



# Office of the City Clerk

City Hall  
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Room 107  
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## Legislation Text

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*presented to* ***The City Council***  
***of the City of Chicago, iCCinois***

WHEREAS, in 1982 voter registration and participation of blacks in Chicago had constantly been about ten percent lower than that of whites; and

WHEREAS, since the 1970s, the African American community began to lose interest in voting, and the mayoral election turnout in the predominantly black wards fell as low as 27 percent; and

WHEREAS, Harold Washington's candidacy was frequently mentioned, he was reluctant to run and told grassroots activists that 50,000 newly registered voters was a precondition for him to run; and

WHEREAS, CBUC, Operation Push, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the CUL, launched and spirited voter registration drives, their independent efforts coalesced into a consortium, the People's Movement for Voter Registration in September; and

WHEREAS, Black Power at the Polls 99 initiated by a coalition of neighborhood organizations known by its acronym, POWER (People's Organization for Welfare and Employment Rights), opened registration posts at twenty public aid and ten unemployment compensation offices; and

WHEREAS, these efforts led to a historic registration record of over 120,000 new voters, including 40,000 who were registered at welfare and unemployment offices; and

WHEREAS, a result of many grassroots activities of increasing voter registration led to movement fervor; and the election on Tuesday, February 22, 1983 with a turnout of 77.49%; and

WHEREAS, 1.2 million Chicagoans went to the polls to cast their ballot, the highest turnout of the past 25 years before 1958; and

WHEREAS, a record-setting 69% of registered African-American voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, Washington received 36.3% of the citywide vote, roughly 80% of the African American vote; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Byrne had 33.5% of the citywide vote and Daley came in third place with 29.8%; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council in meeting assembled this fourteenth day of October, 2021, do hereby commemorate the voter registration drive, Come Alive October 5, for its contribution to the election of Mayor Harold Washington and so hereby declare October 5, 2021, as Come Alive October 5 Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be posted and presented to the Harold Washington Legacy Committee.

LESLIE A. HAIRSTON  
Alderman, 5th Ward

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