

Say NO to LOCAL CONTROL



The Facts About Local Control

St. Louis Police Officers' Association
ST. LOUIS' FINEST
www.slpoa.org

Local Control advocates say that the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Dept. (SLMPD) will be more accountable to the City. They further contend that Police, Fire, and Civil Service pension systems will bankrupt the City; therefore, Local Control will make the City more financially sound.

This Is Not True.

Please consider the following 7 Facts:

FACT #1: The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) is already accountable to the City.

FACT #2: The City's real problem is poor fiscal management; Local Control is a ruse.

FACT #3: Local Control will result in unnecessary political influence over SLMPD.

FACT #4: The St. Louis Police Pension System is a victim of the City's poor fiscal management.

FACT #5: Local Control will subject SLMPD to the City's overly-burdensome bureaucracy.

FACT #6: The St. Louis City Police operate much more efficiently without City intervention.

FACT #7: The hidden agenda behind Local Control is an unfair money grab.

And Here's The Proof:

FACT #1: The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Dept. (SLMPD) is already accountable to the City.

PROOF: SLMPD is managed by a Board of Police Commissioners, of which the Mayor is an Ex-Officio member. The Mayor has input into every decision.

PROOF: The four other Commissioners are prominent St. Louis City residents.

PROOF: The City has direct financial oversight of the SLMPD; it sets the SLMPD operating budget and determines how the monies are spent.

PROOF: The City reduced SLMPD's budget by \$20-million last year.

FACT #2: The City's real problem is poor fiscal management; Local Control is a ruse.

PROOF: The State Auditor found serious monetary discrepancies in several City departments.

PROOF: City budget cuts of SLMPD last year resulted in the loss of over 100 officers.

PROOF: Despite City-imposed cuts, crime has decreased in the City for the past three years.

PROOF: City per capita expenditures rose 52.91% (adjusted for inflation) over the past 13 years.

PROOF: During the same 13 year period, police expenditures rose only 12.45%.

PROOF: An independent financial audit found that police protection is not a City priority. Despite citizens voting for increased police spending, net funding gains were not realized.

FACT #3: Local Control will result in unnecessary political influence over SLMPD.

PROOF: The structure of City government has not changed in 100 years when the City's population was approximately twice what it is today; yet we still have 28 alderpersons.

PROOF: The Mayor, 28 alderpersons and other City officials will

SOLIDARITY— Organizations United in Opposition to Local Control

St. Louis Police Officers' Association
Fraternal Order of Police, Missouri State Lodge
Ethical Society of Police, St. Louis
St. Louis Police Leadership Organization
St. Louis Police Veterans Association
St. Louis Association of Retired Police Officers
St. Louis Police Department, Civilian Personnel Division



have direct control of SLMPD.

PROOF: Kansas City reversed its decision on Local Control because of the outrageous influence politicians had over its police department. Today, like St. Louis, Kansas City's police department is managed by a Board of Commissioners. Kansas City has said no to Local Control.

FACT #4: The St. Louis Police Pension System is a victim of the City's poor fiscal management.

PROOF: St. Louis police only have their pensions; they are not eligible for Social Security, and only police hired since 1986 are eligible for Medicare.

PROOF: As a minimum threshold, the City should have planned for contributions to the pension equal to normal employer Social Security (6.2% of pay) and Medicare (1.45%) contributions.

PROOF: The City enjoyed an 11 year "holiday" (1992 through 2002) from making any pension payments. By comparison, Social Security and Medicare contributions would have totaled about \$46.8-million. Nothing was contributed to the pension and nothing was saved for the future.

PROOF: In the 20 years up to and including 2009, the City contributed about \$95.1-million to the pension system. By comparison, employer Social Security and Medicare contributions (had they been made) would have totaled about \$85.7-million. In other words, the City has invested less than a half-million per year in the police pension system beyond the minimum threshold.

PROOF: The Pension System reimburses the City for half of its administrative expenses, which have escalated due to City bureaucracy from \$249,400 in 2000 to \$457,900 in 2009.

FACT #5: Local Control will subject SLMPD to the City's overly-burdensome bureaucracy.

PROOF: The State Auditor determined the City has grossly mismanaged most of its departments.

PROOF: Audits of the Streets Department, Lambert International



Airport and several other City departments uncovered serious monetary discrepancies and procedural inefficiencies.

PROOF: Under Local Control, SLMPD would report to a bureaucracy-laden Department of Public Safety, which was cited by the State Auditor as having procedural inefficiencies.

PROOF: The State Auditor also found serious monetary discrepancies in Public Safety.

PROOF: Department of Public Safety controls the Fire Department and its controversial changes.

FACT 6: The St. Louis City Police operate much more efficiently without City intervention.

PROOF: The police maintenance garage currently repairs all City vehicles.

PROOF: The City is currently considering using police IT support and the police payroll system.

PROOF: Police are helping to reduce duplicate City services, more cost-effectively and efficiently.

PROOF: All other cities in the country have charters that insulate their police force from direct interference. The St. Louis City charter is archaic; direct meddling is probable.

FACT 7: The hidden agenda behind Local Control is an unfair money grab.

PROOF: Police officers contribute 7% of their salaries into the SLMPD Pension System.

PROOF: Officer contributions plus prudent investments have resulted in a \$600-million fund.

PROOF: Similarly, firemen contribute 8% of their salaries, resulting in a robust pension fund.

PROOF: The financially-strapped civil service pension has not had any employee contributions.

PROOF: Two of three recent Local Control ballot initiatives specify control of SLMPD pensions.

It appears the SLMPD Pension is being targeted to correct the City's fiscal mismanagement.

**SAY NO TO BUREAUCRATIC BUNGLING;
SAY NO TO LOCAL CONTROL**

LET'S REFORM "GOTCHA" GOVERNMENT

The political leadership of the City of St. Louis is currently involved in a classic sleight of hand. Instead of addressing the real problems of the City, they point to a false target. City leaders should be talking about fixing City government, not local control.

Residents know that the City is broken; tied up in its own bureaucratic red tape that thwarts those seeking help. Do you have the right permit, license, form; did you go to the right window? If not, "gotcha" and you start over.

To be fair, many City workers do try to help, but the system is broken, "gotcha" government; a cumbersome, bureaucratic mess.

Let's consider two cities that are the same size as St. Louis:
Tampa and Wichita.

Tampa is governed by a mayor and 7 city council members, 4 elected by district and 3 elected at-large, which helps to control district fiefdoms. City services are organized into about 30 departments, which employ about 4,200.

Wichita has a city council/city manager form of governance. The mayor and 6 district-elected council members form the city council. The city manager is a professional manager who implements the policy direction of the city council, thus preventing political intervention. City services are organized into 22 departments, which employ about 3,300.

By comparison, St. Louis is governed by a mayor and 10 other city-wide elected officials, as well as 28 alderpersons. This has resulted in numerous fiefdoms and favors via "aldermanic courtesy". City services are organized in more than 60 departments, employing about 7,500. City governance is the product of a bygone era when its population was more than twice what it is today, yet a huge bureaucracy remains.

Even New York City is leaner. NYC is governed by three city-wide elected officials and 51 council members; a total of 54 elected officials versus 39 in St. Louis. But NYC also has 8.1-million more people. Clearly St. Louis City government needs to change to be more efficient.

To those who point to history as the reason to change Police Department governance we say, clean up the City's historical problems first.

The safety of visitors and residents in the City of St. Louis are too important to be caught up in the politics of City government. By its nature policing must be nimble. When it comes to police matters, citizens deserve better than "gotcha" government and "go to the next window" bureaucracy, which is pandemic in the City of St. Louis. Fix the City government first, reform the City government first; and then let's talk about local control.

**The Saint Louis Police Officers' Association
is a proud member of the Greater Saint Louis
Labor Council, AFL-CIO.**