

CITY OF LADUE

Office of the Mayor

October 12, 2021

**PROPOSITION L
VOTE ON
NOVEMBER 2**

Dear Neighbors & Friends:

We are writing to you today because as residents of Ladue, we have an important decision to make on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, with Proposition L. We must decide whether we want to continue the top-tier services that we rely on for the health and safety of ourselves and the people we love.

Prop L is a ballot initiative asking voters to approve a property tax increase for Police, Fire/EMS, and Public Works; the services that the residents and businesses of Ladue rely on most.

While no Mayor and City Council want to ask for or even pay higher taxes, we have a responsibility to ensure our city is funded in a manner that serves its citizens best. We can no longer outrun the rising costs it takes to provide the current levels of public services residents expect from the City of Ladue.

Facts you need to assist you in your decision on November 2, 2021.

- Providing exceptional public safety services is the city's top priority.
- Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Public Works make up over 86% of the operating costs of the city's budget.
- Personnel costs (salaries, benefits, and insurance) continue to rise while revenue streams are declining.
- It has been 17 years since Ladue has asked voters for a property tax increase.
- Missouri law limits the ability for Ladue's property tax revenue to rise above inflation.
- The City of Ladue has some of the most professionally trained and experienced Police, Fire and EMS services in the region:
 - In 2021, the Fire Department's average response for dispatch to enroute is one minute 17 seconds.
 - In 2018, the City of Ladue earned an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 3, which is the top 15% in the country as a fire department. This high rate keeps the cost of residential insurance down.
 - The Ladue Police Department is fully accredited by the State of Missouri Police Chiefs Association.
 - Ladue Police respond to over 11,100 calls for service per year, in addition to over 50,000 calls classified as self-initiated activity, which include surveillance patrols, vacation checks, foot patrols, bicycle patrols, etc.
 - Police response time for burglaries in progress and auto accidents is about two minutes. Only 13.6% of burglaries nationally, have a response rate of under five minutes.
- Without the tax increase, Council may have to consider reducing or outsourcing emergency services and/or eliminating city brush and leaf pick up, which could cost residents more.
- For a home with an appraised value of \$1,000,000, the increase is \$570 or about \$47.50 per month.

We encourage you to visit the city's website www.cityofladue-mo.gov and Facebook page or contact your City Council member, Mayor Spewak or the City Clerk Stacey Mann at (314) 993-3439 for more information.

Regards,

Nancy F. Spewak
Mayor, City of Ladue

Stacey Kamps
Ward I, Council Person

John Howell
Ward I, Council Person

Patrick Hensley
Ward II, Council Person

John Fox
Ward II, Council Person

Hal Burroughs
Ward III, Council Person

Bill Brennan
Ward III, Council Person

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