

House Concurrent Resolution No. 97

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DOGAN.

6627H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

2 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of Missouri outlines a process for the residents of St. Louis
3 City and St. Louis County to vote on the structure of their governments through the
4 establishment of a Board of Freeholders by petition or appointment by the county executive,
5 mayor of St. Louis, and governor of Missouri; and

5

6 **WHEREAS**, some Missourians may submit a constitutional amendment that would
7 consolidate St. Louis City and St. Louis County to voters on a statewide ballot in order to dilute
8 the will of voters in St. Louis City and St. Louis County; and

9

10 **WHEREAS**, a statewide vote on the important matter of local government structure
11 would set a precedent for subsequent statewide votes that could mandate the consolidation of
12 counties, school districts, or other political subdivisions in this state, which may be contrary to
13 the wishes of the people those decisions affect; and

14

15 **WHEREAS**, in 1962, the voters of Missouri overwhelmingly rejected a constitutional
16 amendment to merge the governments of St. Louis City and St. Louis County by a vote of
17 seventy-four percent against and only twenty-six percent for; and

18

19 **WHEREAS**, the appropriate way to change the structure of government in St. Louis City
20 and St. Louis County is to convince the voters within those jurisdictions that such change would
21 be beneficial, and it is inappropriate to enact a change by convincing voters elsewhere in the
22 state; and

23

24 **WHEREAS**, the St. Louis County Council, which governs the largest county in the state
25 and nearly one million residents, and the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, which
26 governs the second-largest city in the state and over three hundred fifteen thousand residents,
27 should have a major voice in all discussions of governance in the St. Louis region; and

28

29 **WHEREAS**, the governing bodies of the many municipalities in St. Louis County should
30 also be significantly involved in any discussion so that they may advocate for the best interest
31 of their residents; and

32

33 **WHEREAS**, the St. Louis County Council and fifty-seven of the eighty-nine
34 municipalities in St. Louis County have all passed resolutions that oppose a statewide vote to
35 adopt a constitutional amendment to change the structure of government of St. Louis City and
36 St. Louis County:

37

38 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
39 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
40 concurring therein, hereby oppose any statewide vote or legislative mandate to reorganize the
41 governments in St. Louis City and St. Louis County; and

42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly does not take a position on
44 whether St. Louis City and St. Louis County should consolidate or otherwise change the structure
45 of their governments; and

46

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly supports the people of St.
48 Louis City and St. Louis County discussing the reorganization and possible consolidation of their
49 governments and supports whatever decision those people choose as a result of such a
50 discussion; and

51

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
53 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
54 governing bodies of St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

✓