

**ACTION**  
—St. Louis—

#WokeVoterSTL

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN VOTER GUIDE

**WARD**

**6**

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

---

# ELECTION TIMELINE

**FILING ENDS**

01/04/19

---

**#WOKEVOTERSTL BOA  
PRESIDENT DEBATE**

01/26/19

---

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER  
FOR THIS ELECTION**

01/26/19

---

**#WOKEVOTERSTL BRUNCH**

02/23

---

**LAST DAY TO REQUEST  
AN ABSENTEE BALLOT**

02/27/19

---

**GOTV TEXT&TOAST**

3/4/2019

---

**ELECTION DAY**

3/5/2019

---

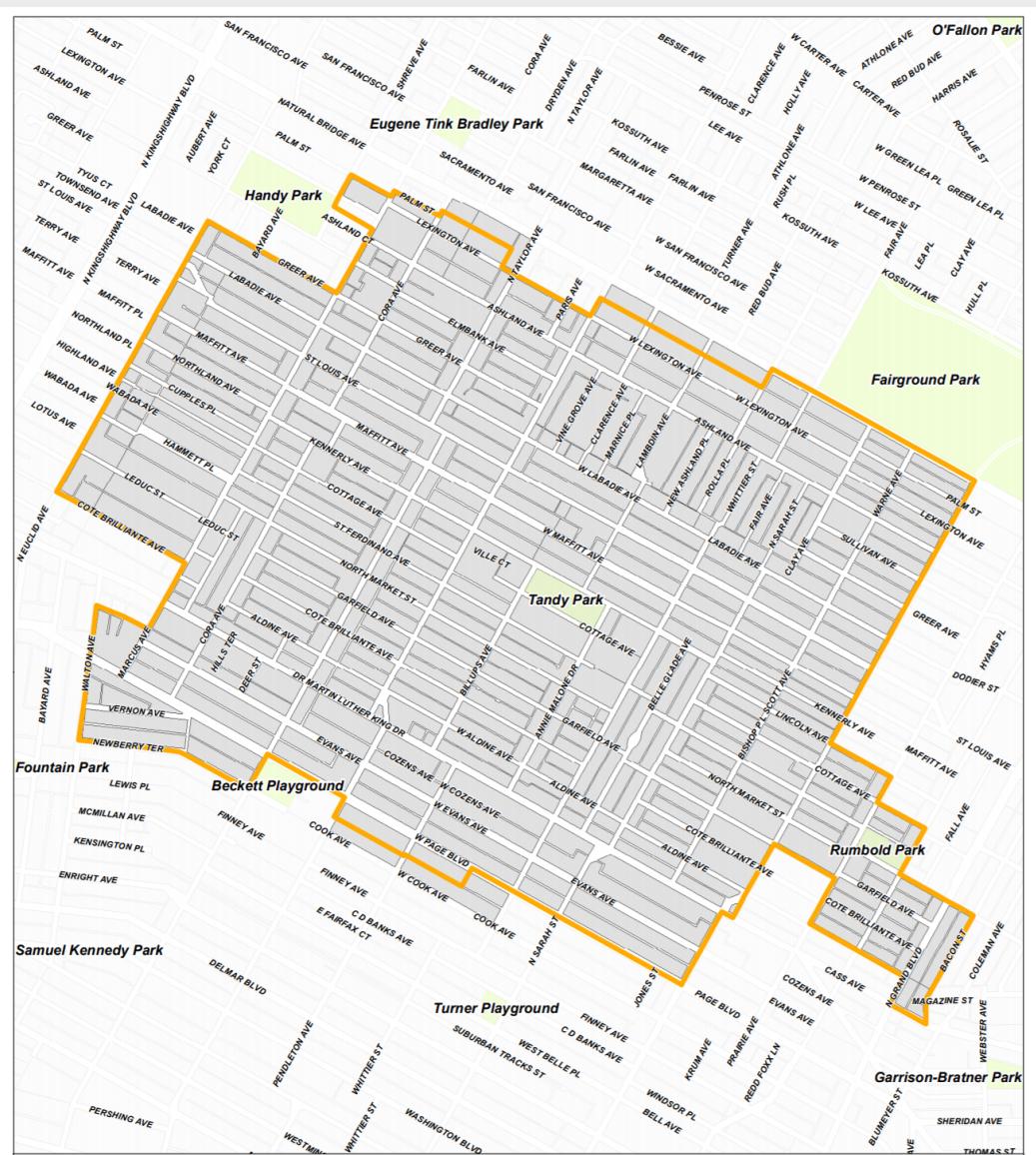
# WARD 6 CANDIDATES

## CHRISTINE INGRASSIA (INCUMBENT)

## CEDRIC REDMON

## DEBRA CARNAHAN

## HENRY GRAY



Map of Ward 6  
Candidates in bold are those that completed the questionnaire.

---

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

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

Working collaboratively on legislative issues, empowering and listening to residents and stakeholders, and equitable development are the most important roles of a member of the Board of Aldermen.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

To listen to my constituents and their concerns. To provide effective leadership and build coalitions to make progress happen.

### **HENRY GRAY**

I believe the most important role(s) of a member of the Board of Alderman is to ensure that the issues that are presented to you by the constituents that you represent are addressed appropriately and in a timely manner. Another role that as a member of the board of alderman is to ensure and do your part in looking out for the benefit of not only the ward that you represent but for the City as well.

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

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

My priorities are equity, empowerment, and development. At the Board, I was a key cosponsor of the minimum wage increase and passed a bill which made it illegal for landlords to have a No Section 8 policy. I've worked on moving equity issues for women and families forward. We need a public safety strategy that addresses the root causes of crime, cyclical poverty, and systemic racism. We work as a community to strike a smart balance of high quality affordable and market rate housing with the correct amount of tax incentives, if needed at all. I work to ensure vacant buildings are rehabbed to welcome new members into our neighborhoods. I will continue to focus on these priorities, and any others identified by my constituents.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

To address the concerns of the 6th Ward. To be ethical and transparent in all dealings whether within government or with outside groups. To be a visionary and a leader that can be an example of what our taxpayers should expect out of good government.

### **HENRY GRAY**

My top legislative priorities for the City of St. Louis would be to ensure we are using the tax payers' money efficiently and effectively. Another priority would be to devise a comprehensive plan on best effective methods on helping the homeless and also lowering the high crime throughout the city.

---

## **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?**

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

The priorities of my residents are my priorities. I am in constant communication with residents via phone, email, at their doors, and at community events. My constituents know they can reach me, and I am always reaching out to them. Formally, I've used participatory budgeting in my ward, which assisted me with prioritizing the previously mentioned focus areas, as well as the addition of traffic calming measures to make the ward more accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and those with differing abilities. I am an open book and I'm always "on the clock" so it's easy for my constituents to reach me. I also cosponsored the legislation to publish all of the votes of members of the Board online, so my constituents and the entire city can always see what my votes are. I helped move the legislation forward which made it mandatory for all city meetings to be put on YouTube. I believe that it is in being completely transparent that it is possible to be held accountable, and I strive for that every day.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I will attend our neighborhood meetings and listen to what the concerns are from my constituents. I will answer questions and communications promptly. I will be honest in my assessments of what is best for the Ward and the city drawing in my past public service and experiences.

### **HENRY GRAY**

I will respond by all means of communication. Through my website, there will be a button that one would be able to pose a question. In turn, that with its answer would be posted. I would also post all policies discussed and the decisions made by the board of alderman.

---

**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?**

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

Years of racist, inequitable housing policies have created disinvestment and displacement. Eliminating housing discrimination based on source of income was a smart first step in preventing displacement. More resources for education and enforcement are key. I've included affordable housing components in redevelopment agreements, and supported rental and purchasable units below market rate. Aldermen should be allowed to work with stakeholders to create Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs), and St. Louis City needs a tenants' rights protection ordinance.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I believe the major factors in this decline have to do with economic decline, lack of employment and educational opportunities and lack of planning and priorities by developers to balance development with existing neighborhood residents. To combat this most effectively would be to promote more inclusive development and balancing interest of current residents.

### **HENRY GRAY**

It is my opinion that displacement has taken place in countless neighborhoods across the city due to the lack of viable resources (i.e. jobs, help centers, rec. centers, shopping centers, grocery stores and city infrastructure in general ). Also adding to the displacement would be the devaluation of the homes within the neighborhoods due to other homes within the neighborhood being vacant or derelict. One of many ways of curbing displacement is to infuse the much needed funds into the community via TIFs or some other funding mechanisms to create a viable community in which the residents would want to move back. Also by fixing general infrastructure within the boundaries of the neighborhood this would improve the likeability index.

---

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

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

Yes. I believe the public has spoken and the majority want ward reduction. I was open to the possibility of voting for the recent legislation to put this issue back in front of voters, but had serious concerns about the ballot language and date of the election. There should be an independent process to look at the maps of the city, compared to the census, and redraw the lines. Those involved cannot include current or former elected officials or campaign workers. Along with community stakeholders, and the Brennan Center out of NYU, I am working with other aldermen to come up with a plan for how to do redistrict fairly and efficiently. We need this process to be put in place regardless of how many Aldermen serve on the Board.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I support what the voters have said is their choice. The few should not overturn the vote of the people because they don't like the results. I believe in an independent commission that is non partisan and non political to draw the new Wards.

### **HENRY GRAY**

The will of the people spoke. My support of the ward reduction is based off the constituents. When ward reduction happens, to ensure a just and equitable process, there should be a methodical process to allow for equality throughout the City. It should be based off the latest Census data (placing a heavy weight factor on the generated numbers). This would more than likely be the more equitable way of determining the new makeup of the Wards. I would hate to see the wards are combined solely due to allegiances and alliances.

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

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

I do not support privatization of Lambert Airport. The current effort does not include an opportunity for voters to approve it. I am generally skeptical of privatization of public assets, and of any effort funded by Rex Sinquefield. Board Bill 93, which would have required a public vote on privatizing the airport, died in committee. I will continue to support St. Louis: Not for Sale by getting signatures for their petition to put privatization on the ballot.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

We need more information, more transparency on the process and who is going to profit. I believe that government is there to promote the public interest and connect our public together for basic services. Corporations have an interest to their shareholders to make a profit. Public transportation should foremost protect the public interest. Not Shareholder profits. I am open to listening.

---

## **HENRY GRAY**

I am currently analyzing all of the key factors with respect to the privatizing of the airport. Currently, I am leaning toward not supporting the privatization of the airport. This reasoning is due to the fact that this is the City's biggest asset that continue to yield much needed funding for the City. Also, I am trying to figure out why a solution is being created to a non-existing problem (to date, no one has presented a problem associated with the way the airport is run)

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

#### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

I've been outspoken at the Board about making sure that the way we approach development serves our constituents, not just wealthy developers. I have reined in tax incentives in the 6th ward by working with the community and financial experts to ensure we are encouraging development with the correct amount of assistance needed to complete projects, as well as supporting Resolutions at the board for reform. We should be able to add CBAs to redevelopment agreements without retribution from colleagues who are adversarial to the idea.

#### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I am not against TIF's. They can be very good for stimulating growth and development. However, I would like to see more small business and individual incentives and support than big developers as we have seen and with broken promises .

#### **HENRY GRAY**

My position on the use of TIFs and other tax incentives in the city are that, in certain instances, they are needed. A TIF district essentially reallocates funds from property taxes to encourage investment within the district. This is solely to promote redevelopment. As stated in the above questions, TIFs would be needed to slow the progression of displacement of some of the communities. In my opinion how the city of St. Louis uses TIFs comes into question. TIFs should not be used to make a vibrant community more vibrant (the developer has nothing to lose, he should use his own money).

---

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

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

Yes. The conditions in the workhouse are unacceptable and perpetuate our city's racial and economic divides and history of institutionalized racism. The building has outlived its useful purpose and it seems unlikely that conditions there will ever improve. So, it should close. We will still need a place for dangerous people to go, but "dangerous" does not include people who missed a court date, who can't pay a fine, who have too many traffic tickets, who are drug dependent or mentally ill, and - as a single mother it pains me to say this - someone who is late on child support. We need another option for these people.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I would need to study the plan. I do believe and know first hand with my experience in the legal system that we have a crisis with our prisons and that criminal justice system and how it is applied to socially and economically disadvantaged citizens.

### **HENRY GRAY**

I am currently analyzing all of the key factors with respect to the demand to close the medium security institute. My main concern currently would be the displacement of the current population occupying this facility. Also, is there any other viable solutions to the multitude of problems that are associated with the institution.

---

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

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

In theory, I do support a merger. I am in favor of making our government more efficient, but not at any cost. I am, as I said in a previous question, skeptical of any effort funded by Rex Sinquefield. In any public vote on a merger, it needs to matter how the City and the County vote. By that, I mean it could not pass at a state level without it passing in both the City and County. I also believe true community engagement and partnership is necessary to engendering the trust necessary to move forward in an equitable, transparent, and accountable manner.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I am open to a plan of reunification that has been discussed for years. We need to move forward and not be stuck in the past and territorial issues that hurt our citizens and stifle growth. However, there is not enough before me now to say yes or no.

---

## **HENRY GRAY**

I am currently analyzing all of the key factors with respect to the merger between St. Louis City and St. Louis County. The final procedural papers about the overall logistics of the merger has not come out yet. It would not be logical for me to state whether or not I support the merger without all the information to disseminate. My biggest concerns would be in the leadership and hierarchy roles.

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

#### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

I voted no on Prop P at the Board and at the polls. It was poor timing in the wake of the Stockley verdict and on the heels of another sales tax increase voted on just six months earlier. Although I do believe our police officers should be well paid, there was no conversation about better, more robust training for the SLMPD, nor any discussion about more effective policing models. We already have an unbalanced public safety budget. If we spent more on crime prevention and addressing poverty, we would not need as many police officers.

#### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I supported the passage of Prop P.

#### **HENRY GRAY**

I support Proposition P only if it is used the way it was written. Due to St. Louis County's passing of their proposition to increase the salaries of their police officers, St. Louis' proposition was greatly needed to maintain the much needed manpower for our police force and firefighters. If this proposition had not passed, the City of St. Louis might have been faced with a ill-equipped police force resulting in a multitude of circumstances such as high crime rates, low moral with in the police force, rapid defection to the county's police force, etc.

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

#### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

Yes. Marijuana is far safer than alcohol and provides safe and natural treatment for pain and illnesses. The "war on drugs" has disproportionately affected countless men and women of color, despite marijuana usage being about the same between blacks and whites. The tax revenues the City would receive could be used for a variety of underfunded areas we currently struggle to fund.

#### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I do support certain amounts of recreational marijuana. As a former federal and state prosecutor and Judge I have seen waste of taxpayers dollars and lives ruined over this issue.

---

## **HENRY GRAY**

I support the legalization of recreational marijuana. My support is due in part to the legalization of marijuana is expected to cut down on some of the crime associated with this drug. History has shown us that many of our previously banned substances went through a lengthy approval process before being legalized. Once legalized, these substances yielded huge benefits.

### **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?**

#### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

Yes. I do believe homelessness is an issue in St. Louis. I believe in the housing first model and support affordable housing in the 6th ward. I lent support and helped align funding for a 5 million dollar affordable housing project for seniors in the Gate District in my ward and participate in the Point-In-Time counts to ensure the City knows where and how many people we need to serve. I've attended the Continuum of Care meetings and work with nonprofits serving the homeless when issues come up that I can help address. I would like to see the City take a leadership role on advancing a more comprehensive strategy around ordinances and policies to holistically help the unhoused.

#### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

Our homeless situation is a disgrace. We need more support and sanitary situations to live and be able to be safe is a crisis for our city. So many of our homeless are on the streets because of mental health issues and they end up in our jails. This is not acceptable. Many are homeless because of medical bills that forced them onto the streets. I will make this one of my priorities .

#### **HENRY GRAY**

Homeless is a big issue in St. Louis. The steps that I would take to alleviate homelessness would be create a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the social service agencies that specialize in homelessness.

### **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?**

#### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

No. I believe that public safety can only be improved if we spent a much larger portion of our money addressing the cyclical causes of poverty and funding programs that address housing, mental health, addiction, job readiness and other social services.

---

## **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

public safety is imperative to the health and growth of our city. Alternative methods and allocation of funds away from the traditional “wait until their is prosecution and then lock them up” is not the answer. I would look at diversion of some of those funds for a more proactive and preventive alternatives.

## **HENRY GRAY**

I don't necessarily agree with the majority of the City's General Fund being devoted to Public Safety. Every year this number seems to increase with no sight of it decreasing. It would seem to me that if one does the same thing over and over and get the same results over and over than something must change. More emphasis should be placed on prevention not on prosecution. My budget priorities would be to look more into the social services aspect. More often times than not an ounce of prevention goes a long way.

**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?

## **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

If not for Metrolink expansion, the money from Proposition 1 should go towards bus rapid transit or other means of ensuring there is public transportation along a north/south corridor. The other pools of money for neighborhood revitalization, workforce development, public safety, and infrastructure updates should remain in place unless the issue goes back in front of voters.

## **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

I am a huge supporter of public transportation and do not believe that we can compete as a world class city without the infrastructure to attract business and support our citizens to be able to move and commute affordably to the jobs they need. We need to have our first responders and their support systems to be able to do this and attract and retain our citizens.

## **HENRY GRAY**

First and foremost, the funds from Prop 1 should be to repair the failing infrastructure of the City. Our roads and bridges are crumbling. Infrastructure is the key driving force in today's economy. The funds should also go towards the much needed upgrades of the correctional facilities. The individuals in the correctional facilities should not have to live in inhuman barely livable conditions.

---

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

### **CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

As I've said in other questions, addressing crime means addressing the root causes of crime. We need cash bail reformation and criminal justice reform. I have met with the City's FUSE Fellows, the Mayor's Equity Indicators Project Manager, and the Bail Project to move forward in this regard. I believe issues identified in reports such as Forward Through Ferguson and Close the Workhouse should be addressed and acted upon. I will continue to educate myself and partner with my colleagues to move new, modernized policies and funding forward at the Board of Aldermen. The status quo isn't working for anyone.

### **DEBRA CARNAHAN**

We need to have more interaction between our citizens and our leaders on the issues that face them everyday. They know better than anyone what those challenges are. As a prosecutor in the city I served on the Special Victims Unit which worked with Victims of crime firsthand and specialized in some of the most prevalent crimes that hurt our citizens for years on so many levels and get passed on from generation to generation. It is complex on many levels but we can change this like so many other cities have done. We can also learn from them and with true leadership think "outside the box" we are in. With my experience as a former state and federal prosecutor and judge as well as a criminal defense attorney and a tireless advocate on these issues I can and will work on all levels to decrease our crime. It can be done.

### **HENRY GRAY**

The issue of crime has to be addressed on many fronts. First and foremost, the community must have buy-in for any comprehensive plan to work. Another key factor would be to ensure that the police have good communications and trust throughout that community. Also, the stakeholders and community influencers would have to be included in the strategy.

**CANDIDATES ANSWERS ARE COPIED VERBATIM**

---

**VOTE  
MARCH  
5TH!**