities, we can help people gain ownership over their tiny homes and offer a more stable living situation.

Our social service providers and community organizers are also doing crucial work to provide access to a wide range of services to support homeless individuals and families. I will lean on these community leaders and their existing efforts, and provide resources for job training, mental health and addiction counseling, as well as housing assistance programs.

Ebony Washington

The Police should be more accountable to the community by fostering better relationships and as a whole we all should be working together for the safety of our city. I would assure that there is more accountability by seeing what the true issues are and working together with the police and other city officials to address them.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

Question 11

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

Rasheen Aldridge

Funding infrastructure improvements, particularly in areas impacted by flooding, is a crucial step in ensuring the safety and well-being of residents in our city.

One of the primary sources of funding I will tap into is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. These funds are earmarked for infrastructure projects, and can be used to address issues such as flooding and potholes. Additionally, I will take advantage of programs and funding that are already available, such as President Biden's infrastructure bill, to help fund these projects.

I will also work to ensure that city agencies have the opportunity to apply for and receive funding for infrastructure projects. This will allow for a more streamlined process for identifying and addressing infrastructure needs in areas affected by flooding, and will also ensure that funding is distributed equitably across the city.

Ebony Washington

I Support UBI but I feel that it should be a more transparent process. Residents want to know why they weren't selected etc. Going forward I feel that it's a good program but we need to allocate additional funds for a lasting impact in our community.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

Question 12

What are some of your biggest priorities for ARPA spending?

Rasheen Aldridge

My biggest priorities for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending include revitalizing North St. Louis, fixing infrastructure, and investing in programs that benefit young people.

Revitalizing North St. Louis is a major priority for me. I plan to use a portion of ARPA funds to rebuild homes that are salvageable and create programs that residents can use to rebuild their homes or businesses. By investing in North St. Louis, we can help to revitalize our community and create more opportunities for residents to thrive.

Another priority for me is fixing infrastructure. This includes addressing issues such as flooding and potholes, and ensuring that our city's infrastructure is safe and reliable. Additionally, I want to invest in recreational centers in North St. Louis, building or expanding existing centers to include 21st century materials and after-school programming.

Lastly, I want to focus on transportation. I plan to create a North-South transportation system to provide adequate transit for people to get to work. This will help to improve the quality of life for residents in North St. Louis and reduce transportation-related stressors. These investments will have a lasting positive impact on the community and will help to create opportunities for residents to thrive.

Ebony Washington

Partner with St. Louis County and others to truly address homelessness and the impact its having on our community.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

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?

Rasheen Aldridge

As Alderman, one of my top priorities will be making our city's public transit more accessible. I understand that increasing public transit access is a key factor in increasing economic mobility in the region, and I am committed to implementing several initiatives to achieve this goal.

First and foremost, I believe that bringing free fare transit to the city is crucial for getting people to work, improving access to tourist locations, and helping those who do not have access to cars. By eliminating the financial barrier for many individuals, we can increase access to transportation and enable them to access job opportunities and other services.

In addition, I plan to support multi-modal transit solutions by expanding bike lanes and creating protection to reduce the risk of biking. This not only increases access to transportation but also promotes a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

Furthermore, I plan to make public transit more accessible by adding more stops and implementing bus rapid transit. By using bus lanes to cut bus times and increase reliability, we can make public transit a more efficient option for residents. I will also work closely with the public transit agency to identify areas where service is needed and ensure that they are adequately served.

Ebony Washington

Solicit Federal resources and any additional funding that may be available to address our aging infrastructure issue.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

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?

Rasheen Aldridge

I recognize that the same inequities that exist in development, schools, and healthcare also exist in environmental issues. I am committed to addressing the issues of environmental racism and ensuring that all communities have equal access to clean air, water, and healthy food.

Lead poisoning has serious long-term impacts on our community, and it is crucial that we take steps to mitigate these risks, especially in our schools. I plan to ensure state funding is used to replace remaining lead pipes in our city, especially in schools and public drinking fountains.

I also plan to work with community organizations to identify areas where environmental racism is a problem, and work together to find solutions for issues such as illegal dumping and air quality. These solutions will address the root causes of environmental racism and work to create a more equitable future for all St. Louis residents.

Ebony Washington

Sustainable Growth and Development in North St. Louis, Small Business Assistance, Quality Affordable Housing, Child Care, and Services to our Youth and Senior Citizens.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

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?

Rasheen Aldridge

I firmly support increased access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care. This is a fundamental right that must be protected, and I have concrete plans for doing so if I have the opportunity to serve as Alderman.

I plan to bring cutting the “Pink Tax” to the local level, as well as the state. The Pink Tax is the practice of charging more for products that are marketed to women, and it disproportionately affects lower-income individuals. We can make these products more affordable for our residents by ensuring that they are not taxed excessively, a policy that I am already fighting for in the state legislature.

Another important aspect of my plan is to put machines in every city-owned building to get health care items. This includes providing access to menstrual products, condoms, and emergency contraception. This will ensure that these products are easily accessible to everyone, regardless of their income level.

Additionally, I will continue to explore ways to fund and support people traveling to access reproductive health care. This includes providing financial assistance for transportation and lodging, as well as providing information about resources available to help individuals access the care they need

Ebony Washington

Partner with St. Louis County and others to truly address homelessness and the impact its having on our community.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

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?

Rasheen Aldridge

With more than 25% of renters in the city being rent-burdened, it is clear that we need to take action to expand access to affordable housing and advocate for renter protections throughout the City of St. Louis.

One of my top priorities is to create a tenant bill of rights to codify the right to safe and affordable housing, and the right to be protected from discriminatory and exploitative housing practices. Additionally, I will advocate for renter protections throughout the city, including the implementation of rent control and just cause eviction. This will provide renters with the stability they need to plan for their future and ensure that they are not constantly at risk of displacement.

Another important aspect of my plan is to push for more development that brings affordable housing to the city. This includes promoting mixed-income developments that combine market-rate and subsidized housing for lower-income residents. This will create a more balanced housing market, where everyone can access affordable housing, regardless of their income level.

Ebony Washington

Partner with Metro and our City Planning Dept to see where the needs are to make public transit more accessible.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

Question 17

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

Rasheen Aldridge

I fully support the demand for a citywide reparations process. Our city has a long history of systemic racism and discrimination – We know that our communities, especially in North St. Louis, have been strategically disinvested in through racial redlining, destroyed by urban renewal, and otherwise harmed by a variety of policies. It is important that we take concrete steps to address and remedy this harm that has been inflicted on marginalized people.

Reparations are not only a moral imperative but also a necessary step in addressing the economic disparities that exist in our city. They can provide a pathway to economic and social mobility for communities that have been historically marginalized.

I appreciate the mayor and other organizations' work to get the process and ball rolling. If elected, I would work to ensure that the reparations process is inclusive, transparent, and equitable. I would also work to ensure that the funding allocated for reparations is directed towards programs and initiatives that will have a lasting impact on communities.

Ebony Washington

Hold those accountable who are tasked with making sure we address those issues (lead paint, illegal dumping, air quality) and Create more opportunities to address our neighborhood food deserts

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

Question 18

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

Rasheen Aldridge

I am adamantly against privatization when it comes to city assets. I firmly believe that these assets should remain in public hands in order to ensure that they are accessible and accountable to all members of our community, rather than being under the control of profit-motivated private entities who do not have the public interest in mind.

I have previously stood in solidarity against the privatization of our airport, and I believe that this is a prime example of how privatization can have negative impacts on workers and the community as a whole. Privatization often leads to lower wages for workers and makes it harder for them to unionize. This ultimately results in a loss of good jobs and economic stability for our community.

Furthermore, privatization can also lead to decreased transparency and accountability, as private companies are not subject to the same level of public scrutiny as government-owned assets. This can make it difficult for residents to hold those in charge accountable for their actions and decisions.

Ebony Washington

Partner with St. Louis County and others to truly address homelessness and the impact its having on our community.

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.

Question 19

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

Rasheen Aldridge

I am against the idea of city-county reunification. The needs and challenges of governance in the city and county are very different, and those in the city deserve to maintain our own voice and government. Ultimately, regardless of my personal position, I believe that this is a decision that should be left up to the people of St. Louis and it should be put to a vote if it is what the people want.

That being said, I believe that city and county leadership have been able to accomplish a lot through collaboration and should continue to do so in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for our interdependent communities. There have been many collaborative efforts to improve our community and I believe that this is something that can continue to be built on. We can continue this cooperation between the city and county governments while still maintaining our own government, voices and city.

Ebony Washington

I feel something should be streamlined for the best interest of our city/region however Black Representation Matters and I'm interested in seeing what that would look like with a city/county merger

James Page and Brandon Bosley

Did not respond.