

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1

A RESOLUTION URGING STATE SENATORS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO OPPOSE SENATE BILL 1152, HOUSE BILL 1613, SENATE BILL 1329, AND/OR ANY RELATED OR AMENDED BILL VERSION, WHICH WOULD MOVE ALL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION DATE AND/OR REQUIRE CANDIDATES TO DECLARE A POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION WHEN FILING FOR OFFICE

WHEREAS, Senator Rusty Black is the State Senator for the Missouri’s 12th Senatorial District, which represents the citizens in DeKalb county; and,

WHEREAS, Senator Nicola prefiled Senate Bill 1152 and Representative Allen prefiled House Bill 1613 on December 1, 2025, which requires all municipal elections to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November each year. Additionally, Senator Brattin prefiled Senate Bill 1329 on December 1, 2025, which requires all candidates for offices to declare a political party affiliation when filing for office; and,

WHEREAS, holding local elections in November would redirect voter attention to high-profile state and federal races, diminishing focus on local issues and candidates. Local ballot measures could be overshadowed by larger contests and get lost in the broader political climate; and,

WHEREAS, this shift would result in longer ballots and increased voter fatigue, while further reducing attention to local issues—such as public safety services, local taxes, infrastructure investments, and zoning decisions—that are best served by focused voter consideration and community-centered engagement; and,

WHEREAS, standalone municipal elections allow local issues to receive focused attention, encourage informed decision-making, and preserve the nonpartisan, community-centered nature of local governance; and,

WHEREAS, requiring candidates to declare political party affiliation instead of choosing the ideal candidate for local issues, can create incentives tied to party goals, rather than neutral administration. The focus will be on party affiliation which causes suppression to independent voices which results in reduction in competition, especially in areas where one political party is majority; and,

WHEREAS, electing local election officials using a partisan framework can create incentives tied to party goals, rather than neutral administration. This structure risks undermining public confidence by shifting the focus from neutral oversight and fairness to advancing partisan goals, even in offices that are intended to function independently and objectively.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF
ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF CLARKSDALE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen of the City of Clarksdale hereby urges our State Senators and State Representatives to vote against Senate Bill 1152 Senate Bill 1329, and/or any related or amended bill version, which would require all municipal elections to be held exclusively during the November general election and require all candidates for offices to declare a political party affiliation when filing for office.

SECTION 2. The Board of Aldermen of the City of Clarksdale urges Governor Mike Kehoe to veto any legislation passed by the Missouri General Assembly that would require all municipal elections to be held in November each year and require all candidates for offices to declare a political party affiliation when filing for office.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk of the City of Clarksdale shall forward a copy of this resolution to all the State Senators and State Representatives that represents DeKalb County, and to President Damien Boley of Mo. Municipal League.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

Read and adopted this 17th day of February 2026.

Natascha Hays, Mayor

Attest: _____
Tina Good, City Clerk