

WHAT DO I NEED TO
KNOW TO VOTE?

WHERE DO THE
MAYORAL
CANDIDATES
STAND ON THE
ISSUES?

WHAT ARE POLICE
DISTRICT
COUNCILS?

QUIZ:

WHICH MAYORAL CANDIDATE DO YOU WANT TO COMMIT TO FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

VOTER GUIDE

2023 CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

WILL YOU BE MY POLL-MATE?

Elections are in the air! It's time to
elect people who share **values**
fulfill our needs!

It's non-
partisan!



Chicago★Votes

MADE BY YOUNG PEOPLE, FOR ALL PEOPLE.



**FREE POSTER
INSIDE!**



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HOPE THIS GUIDE IS HELPFUL TO YOU (:**

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DEAR READER,
AT CHICAGO VOTES,
WE BELIEVE IN THE
POTENTIAL OF OUR
GENERATION TO USE
ORGANIZING AND
ADVOCACY TO CHANGE
POLITICS AS USUAL.
VOTING IS JUST ONE
OF THE TOOLS WE
HAVE, BUT IT'S AN
IMPORTANT ONE!

**DOES YOUR
MAYORAL
CANDIDATE
HAVE
COMMITMENT
ISSUES?
LET'S FIND OUT!**

WHO IS CHICAGO VOTES

Chicago Votes is a non-partisan, non-profit organization working at the intersection of activism, education, and politics in order to make democracy more inclusive, just, and accessible. We're engaging a new generation of leaders, changing laws to make Chicago and Illinois a better place to be young, and in the process, we're making democracy fun.

Learn more about our programming, paid positions, and volunteer opportunities at chicagovotes.com. Stay up to date with us on social media @chicagovotes.



*Scan me to
learn more
about Chicago
Votes!*



HOW WE MADE THIS GUIDE

We asked candidates questions about issues that young people give a sh*t about. Answers are based on direct responses from candidates' campaigns, direct quotes, and news media. Candidates who completed the questionnaire are represented with a key and those who did not complete the questionnaire are represented with a broken heart. Candidate issue stances are represented by 'Yes', 'Lean Yes', 'Lean No', and 'No'. Their representation is both based on the completion of the candidate questionnaire and public statements.

*There may not
be a guidebook
to love, but
there is a guide
to elections!*



Visit our full version at
www.chicagovotes.com/votecenter

Paid for by Chicago Votes Action Fund (501c4)



IN THIS ISSUE

VOTING 101

Let's be honest—voting can be intimidating, especially if it's your first time. Don't sweat it, though! We've broken down voter registration, early voting, voting by mail, and more.

GET TO KNOW YOUR BALLOT

- Who are alderpeople & how do they impact my life?
- Who is a city clerk?
- Who is a city treasurer?

NEW!

WHAT ARE POLICE DISTRICT COUNCILS?

Chicago voters will be electing community members to the newly created Police District Councils. Learn about the new office and council member responsibilities.

QUIZ!

WHICH MAYORAL CANDIDATE DO YOU WANT TO COMMIT TO FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

We asked the candidates questions at the top of young folks' minds. Find out if they share your values and have a plan to meet your needs!

LOVE LETTERS TO CHICAGO



Dear Chicago,

Chicago is about culture. There are not many places where you can be in one room and hear four different languages at once. I love it! The food is better than anywhere. I think another thing that makes Chicago special is, we all go through the seasons together. We're all going through it in the winter months, but as soon as the sun comes out we are ready to grow! As someone in customer service, I think we help hold each other down through the tough times, mentally/spiritually, and then celebrate with each other, without even really realizing! Chicago is connection!

**♥ xoxo
Jelena K**

Dear Chicago,

Summer in Chicago is a dream. Whether I'm going to the Garfield Conservatory, biking near the lakefront, shopping on Michigan, or living my best life on a yacht. Summertime Chi makes you feel like life is worth living for real. I wasn't born in this city but it has truly embraced me and shaped me into who I am in so many ways. I'll forever be indebted to you and you'll always be considered home, Chicago. 🏡

**♥ xoxo
Temi Akande**

VOTING 101

VOTER REGISTRATION

Same Day Registration is available at all early voting sites and on Election Day. Voters must bring two forms of ID, with at least one that includes your current address.

DID YOU KNOW...

In Illinois, you do NOT need to show identification to vote after you have voted the first time, nor should election workers ask you for ID. You can vote on Election Day or early, and in-person or by mail. In addition, you can also request your ballot and election materials in a non-English language!

EARLY VOTING

Beginning January 26th, anyone can vote at the Chicago Board of Elections Supersite at 191 N. Clark. You can also vote in person from February 13th through February 28th at any of the Chicago 50 early voting locations.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

You can vote in person on Election Day at the precinct/polling location assigned based on your address or at the 50 early voting locations across the city.

HAVE A RECORD?

You have the right to vote in Illinois! You can cast a ballot if you are NOT currently serving time inside a correctional institution or on temporary leave/furlough from prison!

Scan to view a list of early voting locations



Scan to locate your precinct polling place



VOTING BY MAIL

Your application to Vote By Mail must be received by 5:00 pm on February 23, 2023. Once you receive your ballot, fill it out and then mail it in, or put it in an official drop-box.

**Scan to apply to
vote by mail**



DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN DROP YOUR BALLOT OFF AT A DROP BOX?!

As of 2020, Illinois allows you to drop your mail-in ballot at a secure drop-box outside of early voting and Election Day polling locations.

TROUBLE AT THE POLLS?

If you are eligible to vote, you should never be turned away from the polls. For questions or any issues at the polls, the Election Protection hotline provides free non-partisan voting assistance from legal advocates, call 1 (866) OUR-VOTE or 1 (866) 687-8683.



WHO ARE ALDERPEOPLE & HOW DO THEY IMPACT MY LIFE?

***HINT* THEY REPRESENT OUR COMMUNITIES**

Chicago is divided into 50 legislative districts or "wards". Each district is represented by an alderperson, who is elected by citizens to serve a four-year term.

So basically, an alderperson is elected by you to represent your interests!

Together, 50 aldermen from Chicago's 50 districts make up the Chicago City Council, which serves as the legislative branch of the government of Chicago.

Cough cough this is who votes on your proposed loans, grants, bond issues, land acquisitions and sales, zoning changes, traffic control issues, mayoral appointees, and other financial appropriations!

**Scan to view Block Club
Chicago's list of
aldermanic candidates!**



**DON'T FORGET ABOUT
CITY TREASURER
& CITY CLERK!**

CITY TREASURER

The treasurer is the city's banker; they keep track of the city's finances, managing all cash and investments for the City of Chicago, the four City employee pension funds, and the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund.

The treasurer's office also manages a number of programs that promote financial education and small business growth in Chicago's neighborhoods.

CITY CLERK

The City Clerk of Chicago is in charge of record-keeping for the city of Chicago and its elections. The position is central to government transparency because the clerk is responsible for keeping and making official records and legislation accessible to city residents.

NEW!

WHAT ARE POLICE DISTRICT COUNCILS?

***HINT* IT'S ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY**

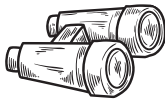
The newly created Police District Councils establish community oversight of the police. There are 22 police districts. Every four years during municipal elections, three community members will be elected to each of the 22 Police District Councils.

Council members must live in their respective police district and cannot have been a member of the Chicago Police Department, Independent Police Review Authority, Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA), or the Police Board for at least three years before they assume office.

**Scan to view the
Chicago Reader's
Police District
Councils Voter Guide**



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



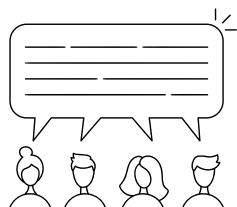
Keep an eye on police practices

Build stronger relationships between police & community members



Work on the implementation of restorative justice practices

Hold monthly public meetings





*Baby, will you be
my poll-mate?*



YOUR ELIGIBLE MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Where
does your
heart lie?



This candidate locked in and completed the questionnaire :)



This candidate just couldn't commit to completing the questionnaire :/



Kam Buckner
Illinois State Representative

Since 2019, Kam Buckner has been a State Representative of the 26th district as state representative where he was most recently the House Chair of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus. Kam Buckner previously worked for Senator Dick Durbin before coming home to Chicago. From 2015-2019, Kam was the Executive Director of the nonprofit World Sport Chicago.



Ja'Mal Green
Community Activist

Ja'Mal Green is a community activist with a history of standing up to big banks and working with Chicago's youth. Ja'Mal is the youngest candidate in the mayoral race and previously ran in 2019.



Jesús "Chuy" Garcia
Illinois Congressman

Chuy Garcia is Illinois' 4th Congressional District Congressman and the first Mexican-American elected to Congress from the Midwest. Chuy has served on the Financial Services Committee, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Natural Resources Committee. He previously ran for mayor in 2015.



Roderick Sawyer
6th Ward Alderman

Roderick T. Sawyer is a licensed stockbroker and real estate broker. Since 2011, he has served as alderman of the 6th ward. His father, the Honorable Eugene Sawyer, was elected mayor of Chicago by City Council in 1987.



Brandon Johnson
Cook County Commissioner

Brandon Johnson began his career as a public school teacher on the West Side, becoming an organizer with the Chicago Teachers Union. In 2018, Brandon was elected commissioner of the 1st District of Cook County.



Paul Vallas
Former CEO of Chicago Public Schools

Paul Vallas served as Chicago Public Schools CEO under Mayor Richard M. Daley from 1995-2002. He then worked in school districts in Philadelphia, New Orleans, Haiti, Chile, and Bridgeport, Conn. He previously ran for mayor in 2019.



Sophia King
4th Ward Alderwoman

Sophia King became an alderwoman in 2016 and has been a small business owner for over 5 years. Before becoming an alderwoman, she helped to establish Ariel Community Academy and was President of Harriet's Daughters, a non-profit organization.



Dr. Willie Wilson
Businessman

Willie Wilson is a businessman. He owned 5 McDonald's locations and sold them to create his medical supply company. He serves as the founder and Chairman of the Board of Omar Medical Supplies, Inc. He ran for president in 2016 and previously ran in the 2015 and 2019 mayoral races.



Mayor Lori Lightfoot
Current Mayor of Chicago

In 2016, Lori was appointed by former mayor Rahm Emanuel as President of the Chicago Police Board & Chair of the Chicago Police Accountability Task Force. In 2019, Mayor Lightfoot was became the first LGBTQ+, Black woman to be elected mayor of any major city in the United States.

QUIZ!

WHICH MAYORAL CANDIDATE DO YOU WANT TO COMMIT TO FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

YOUTH VOICE:

The most important part of a relationship is communication. Will your needs be heard?!

Will you commit to the creation of a youth-led elections advisory committee to ensure the needs of young people are valued in elections planning?

 Yes!	 Yes!	 Yes!	 Yes!	 Lean No.
 Yes!	 Yes!	 Yes!	 Yes!	

HOUSING:

Will you prioritize passing the Bring Chicago Home Ordinance in your first term?

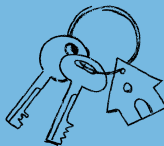
What to know before you shack up for the next 4 years

What is the Bring Chicago Home Ordinance?

Bring Chicago Home is a grassroots movement of Chicagoans committed to creating a dedicated revenue stream to combat homelessness in Chicago.

 Yes!	 Yes!	 Yes!	 Lean Yes.
 Yes!	 Yes!	 No.	 No.

Will you expand the city's Affordable Requirements Ordinance in your first term?



What is the city's Affordable Requirements Ordinance (ARO)?

The ARO creates a set of rules for developers seeking City funding, City-owned land, or zoning changes for a project with ten or more units. The law requires 20% of new builds be set aside as affordable housing.



PUBLIC SAFETY:

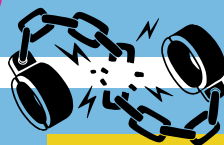
Protect your head and your heart

Will you commit to passing the Peace Book Ordinance?



What is the Peace Book Ordinance?

The Peace Book and Peace Commissions will support the development and implementation of youth-led, non-carceral, and non-policing initiatives for improving community safety and health.



Will you prioritize passing the Treatment Not Trauma Ordinance in your first term?



What is Treatment Not Trauma?

The Treatment Not Trauma care model would reopen all of the closed Chicago Department of Public Health mental health centers in support of a city-wide crisis response program that dispatches mental health professionals and an EMT to mental health emergency calls instead of police officers.

Will you prioritize the reopening of the city's mental health clinics?

CONTEXT!
IN 2012, MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL CLOSED SIX OF THE CITY'S 12 MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS. FOUR OF THEM WERE LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE.



Will you commit to finding proactive alternatives to public safety for our city's youth without restricting their freedoms through curfews?

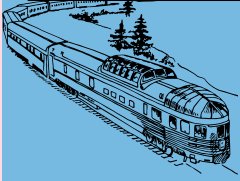


TRANSPORTATION:
Don't get tunnel vision!

Do you support a municipal sidewalk snow and ice removal program?



Will you prioritize the expansion of the Red Line in your first term?



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!

THE RED AHEAD PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY (CTA) IS TO EXTEND THE RED LINE TO 130TH STREET



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Lean No.

Do you support a protected and connected bike lane network?



Lean Yes.



Lean Yes.



Yes!



Lean Yes.



Yes!



Lean Yes.



Yes!



Lean No.



Lean No.

Will you commit to electrifying the CTA bus fleet?



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Lean No.



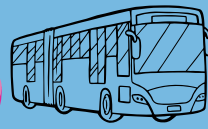
Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!

Will you prioritize the reliability and frequency of CTA bus and train services?



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



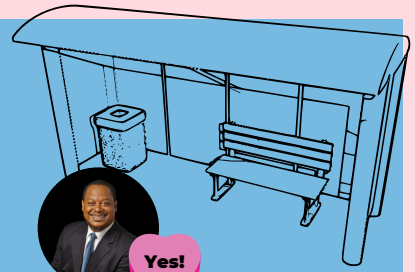
Yes!



Yes!



Lean Yes.



JOBS AND ECONOMY:

Let's invest in our futures together!

Do you support the Ride Share Living Wage Ordinance?



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Lean No.



Yes!



Yes!



Lean Yes.



Yes!



Will you commit to fully funding year-round youth employment?



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Lean Yes.



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!



Yes!

Will you prioritize a plan to reach 100% renewable energy by 2035 in residential and commercial sectors, in line with the recently passed Climate and Equitable Jobs Act?

LOVIN' ON OUR ENVIRONMENT!



Will you prioritize the removal of lead service lines?



Will you prioritize the reopening and full funding of the Department of Environment?



IF ONLY IT WERE ALL FUN AND GAMES . . .



Kam Buckner

Illinois State Representative
Taurus



What is your favorite Chicago Restaurant?

Cleo's

What is your ideal Chicago date?

Dinner at Virtue and Jamila Woods at Thalia Hall

Never have I ever

liked playing this game!.



Ja'Mal Green

Community Activist
Leo



What is your favorite Chicago Restaurant?

Chicago Chicken and Waffle

What is your ideal Chicago date?

Going to the Chicago Brewhouse on the river.

Never have I ever

stood against the best interests of the people.



Jesús "Chuy" Garcia

Illinois Congressman
Aries



What is your favorite Chicago Restaurant?

Zacotacos

What is your ideal Chicago date?

I enjoy going to Rosa's to hear live jazz with my beautiful wife of 45 years, Evelyn.

Never have I ever

voted Republican.



Roderick Sawyer

6th Ward Alderman
Aries



What is your favorite Chicago Restaurant?

Fast casual: Ricobene's / More traditional dining: Oooh Wee It Is

What is your ideal Chicago date?

Dinner at the Chicago Overgrinder or City Winery

Never have I ever

wanted to live in the suburbs. I'm a city guy through and through.



Brandon Johnson

Cook County Commissioner
Aries



What is your favorite Chicago Restaurant?

MacArthur's

What is your ideal Chicago date?

An evening at Chicago SummerDance & a walk on the Riverwalk with my loving wife, Stacie.

Never have I ever

thought that I would ever be in a position to run for mayor of the great city of Chicago.



Paul Vallas

Former CEO of Chicago Public Schools
Gemini



What is your favorite Chicago Restaurant?

Greek Islands

What is your ideal Chicago date?

A movie night is my ideal date.

Never have I ever

been skydiving, and I never will.



Sophia King

4th Ward Alderwoman
Aquarius



They did not complete the questionnaire):



Dr. Willie Wilson

Businessman
Gemini



They did not complete the questionnaire):



Mayor Lori Lightfoot

Current Mayor of Chicago
Leo



No fun): They did not answer these questions

LET'S PLAN A DATE!

♡ xoxo

January 26, 2023

Early voting is available at the Loop Supersite (191 N. Clark) and the Chicago Board of Elections Office (69 W. Washington, 6th Floor) beginning Thursday, January 26th.

February 13, 2023

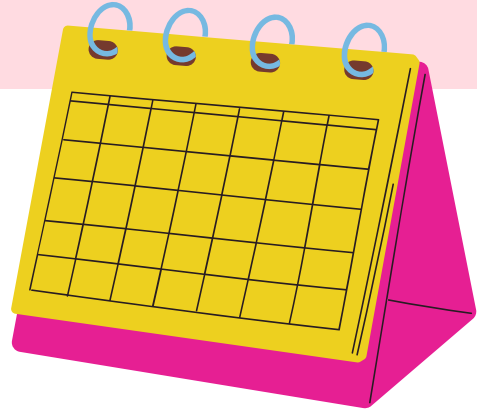
First day for Early Voting in all 50 Wards in Chicago.

February 23, 2023

If you want to vote by mail, you must request your ballot by 5pm.

February 28, 2023

Election Day! If you are returning a vote-by-mail ballot via mail, your ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day.



MY VOTING PLAN

Date:

Circle one:

a. In Person b. Vote-by-Mail