

ABOUT THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

A. Boundary Commission's Role

The Boundary Commission is responsible for the review of proposals affecting the boundaries of incorporated and unincorporated areas in St. Louis County. It is required that most boundary changes be approved by the Commission. It is only under specific circumstances, however, that the Commission's approval of a proposal is sufficient to enact a boundary change. In most cases, voters in affected areas must also approve such changes.

Once the members of the Commission are appointed they operate independently of any County or local jurisdiction. The Commission has the power to hire its own staff, set its budget, devise its rules and make its decisions.

B. The 5/6 Year Cycle

Sections, 72.400-72.423 of the Revised Missouri Statutes dictate the authority and activities of the Boundary Commission. The Statute calls for a six-year cycle divided between the Map Plan phase and the Proposal phase. During the Map Plan phase, which includes the first year-and-a-quarter of the six years, local jurisdictions submit maps to the Commission. Local jurisdictions' Map Plans serve to reserve the right to pursue annexation and established unincorporated area proposals during the Proposal phase.

C. Map Plans

Each municipality located in St. Louis County, the chief elected officials of St. Louis County, and any citizen group may present general maps of proposed boundary changes and proposed established unincorporated areas to the Commission for map plan review. Any map plan which contemplates the incorporation of a municipality or the establishment of an unincorporated area shall be submitted by the chief elected official of St. Louis County, or by a citizen group by means of a petition signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the registered voters in the proposed municipality or proposed established unincorporated area. No jurisdiction can pursue annexation or established unincorporated area proposals unless the proposal(s) are within the map plan boundaries.

The next opportunity to submit map plans will take place between January 1, 2012 and July 1, 2012.

D. Proposals

The Commission reviews a number of different types of Proposals which are on file at the Boundary Commission office and the city hall of the proposing agent. Again, no jurisdiction can pursue annexation or established unincorporated area proposals unless the proposal(s) are within the map plan boundaries.

i. Annexation

An annexation is the means by which a city proposes to enlarge its boundaries by adding an unincorporated area. The Commission has nine (9) months to review the proposal. If the Commission approves the proposal, separate elections are held in both the city and

unincorporated area. For the annexation to occur, a simple majority in both areas must vote in favor.

ii. Simplified Boundary Change -Petition

Generally, this has the same procedures as a regular annexation. A simplified annexation proposal, however, includes a petition of seventy-five percent of registered voters in the unincorporated area. By including the petition, the Commission only has four (4) months to approve or disapprove the proposal, and the Commission may approve the proposal without an election being required.

iii. Simplified Boundary Change – Transfer of Jurisdiction

A transfer of jurisdiction proposal is submitted by two jurisdictions, either two cities, or, a city and the County. In this kind of proposal, two jurisdictions support annexation. (They are required to pass ordinances in support of annexation, included within the proposal). The Commission has four months to approve or disapprove the proposal. The Commission has the authority to approve the proposal without an election, if it so desires.

iv. Established Unincorporated Areas

The County can submit proposals to have areas designated off limits for annexations proposals for a period of five years. The Commission has nine months to approve or disapprove these proposals. The proposal can only take effect if a simple majority in the unincorporated area votes in favor of an election.

v. Consolidation

Two cities propose to become one city. The Commission has nine (9) months to approve or disapprove a proposal. The proposal only takes effect if a simple majority in the cities vote in favor in separate elections.

vi. Incorporation

The initiation of incorporation proposals must occur in the map plan phase. Incorporation map plans must include a petition signed by at least five (5) percent of registered voters. The Commission has nine months to approve or disapprove these proposals. Incorporations take effect if a simple majority in the unincorporated area votes in favor in an election.

The Commission will begin accepting Proposals between April 15, 2013 and July 1, 2016.

E. Boundary Commission Rules

The Statute calls for the creation of Rules, which the Commission initially approved in May 2000. The Commission made a minor revision to the rules in October 2001, December 2005 and August 2011. The Rules mirror the content of the Statute and provide the detail necessary for efficient operation of the Commission. Article V of the Rules details the material required to submit a proposal to the Commission.

F. Boundary Commission By-Laws

The Boundary Commission By-Laws dictate the internal workings of the organization. The initial approval of the By-Laws was in February 2000 and revisions were made in September 2001 and July 2007. Portions of the By-Laws of particular important address: the election and duty of officers, the conduct of meetings, attendance policy and the Rules.

G. Budget

The Commission sets its own budget, which is funded by St. Louis County.