



Survey of St. Louis, MO Candidates for Local Office

The Victims of Communism – St. Louis Commission (VOC-STL) is affiliated with the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC), an educational, research, and human rights nonprofit devoted to educating future generations about the ideology, history, and legacy of communism.

VOC-STL conducted a survey with all candidates for local office in the St. Louis, MO area. The goal of the survey is to address candidate views on communism, and how they would be willing to recognize individual victims of communist regimes.

Along with our leadership, supporters, and volunteers, there are many individuals who are very passionate about this important topic. This includes the large number of immigrants who fled communist countries for a better life in St. Louis.

If you would like to hear from any of the candidates who did not complete the survey, please contact them directly and refer them to <u>stl@victimsofcommunism.org</u> or 314-282-7069. The survey will remain open for additional responses.

Findings reflect the responses of 17 candidates.

The survey was conducted between January 22nd and February 11th, 2021.





SURVEY OVERVIEW

PARTICIPANTS

KEY INSIGHTS

SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY OVERVIEW

Sixteen (16) individuals, including Democrats, Republicans, and Green Party candidates, responded to the survey for these offices:

Office	Number of Survey Responses
Mayor	2
Comptroller	0
Alderman Ward 1	1
Alderman Ward 3	1
Alderman Ward 4	1
Alderman Ward 5	0
Alderman Ward 7	0
Alderman Ward 9	1
Alderman Ward 11	0
Alderman Ward 12	2
Alderman Ward 13	0
Alderman Ward 15	1
Alderman Ward 17	1
Alderman Ward 19	1
Alderman Ward 21	4

Alderman Ward 23	1
Alderman Ward 25	0
Alderman Ward 27	1

PARTICIPANTS

MAYOR

ANDREW M. JONES, JR.

LEWIS E. REED

ALDERMAN WARD 1

YOLANDA BROWN

ALDERMAN WARD 3

BRANDON M. FRAZIER-BOSLEY

ALDERMAN WARD 4

DWINDERLIN EVANS

ALDERMAN WARD 9

KENNETH A. ORTMANN

ALDERMAN WARD 12

VICKY L. GRASS

JOSEPH L. RUSCH

ALDERMAN WARD 15

JENNIFER A. FLORIDA

ALDERMAN WARD 17

DONALD E. DE VIVO

ALDERMAN WARD 19

MARLENE E. DAVIS

ALDERMAN WARD 21

TAVON T. BROOKS

JOHN M. COLLINS-MUHAMMAD

LAURA M. KEYS

TICHARWA Z. MASIMBA

ALDERMAN WARD 23

JOSEPH V. VACCARO, JR.

ALDERMAN WARD 27

PAMELA R. BOYD

KEY INSIGHTS

Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced? Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?

• Fifteen (15) candidates believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced; and are also concerned about the spread of communist ideology.

Do you believe there are victims of communism?

• Sixteen (16) candidates stated that they believe there are victims of communism.

In various open-ended questions, candidates also shared their personal experiences and perspectives on communism and its victims.

See below for individual responses, listed in alphabetical order by office and by candidates' last name.

SURVEY RESULTS

MAYOR

ANDREW M. JONES, JR.

What is your name?	Andrew Jones
For what office are you running?	Mayor
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Certainly there are victims of communism. Any system that limits citizens civil liberties and denies due process produces victims.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	I would connect them with advocacy and support groups. I would also align these victim with politicians so that the knowledge and information about the realities can be spread.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes

	I used my bully pulpit to discuss the inhumanity of the system. The history is rife with catastrophic facts.
above questions.	The history of communism is replete with large scale systematic inhumanity and failure. We must do a better job of informing and educating.

MAYOR

LEWIS E. REED

What is your name?	Lewis Reed
For what office are you running?	Mayor
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	For hundreds of years, people have been oppressed and had their basic human rights violated by communist regimes. There are victims living in St. Louis in search of a better life and we must work together to change the future.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	I will continue to work to build a stronger, safer St. Louis for all of our residents. We need everyone to know that you are welcome in St. Louis and you are safe here. We cannot allow this to happen for future generations. We need to continue to fight and advocate for the freedoms of those who are still captives of communist regimes.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes

What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	I have led the City through some of the most difficult times in recent history. I am the only candidate with a proven record of working to reduce crime in our City; taking illegal guns off the streets; creating good high paying jobs; supporting our workers and small businesses; standing up for homeowners who are at- risk of foreclosure; increasing government transparency and accountability; protecting our environment; and preserving the unique character of our neighborhoods and much more. I am also the only candidate who sponsored and supported the resolution at the Board of Aldermen recognizing victims of communism.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

YOLANDA BROWN

What is your name?	Yolanda Brown
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Because thaere are countries that have historiclly repressed the rights and freedoms of indiviuals and that is reflected in the influx of immagrints into america from these same countries over the 6 or 7 decades. Ive also witnessed a global calpse of economies of comunist regiems.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	I would try to create an environment that maximizes the opportunities that immigrants can take advantage of . I will welcome them by supporting programs to incentivize their stay.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes

communist ideology?	Over the last four years I've worked to make a community and environment that they could potentially benefit and be empowered
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

BRANDON M. FRAZIER-BOSLEY

What is your name?	Brandon Bosley
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Anytime there is an attempt to control human behavior there will be victims.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	I can only do the best that I can to help support those who are victimized by being human and understanding Once knee which will be specific to each individual person.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	Every day I wake up I live in a system that Has victimized my people for decades. I fight that same system to fight communism every single day.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

DWINDERLIN EVANS

What is your name?	Dwinderlin Evans
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	From what is displayed on the news media
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	Explain that living in a Democracy people can take part in the decisions that effect the way their community is run.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	No
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	Nothing at this time
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

KENNETH A. ORTMANN

What is your name?	Ken Ortmann
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Because of actions I have seen from communists.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	I would support individuals and business by providing information about public assistance and working with local law enforcement to put a stop to communist actions.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	I have helped increase neighborhood awareness thru conversations with constituents.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

VICKY L. GRASS

What is your name?	Vicky Grass
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	I believe we have seen and heard countless testimonials from victims from all over the world.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	I would need to know what their needs are and assess each situations as it comes.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	No
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	Unfortunately, nothing.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

JOSEPH L. RUSCH

What is your name?	Joe Rusch
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	This is clearly a fact of history.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	Show them the positive aspects of capitalism and how the economic system in America is far superior to those around the globe.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	No
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	no examples in a public forum.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	None.

JENNIFER A. FLORIDA

What is your name?	Jennifer Florida
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Oppressive governments such as China, Russia victimize dissenters, activists such as Alexei Navalny, Russian activist now imprisoned after surviving being poisoned by Russia
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	No
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	Connection to community, support. Our diversity is our strength and we need to hear their story. We are witness now to China's aggression toward Hong Kong and oppressing its citizens and journalists.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	I am concerned about oppression and have been made aware and supported our Vietnamese Community and as Alderman did a Resolution recongnizing their symbol of freedom the yellow

	flag with three red stripesbut have not much experience fighting oppression.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	My answer to question number 5 is not sure. I until now, have not really felt emminent threat of spread of communism as I would define the political and economic structure of Russia, China. China threatens Hong Kong, Russia's interference and bold action is concerning.

DONALD E. DE VIVO

What is your name?	Don De Vivo
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	America wages constant war on the issue
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	Not build a wall
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	Challenge capitalism
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	Our local government is not working for my community

MARLENE DAVIS

What is your name?	Alderwoman Marlene Davis
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Knowing and understanding the documented history. Listening to survivors with respect for their plight.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	Be supportive to provide assistance for a safe and better quality of life. Make sure there is respect and continued public information provided.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	Mainly working with youth and young adults who can so easily influenced.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

TAVON T. BROOKS

What is your name?	Tavon Brooks
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	No
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Unfortunately, we have individuals who take advantage of an all in-common system. The greed, selfishness, and appetite for more kicks in, and then comes the division. The idea of communism sounds inviting, however in order for it to work effectively every resident has to believe in the idea.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	No
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	I would ensure every resident living in my ward has a fair opportunity including those who are citizens now and recent refugees. Every resident will have a place at the table and every voice will be heard.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes

	I founded a non for profit that aim to empower individuals by assisting them to start their own business.
above questions.	"We need an effective change that leads to ownership & self sufficiency by way of education, collaboration & personal investment."

JOHN C. COLLINS-MUHAMMAD

What is your name?	John Collins Muhammad
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Under communist kingdoms and reigns, people are dying and suffering. It is evident when we look at various examples and autarchy governments across the World.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	We have to be real about addressing communism and basically call it what it is. We have to raise citizen awareness, and overall engagement. And The City of St. Louis, must stand as a Sanctuary city, welcoming people from other nations that are oppressed by communist governments. The City of St. Louis, as the economic engine for the entire state must be the example for Missouri, and protect human beings, especially from unjust immigration laws.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes

	Not enough but I do stand ready to work with the St. Louis Branch of the Victims of Communism.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

LAURA M. KEYS

What is your name?	Laura Keys
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Communism can only exist if the people who live under it are force to comply, to fit in, to pull the party line.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	Help them to see that they are now in a free country where they can be whatever the want to be, not what some group thinks they should be. Let them know that no secret police will be coming for them if they speak their minds.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	Until recently I did not know that communism was spreading in this country. Since i have become aware of it I have tried to spread the word in my community of the return of this failed and dangerous belief. That we must be aware of those attempting to

	bring communism back and worked to prevent the spread of communism.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

TICHARWA Z. MASIMBA

What is your name?	Ticharwa Masimba
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	No
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Why the hell are you here in the belly of the most capitalist exploited communities in the U.S. talking about communist oppression? Black communities look like war zones and that's because of capitalist exploitation! You came to this country because capitalism provided opportunities for you, but it provided those opportunities at the expense of black people who slave in the largest prison system on earth and at the expense of indigenous people who capitalism has forced to live in concentration campus euphemistically called "Indian Reservations." Get the hell out of here!! I don't want to hear Jack shit about how bad communism is!!!
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	Why the hell are you here in the belly of the most capitalist exploited communities in the U.S. talking about communist oppression? Black communities look like war zones and that's because of capitalist exploitation! You came to this country because capitalism provided opportunities for you, but it provided those opportunities at the expense of black people who slave in the largest prison system on earth and at the expense of indigenous people who capitalism has forced to live in concentration campus euphemistically called "Indian Reservations." Get the hell out of here!! I don't want to hear Jack shit about how bad communism is!!!

Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	No
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	Why the hell are you here in the belly of the most capitalist exploited communities in the U.S. talking about communist oppression? Black communities look like war zones and that's because of capitalist exploitation! You came to this country because capitalism provided opportunities for you, but it provided those opportunities at the expense of black people who slave in the largest prison system on earth and at the expense of indigenous people who capitalism has forced to live in concentration campus euphemistically called "Indian Reservations." Get the hell out of here!! I don't want to hear Jack shit about how bad communism is!!!
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	No
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	No
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	Why the hell are you here in the belly of the most capitalist exploited communities in the U.S. talking about communist oppression? Black communities look like war zones and that's because of capitalist exploitation! You came to this country because capitalism provided opportunities for you, but it provided those opportunities at the expense of black people who slave in the largest prison system on earth and at the expense of indigenous people who capitalism has forced to live in concentration campus euphemistically called "Indian Reservations." Get the hell out of here!! I don't want to hear Jack shit about how bad communism is!!!

Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the	Why the hell are you here in the belly of the most capitalist
above questions.	exploited communities in the U.S. talking about communist
	oppression? Black communities look like war zones and that's
	because of capitalist exploitation! You came to this country
	because capitalism provided opportunities for you, but it
	provided those opportunities at the expense of black people
	who slave in the largest prison system on earth and at the
	expense of indigenous people who capitalism has forced to live
	in concentration campus euphemistically called "Indian
	Reservations." Get the hell out of here!! I don't want to hear Jack
	shit about how bad communism is!!!

JOSEPH V. VACCARO, JR.

What is your name?	Joe Vaccaro
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	If you think it's a good idea why are people fleeing from communist countries every day
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	Yes
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	I have friends that have left Cuba years ago. You just have to work with people. Jesus taught us one thing and that was to love one another
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	Yes
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	I don't know any one particular thing that I have done.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	

PAMELA R. BOYD

What is your name?	Pamela Boyd
For what office are you running?	Alderperson
Do you believe that communism, as an economic and government system, is directly responsible for the political oppression that individuals in communist countries experienced?	Yes
Do you believe there are victims of communism?	Yes
Why or why not do you believe there are victims of communism?	There are victims of communism that live within our city.
Are you concerned about the spread of communist ideology?	No
What would you do to support people in your city/ward that were victims of communist regimes, including those who are citizens now, and recent refugees?	Welcome them in regards to assistance of housing social services etc.
Would you be willing to meet with individuals who identify as victims of communism and hear their concerns?	Yes
Would you be willing to speak at a Victims of Communism St. Louis Commission event addressing the concerns of the victims of communist regimes, or honoring those who stood up against communist regimes?	No
What have you personally done to help stop the spread of communist ideology?	Same as I have done to stop the mind set within the city of the ideology of racisms within our city. speak continuously at meetings etc.
Please provide any further explanation you have to any of the above questions.	Communisms within the city as a whole is as detrimental to our city as racisms. It is a control of the mind and dictatorship