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April 2024 NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to all *Re-Elected* and *Newly Elected* Officials

April Membership Meeting

The main order of business will be the election of officers and Board members for the 2023-24 year. The Report of the Nominating Committee will be emailed to members in advance of the meeting.

When: Thursday, April 22, 2024
Where: Armstrong Teasdale LLP
7700 Forsyth Blvd, Suite 1800
St. Louis, Missouri 63105([MAP](#))
Time: 6:30 pm refreshments - 7:00 pm meeting

****Please note:** Reservations are required for this meeting. Please contact the League staff at staff@stlmuni.org by April 25th, if you plan to attend.



The guest speaker for the evening will be Samantha Stangl. She is the Executive Director of House Everyone STL (HESTL). Samantha has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Iowa and a Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. She spent nearly ten years doing direct service social work in a variety of capacities, including providing services for Spanish speaking victims of intimate partner violence, connecting first generation students to higher education, and providing case management and crisis intervention to immigrant children and families. She also worked for the St. Louis County Children's Service fund, the Clark-Fox Family Foundation, and most recently worked in the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Samantha has a passion for systems change thinking and collaborative approaches to solving problems. She volunteers with YouthBridge Community Foundation and was selected as a 2019 Brown School Emerging Leader award winner.

HESTL is a nonprofit created by other nonprofit leaders to help solve some of the problems of the past with homelessness. HESTL has recently been entrusted with drafting a plan to allocate \$14 million in annual federal funding to address homelessness. Inspired by successful models in Houston and Dallas, the initiative aims to unite government, nonprofit, and business leaders for a more efficient and collaborative approach to tackling homelessness.

For more information on House Everyone STL, click [here](#).

Legislative Session 2024

It was a short week, but a very productive one for the House. When they returned on Tuesday, the House spent most of the day perfecting the FY '25 budget, which they then third read and sent to the Senate on Thursday. The Senate Appropriations Committee will begin their deep dive into the budget sent over by the House and have about five weeks to pass their version, send it to conference to work out the differences and truly agreed to and finally pass the FY '25 budget by May 10.

The Senate has spent a lot of time deliberating over the controversial landfill legislation which ended in the bill being laid over onto the Informal Calendar around 10 pm without being perfected. This is one of those issues that has strange alliances among Senators but makes for interesting debates over issues like property rights. While this has been put to rest for now, the Senators from the affected area do not intend to stop fighting to prevent the landfill from happening in their community and we believe that it will pour over into other debates.

With the budget heating up in the Senate, and a variety of important issues that need to be addressed (like the federal reimbursement allowance tax), everyone is on pins and needles waiting for the Senate to blow up as per usual. During a House hearing on a Senate Bill this week, the Senate sponsor told the committee that he understands some of the changes they want to make to his bill, but he sent the House the bill he could get out of the Senate and if they send it back with changes it's probably dead. This wasn't the only instance of a Senator asking the House this week to please keep their bill free of amendments so that it doesn't have to return to the Senate. Part of what may be fueling this concern is that the House added what everyone is calling the "ballot candy" back into SJR 74 which is the constitutional amendment relating to the initiative petition process. The sponsor had previously said at the House hearing that she had to remove the language to get it out of the Senate, but the House should put it back in and send it back to the Senate where she will work to get enough signatures to have the bill PQ'd (meaning the filibuster would be brought to an end to get it to a vote). If such a thing were to happen, the Democrats will shut the Senate down for the remainder of the legislative session. The final six weeks should prove to be interesting.

League Seeks Board Candidate

Due to League term limits, there will be at least one vacancy on the Executive Board for the coming year. Terms are now 3 years. The Board meets about nine times per year and is open to any elected official from a member municipality.

If you are interested in serving on the Municipal League's Executive Board, please send a letter or email to the League office by April 5 indicating your interest and outlining your qualifications, including public service, volunteer committees and attendance at League meetings and other events.

The League's Nominating Committee will meet in early April after the municipal elections. The committee will make recommendations to the full membership on a slate of candidates for officers and board members for the 2024 - 2025 year. The Committee will be chaired by Alderperson Darlene Bell of Moline Acres, Immediate Past President. The recommended slate of candidates will be presented at the April 27 membership meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please let us know!

Legislative Spotlight



Senator Ben Brown Republican

**District 26 Part of West St.
Louis County**

**First elected to the House:
2022**

[View District Map \(PDF\)](#)

Senator Ben Brown was elected in 2022 to represent Franklin, Gasconade, Osage and Warren counties and the City of Eureka within St. Louis County. He attended Lafayette High School and the University of Missouri-Columbia before pursuing a professional career in Mixed Martial Arts. He has served as chair of Franklin County Central Committee as well as Missouri's National Committeeman for the Federation of Young Republicans. He has been honored with community awards from the Chesterfield Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Progress 64 West Alliance. Senator Brown owns and operates Satchmo's Bar and Grill in Chesterfield. Senator Brown and his wife, Danielle, are the proud parents of three children, Layla, Summer and Jayden. The Brown family resides in Washington.

Welcome New Staff Member Colin Kinkade



We are pleased to announce, the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis has hired Colin Kinkade for the position of Assistant Director. Colin graduated from University of Missouri St. Louis with master's degree in Public Policy Administration. He has worked in the St. Louis County Council offices, the City of Chesterfield and since June 2022 for the Missouri Municipal League doing legislative research in addition supporting elected officials and special projects.

We are excited to have Colin as part of our team.

Welcome Colin!

Governor Parson Appointment to the Bi-State Development Board of Commissioners



Missouri Governor Mike Parson has appointed Andrea Jackson-Jennings to the Board of Commissioners. Jackson-Jennings, who has a doctorate in education, will serve as a representative for St. Louis County and replaces Commissioner Vernal Brown whose term expired. The Missouri Senate approved the appointment today.

“Congratulations to AJ on her appointment to the Bi-State Development Board of Commissioners by Governor Parson,” said St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page. “AJ has built a career on helping others including her time as my Director of Human Services, and I know her experience and passion for public service will be of great value to the Bi-State Development board.”

“We welcome Commissioner Jackson-Jennings to the Board of Commissioners. We know in her current position, she is focused on building and preserving a more equitable and vibrant region and that directly fits with our mutual efforts to improve the quality of life for residents in our region through our various enterprises,” said Herbert Simmons, Chair of the Bi-State Development Board of Commissioners.

“We look forward to working with Commissioner Jackson-Jennings and will miss Commissioner Brown. We appreciated her support and commitment over the last nine years in helping us make the region a better place,” said Taulby Roach, Bi-State Development President and CEO.

The 10-member Board of Commissioners provides overall leadership and policy direction for Bi-State Development and its enterprises, and is comprised of five members from Illinois and five from Missouri.

Newly Elected Officials Seminar

The League will host the Newly Elected Officials Seminar from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. (dinner to follow) on Monday, April 29 at the Maryland Heights Community Center, 2300 McKelvey Rd, 63043. The speakers will include a team of attorneys from the law firm of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe. Congratulatory letters and invitations have been mailed to all newly elected officials. Experienced officials are also welcome to attend. Please contact your municipal clerk to register.

Election Results

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Several municipalities in St. Louis County had successful ballot issues on April 2. The marijuana sales tax was passed by Coll Valley, Fenton, Pagedale, Velda City and Winchester. Use taxes were approved in Cool Valley, Northwoods and Velda City. Charter amendments passed in Bridgeton and Webster Groves. Voters in Woodson Terrace approved a business license fee for ATMs and Winchester passed a measure to allow the city to forgo elections when the number of candidates equals the number of seats up for election.

Bond issues passed for recreational center improvements in Crestwood and Webster Groves, and street improvements in Maplewood

Congratulations to all.

MSD Voters Approve Prop W and Prop S

After the approval of Props W and S, MSD advises this approval will allow them to issue bonds for a portion of the work ahead in the next 4 years, which will keep rate increases much lower. MSD has \$3.7 billion worth of wastewater system improvements that are required in the next 15 years, as well as other Federal and State mandated projects.

With the passage of Prop S, MSD Project Clear will begin to address more than \$700 million of known stormwater problems, mostly flooding and erosion, across St. Louis City and County. They can now take a much-needed regional approach to flooding and erosion troubles. Voter approval of Prop S will also enable MSD to begin a new municipal stormwater grant program which will drive many decisions on stormwater priorities to the local level.

This is the first time MSD has had the funding to make major stormwater improvements, and they appreciate voters' confidence in their ability to address the region's growing stormwater problems. MSD has the first five years of stormwater improvements already mapped out and plan to start on several projects beginning in 2025. We appreciate everyone in the St. Louis region who took the time to vote today, no matter how they cast their ballots.

Planning Grant Changes

The Park Commission realizes that not all municipalities have professional public works, engineering or parks staff to coordinate construction grant applications and project oversight. This has led, at times, to incomplete or inaccurate applications and delays in completing projects on time and within budget. For this reason, Commission members have adopted a policy ***requiring*** any municipality that does not have professional public works, engineering or parks staff, to receive a planning grant before applying for any construction grant. Commissioners believe that this policy will help assure that quality projects can be planned for and implemented in a timely and efficient manner. If you have questions about this policy, please contact the Municipal League staff at staff@stlmuni.org or 314-726-4747.

Planning grants of up to \$10,000 are available to help develop master plans to guide future park developments or for construction specific project planning. The planning grant applications are available throughout the year and can be found [here](#). If you are considering a project for next year, it is recommended that you start the planning process as soon as possible.

Chancellor's Certificate in Fundamentals and Economic Development

Economic Development is key to regional success. This Chancellor's Certificate program, Fundamentals of Economic Development, covers introductory economic and community development concepts and tools to attract, assess, and support development and redevelopment opportunities in our communities. Course modules will lead participants through the steps necessary to develop and implement economic development plans and projects.

This introductory program is designed for:

- Public sector economic development commissioners and staff
- Special taxing district commissioners and staff
- Elected officials
- Community Development Corporation board members and staff
- Private sector specialists
- Citizens and students interested in economic/community development.

For more information, click [here](#).

Municipal Job Postings

Be sure to check The Municipal League of Metro St. Louis website for Municipal Job Postings. Click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

DATE

EVENT

LOCATION

April 25, 2024
May 23, 2024

Membership Meeting
League Installation Dinner

Armstrong Teasdale - Clayton
Renaissance Hotel - Berkeley



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