

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, according to a 2025 study conducted by Tufts University, 41% of Illinois residents aged 18-29 voted in the 2024 presidential election, placing Illinois below the national average of 47% and substantially below some of other states in the Midwest, including Iowa at 54%, Michigan at 58%, and Minnesota at 62%; and

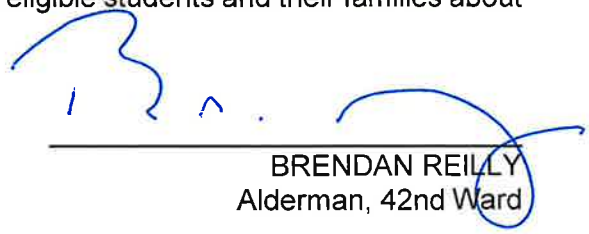
WHEREAS, the Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. Young Voter Empowerment Law was enacted on July 10, 2026, and beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, requires school districts with any students in grades 9 through 12 in Illinois to provide all eligible students graduating from high school with the opportunity to register to vote; and

WHEREAS, ensuring voting-aged high school students are adequately informed and able to register to vote requires coordination and communication among Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners, educators, students, families, community organizers, and aldermen so that they are all engaged in voter registration and civic education; and

WHEREAS, a subject matter hearing would provide an opportunity for members of the City Council and the public to learn more about the requirements of the Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. Young Voter Empowerment Law, discuss its implementation in Chicago high schools, and consider how best to ensure that eligible students and their families are informed about these new voter registration opportunities; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon the Committee on Education and Child Development to convene a subject matter hearing concerning the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. Young Voter Empowerment Law and its implementation in Chicago high schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon representatives of Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, appropriate State officials, educators, and relevant community organizations and stakeholders to appear before the Committee to provide testimony regarding implementation of the law and efforts to inform eligible students and their families about opportunities to register to vote.



BRENDAN REILLY
Alderman, 42nd Ward