

# **STL-World Class City Internal Polling Report Two Saint Louis Reunification Scenarios**

**Poll Conducted by  
Charles Schmitz and Bill Frisella  
Co-founders**

We are pleased to report the results of the poll we conducted of the official private membership list of **STL-World Class City (STL-WCC)** during the period May 9-13, 2013. Before sharing the results of the poll, we would like to give you a little historical perspective so you can better understand the context of our work over these past nearly three years.

The original Op-Ed piece written by Charley (Charles Schmitz) -- "St. Louis is a World Class City" -- appeared in the ***St. Louis Post-Dispatch*** on June 30, 2010. Following its publication, Charley was contacted by a number of people who shared his perspective, most notably Saint Louis businessman, Bill (Bill Frisella).

Together, we formed STL-World Class City (STL-WCC). Charley's wife and he worked with the Missouri Secretary of State to form **STL-World Class City LLC**. It was approved in the fall of 2011.

To date, we and other members of the STL-WCC Leadership Team have made over 100 speeches and presentations, etc., throughout the Saint Louis Region before civic and governmental groups, service clubs, labor unions, realty associations, educational institutions, business groups, and policy forums, to name a few. In addition we created a website and a *Facebook* page, participated in several public forums, and appeared several times on radio, TV, and in the print media.

We have recruited hundreds, perhaps thousands, of members and followers to our cause throughout Saint Louis City and County and have, we believe, started a healthy and region-wide conversation about the reunification of our beloved "Saint Louis."

Recently, we decided to join forces with **Pelopidas LLC** because they have far more experience with initiatives of this type and resources that far exceed our own. They have proven to be good partners and we look forward to realizing our dream of having a united Saint Louis once again by 2014 or 2015 as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our great city.

The following is excerpted from our organization's "What We Believe" Mission Statement. The Mission Statement was initially adopted by our organization in January 2011. A modification was approved in February 2011. The version that follows was adopted by STL-World Class City in December 2012 (a full copy is attached to this email message). It can also be viewed at <http://www.stlworldclasscity.com>.

### **What We Believe STL-World Class City Organization**

Mission: The Mission of our organization, STL--World Class City, is to lay the foundation for two possible unification scenarios for Saint Louis City and Saint Louis County, Missouri.

- **Full Unification:** This approach would extend the boundaries of Saint Louis County to include the City of Saint Louis; consolidate all government functions within Saint Louis County departments that are now exercised by Saint Louis City; eliminate municipal governments within Saint Louis County, including the former City of Saint Louis government, create a representative County legislative body; and create an elected County Mayor. The unification process would be completed within four years, phasing out overlapping County and City departments.
- **New Municipality (Re-entry):** This approach would extend the boundaries of Saint Louis County to include the City of Saint Louis; make the City of Saint Louis the 91st municipality in Saint Louis County (like Kirkwood or Florissant, for example); phase out duplicate City of Saint Louis departments (the so-called County offices); and maintain municipal control of the

police and fire departments and local land-use zoning.

We would like to accomplish at least one of these two scenarios no later than the 250th Anniversary of the City of Saint Louis in 2014. Serious regional and statewide non-partisan conversations will be established by widespread communication to residents in the City and County as well as statewide regarding the advantages of unification and to accomplish the legal steps necessary for re-entry.

Now the results. First, we received responses from a very significant 31% of our official membership. This level of response far exceeded our high expectations.

Here are the numbers for the polling period, Thursday-Sunday, May 9-13, 2013:

**1. The city of St. Louis shall become part of St. Louis County and thereafter exist as a city within the county in the same manner as any other city in the county of St. Louis.**

**64% in favor**

**2. The city of St. Louis and St. Louis County shall become a single governing entity with duplicative functions and services eliminated to the extent feasible and operating under the charter of the current St. Louis County.**

**36% in favor**

In general, based on many written comments, those who support "2" would also appear to support "1."

However, those who support "1" expressed more concern about "2" because, as one responder said, "Marriage between the two is the ultimate goal. But maybe it'll make more sense for the couple to live together first before talking marriage."

A similar response came from another member who offered that he would choose "1" now " . . . because I think it will be more feasible

initially. I would ultimately like to see option 2, but personally, I think option 1 is more realistic in the near-term."

Another person who preferred "2" said that "If polling showed not enough support for full merger, then just go for re-entry."

And finally, one person commented, "I think STL world class city should try to put both ideas on the table and see which one the voters would approve."

Effectively, the latter is what our Legislative advocate has proposed doing in the Missouri House of Representatives now and as a Constitutional Amendment for the citizens of Missouri to consider in 2014 or 2015.

The above two proposals our private membership was asked to vote on represents the Legislative language designed to measure public support for the two possible "reunification scenarios" contained within our **Mission Statement**. Both statements were written by an area Legislator who intends to introduce both measures in the House of Representatives of the Missouri General Assembly; hence, in our poll we used his proposed language. Some of the language could be modified due to input we have received during the polling period.

One very important final note -- we believe it is important for all our members and friends to check out the statewide and local polling results for our two proposed ballot initiatives located on our website at:

[http://www.stlworldclasscity.com/?page=polling\\_results](http://www.stlworldclasscity.com/?page=polling_results)

As you can see, there is significant support for our TWO initiatives statewide and locally. And the truth is, support grows when people get more informed about the importance and positive implications of these two proposals. As the California based pollster, Richard Maullin indicated about our two proposed propositions -- "The idea of unifying St Louis City and St. Louis County is not dead on arrival."

We believe that both "1" and "2" are winnable. We must work to help STL-World Class City win at least one of these initiatives. To

constantly debate the importance, relevance, or winnability of either, only works against us.

Thanks for your participation in our poll and for your continuing support of our work. This coming week we will be meeting with a representative from **Pelopidas LLC** to discuss these poll results, the results of the poll they commissioned, and next steps. Stay tuned for further detail.

If you have any additional suggestions or input please let us know by sending Charles Schmitz an email at [charles\\_schmitz@me.com](mailto:charles_schmitz@me.com).

Thanks!