

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is a home rule municipality under Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 6(f) of the Illinois Constitution provides that "A home rule municipality shall have the power to provide for its officers, their manner of selection and terms of office only as approved by referendum..."; and

WHEREAS, Jurisdictions around the country have adopted the ranked choice voting, or instant runoff voting model, including Alaska and Maine for state and federal elections, and for local elections in more than 50 cities, including New York City, San Francisco, Oakland, Minneapolis, and, most recently, Evanston, where voters approved a referendum allowing for the adoption of ranked choice voting for future municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, Even in "single choice voting" or "first-past-the-post" elections—which is the current practice in the City and Illinois generally—military and overseas voters may vote using a version of ranked choice voting under the Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS 5/16-5.01 (c)); and

WHEREAS, Under ranked choice voting generally, voters have the option to rank candidates in order of preference, and if no candidate wins a majority of first-choice votes outright, a procedure exists to eliminate the candidates receiving the fewest votes over one or more successive rounds, and the votes those candidates received will go to voters' lower ranked candidates; and

WHEREAS, The adoption of ranked choice voting has led to a variety of positive civic outcomes in the jurisdictions that have adopted it, including increasing voter participation; reducing the frequency of strategic voting in which residents decline to vote for their preferred candidate because they perceive the candidate as being less likely to win; increasing the likelihood that candidates will engage with all voters, even those for whom the candidate is not their first or second choice; enhancing consensus-building and campaign civility; and increasing the diversity of candidates and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Ranked choice voting also has practical benefits for the operation of government, including reducing the costs of elections and shortening the campaign cycle by eliminating the need for a separate runoff election; and

WHEREAS, The City Council, in keeping with the powers granted to the City as a home rule unit of government, should explore the feasibility and potential positive impacts of adopting ranked choice voting for municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the City of Chicago that there shall be submitted, to qualified electors of the City of Chicago, a public question concerning whether future elections for City officers shall be conducted by ranked choice voting; now, therefore,

BE IT BE RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. In accordance with 65 ILCS 5/8-3-19, the City Council of the City of Chicago hereby initiates and authorizes the following referendum question to be submitted to the voters of the entire City of Chicago at the regularly scheduled primary election on March 17, 2026:

Should the City of Chicago adopt ranked-choice voting—a system that allows voters to rank multiple candidates so they can vote their true preferences, encourages more positive campaigning, eliminates the need for runoff elections, and saves the City money—for Mayor, Treasurer, Clerk, and Alderperson?

SECTION 3. The City Clerk of the City of Chicago shall certify the public question referenced herein to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners in accordance with Article 28 of the Election Code.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage.

M. Fiedler 49

Scott Wagner 32

Matthew J. Martin
Matthew J. Martin
Alderman, 47th Ward

A. Young 40th

Matthew J. Quigley 35

[Signature] 33

Jeglin [Signature] 14th

Rush 30