

**ACTION** 

—St. Louis—

**#WokeVoterSTL**

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTER GUIDE

## WARD

# 4

Paid for by Action St. Louis, Kayla Reed, President  
Not coordinated with any candidate or any candidate's committee.  
2859 Sidney St. St. Louis, MO 63104

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# ELECTION TIMELINE

**FILING ENDS**

01/04/19

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**#WOKEVOTERSTL BOA  
PRESIDENT DEBATE**

01/26/19

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**LAST DAY TO REGISTER  
FOR THIS ELECTION**

01/26/19

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**#WOKEVOTERSTL BRUNCH**

02/23

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**LAST DAY TO REQUEST  
AN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

02/27/19

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**GOTV TEXT&TOAST**

3/4/2019

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**ELECTION DAY**

3/5/2019

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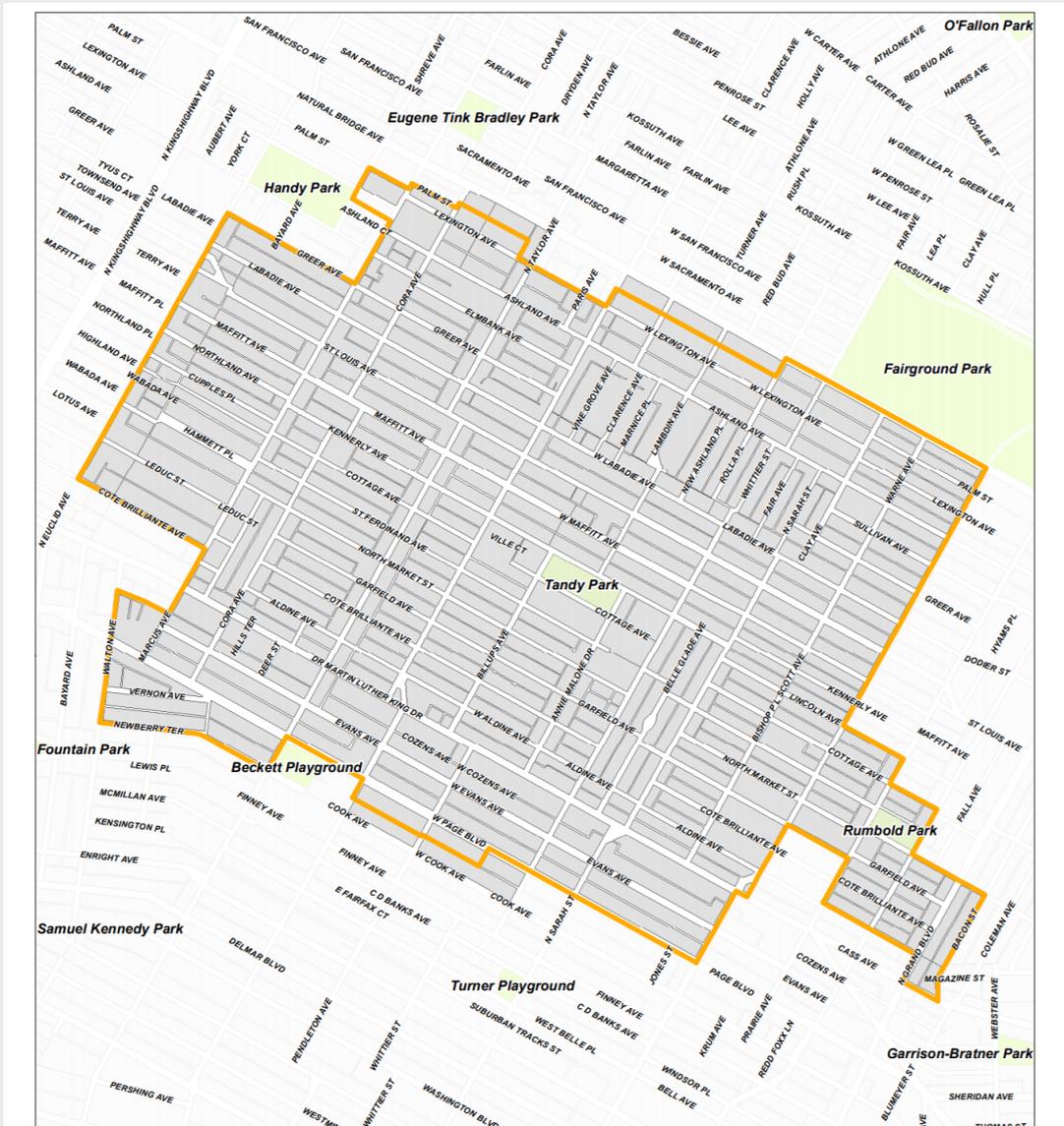
# WARD 4 CANDIDATES

**SAMUEL L. MOORE (INCUMBENT)**

**ROBERT DILLARD**

**LEREOY CARTER**

**EDWARD MCFOWLAND**



Map of Ward 4

Candidates in bold are those that completed the questionnaire.

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## **Question 1: What do you believe to be the most important role(s) of a member of the Board of Alderman?**

### **ROBERT DILLARD**

I believe the most important role of a board member is to write and cosponsor legislation that ensures equality and equity. I believe our job is to ensure that city government works for all of its citizens, not just the wealthy who live south of the Delmar divide. I also believe a crucial role is to inspire our own wards by creating unity, providing resources, and ensuring the security of our constituents.

### **LEROY CARTER**

Legislate, to be present at chambers meetings, make sure your decisions are of the best for the ward you represent

## **Question 2: What are your top legislative priorities for the city of St. Louis?**

### **ROBERT DILLARD**

Police community relations is a very important topic for me. I would like to see an empowered oversight board, in addition to having social workers work within the police department. I would utilize my legislative pen and power to work toward that. I would also work to see that St. Louis is allocating more resources to underserved communities, from free or highly discounted day care for working single mothers, housing opportunities for our unhoused citizens, to the way we make development deals with major companies who benefit from our tax dollars, but offer nothing in return to the most vulnerable of us.

### **LEROY CARTER**

Safety for the children of our ward and the children who visit our ward, Our streets are unsafe I see more children roaming the streets instead of in the parks with some guidance from adults, be it volunteers, or employees from the slate program or, the police dept. For people to start back obeying the traffic laws like they used to, because our children lives depend on it. when it comes to installing speed humps in neighborhoods we shouldn't be left out.

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**Question 3: In what ways will you create ongoing feedback and collaboration structures between constituents and your office to ensure responsive policies, decisions and accountability?**

**ROBERT DILLARD**

I would first implement Participatory Budgeting. Each year, alderman receive, roughly, \$300,000.00 to go toward ward capital. It is up to each Alderman's discretion to use that money in the ward how he/she sees fit. I will take a significant portion of that money and let the ward vote on how they'd like to spend it. We would collect this information by way of text, paper ballot, phone contact, and any other way we could obtain feedback from our citizens. I believe that would allow the ward to feel more included in the changes that happen within it. Each year, in addition to ward meetings, I would also like to have a ward address event, where we discuss what we voted on, how money was spent, satisfactory levels, and answer any questions or concerns constituents may have. I believe that would help to ensure accountability.

**LEROY CARTER**

develop my own questioner ,organize neighborhoods,block captains,establishing these formal structures would be counter productive because of the diversity of the organization

**Question 4: Displacement has taken place in countless neighborhoods across the city, with the Black population decreasing by 60 percent in some of the most severe cases. What do you attribute to this decline and if elected how would you combat displacement?**

**ROBERT DILLARD**

I attribute that to lack of resources, a lack of hope, a lack of political representation at City Hall, a failing education system, and a sinister agenda by certain wealthy people. We've allowed "developers" like Paul McKey to acquire more property under the guise of development, while he continues to hold on to dilapidated properties without the intent to develop and further drive down the values of surrounding homes in consequence. We've not provided enough resources for successful black entrepreneurs, many of the schools in our communities were closed years ago, and we've not been attracting development in our impoverished communities who come to the table with mutual benefit. I would combat displacement by working with multiple organizations to decrease vacancy, such as the Vacancy Collaborative, in addition to providing resources to get the unhoused, housed. Then we start building on unity in the community, by implementing participatory budgeting and ensuring that residents have a chance at home OWNERSHIP! I would start there.

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## LEROY CARTER

We need to practice decency. Who wants to live on a block where murder runs rampant and no one seems to care about it or at least address it. Or who feels comfortable having family come over and visit knowing they could be car jacked I know numerous people who have moved to the suburbs because of this behavior I feel that I attribute the knowledge to know nuisance behavior when I see it first I would develop a relation with the N.S.O. a signed to my ward to see if we could put together a list of houses and landlords that practice this type of renting and leasing and the type of screening they provide. I don't know what type of surveillance cameras we already have but we need some especially around the senior citizens apartments. along with back up generators.

### **Question 5: Do you support the upcoming city ward reduction? What will you do to ensure a just and equitable process?**

## ROBERT DILLARD

I do not support a ward reduction and I haven't seen a report yet that supports it saving the city any money. I think a ward reduction would disproportionately affect lower income wards, as we struggle to get the resources we need already. If you had a classroom with two teachers per 40 students, and the students in the classroom were struggling with the curriculum, you'd never think it was a good idea to take one of those teachers away. Now 40 struggling students are depending on 1 teacher instead of 2. I believe that is highly problematic and it was initiated by Phyllis Young, a white alderwoman from south city who threw it out on the table, and then retired before she'd even have to deal with it's repercussions. I think this topic deserves a second look, and I think its important that it go back on the ballot and that voters are thoroughly educated on the implications of such a reduction. I would work to get it on the ballot, and I would work harder to educate citizens across the city regarding the matter.

## LEROY CARTER

No because right now I don't know where we'll be or if this will be the 4th ward

### **Question 6: What is your stance on the privatization of Lambert Airport?**

## ROBERT DILLARD

I am against the privatization of the airport. I would be concerned about Union worker jobs should the airport go private, lease agreements and accountability, and most concerned about relinquishing one of our cities largest assets to a private entity. I support development and progress in our city, but not at any cost or at the expense of our dedicated union workers.

## LEROY CARTER

no let's continue to control the airport

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## **Question 7: What is your position on the use of TIFs and other tax incentives in the city of St. Louis?**

### **ROBERT DILLARD**

I don't have an issue with tax increment financing or offering tax incentives for development. The problem I have is when there isn't a comprehensive community benefits agreement. Our elected officials have been brokering bad deals, and in consequence, we've sort of stigmatized TIFs. If someone wants a tax incentive from us, they must be prepared to offer us something in return. There are too many areas where we need help in our city for us to be walking away from the table giving, but not getting anything that helps strengthen the weakest areas in St. Louis. I would definitely be at the table having that conversation on behalf of my constituents.

### **LEROY CARTER**

tax incentives should be used equally, and not based on race, creed, or color our business depend on it

## **Question 8: Do you support the demand to close the Medium Security Institute? Please explain.**

### **ROBERT DILLARD**

Yes I do. CLOSE IT DOWN!!! Not only do we KNOW that the conditions there are subpar and inhumane, which is reason enough to close it, within itself, but its costing the city money to keep it open....money we could put toward decreasing recidivism, offering rehabilitation, and attacking crime at its root cause as opposed to suppressing the symptoms. The workhouse does nothing good for St. Louis. CLOSE IT DOWN!!!

### **LEROY CARTER**

yes that place is obsolete poor plumbing, no air conditioning overcrowded, etc,

## **Question 9: What is your stance on the city/county reunification, specifically the plan released by Better Together?**

### **ROBERT DILLARD**

First, I think its important that we understand the motives of Better Together aka Rex Sinquefield, which are generally sinister at best. Theoretically, I believe a city county merger could be good for St. Louis, but not right now, and not under the direction of Rex Sinquefield. In addition to that, there's not enough information available to make a comprehensive decision. I believe we'd be putting the cart before the horse if we tried to merge now. I am against the City County Merger plan released by Better Together.

### **LEROY CARTER**

yes it's a great plan

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## **Question 10: Did you support Proposition P? Why or why not?**

### **ROBERT DILLARD**

I voted against Prop P and I think it was really slick to include body cams and police raises in the same initiative in an attempt to persuade people to support further empowering an entity that has treated us unjustly. Prop P, in my opinion, was a slap in the face to every protester and activist fighting for justice and equality.

### **LEROY CARTER**

I supported it I felt like police the police should have compatible wages.

## **Question 11: Do you support the legalization of recreational marijuana? Explain your answer.**

### **ROBERT DILLARD**

Yes! I support the legalization of marijuana. There isn't a valid reason not to.

### **LEROY CARTER**

yes because our city is so far behind in everything else this will generate revenue and when you generate revenue you create jobs

## **Question 12: Do you believe homelessness is an issue in St. Louis. If so, what concrete steps will you take to alleviate homelessness in the City of St. Louis?**

### **ROBERT DILLARD**

I KNOW that homelessness is an issue in St. Louis, and so does everybody else. Some of us have just decided to turn a blind eye to it. I think combating homelessness requires a multifaceted approach. It requires addressing mental health needs, addiction, and personal limitations. We often lump homeless people into one category as if we've forgotten that they're human, too! Shelters and housing opportunities are an important part of combating homelessness, but so are the services that position them, as people, to be successful in the current climate. I mentioned earlier about free and highly discounted daycare. With social workers helping to find employment for homeless people, its important that homeless children have a clean, safe place to play, thrive, eat, and learn. I'd also like to see stronger mental health services working in tandem with rahab centers and the city. I think we start there.

### **LEROY CARTER**

allow more money to reach shelters and homeless programs

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**Question 13:** More than 60% of the City's General Fund budget is currently devoted to Public Safety, with the vast majority of those funds allotted to police, prosecution, and jails. Do you agree with this budget allocation? If not, how would your budget priorities differ?

**ROBERT DILLARD**

I absolutely do not agree with the way those funds are being allocated. We spend so much time, money, and energy trying to throw our problems away....and more often than not, its to the detriment of underserved minority communities. I believe we should put more money into programs that decrease recidivism. The majority of the people in the system are repeat offenders. That cycle began somewhere, and we've dropped the ball in curbing that tendency at the bud. A public safety crisis that we attempt to fix by way of militant police, unsympathetic prosecutors, and inhuman jails is a crisis WE create when we neglect to care for our most vulnerable parts. WE must do better and put our money where the solution is; preventative services.

**LEROY CARTER**

yes

**Question 14:** Given that safe, quality, affordable transit is a lifeline for so many city residents, as well as the mark of a world-class City, and given that federal funding for transit seems to be diminishing, how do you think funds from Prop 1 should be used?

**ROBERT DILLARD**

I believe that it should be used to invest in mass transit. Mass transit means more access to jobs, shopping, entertainment, and an overall better quality of life. St. Louis is far behind other cities in this regard, and I do believe Mass transit should be made a top priority.

**LEROY CARTER**

making sure our roadways are safer and making sure we have proper road signs.speed limit signs or in place properly and that motorist abide by the law

**Question 15:** How do you plan to address the issue of crime in the city of St. Louis?

**ROBERT DILLARD**

I would address crime by decreasing vacancy, increasing home ownership, uniting underserved communities by involving them in decisions facing our communities, providing more mental health and addiction resources, funding more wrap around services, and demilitarizing the police department. These are NOT their streets, these are OUR streets.

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## **LEROY CARTER**

teach children to recognize when there is a domestic problem in the home or drug abuse or maybe even child abuse and to not be afraid to discuss with a teacher or close friend since their the ones within the home when this occurs

**CANDIDATES ANSWERS ARE COPIED VERBATIM**

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**VOTE  
MARCH  
5TH!**