

How Proposition D changes voting in the City of St. Louis. ***Here is what you need to know.***

Sixty-eight percent of the voters in the November 3 election in the City of St. Louis, approved Prop D for Democracy.

What does Prop D do?

- It changes the Primary election for Municipal offices from a partisan (Democratic or Republican) primary to an open non-partisan primary. Voters will not have to choose a Democratic or Republican ballot. All eligible candidates will appear on the same ballot and will not list a party affiliation.
- Voters can vote for as many candidates as they like.
- The 2 candidates with the most votes will advance to the General Municipal Election on April 6.

Does Prop D affect all City elections?

- Prop D only applies to these offices: The Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Alderpersons, and Alderpersons.
- Other offices like the Treasurer, Circuit Attorney, Collector of Revenue, Sheriff, and school Board remain the same.

Why was Prop D proposed?

- St. Louis City is strongly Democratic, and the current system does not result in a winner with a clear mandate. For example, in the last Mayoral primary election, none of the candidates received even one third of the votes cast. The the candidate with the highest luke-warm support advanced to the General Election and went on to win decisively. But she did not have strong backing or a clear mandate from the majority of voters. Open, non-partisan primaries will provide a clearer mandate to govern, since office holders will be elected by a majority of voters.
- Open, non-partisan primary elections can increase voter participation, since independents as well as voters who are Republicans, Socialist, Green, or other parties, can select from the entire slate of candidates.
- Candidates may be more motivated to build consensus, and to focus on a policy agenda that sets them apart from other candidates.

What is your responsibility as a voter?

- You must be registered to vote by February 3 to vote in the March 2, 2021 Primary election. If you have moved since you last voted, you must update your registration with your new address.
- Be informed about the candidates. Listen to candidate forums. These will be offered virtually. Go to the candidates' web sites to learn about their priorities and experience. You might want to vote for more than one candidate. Please don't waste your vote by being uninformed!
- Make a plan to vote and do it.

I just voted in August and November. Tell me again why I am voting in March and April?

Some elections in the City of St. Louis (and other counties as well) are not held at the same time as national and state primary and general elections. It is a City decision!