

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago currently holds its municipal elections at the consolidated municipal election, while Cook County and State officials are elected at the general election; and

WHEREAS, the next general election will be held on November 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, only 3 months and 20 days later, the municipal election will be held on February 23, 2027, with runoffs on April 6, 2027; and

WHEREAS, some studies suggest that the current election timing suppresses voter participation, with on-cycle elections possibly doubling or tripling the overall turnout in local races; and

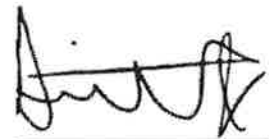
WHEREAS, in Texas, state law requires municipalities to pick from several uniform election dates, including those aligned with presidential and gubernatorial elections, and the California Voter Participation Rights Act requires municipalities to consolidate their local elections with statewide elections if voter turnout in their standalone elections is at least 25% lower than the average turnout in the previous four statewide general elections; and

WHEREAS, any change in the date of the municipal election requires legislative authorization from the Illinois General Assembly or voter approval of an overly technical and complicated referendum; and

WHEREAS, moving Chicago's municipal election to the general election could potentially save the taxpayers millions of dollars, increase voter turnout, improve voter confidence in the results of municipal elections, and increase public trust; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Chicago City Council, do hereby call upon the Illinois General Assembly to enact legislation either to move the Chicago municipal election to the same date as the State's general election or to authorize the City Council to change the date of the municipal election by ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Illinois, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, and all members of the Chicago legislative delegation.



GILBERT VILLEGAS
Alderman, 36th Ward