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**DEAR READER,**

**WELCOME TO THE VOTE LOCAL ISSUE OF CHICAGO VOTES' VOTER GUIDE. DEMOCRACY DOESN'T WORK WITHOUT YOU. YES, YOU! I KNOW WE SAY THIS ALL THE TIME, BUT THIS ELECTION IS CRITICAL. NOT JUST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BUT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, BUT LOCAL ELECTIONS LIKE STATES ATTORNEY AND SCHOOL BOARD TOO. YOUR VOICE CAN AND WILL BE HEARD BECAUSE YOU DESERVE TO BE HEARD.**

**YES, YOUR 1 VOTE CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE! IF YOUR FAVORITE TEAM WON THE SUPER BOWL BY JUST 1 POINT, WOULD THEY STILL BE THE CHAMPIONS? IF YOUR FAVORITE SONG HIT #1 ON THE CHARTS BY ONLY 1 SALE, WOULD IT STILL BE A HIT?**

**THE ANSWER IS YES.**

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS, ESPECIALLY IN LOCAL ELECTIONS.**

**YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE AS MUCH AS WE DO.**

**SO TREAT THIS LIKE YOU WOULD LISTENING TO A NEW ALBUM. FOLLOW THE TRACKLIST, EMBRACE YOURSELF IN THE EXPERIENCE, AND ALLOW THIS GUIDE TO BE THE RHYTHM TO YOUR LIBERATION.**



# WHO IS CHICAGO VOTES?

Chicago Votes is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to building a more inclusive democracy by putting the power in the hands of young Chicagoans. We're engaging a new generation of creative leaders, unifying our voices to forge community, change laws, and make Chicago and Illinois a better place to be young. Democracy can and should be a tool to spark the fire in our chest that makes us want to press forward and create change in numerous ways. Who are we to deny ourselves and our community of a better future? Exactly. One thing about it and two things for sure, we're making democracy FUN!

Learn more about our programming, paid positions, and volunteer opportunities at [chicagovotes.com](http://chicagovotes.com) and stay up to date with us on social media @chicagovotes!

**"WHO ARE WE TO DENY OURSELVES AND OUR COMMUNITY OF A BETTER FUTURE? EXACTLY."**

## IN THIS ISSUE...

This nonpartisan voter guide, created by young people, educates voters on essential information and resources for the 2024 General Election. It equips Chicagoans with the tools to make informed decisions about candidates at the community, local, and national levels, because this election goes beyond the presidency.

Local elections are also on the ballot, and we have provided detailed information and resources for those too. The power of our vote starts right here in our city, in our courts, community, classroom, and state!

**FOLLOW  
CHICAGO VOTES  
ON INSTAGRAM!**



This guide is for informational purposes only, designed to help voters understand where each candidate stands on issues important to them. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we do not endorse or oppose any candidates or political parties.

To view our judicial and digital voter guide, please visit [chicagovotes.com/votecenter](http://chicagovotes.com/votecenter).

¡Escanea el código QR para leerla en español!  
لقراءة هذا المنشور باللغة العربية، يُرجى مسح رمز الانتقال السريع  
如需要中文翻譯，請掃以下二維碼  
Mangyaring i-scan ang QR Code upang mabasa sa  
Tagalog!



# VOTING 101

you see how we have our voting resources and QR codes organized and easy to follow? very mindful. very informative.

## EARLY VOTING... WELL YES!

Beginning **Thursday, October 3rd, at 9am**, you can vote at the Downtown super site located at 191 N. Clark St. or at any of the Chicago 50 early voting locations.

Starting on **Monday, October 21st at 9am** voters can cast ballots at one of the 50 ward based polling locations in the city.

## HAVE A FELONY CONVICTION?

You have the right to vote in Illinois if you have a felony on your record. As long as you are NOT currently serving a conviction or on temporary leave/furlough from prison you ARE an eligible voter, period.

## SAME DAY 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.

## FIRST TIME VOTER? DID YOU KNOW...

In Illinois, you don't need ID if you're already registered to vote, your signature matches the one on file, and there are no issues with your registration. However, you will need identification if you're registering to vote or updating your name or address in person when you vote. If you recently moved it is smart to bring a valid form of ID.

## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

You can vote in person on **Election Day, November 5th 2024**, at the precinct/polling location assigned based on your address or at one of the 50 early voting locations across the city.

## TROUBLE AT THE POLLS?

No eligible voter should ever be turned away from the polls. For questions about voting or issues you run into while trying to vote call the **Election Protection Hotline** at 1 (866) OUR-VOTE or 1 (866) 687-8683 for free nonpartisan help.

*oh that's not*

## VOTING BY MAIL

The deadline to apply to Vote By Mail for the upcoming election is **October 31, 2024 by 5:00pm**, but please request your ballot long before this deadline to ensure you get your ballot in time for the election.

## WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT YOU CAN DROP YOUR BALLOT OFF AT A DROP BOX?

In Illinois, you can drop your mail-in ballot at a secure drop-box outside of early voting and Election Day polling locations.

Chicago  Votes

# ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH!



## VOTER INFORMATION LOOKUP

View your voter information, sample ballot, AND locate your precinct polling place for Election Day by following the QR code at the bottom of this page!

### WHAT OFFICES ARE ON THE BALLOT?

To Be Elected:

- U.S. President
- U.S. Representative
- Illinois State Senator
- Illinois State Representative
- Water Reclamation District Commissioner
- Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court
- Cook County State's Attorney
- Cook County Commissioner
- Board of Review Commissioner
- Illinois Supreme Court Judge
- Illinois Appellate Court Judge
- Circuit Court Judge
- Subcircuit Judge
- Member of the Chicago School Board of Education (10 members)

To Be Retained:

- Judges of the Illinois Appellate and Circuit Courts

### CHICAGO BOARD OF ELECTIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

69 West Washington Street  
Suites 600/800  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 269-7900



### CAN I TAKE THIS VOTER GUIDE WITH ME TO VOTE?

Yes! You can take this into the polls with you. Remember, take your time and read through the voting instructions carefully to ensure your ballot is counted accurately.

*not sure if you're registered to vote?  
you can check right here!*

### CAN I REQUEST MY BALLOT IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

You sure can! If using a touchscreen voting machine, you may choose one of 12 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Polish, Korean, Tagalog, Gujarati, Urdu, Arabic, Ukrainian, and Russian. If Voting By Mail, you may choose one of 7 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Polish, Korean, and Tagalog. If voting using a paper ballot at your precinct on Election Day, you may have different language options based on your precinct.

*sometimes you gotta pop out & vote!*



scan to register to vote/change address



scan to view early voting locations



scan to vote by mail



**VOTER INFORMATION LOOKUP!**



# Meet the 2024 U.S. Presidential Candidates!

**Donald Trump** is an American businessman, television personality, and politician who started his career by taking over his family's real estate business. He expanded it into a brand that includes hotels, golf courses, and entertainment. In 2016, he ran for president as a Republican, portraying himself as an outsider focused on issues like immigration, trade, and economic nationalism. His campaign was controversial, with statements about various marginalized groups. After winning the 2016 election, Trump's presidency included major policy changes like tax cuts and the appointment of three Supreme Court justices, but he also faced significant challenges, including being impeached twice—once over Ukraine and again for inciting the January 6 Capitol riot. Trump is the first former U.S. President to be convicted on felony charges, making his legal situation unprecedented and sparking widespread political and legal discussions.



**Kamala Harris** is an American politician and attorney who made history as the first female vice president, as well as the first Black and South Asian vice president of the United States. Born in Oakland, California, she began her career as a prosecutor and served as California's Attorney General from 2011 to 2017, where she was recognized for her progressive policies on criminal justice and consumer protection. In 2017, she was elected to the U.S. Senate, known for her strong questioning on healthcare, immigration, and civil rights. In 2020, she ran as Joe Biden's vice presidential candidate and won the election. As Vice President, Harris has worked on significant initiatives, including the American Rescue Plan, which provided economic relief during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has addressed the root causes of migration from Central America and focused on women's rights, especially in reproductive health and economic equity. Harris has also advocated for voting rights and supports the Biden administration's climate agenda, emphasizing environmental justice. Additionally, she represents the U.S. in international forums and engages with communities across the country to promote economic recovery and social justice.



**Cornel West (write in option only)** is an American philosopher, political activist, and public intellectual known for his focus on race, class, and social justice. Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he is an influential figure in both academia and the progressive movement. West earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Princeton, teaching at several top universities, including Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, and is currently a professor at Union Theological Seminary. He is a strong advocate for social justice, civil rights, and democratic socialism, participating in movements that address racial inequality, poverty, and anti-war efforts. His notable works, such as "Race Matters" and "Democracy Matters," critique society and promote equity. In 2024, West announced his candidacy for president as a member of the Green Party, emphasizing his progressive values. His platform includes economic justice, universal healthcare, climate change action, and fighting systemic racism. West aims to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and is committed to grassroots activism for a more inclusive society.



**Claudia De la Cruz (write in option only)** is a community organizer and activist running for president in the 2024 election with the Socialism and Liberation Party. She advocates for social justice, economic equality, and immigrant rights. De la Cruz emphasizes grassroots mobilization and the importance of including diverse community voices in politics. Her campaign aims to challenge traditional power structures and promote social equity. Her platform includes advocating for fair wages, affordable housing, universal healthcare, and policies to protect immigrant rights. She also focuses on environmental issues affecting marginalized communities. De la Cruz's commitment to community engagement ensures her platform addresses the needs and concerns of a wide range of people.



**Jill Stein (write in option only)** is an American physician, activist, and politician running for president with the Green Party. Born in Chicago and raised in Highland Park, she studied psychology at Harvard and earned her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Before entering politics, she worked as a doctor and advocated for environmental and public health issues. In 2024, Stein announced her candidacy for president, having previously run in 2012 and 2016. Her campaign aims to promote a progressive agenda focused on creating a sustainable and equitable future, tackling climate change, economic inequality, and social injustice. Stein's candidacy reflects her dedication to environmental and social issues and seeks to mobilize grassroots support to challenge mainstream political ideas.





# 2024

# Presidential Election

**The President of the United States** has a broad and influential role with a wide range of responsibilities. The President plays a crucial role in shaping national policy, representing the U.S. on the world stage, and leading the executive branch to implement laws and address the country's critical and systemic issues. Here's an overview of some of their main duties:



### **Commander-in-Chief**

The President oversees the U.S. Armed Forces and has the authority to direct military operations. However, only Congress can declare war.



*not sure if you're registered to vote?  
scan to check your  
voter registration status!*

### **Chief Executive**

The President is the head of the executive branch of the federal government, responsible for enforcing laws, issuing executive orders, and managing the various federal agencies and departments.

### **Chief Diplomat**

The President manages foreign relations, negotiates treaties (which must be ratified by the Senate), and appoints ambassadors. They represent the U.S. on the global stage and work to maintain and build international relationships.

### **How does someone win the presidency?**

The U.S. uses the Electoral College system. Each state has a certain number of electors based on its population and representation in Congress. Illinois has 19 electoral votes in the Electoral College. This number is based on our representation in Congress, which includes two Senators and 17 Representatives. To win the electoral college votes of a state, presidential candidates must get a majority of that state's votes. The first presidential candidate to gain 270 electoral college votes, wins.



## HOW WE MADE THIS GUIDE

We researched candidates' stances on issues that people give a sh\*t about. These answers are based on direct responses from candidates' campaigns.

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To view our digital voter guide, please visit [chicagovotes.com/votecenter](http://chicagovotes.com/votecenter)



# SEE WHICH CANDIDATES REPRESENT YOUR BELIEFS, AND SEE WHICH ONES ARE... **NOT LIKE US!** PRESIDENTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE



SEE WHICH CANDIDATES REPRESENT YOUR BELIEFS, AND SEE WHICH ONES ARE...



Kamala Harris  
(Democratic)



Claudia De la Cruz  
(Socialism and Liberation)



Donald Trump  
(Republican)



Cornel West  
(Independent)



Jill Stein  
(Green)

## VOTER GUIDE KEY

candidate directly confirmed their support



their direct or previous public statements lean towards yes



candidate directly confirmed their opposition



their direct or previous public statements lean towards no



Will the candidate's economic policies address wage levels and worker protections in the U.S.?				
Will the candidate reduce student loan debt?				
Will the candidate aim to improve access to and affordability of mental health services?				
Will the candidate aim to transition to renewable energy sources?				
Will the candidate have protections for LGBTQ+ individuals and ensure fair treatment?				
Will the candidate implement federal policies regarding increasing reproductive healthcare access?				

economy & jobs

student debt & education

healthcare

climate change & the environment

LGBTQ+

reproductive rights



## On The Ballot!

# THE ELECTION WORKER PROTECTION REFERENDUM

**ASKS VOTERS IF THEY THINK THERE SHOULD BE PENALTIES FOR CANDIDATES WHO INTERFERE WITH THE WORK OF ELECTION WORKERS.**

What are my options on the ballot?

A **"yes" vote supports** advising state officials on whether to establish civil penalties if a candidate interferes or attempts to interfere with an election worker's official duties.

A **"no" vote opposes** advising state officials on whether to establish civil penalties if a candidate interferes or attempts to interfere with an election worker's official duties.

# THE ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH REFERENDUM

**THIS ADVISORY MEASURE ASKS VOTERS IF HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS IN ILLINOIS THAT COVER PREGNANCY SHOULD ALSO COVER MEDICALLY ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENTS LIKE IN VITRO FERTILIZATION (IVF).**

What are my options on the ballot?

A **"yes" vote supports** advising state officials on whether to provide for medically assisted reproductive treatments, including in vitro fertilization, to be covered by any health insurance plan in Illinois that provides full coverage to pregnancy benefits.

A **"no" vote opposes** advising state officials on whether to provide for medically assisted reproductive treatments, including in vitro fertilization, to be covered by any health insurance plan in Illinois that provides full coverage to pregnancy benefits.

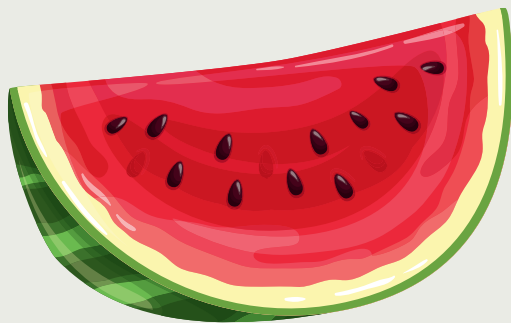
# THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND FAIRNESS REFERENDUM

**ASKS VOTERS IF WE SHOULD CHANGE THE ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION TO ADD A 3% TAX ON PEOPLE WHO MAKE MORE THAN \$1 MILLION A YEAR. THE MONEY FROM THIS TAX WOULD BE USED TO HELP LOWER PROPERTY TAXES.**

What are my options on the ballot?

A **"yes" vote supports** advising state officials on whether to amend the Illinois Constitution to create an additional 3% tax on income greater than \$1 million for the purpose of dedicating funds to property tax relief.

A **"no" vote opposes** advising state officials on whether to amend the Illinois Constitution to create an additional 3% tax on income greater than \$1 million for the purpose of dedicating funds to property tax relief.



“More Palestinians live in Cook County than any other county in the nation, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.”

WBEZ Chicago

As a city that thrives on the foundation of community, we must continue to uplift our communities globally that need healing. Are you unsure where presidential candidates stand on what most of the world is calling a genocide occurring in Palestine being funded by the U.S. Government? We've got you covered. To young people, this is the most pressing issue that requires immediate change. It's time to hold our political leaders accountable for helping us end the unnecessary suffering of countless innocent lives.

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To learn more, head to our website, [chicagovotes.com](http://chicagovotes.com), or follow us on Instagram @chicagovotes on ways to get involved and use your voice to be heard.



# “Chicago is now the largest U.S. city to call for a ceasefire.”

PRISM



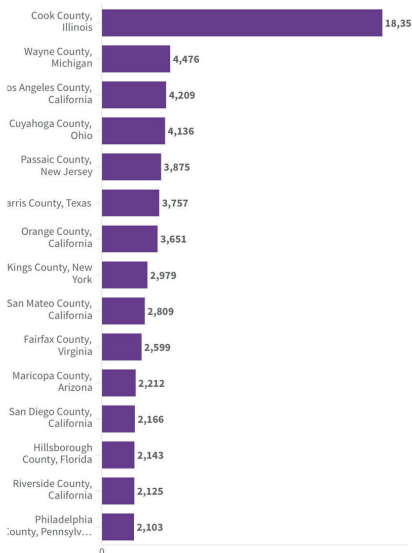
As reported by PRISM, “Chicago became the largest city in the nation to endorse a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.” If it wasn’t clear before that Chicago stands on business when fighting for justice, it should be now.

Make no mistake: the fight for equality extends far beyond city lines as we continuously fight with the world to end the unjust suffering of countless people and their families.

Holding political leaders accountable, especially the President, for actions that constitute genocide, particularly in the context of Palestine, is crucial for several reasons.

- Accountability helps safeguard human rights. Ensuring leaders are held responsible for violations encourages adherence to international human rights standards. Survivors and families affected by violence deserve recognition and justice. Accountability provides a sense of closure and validates their experiences.
- Holding leaders accountable sends a strong message that such actions will not be tolerated by voters, whether nationally or worldwide, potentially deterring future atrocities both in Palestine and globally. Upholding the rule of law is fundamental to a functioning society. Accountability reinforces the idea that no one is above the law, fostering trust in legal and political systems.
- As representatives of the United States on the global stage, holding the President accountable for this issue provides a framework for addressing and responding to alleged genocides worldwide, ensuring a step toward international reconciliation and peace.

Overall, holding leaders accountable helps unify global efforts against injustice, encouraging international communities to advocate for human rights and peace in various contexts.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics File A

Visualization: Amy Qin/WBEZ.

graph showing Cook County with the highest percentage of Palestinians in the nation, according to the 2020 decennial census (WBEZ Chicago)

To view the full stories, visit:



PRISM: Chicago is now the largest US City to call for a ceasefire



WBEZ Chicago: More Palestinians live in Cook County than any other county in the nation



View candidate stances on Palestine

*Congress is divided into 2 parts...  
the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate*

## *U.S. House of Representatives!*

For the U.S. House of Representatives, voters will elect 17 candidates to serve from each of the 17 U.S. Congressional districts in Illinois.

Its main responsibilities are to suggest and vote on laws, represent the people in their districts, and reflect their different views.

The U.S. House also helps decide how the federal budget is used. It can impeach federal officials, including the President, by bringing charges against them. If there's enough evidence, the House writes articles of impeachment that outline the charges.

scan to find  
your  
Congressional  
district and  
House  
representative  
by zip code!



scan to find  
your state  
house district  
and state  
representative!



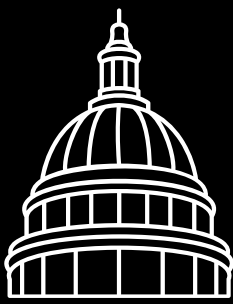
## *Illinois State Representatives!*

An Illinois State Representative serves in the Illinois House of Representatives, representing their district's interests by drafting, sponsoring, and voting on legislation. They focus on key issues like education, healthcare, infrastructure, and public safety, and serve on committees that amend bills before they reach the House. State Representatives collaborate with other lawmakers, advocate for state resources, and engage with constituents to address local concerns. They serve two-year terms and play a crucial role in shaping Illinois state laws and policies.

HOUSE & SENATE

*Elections*





# THE ILLINOIS STATE SENATE!



scan to learn more about your state senator and district!



Illinois has 59 State Senate districts. 20 of the Illinois State Senate's 59 seats are up for election in 2024.

But why should you care? These races will play a crucial role in shaping state policy, especially in areas such as budget, education, healthcare, and social issues.

The Illinois Senate is the upper chamber of the state's legislature, responsible for passing state laws and addressing issues specific to Illinois.

**SCAN FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT FOR THE 2024 ELECTION!**



*scan to learn more about who is on the ballot for the Illinois House of Representatives for each district!*



*scan to learn more about who is on the ballot for the Senate for each district!*



**now that you know who your representatives are ...**

**also on the ballot...**



### **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner**

The Board of Commissioners, consisting of 9 members, is responsible for establishing policies and procedures which meet The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's objective of protecting the water environment for the citizens of Cook County. Voters will choose no more than 3 Commissioners for a full 6-year term, and one commissioner for an unexpired 2-year term

### **Candidates running for full 6-year term**

- Kari K. Steele (D)
- Marcelino Garcia (D)
- Sharon Walker (D)
- Claire Connelly (R)
- Richard F. Dale (R)
- Brendan Ehlers (R)
- Toneal M. Jackson (Green)

*scan to learn more about each candidate!*



### **Candidates running for 2-year term**

- Precious Brady-Davis (D)
- R. Cary Capparelli (R)

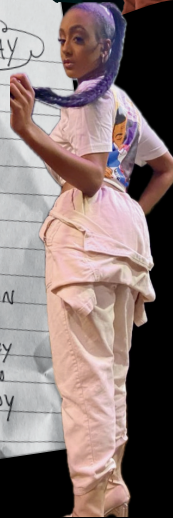


**HUNTERS RUNWAY**

1. LIZZY + CHINA
2. ANTON + HAILEY
3. CHAR + JOJO
4. JIMMY + KAI
5. TRE + NANA

**PRODUCTION LO**

1. CHAR	6. ANTON
2. NANA	7. KAI
3. TRE	8. LIZZY
4. HAILEY	9. JOJO
5. CHINA	10. JIMMY



**JOIN OUR CREATIVE COLLECTIVE!**



# Chicago Votes



PROD. **Chicago Votes** SCENE **1** TAKE **1**

ROLL **2**

DIRECTOR: **MORAN**

CAMERA: **MURRAY**





let's talk  
State's  
Attorney!



ChicagoVotes

A State's Attorney, often referred to as a district attorney or prosecutor, is the chief legal officer for a county or judicial district.

what is a  
State's  
Attorney?

prosecuting criminal cases on behalf of the state (ranging from misdemeanors to felonies), providing legal advice to county officials and law enforcement agencies, and supporting victims of crimes throughout the legal process.

their duties  
include:

who's on  
the ballot?

Eileen O'Neill Burke (D)



Robert W. Fioretti (R)



Andrew Charles Kopinski  
(Libertarian)



representing the state in criminal proceedings, from initial charges through trial and appeals.

reviewing evidence provided by law enforcement agencies to determine whether there is sufficient basis to file criminal charges against individuals.

# State's Attorney Questionnaire

**The Pretrial Fairness Act**, part of the larger SAFE-T Act, reforms pretrial procedures in Illinois. The law is designed to make the state's pretrial practices more equitable, effective, and transparent. The act eliminates the use of money bonds as a condition of pretrial release and reforms pretrial hearing processes and detention procedures. All Pretrial Fairness Act reforms took effect statewide on September 18, 2023.

In light of the Pretrial Fairness Act, how will you decide who will be detained?

How would your office assist The Conviction Review unit to help wrongfully convicted people regain their freedom?

## **Eileen O'Neill Burke**

"I am dedicated to the pursuit of justice as I have been my entire career. If our community does not trust that our office is upholding justice, then they won't work with us to keep people safe. I will maintain a conviction integrity unit that works closely with our training curriculum to ensure that all cases going forward and cases that were under our jurisdiction in the past are held to the highest standards in the country. Conviction Integrity, Post-Conviction, and Appeals should be placed together in one division so that they can combine efforts, resources, and personnel in the most efficient and effective way."

## **Robert Fioretti**

"I will be the tough but fair prosecutor we need. The solution to preventing innocent people from going to jail is to do a thorough and effective job as the County's prosecutor. The solution is to support, not undermine the mission, which is to protect the people of Cook County. The cycle must be broken, and the rule of law must be reestablished at all levels of our society. Enough is enough." (The Southland Journal).

## **Andrew Charles Kopinski**

"We will continue the work of this unit. The goal has to be 'justice'." Convicting innocent people of crimes they did not commit is a wrong that cannot be allowed to stand."

## **Eileen O'Neill Burke**

"With my experience, sound judgment, and commitment to fairness, I am well-equipped to exercise discretion responsibly under the Pre-trial Fairness Act, ensuring the safety of our communities and upholding fairness in the criminal justice system."

## **Robert Fioretti**

"The notion that violent criminals can be allowed to walk the streets in search of their next victim while awaiting trial for their previous violent crimes is a slap in the face of law-abiding citizens and the victims of their crimes. These violent criminals are literally laughing at those who passed this insane law." (WTTW Voter Guide)

## **Andrew Charles Kopinski**

"Detention would be requested for violent crimes and serious property crimes."

Under the current Foxx Administration, retail thefts under \$1000 are not prosecuted as a felony, but as a misdemeanor. Will your administration keep this same threshold or revert to the \$300 threshold?

## **Eileen O'Neill Burke**

"The Felony Retail Theft statute has the value of goods at \$300. If there is public sentiment to change the law, then the appropriate avenue to do so is to go to Springfield and change the law. That being said, that doesn't mean that everyone charged with Retail Theft should go to jail. There are a wide variety of options available depending on the circumstances of the offense and the background of the offender. If someone has no background, they go to theft school and don't get arrested again during a period of a few months, the offense is gone and does not impact their record. There is a gradation of penalties going from supervision, to probation to jail time. I can no more refuse to prosecute based on existing law than I would be able to refuse to prosecute someone who committed an act of terrorism against an abortion clinic or a corporation that polluted the environment."

## **Robert Fioretti**

"No, ABSOLUTELY NOT! Foxx's ill-advised decision to ignore the law has been an unmitigated disaster for business owners, particularly in poor communities. It is literally impossible for mom-and-pop stores in African-American and Latino communities to keep their doors open if the State's Attorney announces publicly that their merchandise is free game for shoplifters." (WTTW Voter Guide)

## **Andrew Charles Kopinski**

"My administration will revert to the lower threshold. Property crime is increasing at an alarming rate in Cook County. It is up to the state legislature to change the threshold."

What are the root causes of violence and what will you do to prevent harm?

**Eileen O’Neill Burke**

“Public safety affects everyone, communities with less wealth and status face additional hurdles in having the appropriate amount of resources dedicated to their protection and to addressing waves of crime targeting them. I want to reshape the office so that it is recruiting lawyers from all over the country to work in an innovative office that tackles violent crime and works to combat the root causes of crime like poverty and historic disinvestment in communities through a newly fashioned restorative justice bureau. To reduce recidivism for both adults and juveniles, we must take a thoughtful approach to restorative justice in juvenile, veterans, drug, and mental health courts, where many repeat offenders come from. By combining these courts, attorneys in our office will interact with government agencies to find solutions that work for getting people on track. While getting low-level crime handled through treatment and root cause-focused programming must be a priority, we also have to go after violent crime. By doing this two-fold approach we will have a direct benefit to communities that experience the vast majority of crime.”

**Robert Fioretti**

“From day one, Kim Foxx has coddled violent criminals as if they were all Jussie Smollett. That will end on day one of my Administration. I will reverse Foxx’s disastrous policy of ignoring shoplifting, which has literally driven numerous Cook County businesses to close their doors forever. I will treat the possession of illegal guns as the serious crime that it is. If we are serious about getting guns off the street, we MUST get those that possess and brandish them off the street.” (WTTW Voter Guide)

**Andrew Charles Kopinski**

“The state’s attorney’s office can recommend and promote policies that address the root causes of violence and help prevent harm before it happens. Programs that promote economic opportunity and positive youth oriented programs should be among them.”

A study that analyzed more than 4.6 million traffic stops over 19 years in Chicago, found Black drivers were 6x more likely to be stopped. How will your office effectively reduce gun violence without simply relying on racially targeted traffic stops?

**Eileen O’Neill Burke**

“Recognizing the rise in gun possession with auto switches and extended magazines, especially amid mass shootings, we will leverage Illinois’ Assault Weapons ban to send a clear message that such weapons will not be tolerated. This involves seeking detention and advocating for maximum penalties for individuals found in possession of these weapons with these enhancements. Rather than relying on racially targeted traffic stops, my focus is on strategic collaboration, effective prosecution, and a comprehensive approach to addressing the root causes of gun violence in our community.”

**Robert Fioretti**

“The State’s Attorney has a duty to make sure every resident of Cook County is treated equally under the law, regardless of race, religion, what zip code they are from, or who they love. It is how I conducted myself as Alderman in the City Council and it is how I will conduct myself as State’s Attorney... There will be no racial disparities in my Administration. Everyone will be treated equally under the law.” (ACLU Illinois)

**Andrew Charles Kopinski**

“Gun violence can be reduced by effectively prosecuting gun related criminal offenses.”

**Chicago  
Votes** 

The State’s Attorney questionnaire was sent to all candidates. For candidates who completed the questionnaire, answers are based on direct responses. Direct quotes were pulled for candidates who did not complete the questionnaire.

To read their full responses, visit [chicagovotes.com/votecenter](http://chicagovotes.com/votecenter)

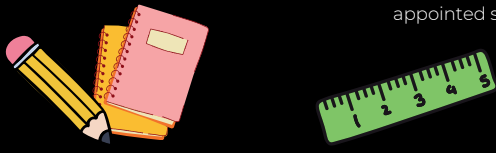




# CHICAGO'S FIRST EVER SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION IS HAPPENING ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 5TH!

*Class is in session!*

Chicago's new elected school board, set to replace the previously appointed board, will give city residents direct input on education policy for the first time. Starting this year, members of the board will be chosen by voters, with elections held in two phases until the board is fully elected by 2026. This year voters will elect 10 members from each of the subdistricts, the Mayor will appoint 10 additional members and the school board president, establishing a school board of 21 members. This shift aims to increase community involvement and accountability in managing Chicago Public Schools, a major change from the mayor-appointed system that has been in place for decades.



*why should you care?*

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) has a budget of over \$9 billion to support over 325,000 students in over 600 schools. The Board Members have a big responsibility in leading the organization. Their main tasks include:

- Hiring and evaluating the CEO
- Setting the district's goals and priorities
- Approving district policies
- Making purchasing decisions and contracts
- Approving the budget and capital improvement plan
- Setting the school year calendar

CPS has continuously faced historical challenges when meeting the overall needs of students and families, especially those of underprivileged backgrounds. Additionally, the social and economic livelihoods of underprivileged Black and Brown students within CPS constantly face systemic discrimination. The newly elected school board members will be pivotal in representing, governing, and making decisions that support the livelihoods of students and their families.

*what school board district am i in?*

*scan to look up your voter registration information*





# MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES FOR EACH DISTRICT!

## 1st District: Portage Park, O'Hare, Dunning, Jefferson Park, Norwood Park and Edison Park (43 schools)

- Jennifer Custer: a CPS parent and former teacher, union leader, and school administrator in the Chicago suburbs
- Michelle N. Pierre: a CPS parent and Local School Council member, executive director at New Leaders, a training program for school leaders, former charter school leader, and former district administrator in Cleveland.

## 2nd District: Lincoln Square, Ravenswood, Peterson Park, Budlong Woods and Andersonville, along with the Far North Side communities of Edgewater, Rogers Park and West Ridge (37 schools)

- Ebony L. DeBerry: Director of educational initiatives at ONE Northside, former CPS teacher, parent, and Local School Council member
- Kate Doyle: a former special education teacher, co-founder and CEO of youth career development nonprofit KindWork, and Vice President of the Greater Rockwell Organization
- Margaret "Maggie" Cullerton Hooper: a CPS parent, Local School Council member, and senior consultant for the Alliance for Black Equality PAC
- Bruce Leon: Founder of human resources firm and 50th Ward Democratic committeeperson, and a board member of Arie Crown Hebrew Day School

## 3rd District: Avondale, Logan Square, Belmont Gardens, Belmont Cragin, Hanson Park and Hermosa on the Northwest Side, along with Humboldt Park on the West Side (55 schools)

- Jason C. Dónes: chief of people operations at non-profit Beyond 100K, former teacher and leader at Teach for America.
- Carlos A. Rivas Jr.: a spokesperson for the Civilian Office of Police Accountability and former alumni counselor at UIC College Prep, a Noble charter school

## 4th District: Lincoln Park, Lake View, North Center and most of Uptown (33 schools)

- Kimberly Brown: a marketing professional, adjunct professor, and CPS parent
- Andrew A. Davis: a nonprofit leader, CPS parent, and former LSC member
- Thomas Day: a CPS parent, co-founder of Illinois Veterans for Change
- Carmen Gioiosa: a CPS parent, Local School Council member, adjunct professor, former CPS administrator, and former CPS teacher
- Ellen Rosenfeld: a family and community engagement manager at Chicago Public Schools, a CPS parent, and former CPS teacher
- Karen Zaccor: a teacher at Uplift High School and former LSC member

## 5th District: West Town, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, Lawndale and Austin (100 schools)

- Aaron "Jitu" Brown, a community organizer with Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, director of the Journey for Justice Alliance, and a Dyett hunger striker

## 6th District: The Loop, Streeterville, the Near North Side and parts of West Town; and the Near South Side, Englewood, Grand Boulevard, Washington Park and some of Woodlawn (51 schools)

- Jessica Biggs: a CPS parent and former teacher and school principal
- Andre Smith: an entrepreneur and recent candidate for Illinois House 5th District
- Anusha Thotakura: a deputy director at Citizen Action/Illinois and former teacher

## 7th District: Pilsen, Little Village, Brighton Park, Archer Heights and parts of Bridgeport, Armour Square, McKinley Park and Gage Park (79 schools)

- Raquel Don: a CPS parent and Local School Council member
- Yesenia López: a Latino outreach director with Gov. J.B. Pritzker's campaign
- Eva A. Villalobos: an accountant and private school parent

## 8th District: West Lawn and Clearing, parts of McKinley Park, Bridgeport and Gage Park, plus most of Back of the Yards, Chicago Lawn, Ashburn and Garfield Ridge and half of the South Loop 65 schools)

- Angel Gutierrez: chief advancement officer at Chicago Hope Academy, a private high school, and a former leader at Catholic Charities of Archdiocese of Chicago
- Felix Ponce: a CPS music teacher and professional trombonist

## 9th District: Chicago Lawn, New City, West Englewood, Chatham, Greater Grand Crossing, Ashburn, Auburn Grasham, Beverly, Mount Greenwood, Washington Heights, Roseland and West Pullman (93 schools)

- Therese Boyle: a school psychologist and former candidate for CTU president
- Miguel Lewis: Acting director of Cook County Juvenile Probation & Court Services and former appointed member of Chicago Board of Education, current member of Special Education Advisory Committee
- La'Mont Raymond Williams: Chief of staff and general counsel to Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry
- Lanetta M. Thomas: A community activist

## 10th District: Oakland, Kenwood, Douglas, Hyde Park, Woodlawn, South Shore, Burnside, South Chicago, Riverdale, Calumet Heights, the East Side, Pullman, Hegewisch and South Deering (89 schools)

- Robert Jones: a pastor at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church and a Dyett hunger striker
- Karin Norington-Reaves: a CPS parent and consultant, former candidate in Illinois's 1st congressional district
- Adam Parrott-Sheffer: a CPS parent, adjunct lecturer at Harvard, author, former principal in CPS and the Chicago suburbs, former district administrator in New York City
- Che "Rhymefest" Smith: a Grammy-award winning songwriter, rapper and community activist.



scan to learn more about the candidates and check out their official websites!

This guide is for informational purposes only, designed to help voters understand where each candidate stands on issues important to young people. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we do not endorse or oppose any candidates or political parties.



**the courts**

**are on**

**the ballot**

**this November**

**let's break down each one, their responsibilities, and meet the candidates!**

## APPELLATE COURTS

Appellate courts are a type of court that reviews decisions made by lower courts. Unlike trial courts, which handle the initial presentation of evidence and witness testimony, appellate courts focus on reviewing the legal aspects of a case to determine whether the lower court's decision was correct. Appellate courts play a critical role in ensuring that the law is interpreted and applied consistently. They provide a check on the decisions made by trial courts and help maintain a uniform application of legal principles. Appellate courts are crucial for reviewing and ensuring the proper application of the law, correcting errors, and guiding the development of legal standards.

### **DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF APPELLATE COURTS?**

**State Appellate Courts:** Each state has its own appellate courts, which hear appeals from lower state courts. For example, in Illinois, the Appellate Court is divided into five districts.

**Federal Appellate Courts:** In the U.S. federal system, there are 13 Courts of Appeals that handle appeals from federal district courts. These courts are divided into regional circuits.

### **who's on the ballot**

#### **Vacancy of Connors**

Mary Lane Mikva (D)

#### **Vacancy of Cunningham**

Cynthia Y. Cobbs (D)

#### **Vacancy of Delort**

Celia Louise Gamrath (D)

#### **Vacancy of O'Neill Burke**

Carl Anthony Walker (D)

## CIRCUIT COURTS

Circuit Courts are a type of trial court that typically handles a wide range of cases, including civil, criminal, family, and probate matters. Circuit courts are crucial components of the judicial system, serving as the primary venues for trying cases. They handle a diverse range of legal issues, and their decisions can significantly impact individuals and communities.

### **who's on the ballot**

#### **Vacancy of Flannery, Jr.**

Pablo F. deCastro (D)  
Tien H. Glaub (R)

#### **Vacancy of Gaughan**

Corinne C. Heggie (D)

#### **Vacancy of Haberkorn**

Sarah Johnson (D)

#### **Vacancy of Hubbard**

Deidre M. Dyer (D)

#### **Vacancy of Maras**

Arlene Y. Coleman-Romeo (D)

#### **Vacancy of Mitchell**

Neil Cohen (D)

#### **Vacancy of Murphy**

Edward Joseph Underhill (D)

#### **Vacancy of Propes**

Debjani "Deb" Desai

#### **Vacancy of Raines**

Jennifer Patricia Callahan (D)

#### **Vacancy of Sullivan**

James S. Murphy-Anguilú (D)

#### **Vacancy of Walker**

Chloe Georgianna Pedersen (D)



## ***SUB-CIRCUIT COURTS***

Sub-Circuit Courts are a type of trial court that typically handles a wide range of cases, including civil, criminal, family, and probate matters. Circuit courts are crucial components of the judicial system, serving as the primary venues for trying cases. They handle a diverse range of legal issues, and their decisions can significantly impact individuals and communities.

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### **who's on the ballot**

**3rd Sub-circuit**  
**Vacancy of Adams Brosnahan**  
Lucy Vazquez-Gonzalez (D)

**Vacancy of Harmening**  
Pat Heery (D)

**5th Sub-circuit**  
**Vacancy of Lewis**  
Yolanda Harris Sayre (D)

**7th Sub-circuit**  
**Vacancy of Solganick**  
Owens J. Shelby (D)

**8th Sub-circuit**  
**Vacancy of Collins-Dole**  
Loveleen Ahuja (D)

**10th Sub-circuit**  
**Vacancy of McWilliams**  
Caroline Glennon-Goodman (D)

**Vacancy of Wojkowski**  
James V. Murphy (D)

**11th Sub-circuit**  
**Vacancy of Finley Collins**  
Dawn Gonzalez (D)

**Vacancy of Daleo**  
Audrey Victoria Cosgrove (D)

**14th Sub-circuit**  
**Vacancy of O'Hara**  
Griselda Vega Samuel (D)

**Vacancy of Pierce**  
Stephanie Kathryn Miller (D)

**16th Sub-circuit**  
**Converted from Associate Judgeship of Flood**  
Pedro Fregoso Jr. (D)

**Converted from Associate Judgeship of Griffin Jr.**  
Cecilia Abundis (D)

**17th Sub-circuit**  
**Converted from Associate Judgeship of Aguilar**  
Rivanda Doss Beal (D)

**Converted from Associate Judgeship of Flaherty**  
Lloyd James Brooks (D)

**19th Sub-circuit**  
**Converted from Associate Judgeship of Senechalle, Jr.**  
Bridget Colleen Duignan (D)

**20th Sub-circuit**  
**Converted from Associate Judgeship of Budzinski**  
Nadine Jean Wichern (D)

## ***THE SUPREME COURT***

The Illinois Supreme Court is the highest in the state and plays a vital role in the judicial system. It interprets the Illinois Constitution and laws, setting legal precedents that lower courts must follow. The court conducts Judicial Review, checking lower court decisions to ensure the law is applied correctly. It can also discipline attorneys and judges. The Supreme Court handles essential cases, including appeals related to the constitutionality of laws.

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### **who's on the ballot**

**Vacancy of Burke**  
Joy Virginia Cunningham (D)

**Chicago**  **Votes**

# RETENTION JUDGES

In Cook County, Illinois, when a judge is up for retention, it means that their term is ending, and they seek to be retained in their position for another term. Illinois judges are elected for specific terms, and after serving their term, they must stand for retention in a general election. During this process, voters have the opportunity to decide whether to retain the judge in their role. If a majority of voters choose to retain the judge, they will continue serving for another term. If the majority votes against retention, the judge will be removed from office, and a vacancy will be created that can be filled through appointment or another election. This system is designed to check on judges, ensuring their performance is constantly evaluated, and the public has a say in their continuation in the position.

**The judges highlighted in red either received a negative review or are marked for a negative controversy by Injustice Watch.**

## who's on the ballot

### Appellate Court

Thomas E. Hoffman

David W. Ellis

### Circuit Court

**Kathy M. Flanagan**

Stuart F. Lubin

Martin S. Agran

Ronald F. Bartkowicz

**E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.**

James M. Varga

**Mary Margaret Brosnahan**

**Maura Slattery Boyle**

**Carl Anthony Walker**

Daniel Patrick Brennan

Ellen L. Flannigan

Carol M. Howard

Jill C. Marisie

**Mike McHale**

James Patrick Murphy

Ramon Ocasio III

Mary Colleen Roberts

Celia Louise Gamrath

Tommy Brewer

Erica L. Reddick

Lionel Jean-Baptiste

Michael R. Clancy

Regina Ann Scannicchio

Diann Karen Marsalek

**Carl B. Boyd**

Daniel R. Degnan

John H. Ehrlich

Terry Gallagher

William G. Gamboney

Elizabeth Mary Hayes

### Circuit Court (continued)

Martin C. Kelley

Kimberly D. Lewis

Aicha Marie MacCarthy

Lisa Ann Marino

Michael Tully Mullen

Karen Lynn O'Malley

Paul S. Pavlus

Cynthia Ramirez

**Beatriz Santiago**

Clare Joyce Quish

Stephanie Saltouros

Kent Delgado

Cecilia Anne Horan

Joanne F. Rosado

Toya T. Harvey

Adrienne Elaine Davis

H. Yvonne Coleman

Debra A. Seaton

David R. Navarro

Marian Emily Perkins

Robert Harris

Preston Jones, Jr.

Peter Michael Gonzalez

Jeanne Marie Wrenn

Michael B. Barrett

Tiana Ellis Blakely

Joel Chupack

Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza

Kevin Patrick Cunningham

Colleen Reardon Daly

Beatriz A. Frausto-Sandoval

**Leshia Gray**

Jack Hagerty

### Circuit Court (continued)

Lindsay Hugel

Kathaleen Theresa Lanahan

Thomas F. McGuire

Scott McKenna

**Shannon O'Malley**

Erika Orr

Linda Perez

James "Jamie" Shapiro

Tom Sam Sianis

Rosa Maria Silva

Kathryn Maloney Vahey

Andrea Michelle Webber

Arthur Wesley Willis

**scan to view  
the full 2024  
Cook County  
Judicial  
Elections Guide  
by  
Injustice Watch!**



**ELECTIONS 2024**

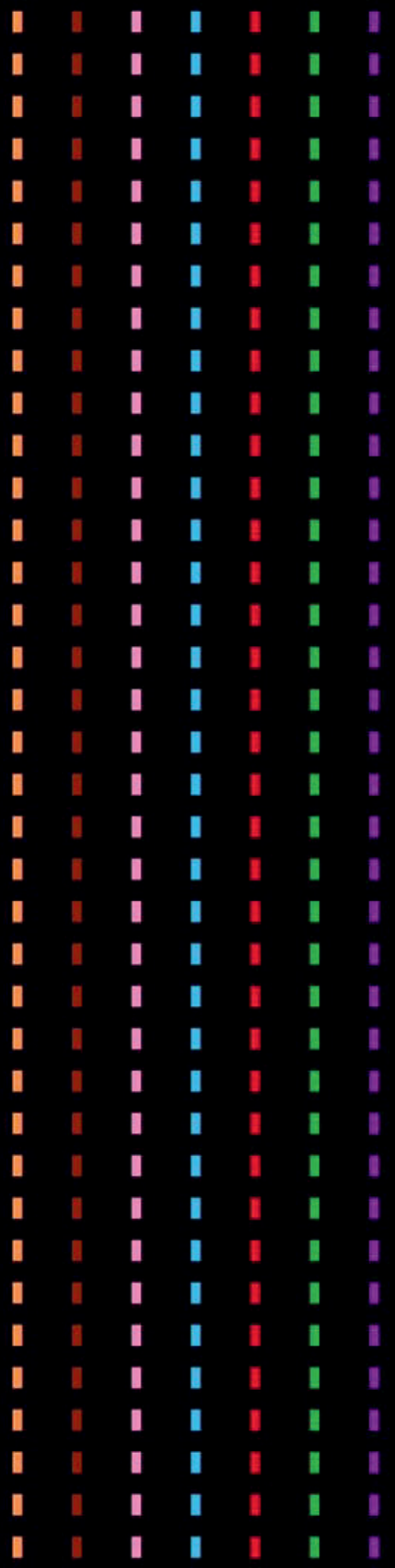
**GET OUT AND**

**VOTE**

**CHICAGO**



*artwork by diana mejia*







# ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

Make a plan to vote!

\_\_\_\_\_

plan to vote

in the 2024 General Election by

\_\_\_\_\_.

I plan to vote

on Election Day

early

by mail

my nearest polling place is

\_\_\_\_\_



scan to find your nearest polling place!

For more information, visit [chicagoelections.gov](http://chicagoelections.gov)







# Important Reminders!

September 26 - First day to mail  
Vote By Mail ballots to voters

October 3 - First day of early voting at 191  
N. Clark St Supersite

October 20 - Last day to register to  
vote online on the IL State Board of  
Elections website

October 21 - First day of early voting  
in all 50 wards of Chicago

October 31 - Last day to apply for a  
Vote By Mail ballot

**NOVEMBER 5th IS ELECTION DAY!**



# voter guide