



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR BOND COUNSEL SERVICES

**SUBMITTAL DUE DATE:** February 14, 2020  
4:00pm CST

**SUBMITTAL LOCATION:** [www.greatriversgreenway.org/jobs](http://www.greatriversgreenway.org/jobs)  
Register online to receive upload link and other instructions. Submit qualifications in .PDF format only.

**QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS RFQ:** Questions related to this request should be directed to [mbock@grgstl.org](mailto:mbock@grgstl.org) no later than 4:00pm February 5, 2020.

### INTRODUCTION

The Metropolitan Park and Recreation District d/b/a the Great Rivers Greenway District (“GRG” or “the District”) is seeking a Statement of Qualifications from law firms to serve as bond counsel on potential debt issuance of the District. We do not have specific debt issuance plans at this time but would like to have a firm or firms engaged in the event that such a determination is made. It is anticipated that the initial period of the contract shall be one (1) year beginning the date of the award. The District reserves the option to renew the contract for a total of four (4) additional years on an annual basis or a portion thereof. Annual renewals shall be based on the determination of the District as to performance, costs and general quality of the services provided by the successful firm or firms selected.

### BACKGROUND

GRG is a political subdivision of the State of Missouri encompassing the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Charles County. The primary purpose of the District is to improve the quality of life throughout the St. Louis region by developing a public network of interconnected greenways, parks and trails. The District is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors and operated by



a professional staff charged with building, promoting and sustaining the greenway network.

The District has outstanding debt comprised of:

- \$15,780,000 Sales Tax Appropriation Bonds Series 2013 (Gateway Arch Project)
- \$51,135,000 Sales Tax Appropriation Bonds Series 2014 (Gateway Arch Project)
- \$14,455,000 Sales Tax Appropriation Bonds Series 2017 (District Projects)

The District's debt is secured by annual appropriation of sales tax revenue throughout the District. Gateway Arch-related debt is secured by a portion of a 3/16 cent sales tax approved by City of St. Louis and St. Louis County voters in 2013. District-related debt is secured by a portion of a 1/10 cent sales tax approved by City of St. Louis, St. Louis County and St. Charles County voters in 2000.

## SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. Assist the District, the District's legal counsel and other financing team members in planning and structuring potential debt.
2. Prepare all necessary documentation to support the authorization and issuance of debt.
3. Review all offering and disclosure documentation in light of federal and state regulatory requirements.
4. Attend meetings and conferences as needed.
5. Provide necessary tax law expertise to ensure compliance with all federal tax rules and regulations.
6. If requested, assist with presentation of information to rating agencies or credit enhancement providers.
7. Prepare closing documentation and coordinate closing of debt issuance.
8. Keep staff apprised of legislative changes related to municipal bonds.
9. Other municipal debt related legal advice as needed.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING QUALIFICATIONS

Please provide one submission in .PDF format. Submission should be no more than 10 pages and must include the following:



## Great Rivers Greenway

- Executive Summary demonstrating the firm's interest and summary of qualifications to provide bond counsel services to the District.
- Overview of the firm with brief profiles or resumes of individuals, including their location and capacity, assigned to the District.
- Description of experience with providing bond counsel services related to debt issuance for local governments, districts or other relevant public agencies in Missouri. Please place particular emphasis on sales tax appropriation financing and economic development financing. Please include five specific references with contact information,
- Please provide your firm's national and Missouri bond counsel rankings for the past 3 years.
- Please describe your firm's tax practice, as it relates to municipal debt.
- Please describe the type and amount of professional liability insurance carried by your firm.
- Describe your status as a minority or woman owned firm or relationship with minority firm(s) to serve as co-counsel on District financing.
- Please provide the firm's fee schedule for sales tax appropriations bonds.
- Please disclose any material agreements, relationships, or employment your firm or individual members have that may create a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof with GRG.

It is the sole responsibility of the proposer to ensure the .PDF statement of qualifications is received in proper time. No late submittals will be considered.

No printed, faxed or verbal proposals will be accepted.

### SELECTION PROCESS

GRG staff will evaluate all responses to this Request for Qualifications. The basis for evaluation will include: demonstrated ability and capacity to perform needed services; relevant experience; recommendations of firm and staff; quality of the response; M/WBE designation or participation; and location of firm and staff.

GRG staff may contact respondents to clarify submitted information. Respondents will be notified whether or not they have been selected for this effort.



## GENERAL PROVISIONS

Any contract awarded as a result of this RFQ will be awarded without discrimination on race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, or national origin.

It is the policy of GRG that minority and women-owned businesses shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts utilizing taxpayer funds.

Preference will be given to businesses located within St. Louis City, St. Louis County or St. Charles County (GRG's district area), and secondarily within the state of Missouri.

This Request for Qualifications does not obligate GRG to pay any costs incurred by any respondent with its submission.