



## POLL ON CHICAGO'S TRANSITION TO AN ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD (ESB) METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS | OCTOBER 12, 2023

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### Methodology

K1C's citywide poll on Chicago's Transition to an Elected School Board (ESB) was conducted **September 26 through October 9, 2023**. Our sample included 777 Chicagoans aged 18 and up. **723** of our respondents were eligible-to-vote. Unless stated otherwise, all results below are based on this eligible-to-vote sample (n=723).<sup>1</sup>

While we choose, here, to present the results of these 723 respondents, there was no apparent meaningful difference in responses between those who were eligible-to-vote and those who were not. Chicago residents were recruited by Qualtrics, and surveys were administered online on the Qualtrics platform.<sup>2</sup> Respondents were randomly selected from Qualtrics' research panel, and survey participation was completely voluntary. In order to ensure representation from across Chicago, Qualtrics gathered at least 100 responses from each of the following Chicago regions: Northwest, North, Central, West, South, Southwest, Far South. The sampling margin of error is estimated to be about +/- 5 percentage points.

### Demographics

The majority of survey respondents who were eligible-to-vote identified as female (62% female, 34% male, 2% nonbinary, n=723). Given the Chicago Public Schools-oriented subject matter of this survey, we also collected demographic information surrounding parent/caregiver status of school-age children, as well as the type of school their child(ren) attends. 41% of respondents reported having at least one child enrolled in school (n=723). Regarding public or private enrollment (n=723), 36% of respondents reported having at least one child that attends public school (n=258), and 5% of respondents reported having at least one child that attends private school (n=39).

The figure below presents respondents' racial demographics. Our sample over-represents the Black population and under-represents the White and Latine populations, when compared to Chicago's racial demographics.<sup>3</sup> We conducted sensitivity analyses that weighted results based on Chicago's racial demographics in order to correct for under-/over-sampling. The weighted and unweighted results do not vary in any statistically significant manner. For this reason, we present the unweighted results. Weighted results are available upon request.

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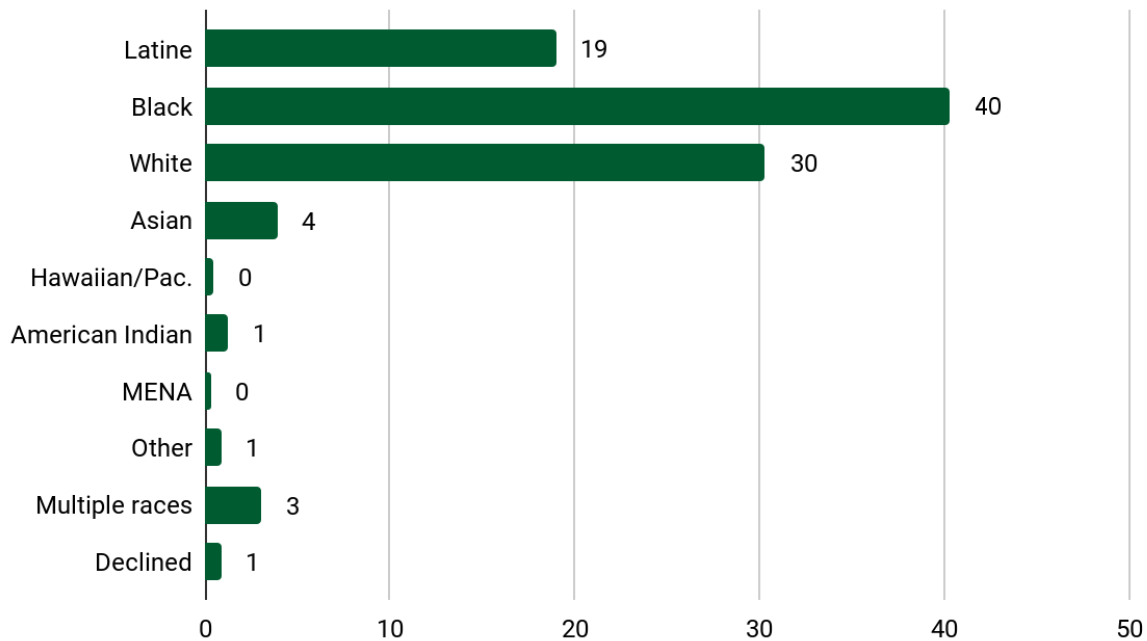
<sup>1</sup> We decided to present the results of the eligible-to-vote sample as these results are more relevant to and impactful for elected leaders.

<sup>2</sup> Qualtrics panel partners randomly select respondents for surveys where respondents are highly likely to qualify. Certain exclusions take place including category exclusions, participation frequency and so on. Each sample from the panel base is proportioned to the general population and then randomized before the survey is deployed. We work to guarantee that the population surveyed meets the requirements of the specific survey as defined by our clients' needs. Participants are recruited from various sources, including website intercept recruitment, member referrals, targeted email lists, gaming sites, customer loyalty web portals, permission-based networks, and social media, etc. Consumer panel members' names, addresses, and dates of birth are typically validated via third-party verification measures prior to their joining a panel. B2B participants are subject to additional quality control measures such as LinkedIn matching, phone calls to the participant's place of business, and other third-party verification methods (TrueSample, RelevantID, Verity, etc.)."

<https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/contentgroups/psychology/Qualtrics%20Information%20Guide.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Racial/ethnic breakdown of Eligible-to-vote population in Chicago: 22% Latine, 32% Black, 38% White, 5.5% Asian, 2% multiple races. This is based on population estimates produced using 2021 American Community Survey 5-year public use microdata. IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org).

Percent of respondents by self-reported racial/ethnic identity (n=723)



The analysis below focuses on the differences between public school parents (n=258) and parents with no children enrolled in public school (n=25) grouped with non-parents (n=440). Note that there are 14 respondents with children enrolled in both private and public schools and these are included in the public school parent category. The racial/ethnic distribution of private school parents is different from those of public school parents: 28% of public school parents are self-reported as White compared to 56% of private school parents. The average age for both groups is 38 years. We do not report the results separately given the small sample size of the private school parents but our internal analysis shows similar patterns to those reported here.

The remainder of this note presents the findings for each of the questions asked in our poll broken down by the topline “Eligible-to-vote/Registered-to-vote” (n=723) sample and then broken down by Public School Parents (n=258) and “non-Public School Parents **and** Non-Parents” (n=465).

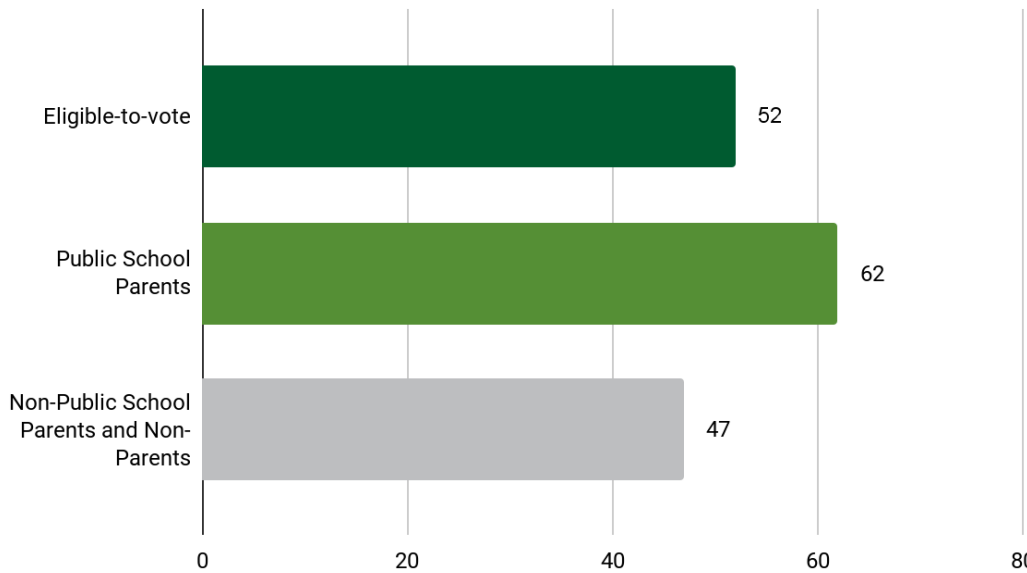
A copy of the exact poll given to respondents is included in the appendix.

## Results

### Awareness of transition to an elected school board

Question: "Before this survey, were you aware that Chicago will be transitioning from a school board appointed by the mayor to an elected school board (elected by voters)?"

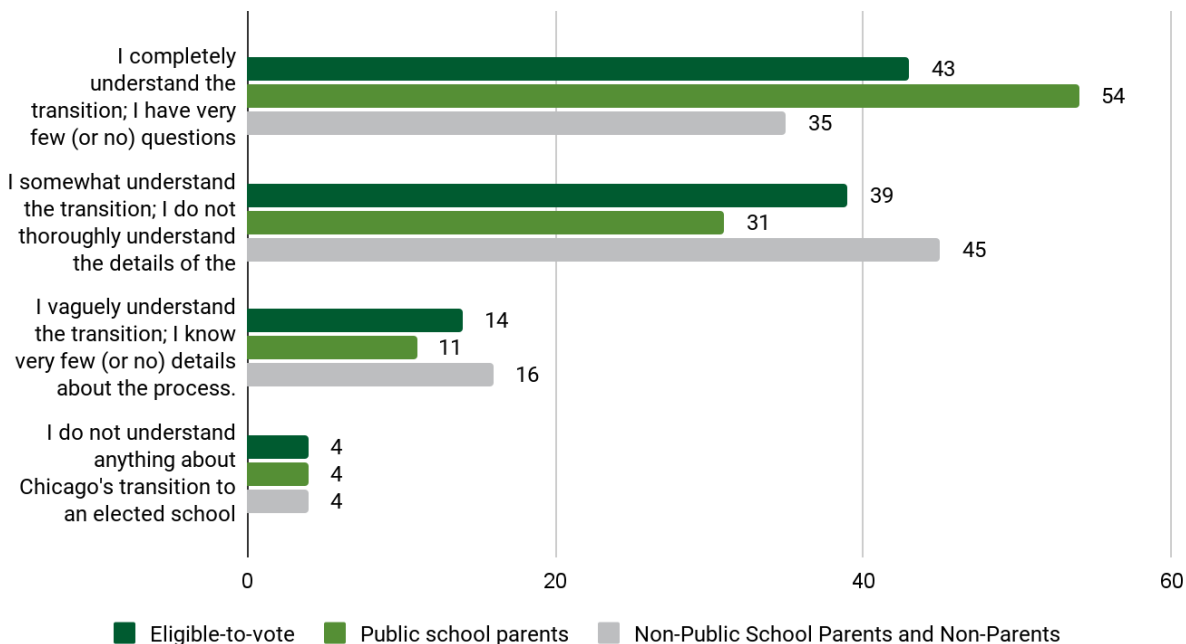
Percent of respondents aware of the transition to an elected school board (n=723)



### Level of awareness:

Question: "Which statement best describes your level of understanding surrounding Chicago's transition to an elected school board system?"

Percent of respondents by level of awareness of the transition to an elected school board (n=723)



## Attitudes towards the elected school board’s composition, voting and serving eligibility, campaign finance, and compensation

Respondents were provided the following information followed by a battery of questions regarding their attitudes towards a number of contested issues regarding the elected school board’s rules and regulations:

“The Chicago Board of Education makes important decisions that impact all Chicagoans, especially students and their families. The Board has the power to decide school budgets, teacher pay and benefits, and whether or not property taxes should be increased. In 2021, the State of Illinois passed legislation that will transition the Chicago Board of Education from its current seven-member mayoral appointed board into a fully-elected 21-member board. This two-year transition will begin in November of 2024.

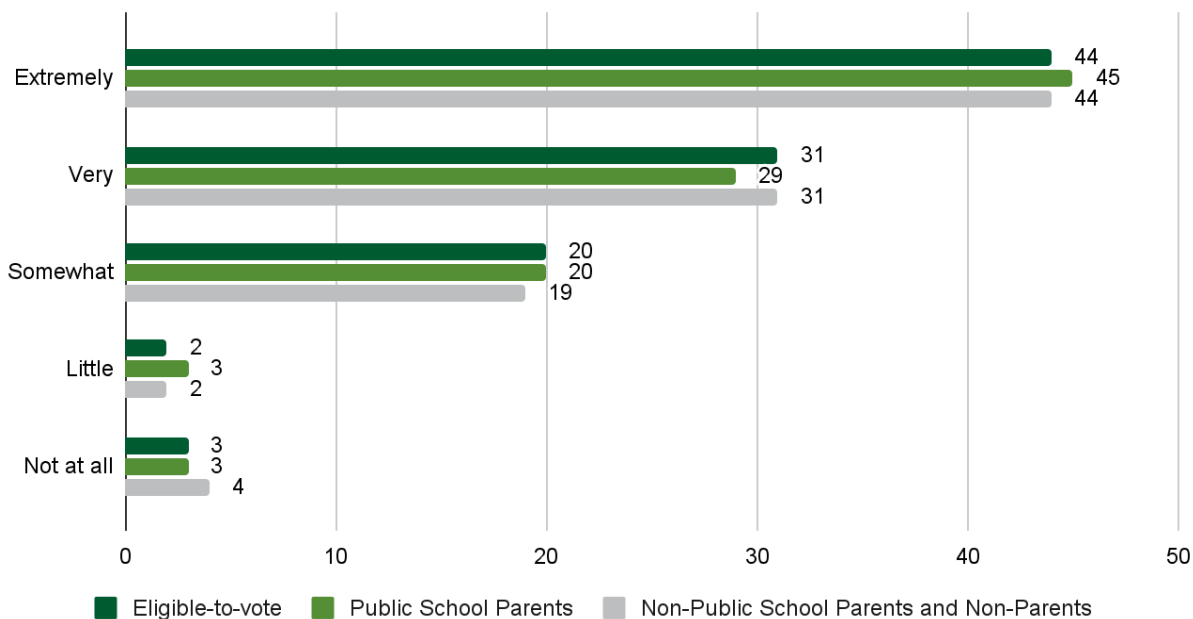
The Illinois State Legislature is responsible for creating the map of voting districts for the fully-elected school board. This means that the Illinois State Legislature is responsible for drawing the 20 districts that will vote for one seat on the elected school board. Voters will vote for a board member based on which of these 20 areas they live in.

Chicago’s demographics are different from the CPS student body demographic. Specifically, Chicago’s population (as of 2022) is approximately 57% Black and Latine while the CPS student body is almost 82% Black and Latine.”

### **Racial composition of the elected school board**

*Question: “How essential is it to you that the elected school board districts have racial representation that reflects the racially diverse CPS student population?”:*

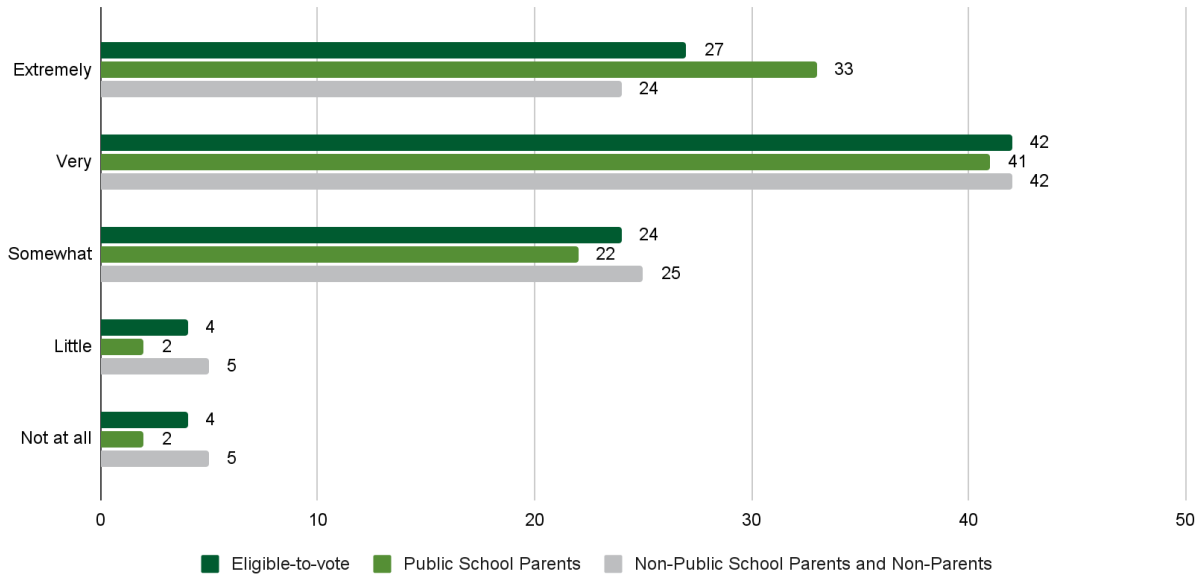
Percent of respondents, by degree of importance that the elected school board’s racial representation match that of CPS, and by demographic group (n=723)



## Parent seats on the board

Question: "How important is it to you that a specific number of seats on the board are reserved only for current CPS parents?":

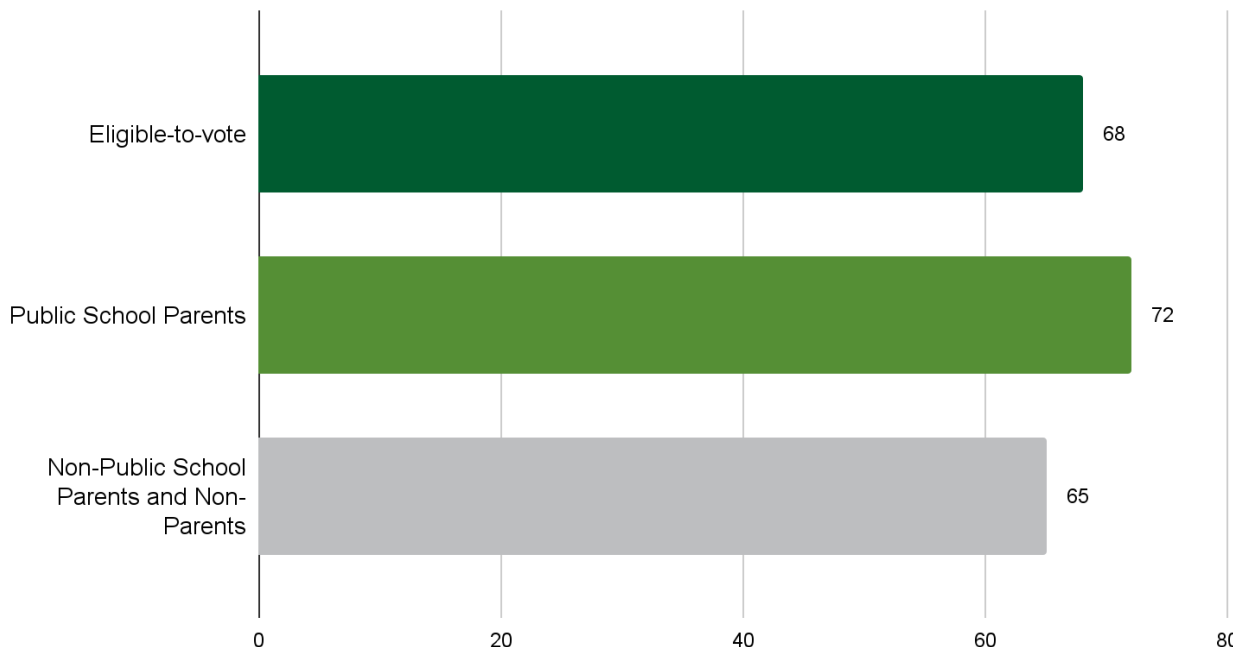
Percent of respondents, by degree of importance that a number of elected school board seats be reserved for CPS parents, and by demographic group (n=723)



## Ability to vote on school board regardless of immigration status

Question: "In your opinion, should any Chicago adult, regardless of immigration status, be allowed to VOTE for elected school board members?":

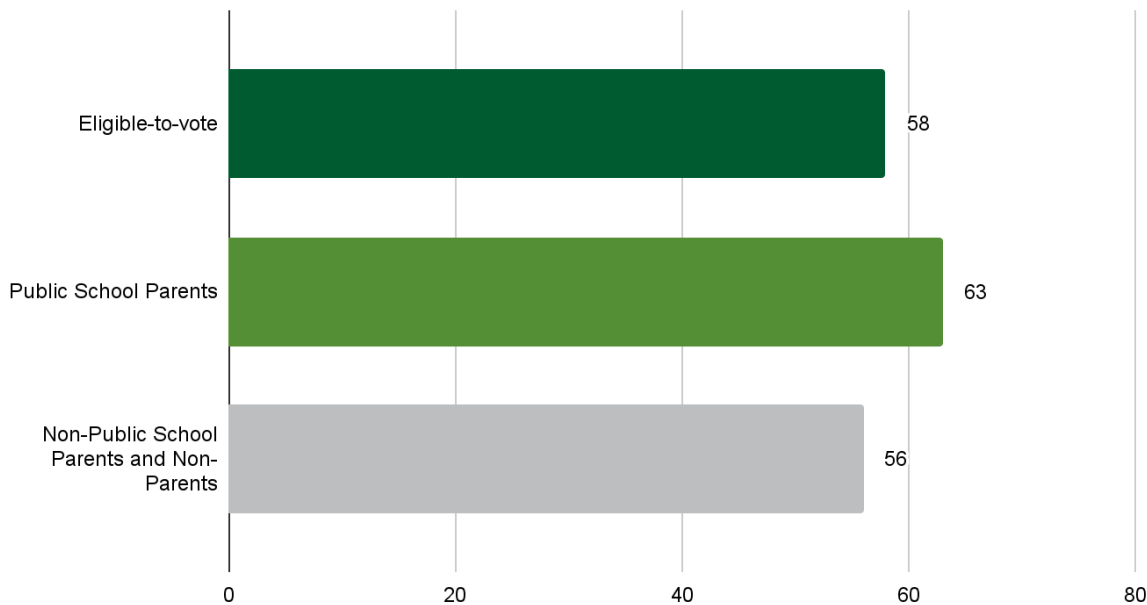
Percent of respondents who responded "Yes", any Chicago adult, regardless of immigration status, should be allowed to vote for an elected school board member; by demographic group (n=723)



### Ability to serve on school board regardless of immigration status

Question: "In your opinion, should any Chicago adult, regardless of immigration status, be allowed to SERVE as elected school board members?":

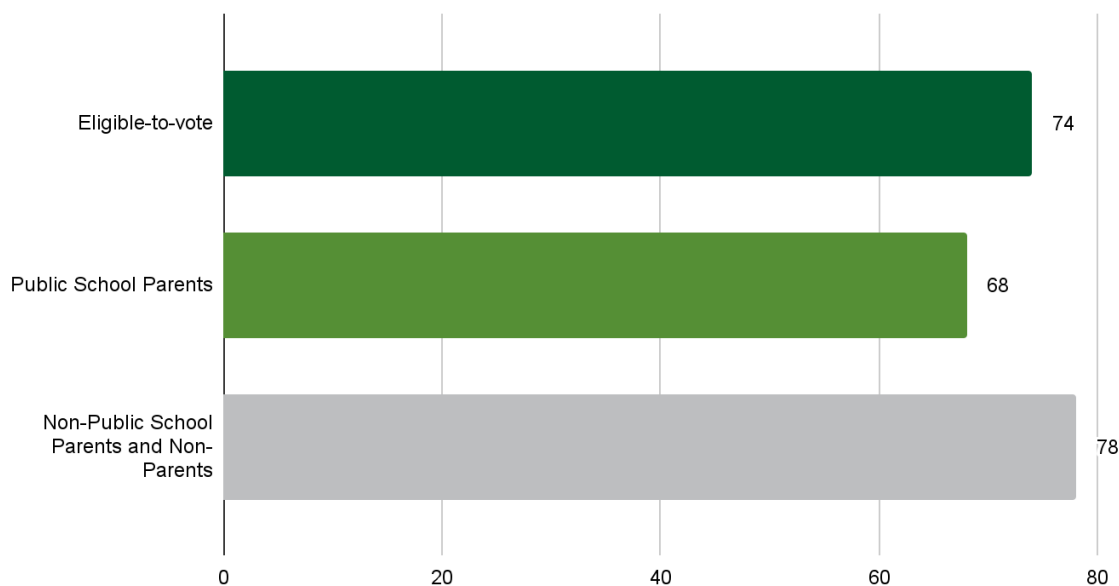
Percent of respondents who responded "Yes", any Chicago adult, regardless of immigration status, should be allowed to serve as an elected school board member; by demographic group (n=723)



### Strict limits on donations to elected school board candidate campaigns

Question: "In your opinion, should there be strict limits on how much money can be donated to elected school board candidate campaigns?":

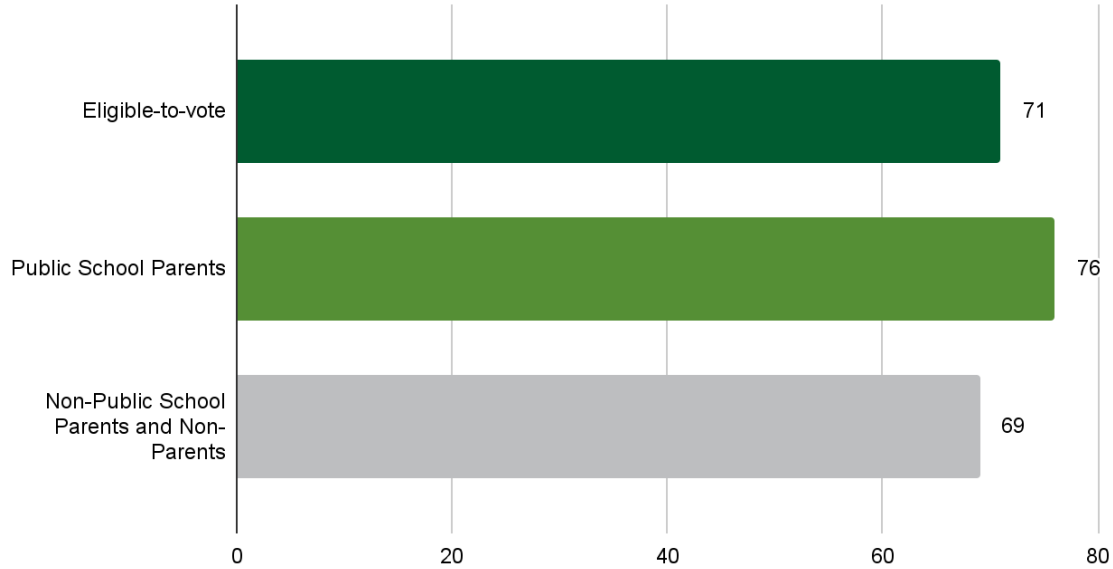
Percent of respondents who responded "Yes", there should be limits on campaign donations, by demographic group (n=723)



## Stipends or salaries for elected school board members serving on the board

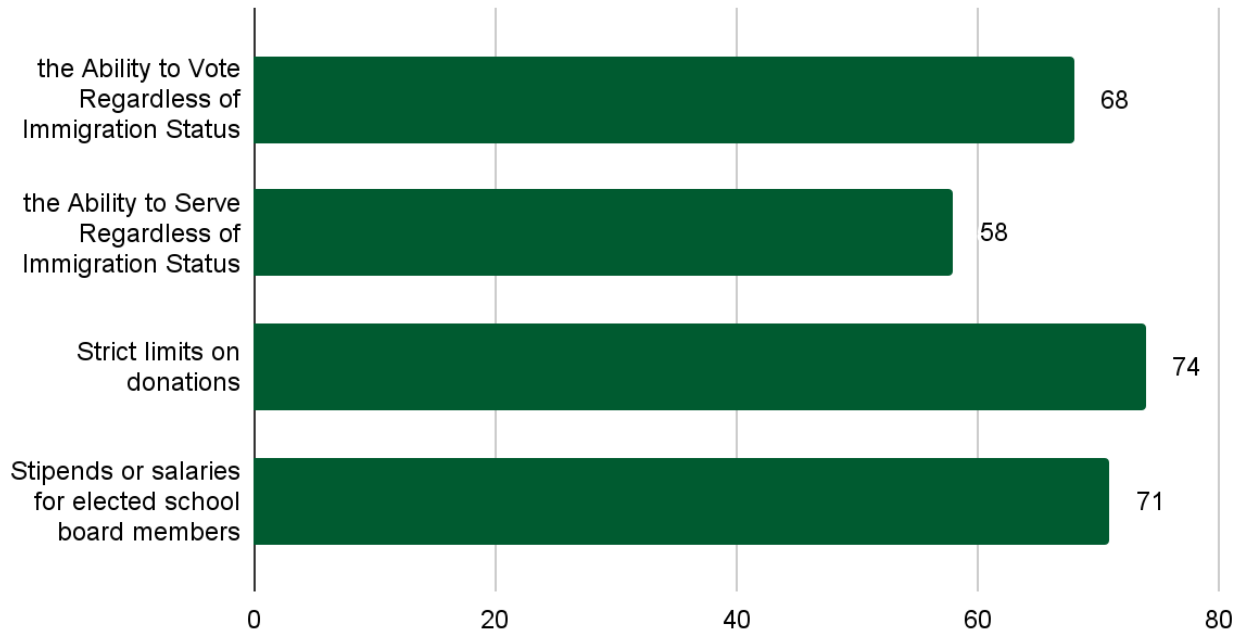
Question: "Should elected school board members receive a stipend or salary for serving on the board?":

Percent of respondents who responded "Yes", elected school board members should receive stipends or salaries, by demographic group (n=723)




**Summary: Respondents who responded “yes” to the questions above surrounding who can vote for and be elected to the ESB, as well as those surrounding ESB election and employment finances.**

Percent of respondents who responded "Yes", permitting:  
(n=723)



**APPENDIX:**  
**Chicago's Transition to an Elected School Board (ESB)**  
**Qualtrics Poll Questionnaire**



English 

## Welcome

### Chicago's Transition to an Elected School Board (ESB)

The goal of this survey is to collect information on Chicagoans' understanding of the transition from a school board appointed by the mayor to a school board elected by Chicago voters and what it means for Chicago families. This survey consists of 17 questions and will take about 5-7 minutes to complete. All of your information will remain completely anonymous. Your voice matters!

**About the survey:** This survey is designed and commissioned by Kids First Chicago, a 501c(3) non-profit organization that uplifts parent voices to advocate for quality public schools. The survey is part of an ongoing series to gain accurate and timely information on Chicagoans' perspectives on and attitudes towards policies impacting Chicago schools and families.

### Screener Questions

Let's begin with a few general questions to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements of this survey.

What will your age be as of November 2024?

Enter you age in numeric form (ex. 24)

Do you live in the City of Chicago?

Yes

No

### General Demographic Questions

What zipcode do you live in?

Type your 5-digit zipcode here. For example, 60616.

Thank you!

Now we'd like to ask you some general questions about yourself.

Are you either 1) a registered voter OR 2) eligible to vote, but not registered?

If either of these apply, please respond "Yes"

- Yes
- No

What gender do you identify as?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary or third gender
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

How do you identify? Select all that apply.

- Latine/a/o
- Black or African-American
- White
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern or North African
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

Are you a caregiver/legal guardian/responsible for a child or children enrolled in school (pre-K through 12)?

- Yes
- No

What type(s) of school(s) do they attend?

- Public
- Charter
- Private/Parochial
- Other (Homeschooling; etc)
- Prefer not to say

What grade is your child in? If you care for multiple children in different grades, please select all that apply.

- Pre-K
- Elementary School (Kindergarten - 5th grade)
- Middle School (6th - 8th grade)
- High School (9th - 12th grade)
- Prefer not to say

## Poll

Let's move on to questions about the upcoming Elected School Board transition. Before we start, we'd like to gauge awareness of the transition itself.

Before this survey, were you aware that Chicago will be transitioning from a school board appointed by the mayor to an elected school board (elected by voters)?

- Yes
- No

Which statement best describes your level of understanding surrounding Chicago's transition to an elected school board system?

- I completely understand the transition; I have very few (or no) questions about the process
- I somewhat understand the transition; I do not thoroughly understand the details of the process.

- I vaguely understand the transition; I know very few (or no) details about the process.
- I do not understand anything about Chicago's transition to an elected school board.

Regardless of your awareness, we'd like to provide some essential background information on the Chicago Board of Education.

The Chicago Board of Education makes important decisions that impact all Chicagoans, especially students and their families. The Board has the power to decide school budgets, teacher pay and benefits, and whether or not property taxes should be increased. In 2021, the State of Illinois passed legislation that will transition the Chicago Board of Education from its current seven-member mayoral appointed board into a fully-elected 21-member board. This two-year transition will begin in November of 2024.

The Illinois State Legislature is responsible for creating the map of voting districts for the fully-elected school board. This means that the Illinois State Legislature is responsible for drawing the 20 districts that will vote for one seat on the elected school board. Voters will vote for a board member based on which of these 20 areas they live in.

Chicago's demographics are different than the CPS student body demographic. Specifically, Chicago's population (as of 2022) is approximately 57% Black and Latine while the CPS student body is almost 82% Black and Latine.

How essential is it to you that the elected school board districts have racial representation that reflects the racially diverse CPS student population?

- Extremely
- Very
- Somewhat
- Little
- Not at all

How important is it to you that a specific number of seats on the board are reserved only for current CPS parents?

- Extremely important
- Very important

- Moderately important
- Slightly important
- Not at all important

In your opinion, should any Chicago adult, regardless of immigration status, be allowed to **VOTE** for elected school board members?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

In your opinion, should any Chicago adult, regardless of immigration status, be allowed to **SERVE** as elected school board members?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

In your opinion, should there be strict limits on how much money can be donated to elected school board candidate campaigns?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Should elected school board members receive a stipend or salary for serving on the board?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

