

Consolidation FAQs

Two methods to start a Consolidation:

- Municipal Ordinance
- Petition

One method for processing a consolidation

Special Note:

Unlike an annexation, consolidations can be sought at any time without a need for a prior map plan review.

Section 72.423.1, RSMo.

Municipal Ordinance (most common)

- Each municipality involved **adopts** an ordinance approving the proposed consolidation, & **sends** a copy of it to the St. Louis County Council (*in conjunction with a petition, if applicable*).
- Must include:
 - a. Names of the municipalities and a description of any unincorporated area;
 - b. Proposed effective date; and
 - c. The number of votes cast in the last election in that municipality.

Petitions & Ordinances may include:

- *Form of government;*
- *Name of consolidated municipality;*
- *Details of the transition.*

Petition

- Must be received within **280** days of first signature;
- Must contain at least **15%** of “**qualified voters**” in each city or unincorporated area;
- Must include:
 1. Name of Municipality(ies) and description of unincorporated area;
 2. Proposed effective date;
 3. # of qualified voters in area.

Qualified voters are equal to the number of votes cast for governor at the last gubernatorial election in the municipality or unincorporated area.

The Decision—no later than 9 months after submittal often sooner

Major elements during the review process:

- Notice of Public Hearing—no later than 21 days after accepted submittal;
- Public Hearing—between 14 and 60 days after notice of public hearing;
- Public Comment period—ends 21 days after public hearing;
- Commission Decision—up to 9 months after submittal, often sooner.

If Approved

Voters must approve with a separate majority in each municipality & unincorporated area, taking effect six months later.

If Disapproved

No election will be held & a document indicating the reasons such proposal was disapproved shall be issued.