



Matt Devoti
5th Ward Alderman

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5th Ward

**Spring
Legislative
Update**

Neighborhood Associations

North Hampton Neighbors

Meets the 4th Monday of even months
Gethsemane Lutheran Church (basement) 6pm

Southampton Neighborhood Association

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of odd months
Hope Lutheran Church (lower level) 6:30pm

The Hill 2000 Neighborhood Association

Meets the 3rd Thursday of odd months (except July)
Saint Ambrose Church 7pm

Southwest Gardens Neighborhood Association

Meets every 3 months on the fourth Monday
St. Louis Activity Center (4602 Arsenal) 7pm

Stay Informed with the 5th Ward

- **Legislative Updates**
- **Ward Updates**
- **Community Updates**
- **Neighborhood Association Meetings**

Legislative Updates

End of Session:

April marked one year since I took the office of Alderman, and the end of the 2025-2026 legislative session. During the session, I filed a total of eight bills, all of which successfully moved through the Board and were signed by Mayor Cara Spencer.

Charter (BB137):

In February, the Board of Alderman passed Board Bill 137 (ordinance 72103) which I filed to modernize the City Charter. Resulting from a collaborative effort between multiple City offices and officials, the bill puts a Charter amendment to you for a city-wide vote on the August 4, 2026 ballot.

The Charter is the City government's foundational document, our Constitution. Unfortunately, the Charter is outdated and its form makes working with City government more difficult than it needs to be.

The amendment makes changes to the Charter by removing outdated references to Missouri statute and City departments and divisions which no longer exist. The amendment also updates language by removing out of date references to pay scales, replacing pronouns with specific titles, and revising City organization to accurately reflect how City government is organized today.

Earnings tax (BB100):

Board Bill 100 (Ordinance 72067), which proposes a question to the voters of whether to continue the earnings tax, was voted on and passed at the general municipal election on April 7. This approved the earnings tax of 1%, imposed by the City of St. Louis, to be continued for a period of five (5) years commencing January 1.

Ward Updates

Columbia / Southwest Bridge Construction

Work continues to progress toward construction of the long-awaited replacement of the Columbia/Southwest Avenue Bridges. Following a court order on December 31, the city condemned the property for public construction. Construction can begin after the appointed commissioners hold a hearing to determine the value of the easement and the City pays the award.

Contractors will hopefully be in a position to start construction by mid-year. Barring unforeseen circumstances, construction is estimated to take between 14 and 16 months.

Sign up for the 5th Ward Report

Scan the QR code or email walterv@stlouis-mo.gov to join the mailing list for our quarterly newsletter.



Community Updates

Route 366 - Chippewa Street

MoDOT is planning to repave the entirety of Route 366 (5.02 miles on Chippewa from City Limits to Broadway). The 5th Ward is contributing \$35 thousand to fund a Traffic Study with public engagement. The study will generate conceptual plans for potential infrastructure safety improvements. MoDOT will use the study to design these improvements, and the City will pay for their construction.

Bid letting for this project is scheduled for August 2028 with Notice to Proceed anticipated in mid-October, 2028.

Water Division

The City of St. Louis recently allocated \$6.8 million in federal ARPA funds, along with \$1.2 million in interest earnings, to support the Water Division's efforts to address aging water infrastructure. Many of our mains were put in service before 1937, and the system has already experienced about 100 water main breaks this year.

Earlier this year, the Water Division identified approximately \$700 million in infrastructure needs. While the newly allocated \$8 million will help fund critical projects that are ready to move forward, it is clear that it is beyond time for us to invest in this asset. Last year, the Division fixed 399 main breaks, more than twice the national average for a system of our size. The typical cost of repair: \$13,000. The pace is unsustainable.

The Division's revenues are not sufficient to run the utility. What we pay for water is light compared to our neighbors. We pay \$2.62 per 100 cubic feet, which is about 748 gallons of water. Missouri American Water charges St. Louis County residents \$7.76 per unit; Kansas City residents pay \$6.02 per unit.

The Water Division recently presented the result of their rate study to the Board of Aldermen. They laid out multiple versions of a proposed budget and schedule for rate increases to be distributed over several years. Our conversation with the Water Division centered around how to effectively use resources like Rams funds, City general revenue, and bonds in tandem with reasonable rate increases to ensure that the City continues to keep water rates one of the most affordable in the region.

ZOUP

St. Louis's zoning code is being updated for the first time in 70 years. The Zoning Upgrade is a major opportunity to think deeply about how St. Louis will regulate its land use and built form in the future.

The Zoning Division has been in the process of informing and seeking community feedback for this zoning upgrade initiative. You can visit the website (zoup-stl.com) to see their resources or take the survey to be a part of this feedback process.

Representatives from the ZOUP team will be present at the upcoming Hill Neighborhood Association meeting on May 21 to explain the proposed updates, answer questions, and help residents understand what these changes may mean for the neighborhood.

Join us for a discussion of how proposed zoning updates may affect The Hill and opportunities for community involvement in the zoning process, including the formation of a Local Historic District.

Thursday, May 21 at 7:00pm

Saint Ambrose Church, 5130 Wilson Ave