



# Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting

Prepared by Valerie F. Leonard

Co-Founder

Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting

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## Who We Are

- Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting is an ad hoc group that has come together to ensure that the 2021 redistricting process is implemented taking into account issues of concern to Black people around the State.
- Given that operationalizing the new Elected Representative School Board in Chicago requires drawing electoral districts utilizing apportionment, we are sharing our thoughts on the process.



# What We Do

- Provide
  - Education surrounding redistricting issues, policies and programs
  - Oral and written testimony at redistricting hearings on the state and local levels
  - Mapping proposals

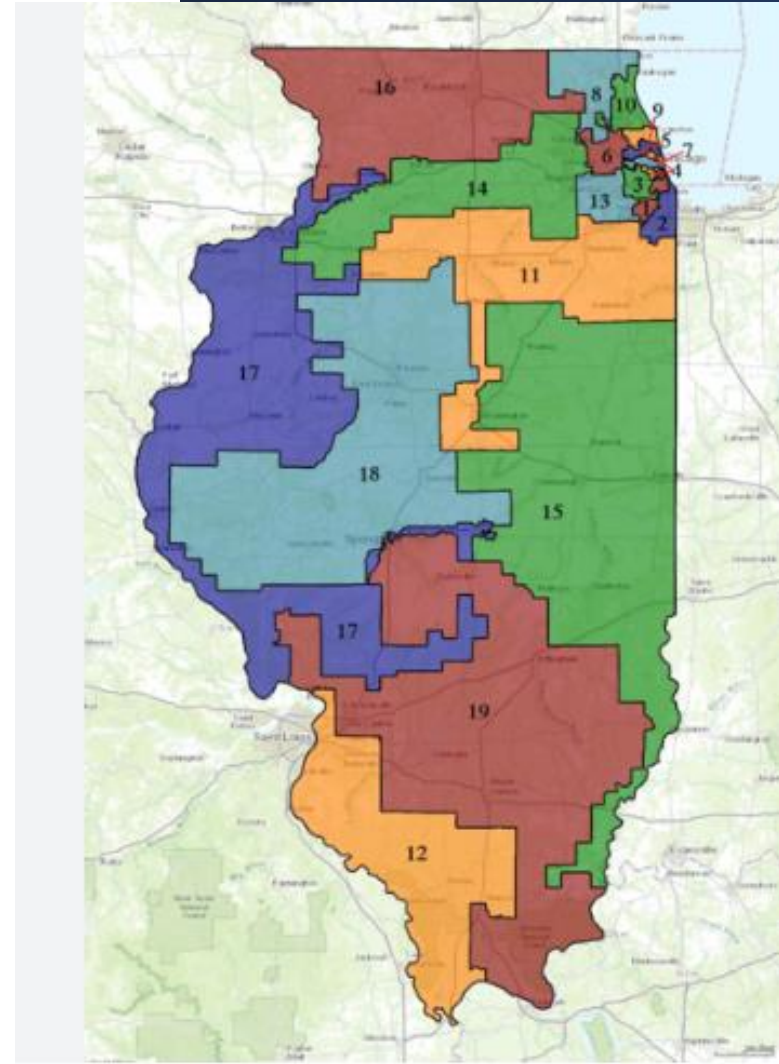






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# What We Have Accomplished This Year

- Provided written and oral testimony at the first hearing held at Westinghouse High School
- Wrote an op-ed for Crain's Chicago Business
- Raised awareness of the issues surrounding the Chicago Elected Representative Board of Education (ERSB)
- Coordinated with over 30 other organizations to write a joint letter to our elected officials outlining our issues and proposals for the ERSB
- Developed a proposal for the creation of a standing committee of the Board of Education which focuses solely on issues of Black CPS students and their families
- Developed a mapping proposal depicting 10 ERSB electoral districts throughout the City of Chicago

# Signatories to Our Letter to Elected Officials

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- Tina Augustus, Member, Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting
- Clifton Ballard, Founder, Dreamchasers United, NFP
- Matt Brandon, President, Operation Neighborhood Safety
- Karl Brinson, President, Chicago Westside NAACP
- Apriel Campbell, Founder, The Ivy Group
- Michael Cannon, Founder, C.A.N.D.O.R. Enterprises, NFP
- Rosita Chatonda, Founder, CAUSE
- Bernard Clay, Executive Director, Introspect Youth Services
- Willie Cole, Member, Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting
- Cecile DeMello, Executive Director, Teamwork Englewood
- Michelle Dinneen-White, Founder, Play Smart Literacy
- Audrey Dunford, Founder, Be Aud
- Natasha Dunn, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Black Community Collaborative
- Christyn S. Freeman
- Mary Russell Gardner, President, Urban Technicians, LLC, Resident, Austin Community
- Rev. Walter C. Harris, Pastor, Carey Tercentenary AME Church
- Nicole Jeanine Johnson, The Lotus Lair
- Joyce Lane, Resident, Bronzeville
- Valerie F. Leonard, Co-Founder, Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting
- Essie Leonard, Retired Educator, Chicago Public Schools
- Brian Mullins, Founder, Brian Mullins, Citizens for Civic Education, Co-Founder, Black Community Collaborative
- Nonprofit Utopia, LLC
- Crystal Overton, The Overton Group Consultants
- Dr. Carmen Palmer, PhD, Founder, Educational Village Keepers (EDVK)
- Tanesha Peeples, Executive Director, The Roots Initiative, Co-Founder, Black Community Collaborative
- Mattie J. Phillips, BA, MACM, DD, Senior Pastor, Jesus Word Center Church
- Nachele Pugh, Co-Founder, John Walt Foundation
- Tumia Romero, Resident, Austin Community
- Queen V. ShaRize, Executive Director, BLACK - Building Leadership And Community Knowledge
- Gloria Smith, Executive Director, the Black Star Project
- Ruby Taylor, Executive Director, Taproots
- Cata Truss, Resident, Austin Community
- Dwayne Truss, Resident, Austin Community
- Karen Cecile Wallace, Kenwood Oakland Community
- Tawana Watts, Founder, BeBe's Ark
- Kenneth Wesbrooks Founder and Chairman, A Work of Faith Ministries, Inc.
- Audrey L. Woodley, Founder, Changing Oasis, Inc.
- Wanda Wright, President South West Area Civic League

# Our Proposal

1. Create a standing African American Affairs Committee of the Board of Education to focus on the issues that keep Black children from succeeding in school. As it stands, Black children and their families lag behind every group in indicators of success, including school performance, attendance and graduation. They lead the pack in indicators of trouble, including suspension, expulsion, juvenile arrests and detention, dropout rates and unaddressed mental health issues. Clearly, handling these issues at the administrative and school levels are not enough.
2. Create 10 districts comprised of 5 wards each, clustering districts around communities of interest and racial, cultural and ethnic groups





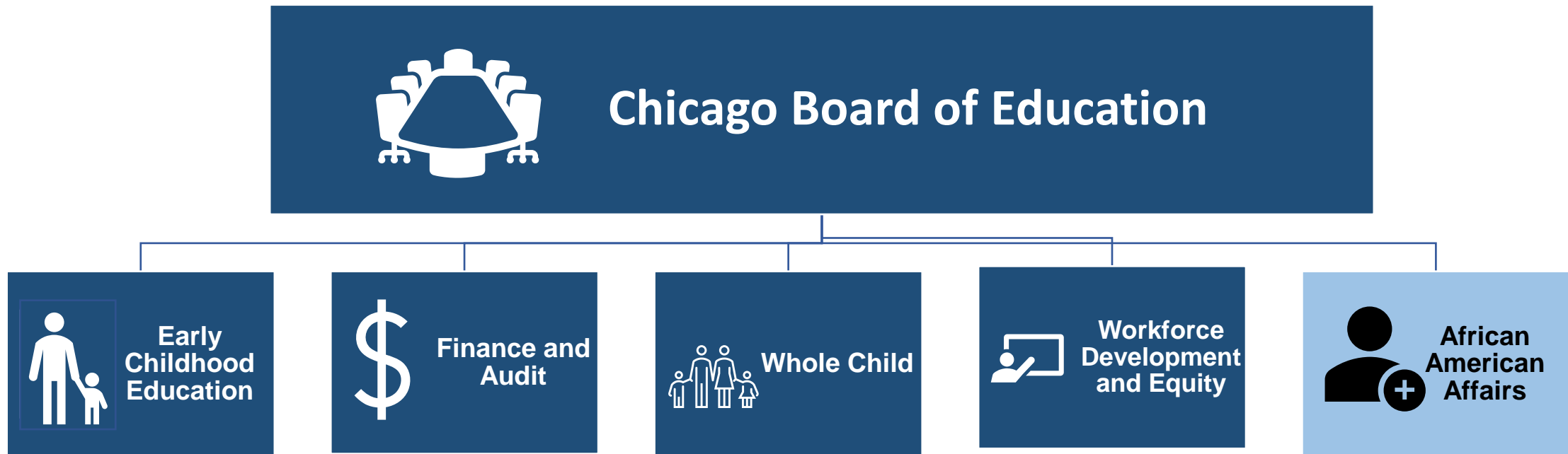
# Benefits of Our Proposal

1. Optimizes potential for Chicago voters to elect Board of Education candidates of choice.
2. Increases accountability of elected school board members and Aldermen on education issues within the purview of each office. Keeping the ward structure intact within each school district boundary will minimize the chances of issues falling between the cracks because only a small portion of an elected school board district falls within a specific ward, and vice-versa.
3. Enables better coordination on issues that impact schools and multiple layers of government.
4. Complies with Voting Rights Act of Illinois and the United States
5. Creates compact, contiguous districts to the extent possible
6. Keeps communities of interest together to the extent possible

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# Proposed Chicago Board of Education Structure

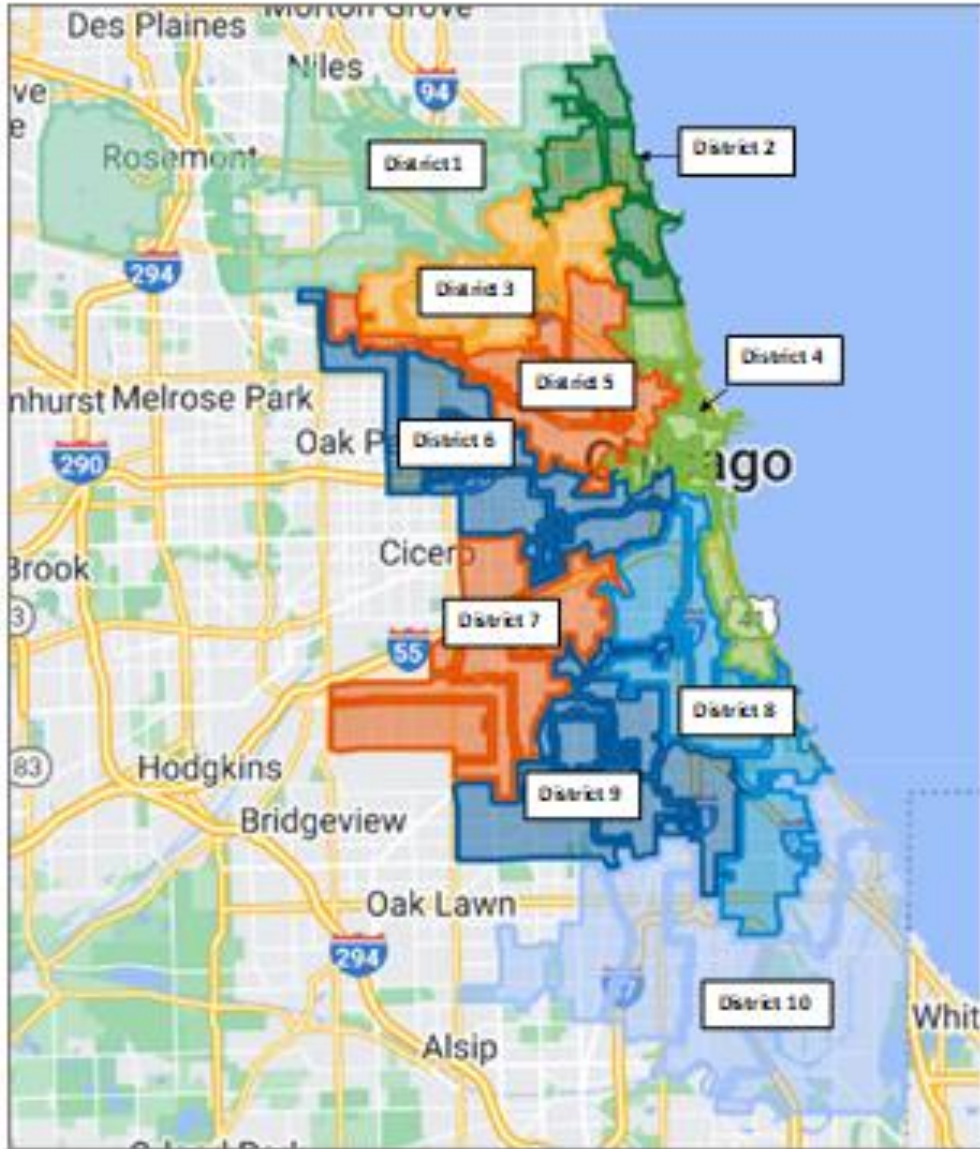


**Legend**

- Existing Board Committee
- Proposed Board Committee



# Proposed Boundaries



District 1	District 6
41 <sup>st</sup> Ward	29 <sup>th</sup> Ward
38 <sup>th</sup> Ward	37 <sup>th</sup> Ward
45 <sup>th</sup> Ward	28 <sup>th</sup> Ward
39 <sup>th</sup> Ward	24 <sup>th</sup> Ward
50 <sup>th</sup> Ward	25 <sup>th</sup> Ward
District 2	District 7
40 <sup>th</sup> Ward	22 <sup>nd</sup> Ward
49 <sup>th</sup> Ward	12 <sup>th</sup> Ward
48 <sup>th</sup> Ward	14 <sup>th</sup> Ward
46 <sup>th</sup> Ward	23 <sup>rd</sup> Ward
44 <sup>th</sup> Ward	13 <sup>th</sup> Ward
District 3	District 8
30 <sup>th</sup> Ward	11 <sup>th</sup> Ward
31 <sup>st</sup> Ward	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward
35 <sup>th</sup> Ward	20 <sup>th</sup> Ward
33 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	5 <sup>th</sup> Ward
47 <sup>th</sup> Ward	8 <sup>th</sup> Ward
District 4	District 9
43 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	15 <sup>th</sup> Ward
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	16 <sup>th</sup> Ward
42 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	17 <sup>th</sup> Ward
34 <sup>th</sup> Ward	18 <sup>th</sup> Ward
4 <sup>th</sup> Ward	6 <sup>th</sup> Ward
District 5	District 10
36 <sup>th</sup> Ward	19 <sup>th</sup> Ward
26 <sup>th</sup> Ward	21 <sup>st</sup> Ward
1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	9 <sup>th</sup> Ward
32 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	10 <sup>th</sup> Ward
27 <sup>th</sup> Ward	7 <sup>th</sup> Ward

ERSB districts are aligned with specific wards for greater accountability and coordination with members of the City Council while maintaining racial equity and balance.

Ward boundaries were vetted for compliance with the VRA during the most recent redistricting process.

Districts in blue were generally developed using boundaries for wards that are majority or plurality Black.

Districts in orange or yellow were generally developed using boundaries for wards that are majority or plurality Latino.

Districts in green were generally developed using boundaries for wards that are majority or plurality White.

A link to the map on Google My Maps is found below.  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1p6oaDMbREAJXzekNERRgdtLgJrHMySk&usp=sharing>



# Questions?

Questions regarding this presentation may be addressed to

Valerie F. Leonard

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Photo: Atlanta Speech Therapy