

Chicago★Votes

2026
General
Election

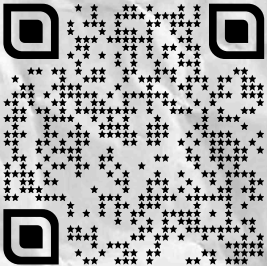
VOTER
GUIDE

VOTE



Artwork by Bianca Pastel

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**Visit [Chicagovotes.com/votecenter](https://chicagovotes.com/votecenter)
or scan this QR code to view
our digital vote center!**



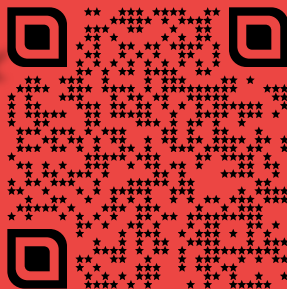
**This 501c3 voter guide is paid for
and brought to you by Chicago Votes**

Who is Chicago Votes?

Chicago Votes is a nonprofit organization building a more inclusive democracy by putting power in the hands of young Chicagoans. We're engaging and developing a new generation of leaders by opening the doors of government and politics to young people from all corners of the city. We're changing laws to make Chicago and Illinois a better place to be young, and in the process, we're making democracy FUN.



To learn more about our programming, paid positions, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities, follow Chicago Votes on Instagram @chicagovotes, or scan the QR code below!



Chicago
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VOTING RIGHTS 101

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, we recommend bringing a valid form of ID just in case for these scenarios: One (1) form of ID showing the voter's current address is required when an election judge challenges the person's right to vote, or when the voter submitted a mail-in registration form without providing an IL state ID number or the last four digits of their Social Security number.

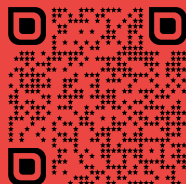
Two (2) forms of ID are required when a voter is registering in person, filing an address change in person, or filing a name change in person, including at their home precinct on Election Day. One (1) of these two (2) IDs must list your current address.

- Passport or Military ID
- Driver's license or State ID card
- College/University/School/Work ID
- Vehicle registration card
- Lease, mortgage or deed to home
- Credit or debit card
- Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid card
- Insurance card
- Civic, union, or professional membership card
- LINK/Public Aid/Department of Human Services card
- Illinois FOID card

**Accepted forms of
ID include:**

WATCH "DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN VOTE?"

BY KING MOOSA HERE!



Voting on Election Day



You can vote in person on Election Day, November 3rd, 2026, at the precinct/polling location assigned based on your address, or at one (1) of the 50 early voting locations across Chicago.



Same-day voter registration



Same day registration is available at all early voting sites and on Election Day. Voters must bring two (2) forms of ID, at least one (1) of which includes their current address.

Can I request my ballot in another language?



Absolutely! If using a touchscreen voting machine, you may choose one (1) of 12 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Polish, Korean, Tagalog, Gujarati, Urdu, Arabic, Ukrainian, and Russian. If voting by mail, you may choose one (1) of seven (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.

Early Voting

Registered voters may cast a ballot prior to Election Day without having to provide a reason for wanting to vote early. This ballot is cast in person:



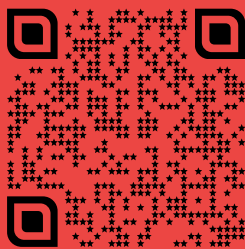
October 1 → Downtown Chicago early voting begins for the November 3rd General Election at two (2) locations:

1. 137 South State Street
2. 69 West Washington Street (6th Floor)

October 19 → Early voting begins for all 50 wards



**Scan for early
voting schedule!**



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. 5

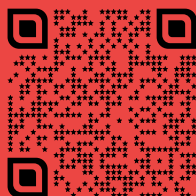
Vote by mail

The deadline to apply to vote by mail is Thursday, October 29, 2026, but please request your ballot long before this deadline to ensure you receive your ballot in time. Additionally, voters may receive their vote-by-mail ballot in the following languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Polish, Korean, or Tagalog.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) cannot  guarantee that a vote-by-mail ballot envelope will be postmarked the same day that a voter puts it in the mail. If a ballot is postmarked after November 3rd, it will not be counted. The United States Postal Service (USPS) recommends that mail ballots be put in the mail at least one (1) week before Election Day (October 27th).



**Scan to submit a
vote-by-mail
application!**



Drop your ballot off at a drop box!

If you plan to vote by mail, you may submit your ballot in its Ballot Return Envelope at any of the Chicago Board of Elections Secured drop boxes. Please Note: Whether you use the U.S. Mail or a drop box, you must use the signed and sealed Ballot Return Envelope with your name on it to submit your ballot.



Have a felony conviction?

If you have a past criminal conviction and have completed your sentence, you can vote in Illinois in all elections. If you are detained awaiting trial, have not been convicted, or are on electronic monitoring without a current conviction, you can register and vote in the upcoming election. You can check and update your voter registration before the 2026 General Election online at ova.elections.il.gov.

As long as you are NOT currently serving time for a conviction or on temporary leave/furlough from prison, you ARE an eligible voter, period. Citizens awaiting trial in Cook County Jail, or any IL jail, have the right to vote.

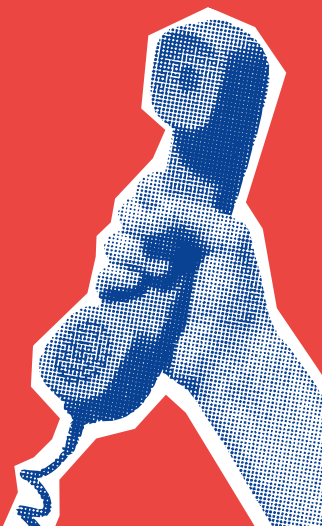


Election protection hotline

Call or text 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) for nonpartisan voter protection information and resources.



Chicago
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ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOV 3RD

Chicago Board of Elections

69 West Washington St
Suites 600/800
Chicago, IL 60602

For general inquiries, contact
cboe@chicagoelections.gov,
or call 312-269-7900.



Can I take this guide with me in the voting booth?



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.

**View your voter information and
sample ballot, and locate your
precinct polling place for Election
Day by scanning this QR code!**



**Register to vote or
change your address**



**Accessibility for
voters with disabilities**



**Voter
information
lookup!**



OFFICES ON THE BALLOT

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026

Voters will elect candidates for:

- U.S. Senator
- Illinois Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Illinois Attorney General
- Illinois Secretary of State
- Illinois Comptroller
- Illinois Treasurer
- Representatives in Congress
- State Senator
- Representatives in the Illinois General Assembly
- Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners
- County Clerk of Cook County
- Sheriff of Cook County
- Treasurer of Cook County
- Assessor of Cook County
- County Commissioners of Cook County
- Commissioner of the Board of Review of Cook County
- Illinois Appellate Court
- Cook County Circuit and Subcircuit Judges
- President of the Chicago Board of Education
- Members of the Chicago Board of Education

KNOW RIGHTS YOUR

An illustration of a man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a grey jacket over a dark shirt. He is shown in profile, shouting into a white megaphone held in his right hand. His left hand is extended forward, holding a small black object, possibly a phone or a small sign. The background is dark and textured, resembling a night sky or a close-up of a rough surface. The text 'KNOW RIGHTS YOUR' is overlaid on the image in large, bold, yellow and olive green letters with a dark red drop shadow.

We are witnessing in real time how the federal government is pushing the limits of its power unjustly. As Chicagoans living in a sanctuary city, we have a duty to collectively pool our resources and organize with our neighbors through mutual aid efforts, civic activism, and political education to ensure that we are keeping ourselves and each other safe when our government fails to do so.

If you are stopped by the police, ICE, or military on the street:

You can ask: “Am I free to go?”

- If yes, calmly walk away (don't run).
- If you're stopped, you have the right to remain silent.
- You have the right to not share your immigration status.

You can also say: “I do not consent to a search”

Note:

- An officer can pat you down if they have reasonable suspicion you are armed and dangerous.
- Physically resisting an officer is illegal and can lead to federal or state criminal charges even if the stop/arrest is illegal.

If the police, ICE, or the military come to your home, you have the right not to open your door unless there is a valid warrant

Ask, “Do you have a warrant?”

- If they say yes, ask them to slide it under your door or hold it up to your window.
- You generally do not have to let officers into your home without a judicial warrant, subject to limited legal exceptions.

Document the actions of officers!

You generally have the right to record law-enforcement officers performing their duties in public, as long as you do not interfere with their activities. If you witness misconduct by federal law enforcement or police:

- **Document the officer's name, badge/license plate number, and type of vehicle**
- **Call the FDLA hotline: 800-529-7374 (include the name of the person experiencing misconduct, date of birth, and location of arrest)**

If you are arrested at a protest or for political activity, call the National Lawyers Guild Chicago hotline:

872-4NLG-CHI / 872-465-4244

(Free legal representation while in police custody or court)

For immigration-related arrests & ICE sightings

Call the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) hotline: 855-435-7693

**TO REPORT POLICE, ICE, & NATIONAL
GUARD MISCONDUCT, CALL THE FIRST
DEFENSE LEGAL AID (FDLA) HOTLINE:
1-800-LAW-REP4 / 800-529-7374**

**ILLINOIS COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT &
REFUGEE RIGHTS:
855-435-7693**

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FEEL INTIMIDATED BY ICE AT THE POLLS

- **Make your plan to vote now, and consider voting by mail if you can.**
- **Consider voting as early as possible during the early voting period.**
- **Have a family member, neighbor, or friend accompany you to the polls. If people in your party are non-citizens, use caution and reconsider before heading to the polls.**

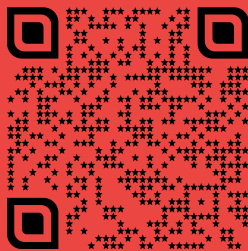
If you are stopped by a local or federal agent:

- **Stay calm and don't resist. Keep your hands visible.**
- **Ask if you can leave. If they say "yes," you can go. If they say "no", stay until told you can leave.**
- **You have the right to remain silent. During a traffic stop, drivers must provide their license, registration, and proof of insurance, but do not have to answer questions about their immigration status. If you don't want to answer, say, "I want to remain silent."**
- **Have someone in your party record and take note of the incident for physical evidence and documentation.**
- **If an official asks to search you or your belongings, say "no," but don't obstruct access. They may have the right to search anyway. If they start, say, "I don't consent to a search."**
- **You don't have to unlock your phone or give government officials your password without a warrant. For extra security, turn off Face ID.**

If arrested:

- **Exercise your right to remain silent and seek legal representation.**
- **To invoke these rights, say “I want to remain silent” and “I want to speak with a lawyer.”**
- **Refrain from answering questions or signing documents without a lawyer present.**
- **You can request a phone call (be aware government officials may refuse). Note: calls to others are monitored and recorded.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING
ICE/FEDERAL AGENT INTIMIDATION AT
THE POLLS, VISIT THE AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION.**



**IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE AT THE POLLS, CALL THE
NONPARTISAN ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE**

**ENGLISH: 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683
SPANISH: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682
ARABIC: 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287**

**FOR MORE LANGUAGES INCLUDING HINDI,
VIETNAMESE, AND MORE, CALL
1-888-API-VOTE / 1-888-274-8683**

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

A night-time photograph of the Chicago skyline, featuring prominent skyscrapers like the Willis Tower, illuminated against a dark sky. The city lights reflect on the water in the foreground.

The Governor is responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch. As state leaders, Governors advance and pursue new and revised policies and programs using a variety of tools, among them executive orders, executive budgets, and legislative proposals and vetoes. As chiefs of state, Governors serve as intergovernmental liaisons to the federal government on behalf of the state.

The lieutenant governor oversees specific state functions, managing intergovernmental relations, serving as a bridge to the legislative branch, and carrying out duties assigned by the Governor.

Governor Candidates On The Next Page...

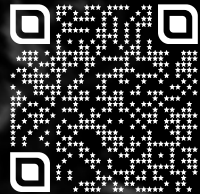
JB PRITZKER

Democratic

Governor JB Pritzker was sworn in as the 43rd Governor of Illinois in 2019. His platform includes cutting taxes and raising wages for working families, expanding affordable healthcare, fighting against federal attacks from the Trump administration, and improving public safety.



Campaign Website



DARREN BAILEY

Republican

Darren Bailey is a third-generation farmer and lifelong conservative from rural Southern Illinois. His platform includes providing quality education for every child, standing with law enforcement, cutting wasteful government spending, and providing tax relief for families.



Campaign Website



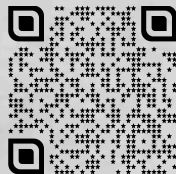


U.S. Senate

Senators represent their respective states in the U.S. Senate. They write and vote on federal laws, approve treaties, confirm presidential appointments (like Supreme Court justices), and help set the federal budget. Their work has an impact on our daily lives because it influences national laws on healthcare, taxes, civil rights, immigration, and federal funding for our city. Members of both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives vote on ICE funding and they play a key role in shaping federal policies that impact Illinois. They represent the people of Illinois in the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C.

**Chicago
Votes** ★

**Scan to learn
more about U.S.
Senate Candidates**





Juliana Stratton (Democratic)

Lieutenant Governor Stratton's platform is focused on securing Medicare for All, fighting for a \$25 minimum wage, and rejecting all corporate political action committee (PAC) money. Her policies are focused on making life more affordable for Illinoisans, creating opportunities for the middle class, and protecting democracy.

Don Tracy (Republican)



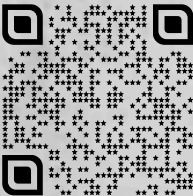
Don Tracy is an Illinois attorney whose platform is focused on lowering the cost of living, supporting working families, improving public safety, and representing all of Illinois. He believes in advocating for Illinois families and defending the American Dream.



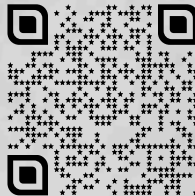
Whitfield Harrington Jr. (American Center Party)

Whitfield Harrington Jr.'s platform prioritizes protecting the freedom of every American to practice a faith or no faith at all, having police officers perform an essential role in protecting communities, and that civilian protection should rest primarily on the United States.

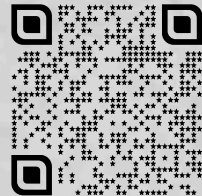
Campaign Websites



Juliana Stratton



Don Tracy



**Whitfield
Harrington Jr.**

DON'T FORGET ABOUT:

CHICAGO

**SCHOOL
BOARD**

ELECTIONS

**Find your school board district
and representative here:**





SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICTS

1A: O'Hare, Norwood Park, Forest Glen, Jefferson Park, Dunning, Edison Park.

1B: Portage Park, Dunning, Irving Park, Belmont Cragin, North Park, Montclare, Albany Park.

2A: West Ridge, Rogers Park, North Park.

2B: Lincoln Square, Edgewater, Albany Park, Uptown, North Park.

3A: Avondale, Irving Park, Logan Square, Belmont Cragin, Hermosa, Albany Park.

3B: Humboldt Park, Logan Square, Belmont Cragin, West Town, Hermosa.

4A: Lakeview, Uptown, North Center, Edgewater.

4B: Lincoln Park, North Center, Lakeview, Logan Square.

5A: Austin, Humboldt Park, West Town (including Ukrainian Village and Montclare).

5B: North Lawndale, Near West Side (including West Loop, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, West Town).

6A: Near North Side, West Town.





6B: Greater Grand Crossing, Grand Boulevard, Washington Park, Near South Side, Loop, Douglas, Woodlawn, Englewood, Fuller Park, Hyde Park.

7A: South Lawndale (Little Village), Near West Side, Lower West Side (Pilsen), Garfield Ridge, Archer Heights.

7B: Brighton Park, Lower West Side (Pilsen), Archer Heights, Bridgeport, Gage Park, West Elsdon, Armour Square, McKinley Park.

8A: Ashburn, Garfield Ridge, Clearing, West Lawn, Chicago Lawn, West Elsdon.



8B: New City (Back of the Yards), Chicago Lawn, Gage Park, McKinley Park, Bridgeport, Loop, Brighton Park, West Lawn, Near South Side, Armour Square.

9A: Auburn Gresham, West Englewood, Englewood, New City, Ashburn, Washington Heights.

9B: Roseland, West Pullman, Morgan Park, Beverly, Mount Greenwood, Washington Heights.

10A: South Shore, Woodlawn, Greater Grand Crossing, Hyde Park, Kenwood, South Chicago, Douglas, Oakland.

10B: South Deering, Hegewisch, Riverdale, East Side, Chatham, South Chicago, Pullman, Calumet Heights, Avalon Park, Burnside, South Shore.





SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES



DISTRICT 1A

Ed Bannon
Margie Luczak

DISTRICT 1B

Claudia Peralta
Michelle Pierre

DISTRICT 2A

Ebony DeBerry
Bruce Leon
Hector Morales

DISTRICT 2B

Deborah Pope
Daniel Basco
Kyna Lenhof

DISTRICT 3A

Norma Rios Sierra
Peter Gonzales

DISTRICT 3B

Carlos Rivas Jr.
Jason Dónes

DISTRICT 4A

Karen Zaccor
Angel Alvarez
Ellen Sherratt

DISTRICT 4B

Ellen Rosenfeld



SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 5A

Aaron Brown
LaPamela Williams

DISTRICT 5B

Michilla 'Kyla' Blaise
Anthony Hargrove



DISTRICT 6A

Anusha Thotakura
Brenda Lee Anderson
Isaiah White



DISTRICT 6B

Brittany Kimble
Michael Neal

DISTRICT 7A

Emma Lozano
Jesus Ayala Jr.

DISTRICT 7B

Yesenia Lopez
Erika Diaz-Chavez

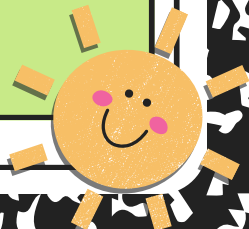


DISTRICT 8A

Angel
Gutierrez

DISTRICT 8B

Juan Gonzalez



DISTRICT 9A

Brittany Preston

DISTRICT 9B

**Therese Boyle
Katherine Dunneback**

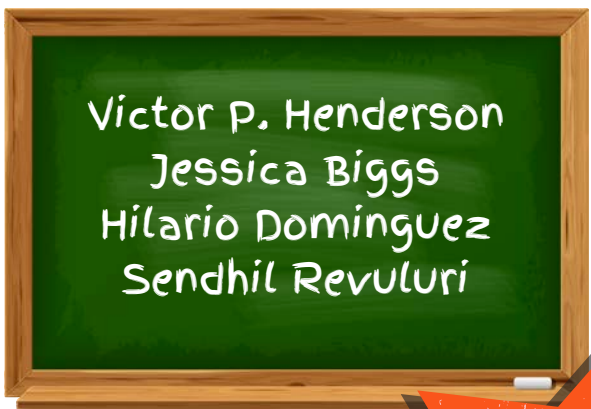
DISTRICT 10A

**Che Smith
Tameka Walton
(write-in)**

DISTRICT 10B

**Connie Anderson
Patrick C. Watson
Rosita Chatonda**

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT CANDIDATES



**Victor P. Henderson
Jessica Biggs
Hilario Dominguez
Sendhil Revuluri**

To learn more about school board
candidates, scan here!

The courts are on the ballot this November!

Borrow my eyes

Borrow my eyes

Not because they are better
But they have most likely seen more;
Used to view under the black robe of justice.

The bags under my eyes haven't arrived for a
lack of sleep; they are here because I am woke
and aware of the naked truth.

The truth is these systems do not serve us
without sentencing our bodies

I have seen what happens to people under the
pound of a gavel.

The impact unravels a person's humanity,
laying bare the dollar amount of a beating heart.

Most courtwatchers do not survive the viewing.

I am not sure if I have survived the viewing.

But you can borrow my eyes and save yourself
the trouble.

~ Darrion Benson

What are Judicial Elections?

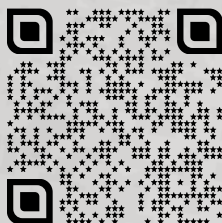
Circuit court judges hear trial-level cases involving criminal, civil, family, housing, and other matters. Depending on the case, they may make decisions involving pretrial release or detention, sentencing, and referrals to treatment or other programs. Appellate judges review decisions made by lower courts.



How Judicial Retention Works

Judges seeking retention do not run against another candidate. Voters select “Yes” or “No” to decide whether the judge should remain in office. A circuit judge must receive at least 60% “Yes” votes to be retained. All Cook County voters can vote on every Cook County judicial retention candidate, including judges originally elected from subcircuits. Your address determines which judicial vacancy races appear on your ballot.

**Join The Chicago Votes
Courtwatching Program!**

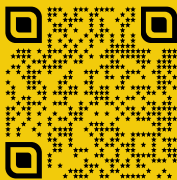


Additional Judicial Election Resources

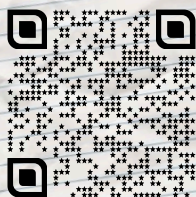
**Voteforjudges.org
Judicial
Elections
Guide**



**Injustice Watch
Judicial
Elections
Guide**



**Find out which district
you're in and the
judges that will be on
your ballot by scanning
the QR code below:**



**Scan to view Illinois Alliance
for Reentry and Justice's
Judicial Zine!**





Chicago
Votes

REINTEGRATION & CIVIC EMPOWERMENT ACT

SENATE BILL 2983 · HOUSE BILL 5414

Expanding civic engagement for all.

The Reintegration and Civic Empowerment (RACE) Act is proposed Illinois legislation that would restore voting rights to people while they are incarcerated and expand civic education inside prisons. If passed, Illinois would join Maine, Vermont, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico in allowing people in prison to vote.



Sign the RACE
Act petition



Ask your lawmaker if they
support the RACE Act



IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 1 AT 9:00 AM

Downtown Chicago early voting begins

137 S. STATE ST.

**69 W. WASHINGTON ST.,
6TH FLOOR**

OCTOBER 6

**Last day to submit paper
voter registration forms***

***Online and in-person registration
remain available**



OCTOBER 18

**Last day for online
voter registration**

OCTOBER 19

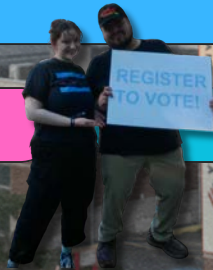
Early voting begins in all 50 wards

OCTOBER 29 BY 5:00 PM

Last day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot

November 3

Election Day!





**BECOME A
MONTHLY DONOR**

**SIGN UP
FOR OUR
NEWSLETTER**



**REGISTER VOTERS IN
COOK COUNTY JAIL**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



This piece centers a child riding a dolphin that's balancing on a flat unicycle wheel, her body wrapped in a looping trombone that releases the word "vote." The scene is intentionally surreal, a tiny circus of joy, balance, and motion, because silliness can carry serious messages without losing its softness.

Spiritually, dolphins symbolize joy, protection, intuitive guidance, and safe passage through emotional waters. In this artwork, the dolphin becomes a guide helping the child navigate a precarious landscape, balancing, moving, and staying buoyant despite the wobble beneath her. The unicycle wheel adds a sense of tension, a reminder that participating in civic life often feels like trying to stay upright on something flat or unstable.

The trombone looping around her body becomes a musical call to action, suggesting that voting isn't an external duty. It wraps around us, moves with us, and becomes part of our rhythm. The surrealism is a deliberate tool: silliness becomes a spiritual strategy, softening the heaviness that often surrounds political engagement.

As I created this piece, I found myself drawn to the dolphin's symbolism: joy as resistance, imagination as protection, and Black childhood as a site of political possibility. This artwork invites viewers to approach voting not with dread, but with curiosity, play, and collective care. It's a reminder that even the most whimsical images can hold serious encouragement: stay balanced, stay joyful, and keep moving toward the future you want.

~ Bianca Pastel

