

A Resolution Urging the Illinois General Assembly to Amend 10 ILCS 5/7-10 to Protect Candidates and Elected Officials from Political Violence

WHEREAS, pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/7-10, potential State and local political candidates shall submit a form of petition for nomination in order to be placed on the primary election ballot. Each petition must include a Statement of Candidacy, which requires candidates to include their place of residence, including street address, city, county, and district; and

WHEREAS, the Statute requires a candidates' address be included in publicly accessible petition documents which are uploaded to the internet where the general public can readily access them; and

WHEREAS, this address disclosure requirement creates significant safety and privacy concerns for candidates and their families, especially in this era of increased political polarization and political violence; and

WHEREAS, since 2021, there have been over 300 politically motivated attacks in the United States with 51 of them occurring during the 2024 election season;

WHEREAS, in 2025, there have already been multiple instances of political violence against elected officials, including the attempted kidnapping of Mayor Paul Young of Memphis, the arson attack on Governor Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, and the assassination of Minnesota State Senator Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark Hortman and attempted assassination of Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette Hoffman; and

WHEREAS, these safety concerns and rise in politically motivated violence could deter potential candidates from running for office; and

WHEREAS, while there is legitimate interest in ensuring candidates meet the residency requirements, there are alternative verification methods that do not include a public disclosure of a candidate's place of residence; and

WHEREAS, following the 2005 murder of the family of Illinois Judge Joan Lefkow, the State recognized the need for reform and passed the Illinois Judicial Privacy Act, barring the publication of judges' home addresses upon request for the information to be removed; and

WHEREAS, Washington State's Address Confidentiality Program demonstrates a growing recognition of the need to protect other elected officials and candidates as shown by the expansion of the program in 2022 to include elected officials. This program assigns a post office box address to an enrolled participant that can be used in place of their residential or work address on public records; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has the Constitutional authority to amend Illinois election statutes to protect the privacy of citizens and maintain the integrity of elections; and

WHEREAS, the protection of candidates' and elected officials' addresses would enhance democratic participation by removing potential barriers that may deter qualified candidates from seeking nomination for an elected office; and

WHEREAS, such polarization and politically motivated attacks seen in recent times were not contemplated when the disclosure requirements were originally enacted by the Illinois General Assembly, making this issue ripe for review;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby urge the Illinois General Assembly to amend 10 ILCS 5/7-10 by implementing measures to protect candidates and elected officials including, but not limited to:

1. **Partial address disclosure:** Allow candidates to only list their city or town of residence and zip code on public petition documents and provide their full address to the proper filing officer to verify.
2. **Post office box:** Allow candidates to use a post office box or mailing address located in their district of residence for public disclosure and provide their full address to the proper filing officer to verify.
3. **Protection Programs:** Allow for candidates to apply for protection programs that prohibit public viewing of their address if there is a credible safety threat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to members of the Illinois General Assembly.



Andrea M. Valencia
City Clerk



Christopher Taliaferro
Alderman, 29th Ward



Debra L. Silverstein
Alderman, 50th Ward

