

Process for Consolidation

The Process for consolidation of two or more cities in St. Louis County is set forth in Sections 72.400 to 72.423, RSMo. Section 72.423.1, RSMo., provides in pertinent part, "... consolidations of municipalities [...] may be sought at any time without prior submission for map plan review and comment as provided in this section."

A. There are two ways to initiate consolidation of two or more cities:

Initiation by Petition

1. A petition seeking consolidation must be submitted to the St. Louis County Boundary Commission within 280 days following the date of the first signature. §§ 72.408.2 and 72.420.1, RSMo.

2. The petition must contain the signatures of at least 15% of the "qualified voters" of each municipality or unincorporated area. The number of "qualified voters" is determined by the number of votes cast for governor at the last gubernatorial election in the municipality or unincorporated area. § 72.420.2, RSMo.

3. The petition must contain the signatures of at least 15% of the "qualified voters" of each municipality or unincorporated area. The number of "qualified voters" is determined by the number of votes cast for governor at the last gubernatorial election in the municipality or unincorporated area. § 72.420.2, RSMo.

4. The petition for consolidation shall contain the following:

a. The names of the municipalities and a description of any unincorporated area;

b. The proposed effective date of consolidation;

c. The number of qualified voters in each municipality and unincorporated area; and

3. d. A statement that all signers are registered voters in the affected municipalities or unincorporated areas. The petition may contain the form of government, the name of the municipality as consolidated and the details of the transition. § 72.420.3, RSMo.

Initiation by Ordinance

1. The petition need not contain signatures of the qualified voters of a municipality if the governing body of such municipality adopts an ordinance approving the proposed consolidation, and sends a copy of the ordinance to the St. Louis County Council in conjunction with the petition. § 72.420.2, RSMo.

2. Any ordinance approving a proposed consolidation shall contain the following:

a. The names of the municipalities and a description of any unincorporated area;

b. The proposed effective date of the consolidation; and

c. The number of votes cast in the last election in that municipality. The ordinance may contain the form of government, the name of the municipality as consolidated and the details of transition. § 72.420.5, RSMo.

B. Within 21 days of receipt of a consolidation proposal, the Commission shall schedule a public hearing, publish notice of the public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation, and mail written notification of the proposal and public hearing date to the County Clerk, to the City or Village Clerk of each municipality or village covered by the proposal, and to any other political subdivision materially affected by the proposal. § 72.403.2, RSMo.

C. The Commission shall hold the public hearing not less than 14 nor more than 60 days after such publication and notification is complete. § 72.403.2, RSMo.

D. Within nine months after the proposal is submitted, the Commission shall either approve or disapprove the consolidation. § 72.403.2, RSMo.

E. If the Commission disapproves the consolidation proposal, no election will be held and the Commission shall issue a document indicating the reasons such proposal was disapproved. § 72.405.2, RSMo.

F. If the Commission approves the proposal, the St. Louis County Council shall hold an election seeking approval of the consolidation at the next state or county primary, general or special election. §§ 72.407.2 and 72.420.2, RSMo.

G. The question shall be submitted to each municipality and unincorporated area described in the petition or ordinance proposing the consolidation, in the following form:

“Shall the municipalities of (list all municipalities) be consolidated into one municipality?”

§ 72.420.7, RSMo.

H. The consolidation will only become effective if a separate majority of the votes cast on the consolidation proposal in each municipality and unincorporated area are in favor of the consolidation. § 72.420.7, RSMo.

I. If a consolidation is approved by the voters, the consolidation shall be effective 6 months after the date of the election or the date specified in such proposal, whichever is later. § 72.420.8, RSMo.