

Financial Transparency Report

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2021



ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI



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About This Report

The purpose of the Financial Transparency Report is to increase awareness throughout the community of the County's finances. The report provides a brief analysis of the County's revenue sources, where those dollars are spent, and an overview of the County's financial condition. It is our goal that this report is easy to read and understand.

This report contains condensed and simplified financial information from the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which can be viewed on the County's website at:

stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/administration/fiscal-management/

The ACFR is a more complete, independently audited financial presentation prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).



Strategic Priorities

Health and Safety

Protecting the Health and
Safety of All County
Residents

Opportunity

Building an inclusive and
Equitable County

Good Government

Creating a Customer
Centered County
Government



Message From The County Executive

Dear St. Louis County Residents,

It is with great pleasure that St. Louis County provides the annual Financial Transparency Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021. Throughout 2021, St. Louis County Government proved its resilience in standing up to the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to find innovative ways to serve our community safely.

Early last year, the County began administering an effective shield against the virus with the first COVID-19 vaccine, at times vaccinating up to 18,000 people in a single week. In conjunction with protective measures that we enacted based on the advice of health experts, the vaccine allowed the County to provide more in-person services.

Advances notwithstanding, the pandemic continued to take a grim toll on the County. We lost more than 3,000 of our residents to this virus. Livelihoods also fell victim to the pandemic. Through federal relief funds, we were able to provide millions of dollars in grants to small businesses to assist in the recovery.

This year did bring some promising economic news for the region with the announcement of the first non-stop flights to Europe in nearly 20 years and \$790 million settlement from the Rams lawsuit. Millions of dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funds were put into programs and services to help thousands of our residents and businesses.

The St. Louis region welcomed the first influx of Afghan refugees, who offer a tremendous amount of skill, talent, and culture that will enhance and enrich our community.

Despite daunting obstacles, St. Louis County remained the most powerful economic engine in Missouri, account for 21 percent of the 218,000 new jobs created in the entire state last year. Regardless of the challenges ahead, County government will continue to remain fiscally responsible as our employees carry on the hard work meeting the needs of all our residents.

We are committed to providing clear and transparent reporting of the County's financial activities and hope this report is helpful. The financial information in this report is derived from the County's 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and is consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. If you would like to know more information about St. Louis County Government and its various departments and agencies, please visit the County's website at stlouiscountymo.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Page". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Sam Page

About Our County



St. Louis County was formed on October 1, 1812 (nine years before Missouri became a state) as one of the counties organized by Governor William Clark out of the five administrative districts of the Upper Louisiana Territory. As originally formed, St. Louis County included the area that is now St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, and Franklin County. In 1818, Franklin and Jefferson Counties were formed out of the original St. Louis County. In 1876, St. Louis City separated from St. Louis County, leaving the county at its present size of 524 square miles. In 1877, the City of Clayton was selected as the county seat.

With a population of 997,187, St. Louis County is the largest county in Missouri containing 16 percent of the state's population. St. Louis County is the 50th largest county in the United States. St. Louis County is also an important employment center with approximately half of the metropolitan area's jobs and one quarter of all jobs in Missouri.



St. Louis County's 88 municipalities have primary responsibility within their jurisdictions for services such as public safety, planning and zoning, local street maintenance and building code enforcement. The unincorporated area, which contains nearly one-third of the County's population and one-third of its area, comes under the direct jurisdiction of county government.

The County's 24 school districts are independent governmental entities, as are the 25 fire protection districts, which share fire protection responsibilities with 19 municipal fire departments. Special service districts provide sewer, library, junior college, and cultural facilities within the County. Privately owned utilities provide electrical, natural gas, water, and telephone service.

Demographics

The County's nearly 1 million residents live in 88 municipalities and unincorporated areas. The county is comprised of seven Council Districts and has 686,293 registered voters.

Government

Voters select the County Executive and a seven-person County Council to govern the County and work to provide high quality services to businesses and visitors. The Prosecuting Attorney and Assessor are also elected. Elected officials serve four-year terms.

Infrastructure

The County maintains the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, approximately 3,168 lane miles of roadway, 670 traffic signals, and 220 vehicle and pedestrian bridges. Visitors and residents alike enjoy 73 county parks, 166 miles of trails, 44 playgrounds, 65 athletic fields, and 6 recreation complexes.

Economy

With a thriving business community and exceptional schools, St. Louis County provides a rich quality of life for its residents. In addition to its acclaimed cultural amenities, the County boasts the highest per capita personal income and educational attainment in Missouri and employs more people than any other county in the state.

The County operates as a first-class county of the State of Missouri governed by a charter, originally adopted in 1950. The elected County Executive serves as the chief executive officer of the County. The legislative body is composed of a seven-member County Council. The County's fiscal year begins on January 1st.

The County provides a wide range of services falling within three categories: 1) county-wide services, which are available on an equal basis to all residents of St. Louis County; 2) services to unincorporated areas; and 3) services to incorporated areas by contractual agreement. The County also owns and operates Spirit of St. Louis Airport as a self-supporting enterprise. Major services provided by the County include:

- Police protection
- Health care
- Environmental health
- Public works
- Tax assessment
- Human services
- Low income assistance
- Judicial services
- Parks and recreation
- Election administration
- Planning and zoning

Economic Recovery During COVID-19

More than 2 years after the COVID-19 national emergency declaration on March 13, 2020, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to work with the County to help bring this pandemic to an end. During 2021, FEMA reimbursable eligible emergency protective measures taken in response to COVID-19 included County provided vaccination clinics and efforts. Approximately \$30.4 million in COVID-19 FEMA reimbursable costs were expended by the County over this 21 ½ month period.



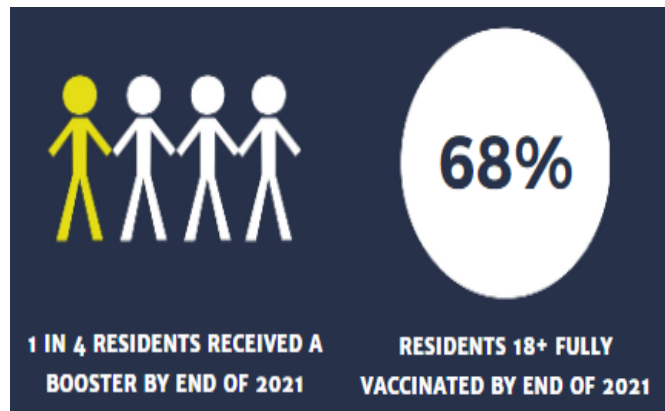
The County received \$173.4 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) in April 2020 with a grant period ending December 31, 2021. This legislation was passed by Congress to provide economic relief for individuals, businesses, and state and local governments. The County's expenditure of these funds centered on saving lives, helping residents meet basic needs, and the revitalization of the local economy. As of December 31, 2021, these funds were fully expended.

In 2021, the County received \$29.7 million under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021's first Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA1). These funds were also fully expended as of December 31, 2021.

2020 and 2021 expenditures of FEMA, CARES Act and ERA1 grant funds totaling \$233.5 million, detailed above, were focused in following five categories:



In 2021, the County received \$96.6 million (50% of \$193.2 million) of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and an additional \$12.0 million (40% of \$29.9 million) of second Emergency Rental Assistance program funds (ERA2) under the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) 2021. This legislation was passed by Congress to provide and facilitate the United States' recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds have grant periods through 2026 and 2025, respectively. The County elected to utilize \$80 million of SLFRF funds for the provision of eligible public safety and public health service costs in 2021 under Treasury's revenue loss provision. The County's 2020 revenue loss due to COVID-19 totals more than \$94.2 million.



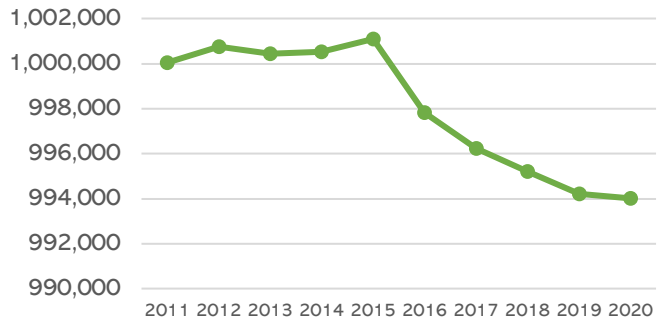
ST. LOUIS COUNTY QUICK FACTS

FOUNDED

1812



Total Population 2020: 994,020



Race

Black/African American population make up **24.6%** of the population.

Ethnicity

Hispanic population continues to grow. The current population is **37,178** or **3.7%** of the population (regardless of race).

Age

We are an aging community but also home to a sizeable number of millennials and Gen-Zers. Median age is **40.4**.

Education

44.4% of our population has a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Households

13.0% of the population 65+ is living alone.

Foreign Born

7.6% of our population is foreign born which is lower than the nation (13.6%).

Housing

68.3% of the population owns a home, which is higher than the state and nation, 2020 median home value is **\$206,700**.

ACS 5-year estimates 2020



Poverty

Poverty Rate is **9.3%** which is lower than the state and country. Poverty is highest in the inner North and Outer North subareas.



Employment

The employment rate is **62.30%** which is higher than that of Missouri. North County has higher rates of unemployment than other areas.



Income

Median Household income is **\$68,661** which is higher than the state and the country.

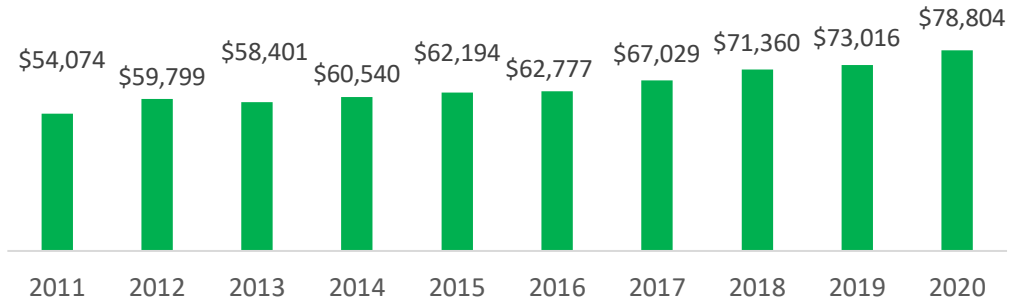
ACS 5-year estimates 2020

ST. LOUIS COUNTY STATISTICS

PER CAPITA INCOME

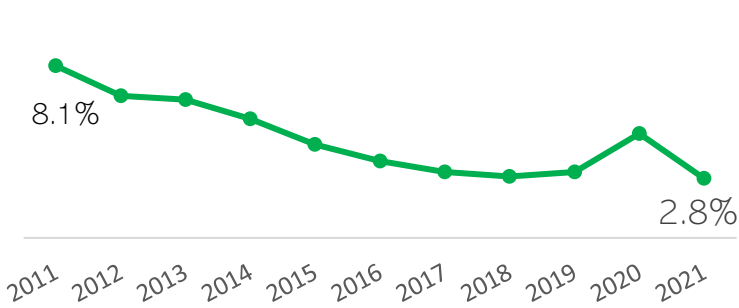
\$78,804

PER CAPITA
PERSONAL
INCOME



U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

UNEMPLOYMENT



2.8%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Missouri Economic Research and Information
Center, Missouri Department of Economic
Development
Not seasonally adjusted

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Employer	Employees	Percentage of Total County Employment
Washington University in St. Louis	18,805	3.7%
Mercy Healthcare	15,410	3.1%
Boeing Defense, Space & Security	14,865	3.0%
SSM Healthcare	14,600	2.9%
Schnucks Markets Inc.	8,658	1.7%
Special School District of St. Louis County	5,773	1.2%
Edward Jones	4,865	1.0%
Enterprise Holdings	4,800	1.0%
St. Luke's Hospital	4,699	0.9%
St. Louis County Government	4,285	0.9%
Total	96,760	19.4%

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The County's Statement of Net Position (governmental and business type activities) reflects the County's financial condition as of December 31, 2021. The assets and deferred outflows (what the County owns) exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows (what the County owes) at December 31, 2021, by approximately \$1.2 billion (net position). The positive net position indicates a measure of financial stability. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the County is improving or deteriorating.

**Net Position
+15.7%
from 2020**

	2021	2020	2019
Current and Other Assets	\$ 1,101,819,058	\$ 1,002,998,307	\$ 913,382,110
Capital Assets, Net	1,097,257,802	1,135,940,420	1,165,987,059
Deferred Outflows of Resources	83,827,885	72,204,496	123,772,948
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	2,282,904,745	2,211,143,223	2,203,142,117
Current Liabilities	167,209,465	228,790,706	143,221,188
Noncurrent Liabilities	794,093,223	871,046,954	940,220,023
Deferred Inflows of Resources	105,999,731	60,324,833	19,308,441
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	1,067,302,419	1,160,162,493	1,102,749,652
Net Investment in Capital Assets	827,885,659	843,518,184	887,751,935
Restricted	611,490,611	537,142,517	535,539,053
Unrestricted (deficit)	(223,773,944)	(329,679,971)	(322,898,523)
Net Position	\$ 1,215,602,326	\$ 1,050,980,730	\$ 1,100,392,465



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the County's net position (revenues less expenses) changed during the fiscal year. This statement shows both the level of resources available to the County for providing services in addition to the costs for providing the services during the fiscal year. Revenues are summarized by source and expenses are shown to reflect the various functions of the County government.

Revenue for the County in 2021 totaled \$1.0 billion, an increase of \$139.9 million or 16.1% compared to 2020. Total revenue increased in 2021 due to a variety of offsetting factors including: tax growth, timing of federal COVID-19 stimulus programs, and reduction in investment earnings. Expenses for the County totaled \$846.1 million in 2021, a decrease of \$74.2 million or 8.1% as compared to 2020. This decrease is generally due to the timing of expenses associated with fighting the pandemic, limiting its spread, and helping residents weather the economic downturn it caused.

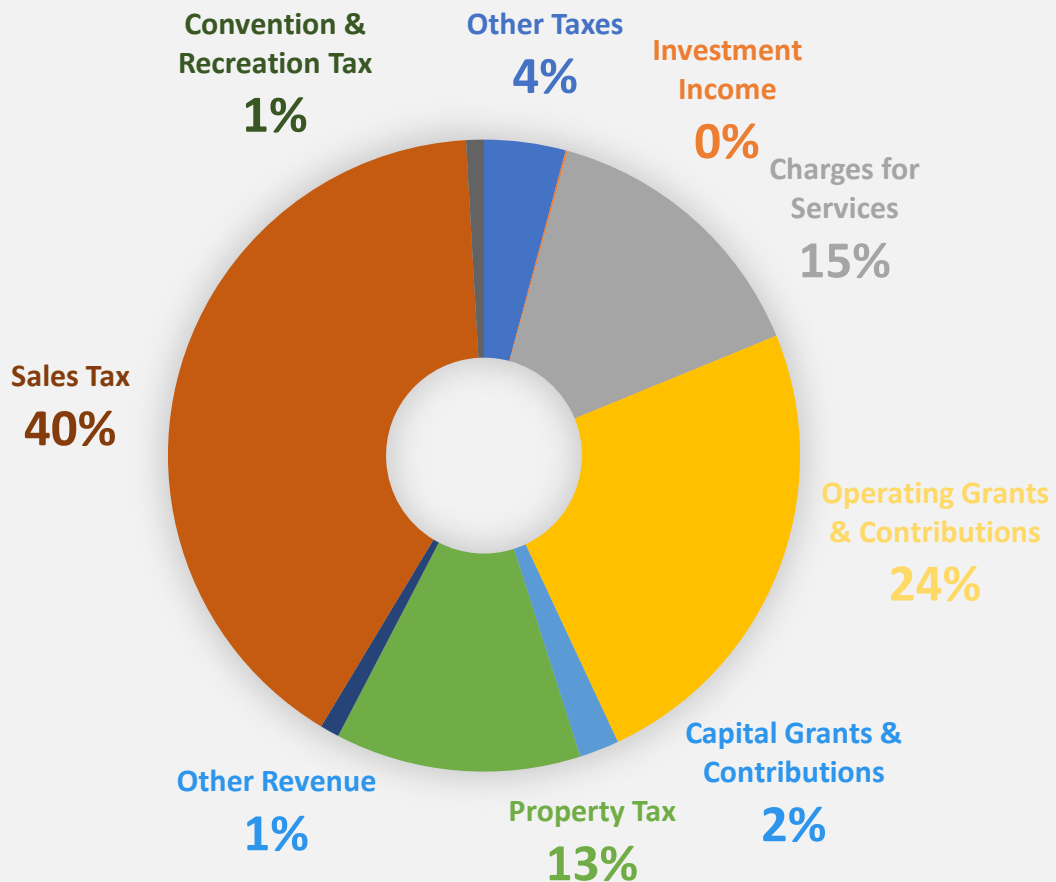
	2021	2020	2019
REVENUES			
Program Revenues			
Charges for Services	\$ 147,282,979	\$ 134,926,496	\$ 150,365,074
Grants and Contributions	266,050,387	174,850,148	88,316,759
General Revenues			
Taxes	588,438,856	533,100,274	565,175,471
Other Revenue	8,941,783	27,967,461	30,972,229
Total Revenues	1,010,714,005	870,844,379	834,829,533
EXPENSES			
General Government	138,663,867	202,067,687	118,832,072
Public Safety	234,845,913	249,444,963	252,264,493
Human Services	84,421,981	70,027,607	50,919,394
Highways & Traffic	92,026,592	93,726,201	90,006,889
Health	80,856,823	77,340,225	53,269,833
Parks and Recreation	33,166,407	28,617,276	31,935,876
Transportation	147,396,738	166,535,828	162,195,170
Convention & Recreation	5,444,121	-	-
Spirit of St. Louis Airport	19,528,226	12,570,569	21,282,534
Interest and Fiscal Changes	9,741,741	19,925,758	24,417,249
Total Expenses	846,092,409	920,256,114	805,123,510
Change in Net Position	164,621,596	(49,411,735)	29,706,023
Beginning Net Position	1,050,980,730	1,100,392,465	1,067,854,254
Prior Period Adjustment	-	-	2,832,188
Net Position (Restated)	1,050,980,730	1,100,392,465	1,070,686,442
Ending Net Position	\$1,215,602,326	\$1,050,980,730	\$1,100,392,465



**2021
Revenues
Exceeded
Expenses
by
\$164.6
Million**

124,030 Aircraft operations at Spirit of St. Louis Airport.	\$27 Mil Distributed in rental, mortgage, and utility assistance.	12,700 County park acres meticulously maintained.	56,000 Residents helped by customer service in person.	611,279 Pieces of outgoing U.S mail handled.
16,800 Tons of rock salt spread by Transportation during 8 snow & ice storms.	170 Residents received CDL through the County's Workforce Development program.	450,000 Documents digitally scanned in the Imaging Services Lab.	\$890 Mil County budget for 2022.	760 Pieces of legislation prepared.

Where the Money Comes From



There are two main sources of revenue for the County: program revenues and general revenues. Program revenues include charges for services. General revenues include sales taxes, property taxes, and other revenues that are not generated through programming. Nearly 59% of the County's \$1,010.7 million in revenue is generated by taxes, including property, sales, utility gross receipts, and casino taxes.

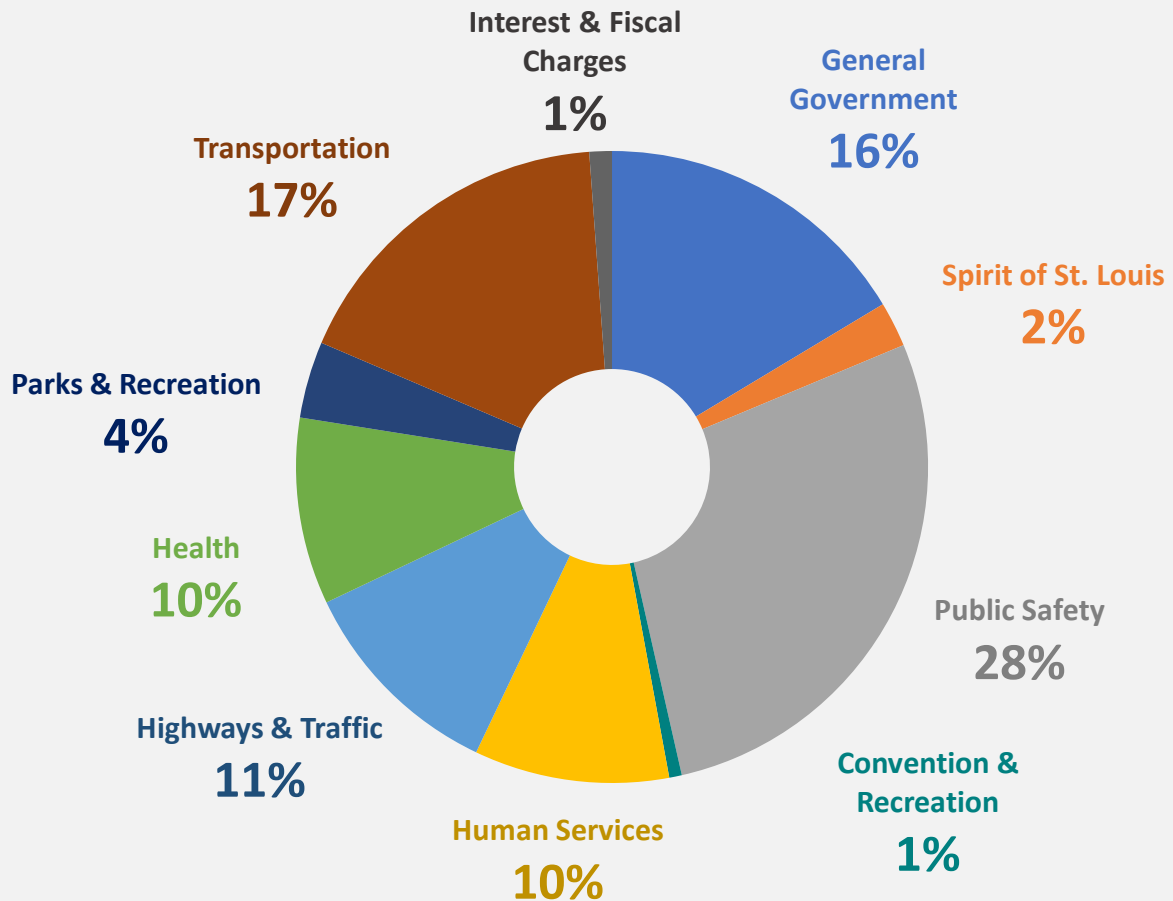
\$1,010.7 mil
in total revenue

\$409.9 mil
Sales tax

\$266.1 mil
Grants & Contributions

\$127.2 mil
Property tax

Where the Money Goes To



The total cost of programs and services for 2021 was \$846.1 million. The public safety function, which includes police, judicial administration and justice services, had the largest expense of \$234.8 million, or 28% of total expenses. The transportation function was \$147.4 million and the second largest expense at 17% of total expenses. The general government function was the third largest expense in 2021 at \$138.7 million, or 16%.

\$846.1 mil
in total expense

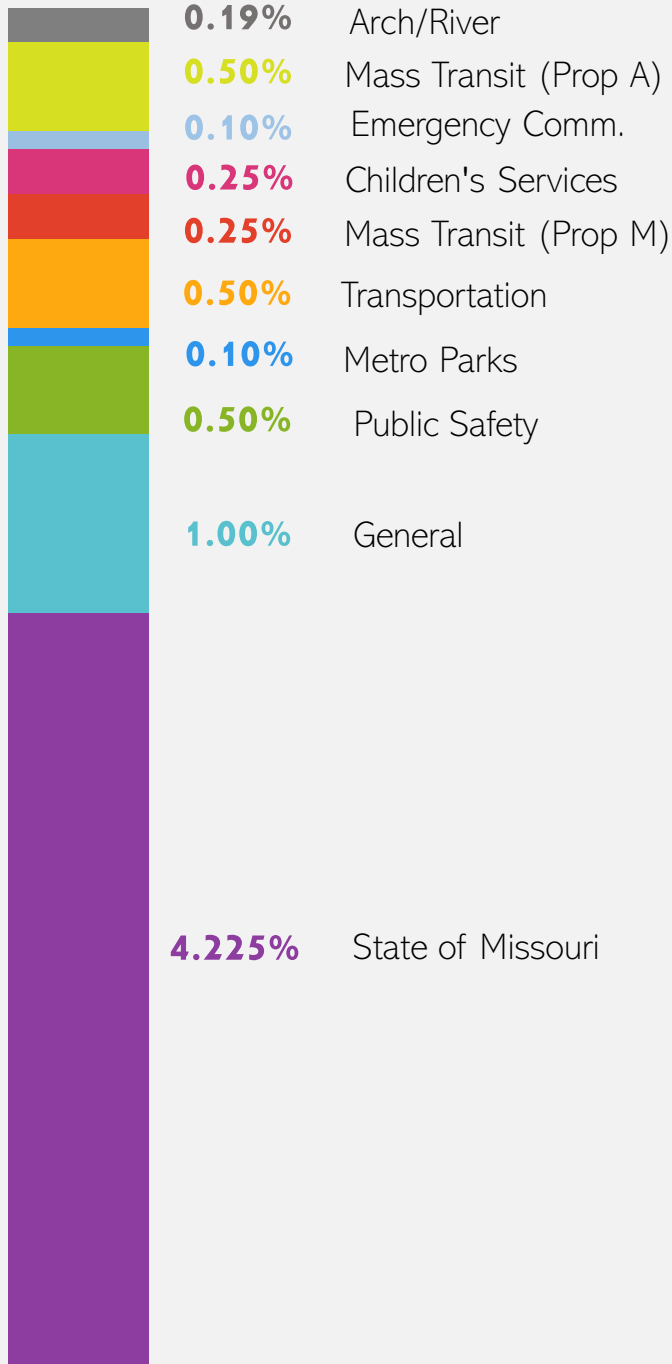
\$234.8 mil
Public Safety

\$147.4 mil
Transportation

\$138.7 mil
General Government

EXPLAINING YOUR

SALES TAX



Sales tax rate

QUICK FACTS

7.615%

Total sales tax rate in
St. Louis County

MO: 4.225%

STLCO: 3.39%

\$409.9 mil

2021 sales tax revenue
generated for
St. Louis County

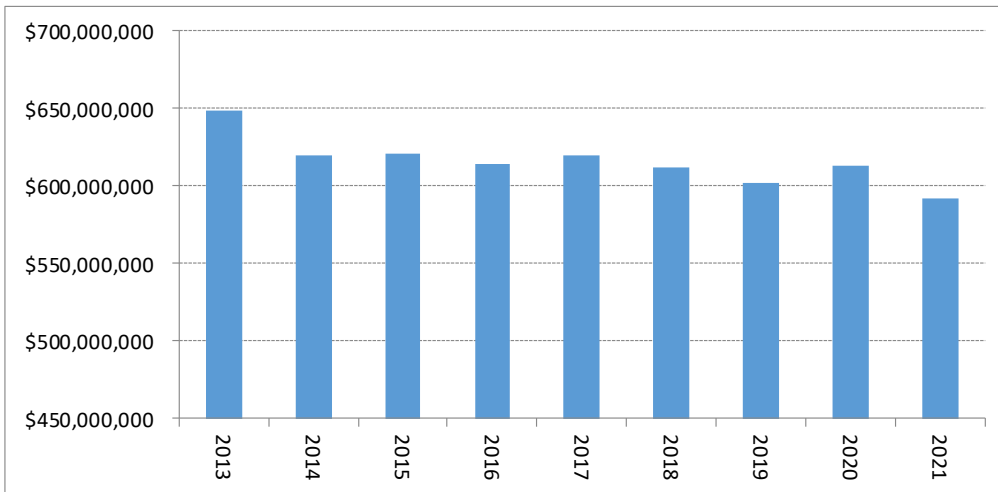
9

Separate sales taxes to
finance both general
government operations
and specialized functions

WHAT WE OWE

The majority of the County's long-term liabilities are bonds used to finance the construction of major capital facilities and other capital improvement projects. Since 2013, the County's overall outstanding long-term liabilities (including compensated absences and claims payable) has been declining as debt repayments over time have exceeded new debt issuances. During 2021, the County advance refunded certain outstanding obligation bonds in the amount of \$160.7 million. The advance refunding will result in reducing interest and principle payments by \$25.3 million over the next 17 years to obtain an economic gain of \$23.0 million (i.e. difference between the present values of the debt service payments on the refunded debt and the refunding debt).

**Long-Term
Liabilities
Decreased
3.6%
from
2020**



Disclosure of Bond Ratings

The County's underlying general obligation credit ratings as of December 31, 2021

AAA
Fitch
Ratings Inc.
Credit Rating

Aaa
Moody's
Investor
Service
Credit Rating

AA+
Standard &
Poor's
Credit Rating



Exceptional bond ratings save the County money by securing lower interest rates on its debt. The County is proud to receive these high designations of financial strength.

FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARDS

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) represents public finance officials. Throughout the United States and Canada, the GFOA has established several highly regarded professional recognition programs to encourage and assist state and local governments of all types and sizes to improve the quality of their financial management and to recognize their achievement.



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

**St. Louis County
Missouri**

For its Annual Comprehensive
Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2020

Christopher P. Morrell
Executive Director/CEO

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting – The GFOA awarded the Certification of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to St. Louis County for its ACFR for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020. In order to be awarded a certificate of achievement, a government must publish easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal regulations. A certificate is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that the current ACFR continues to meet the program requirements and we have submitted it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.



**The County was honored to receive
GFOA's Triple Crown for its 2020 reporting.**



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

PRESENTED TO

**St. Louis County
Missouri**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning
January 01, 2021

Christopher P. Morrell
Executive Director

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award – The GFOA presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to St. Louis County for its Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communication device. This award is valid for a period of one year only.



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Presented to

**St. Louis County
Missouri**

For its Annual Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2020

Christopher P. Morrell
Executive Director/CEO

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting - For the first time, the County submitted and received the GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting (PAFR) for its fiscal year ended December 31, 2020. This award is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal for preparation of governmental popular reports. We believe that the current PAFR continues to meet the Award for Outstanding Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA for consideration.

GLOSSARY

The following terms are used in this report and are defined below:

Advance Refunded – Taking the funds received from a new bond issuance to pay off a prior issue’s debt.

Business-Type Activities - The County’s activities that are funded primarily through user charges. These activities are designed to be self-supporting and do not use general tax revenue.

Capital Projects – Major projects such as roads, parks, and building renovations.

Compensated Absences - Under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the County is required to accrue employee’s earned time off for vacation and compensatory time.

Debt Service Funds - Funds designed to hold money to pay for principal and interest on the County’s long-term debt.

Deferred Inflows – Represents an acquisition of net assets by the County that is applicable to a future reporting period.

Deferred Outflows - Represents a consumption of net assets by the County that is applicable to a future reporting period.

Fund - A self-balancing set of accounts, segregated for specific purposes in accordance with laws and regulations or special restrictions and limitations.

General Obligation Bonds - A form of government debt that is backed by the full faith and credit of the government.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) - Organization whose mission is to promote the professional management of governments for the public benefit by identifying and developing financial policies and best practices and promoting their use through education, training, facilitation of membership networking, and leadership.

Governmental Activities - Functions of the County that are funded primarily through taxes and intergovernmental revenues. User charges do not fund a significant amount of the functions.

Investment Income - The amount of money earned from both the rate paid on the principal value of the investments, as well as, any unrealized and realized gains or losses due to changes in market value of the investments.

Net Position - The difference between the County’s assets and liabilities. It is the net worth of the County.

Primary Government - All of the governmental and business-type activities belonging to the County.

Restricted – Represents amounts that are not available for use by the County because they are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. These external restrictions include those imposed by grantors, contributors, laws and/or regulations of other governments.

Unrestricted – Represents the remaining net position available for the County to use for operations.





COMMENTS AND
QUESTIONS

Fiscal Management Division
Attention: Chief Accounting Officer, Vickie Fredrick
41 S. Central
Clayton, MO 63105

E-mail: fmanagement@stlouiscountymo.gov