

BUDGET

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Chicago is the only major city in the United States without a municipal charter, leaving the organization and governance of our City fragmented across various state statutes, local ordinances, and unwritten customs, resulting in inefficiencies, lack of accountability, and systemic governance challenges; and

WHEREAS, decades of experience demonstrate that clearly defined governance structures, as established through a city charter, lead to more transparent, efficient, and responsive government operations, benefiting all residents of the city; and

WHEREAS, Chicago's governance challenges, including unchecked mayoral power, fragmented police oversight, unaccountable fiscal policies, corruption risks, and barriers to democratic participation, underscore the urgent need for structural reform provided by a city charter; and

WHEREAS, establishing a city charter would empower the citizens of Chicago to directly participate in shaping the principles, organization, and processes of city governance, ensuring government reflects the values and priorities of our diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution, specifically Section 6(f) of Article VII, explicitly provides home rule municipalities such as Chicago the authority, subject to approval by referendum, to adopt, alter, or repeal a form of government provided by state law; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly can enact legislation to provide an orderly and inclusive process for the establishment of a charter commission, the development of a city charter, and its adoption by Chicago voters through a democratic referendum; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, hereby call upon the Illinois General Assembly to promptly pass legislation empowering the City of Chicago to establish a charter commission to draft a comprehensive city charter informed by robust public participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such legislation should include provisions for:

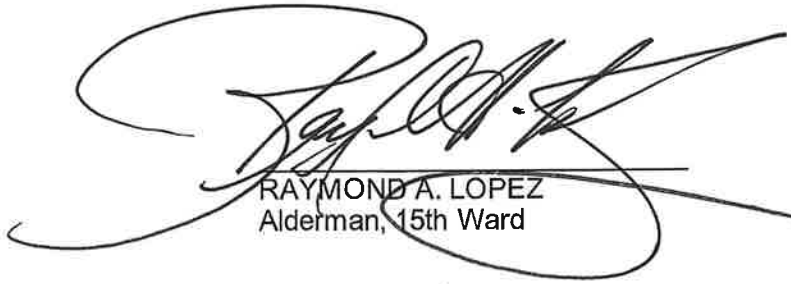
- The democratic election of commission members by Chicago voters to the greatest extent feasible, ensuring robust public representation and accountability;
- Clear standards for transparency and public participation, including multiple public hearings and opportunities for resident input;
- A charter referendum enabling all Chicago voters to approve or reject the proposed charter, ensuring democratic legitimacy and community ownership;
- A commitment that the adopted city charter aligns with and upholds the principles and requirements of the United States Constitution and the Illinois Constitution;
- Provisions explicitly addressing essential governance reforms, including but not limited to the separation of powers between the Mayor and City Council, independent fiscal oversight, transparent and accountable policing, and voter participation; and

- A provision that any such charter, once approved by referendum, will take effect concurrently with the beginning of a new term of City Council as provided in the Revised Cities and Villages Act (65 ILCS 20/21-22); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to promptly deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor of Illinois, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives, the President and Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly representing the City of Chicago.



GILBERT VILLEGAS
Alderman, 36th Ward



RAYMOND A. LOPEZ
Alderman, 15th Ward

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