



City of Chicago



R2021-780

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:

6/25/2021

Sponsor(s):

Lightfoot (Mayor)

Cardenas (12)

Villegas (36)

Type:

Resolution

Title:

Call for opposition to legislative, administrative or practical efforts to exclude noncitizens from voting in local elections

Committee(s) Assignment:

Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights

IRR



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

June 25, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Cardenas and Villegas, a resolution opposing the disenfranchisement of City residents who are not U. S. citizens.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lori E. Lightfoot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" being the most prominent.

Mayor

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is home to more than 500,000 immigrants and enjoys, and benefits greatly from, the diversity and innovation that immigrants contribute to our City; and

WHEREAS, Chicago is a welcoming city that strives to empower immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago Office of New Americans works to create economic development opportunities, protect community well-being, and improve access to city resources and services for our immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago New Americans Plan outlines civic engagement initiatives that the City will undertake, including an initiative to encourage civic participation; and

WHEREAS, All those living in Chicago, regardless of citizenship status, are affected by local and state governmental policies, legislation, and administrative decisions; and

WHEREAS, All residents, regardless of citizenship status, pay local taxes, but undocumented residents have diminished rights in the decision-making process on these taxes; and

WHEREAS, Local elections are considered non-State elections and are not subject to the citizenship requirement of the Illinois Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Since 1989, the City of Chicago has allowed noncitizens who are parents, legal guardians, or temporary custodians of Chicago Public Schools students to vote in local school council elections; and

WHEREAS, Several cities allow noncitizens to vote in local elections, including ten towns in Maryland, and San Francisco which allows noncitizens to vote in local school board elections; and

WHEREAS, Cities like Washington D.C. and New York City have introduced legislation within the past year to allow noncitizens to vote in local elections; and

WHEREAS, Granting noncitizens a vote in local elections, as well as full access to other privileges, protections and benefits enjoyed by citizens, is crucial to help the City of Chicago build a more inclusive society; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-third day of June, 2021, do hereby affirm our belief that the right of all adults to vote in local elections and to enjoy the other benefits of enfranchisement is an integral and essential aspect of our participatory democracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we declare, as a matter of City policy, that we oppose any legislative, administrative, or practical efforts that have the purpose or effect of disenfranchising residents of our City based on their citizenship status on matters affecting education, public safety or any other issue specifically of local concern or affecting the governance of any newly created Chicago institution.