

RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 361 - 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, House Bill 361 (HB361) would directly impact not only the current Board of Education of the City of St. Louis but also the future of democracy in education for the St. Louis Public School District

AND WHEREAS HB361 would, beginning in 2022, require “every school board election” to be held on “the first Tuesday after the 2 first Monday in November of even-numbered years”

AND WHEREAS HB361 specifies that “any school board member whose term expires in 2021 or any other odd-numbered year shall continue to serve until the election in the following even-numbered year”

AND WHEREAS changing existing board members’ term expirations to November creates a subtle monetary barrier to entry in the electoral process; gives incumbents an unfair greater advantage; and hinders the possibility of earnest, grassroots citizens being elected to serve their communities

AND WHEREAS HB361 would apply to “all urban districts containing the greater part of the population of a city which has more than three hundred thousand inhabitants”

AND WHEREAS the population of the City of St. Louis, as of 2015, was approximately 316,000 residents

AND WHEREAS HB361 would “ divide the school district into five subdistricts, all subdistricts being of compact and contiguous territory and as nearly equal in the number of inhabitants as practicable”

AND WHEREAS the implementation of geographically-imposed subdistricts may further reinforce the cultural and racial divide in our city; these subdistricts may give rise to further inequality by requiring members of the Board of Education to reside within subdistrict boundaries, representing more affluent neighborhoods where fewer children attend public schools, and the results would generally be complicated and uncertain

AND WHEREAS the City of St. Louis would be specifically affected by state level legislation which would further fracture our urban populace by splintering our city into subdistricts

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis OPPOSES House Bill 361 of Missouri’s 99th General Assembly, 2019.