



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | OCTOBER 22, 2024

**KIDS FIRST
CHICAGO**

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Tuesday's Youth-led Forum Expected to Draw 15 School Board Candidates

Mikva Challenge and the Coalition for Authentic Community Engagement to host forum at Harold Washington Library

WHAT: Join Mikva Challenge and members of the [Coalition for Authentic Community Engagement](#), including Kids First Chicago, Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community, The Resurrection Project, Project Vision, Pilsen Neighbors, and other partners, for a Youth-Led Candidate Forum with 15 candidates, representing nearly all contested races, for Chicago's inaugural school board elections on Tuesday, October 22, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Language Accessibility. English, Spanish, and Chinese translation services will be provided to ensure the program is accessible to Chicago Public Schools' families and community members.

WHO: More than 200 students, community members, and parents have registered to attend.

Confirmed and invited school board candidates include:

1. Kimberly Brown, District/distrito 4
2. Maggie Cullerton Hooper, District/distrito 2
3. Andrew Davis, District/distrito 4
4. Jason Dónes, District/distrito 3
5. Carmen Gioiosa, District/distrito 4
6. Karin Norington-Reaves, District/distrito 10
7. Adam Parrott-Sheffer, District/distrito 10
8. Carlos Rivas, District/distrito 3
9. Eva Villalobos, District/distrito 7
10. La'Mont Raymond Williams, District/distrito 9
11. Karen Zaccor, District/distrito 4
12. Jessica Biggs, District/distrito 6
13. Yesenia Lopez, District/distrito 7
14. Ebony Deberry, District/distrito 2
15. Felix Ponce, District/distrito 8

WHEN: Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

WHERE: Harold Washington Library - Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, Lower Level
400 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60605

BACKGROUND:

- Chicago's school board will soon transition from being appointed by the mayor to being elected by voters.
- On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, Chicago voters will elect 10 members to the Chicago Board of Education for the first time.
- With just two weeks remaining until election day, community members, students, and parents are invited to learn more about the candidates, their backgrounds, and priorities for the future of Chicago Public Schools.

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ABOUT MIKVA CHALLENGE

Mikva Challenge's mission is to develop youth to be empowered, informed, and active citizens who will promote a just and equitable society. Mikva Challenge envisions a stronger, inclusive democracy that values youth voice. When we invest in young people, they not only grow profoundly as individuals, but they become leaders with the tools, opportunities, and framework to have their voices heard. Furthermore, we know that systems and policies are more equitable when the people they affect are directly involved in their making. Visit mikvachallenge.org.

ABOUT THE COALITION FOR AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Coalition for Authentic Community Engagement is a coalition of more than 30 Chicago-based organizations and elected leaders. It was formed to ensure Chicago communities are authentically and meaningfully engaged in Chicago School Board decisions. Learn more at authenticengagement.info.

ABOUT KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

Kids First Chicago's mission is to dramatically improve education for Chicago's children by ensuring their families are the respected authorities on what their kids need and decision-makers in their kids' education. We do this by partnering with families to support them in gaining the resources, access, and voice they need to achieve their vision for their children. K1C provides transparent and rigorous education analysis to families, educators, and policymakers alike to inform data-driven and inclusive decision-making about the future of Chicago's public schools. Visit kidsfirstchicago.org.