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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Changes to voting options for April General Municipal Election

With the April General Municipal Election six weeks away, it's important for voters to understand the changes in their options to vote compared to the elections held in August and November 2020.

In 2020, the Missouri General Assembly passed a law that created a new absentee excuse for voters who were vulnerable to COVID-19. In addition, the legislature created a new no excuse mail-in ballot. However, these provisions expired at the end of 2020 and, to date, the General Assembly has not taken any action that would extend the provisions of the 2020 law. Unless or until the General Assembly passes another law, the Board of Elections must abide by the pre COVID-19 laws that are in force.

Residents of St. Louis County who wish to vote with an absentee ballot will have to meet one of the six reasons for voting absentee:

- 1. Absent from St. Louis County on Election Day;
- 2. Incapacitated or confined due to sickness or disability, including caring for a person who is incapacitated or confined due to sickness or disability;
- 3. Restricted by religious belief or practice;
- 4. Employed by an election authority;
- 5. Incarcerated, although all necessary qualifications for voting have been retained;
- 6. A participant in the Missouri Safe at Home program

If a voter does not meet one of the reasons listed above, he/she will only be able to cast their vote inperson at a polling place on Election Day. The absentee ballot application is available at <u>www.stlouiscovotes.com</u> and must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24th.

For more information, visit <u>www.stlouiscovotes.com</u> or call 314-615-1800.

About the St. Louis County Board of Elections

The St. Louis County Board of Elections is a bi-partisan, independent body established by the State of Missouri to protect the integrity of the voting process by accurately, securely, and efficiently conducting all elections in St. Louis County. There are approximately 750,000 registered voters who live in 1,247 precincts and vote in 200+ polling places within the County.

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS