



CHICAGO, IL. January 20, 2023 – Early voting in the 2023 Chicago municipal elections begins on January 26, with Election Day on February 28. The slate of candidates for mayor has been set. According to a new survey fielded by researchers at Loyola University Chicago, approximately one-third of voters remain undecided. Additionally, although incumbent Lori E. Lightfoot received more support than the other eight candidates who remain in the race, only 17 percent of respondents indicated they planned to vote for her. Paul Vallas and Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia are not far behind, marshalling support from 12-15 percent of voters.

Candidate preferences vary substantially with respondent’s ethnoracial identity. Lightfoot and Garcia each received support from about 10 percent of voters who identified as White. Among these voters, Vallas is the clear favorite (23 percent). In contrast, voters who identified as Hispanic/Latine were particularly likely to support Garcia (25 percent), followed by Lightfoot. Black respondents were most likely to support Lightfoot (23 percent), followed closely by Willie Wilson (17 percent).

Women who responded were more likely to report being undecided (38 percent) than men (29 percent). Men who reported a preference were roughly evenly split between Lightfoot, Vallas, and Garcia, who each received support from 11-15 percent of this group. Women who reported a preference were more inclined to support Lightfoot (18 percent), followed by Garcia (15 percent), and Vallas (11 percent).

The survey was fielded January 12-17 using an online sample recruited by Dynata to be descriptively representative of Cook County residents. Of the 1,200 Cook County residents in the sample, 624 reported living in a Chicago ZIP code and affirmed that they lived in the city. Of these, 552 indicated they were registered to vote. The sample of Chicago respondents was weighted to track Census estimates. The overall margin of error is +/- 3.9 percent for all respondents and 4.2 percent for registered voters. The margin of error is larger for subgroups. The patterns that emerge are similar regardless of whether we weight the data or restrict the sample to registered voters.

If the Chicago mayoral election was today, who would you cast a vote for?

	All Respondents			Registered Voters		
	Raw # of cases	Unweighted %	Weighted %	Raw # of cases	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Lori E. Lightfoot	101	16.2	17	90	16.3	17
Paul Vallas	75	12	12.8	73	13.2	14.2
Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia	62	9.9	12.2	57	10.3	12.2
Willie L. Wilson	53	8.5	8.7	51	9.2	9.6
Brandon Johnson	30	4.8	4.2	29	5.3	4.6
Ja'Mal Green	18	2.9	2.7	11	2	1.4
Sophia King	15	2.4	1.8	15	2.7	2.1
Kam Buckner	15	2.4	1.8	14	2.5	1.9
Frederick Collins *	10	1.6	1.4	9	1.6	1.4
Roderick T. Sawyer	5	0.8	0.7	5	0.9	0.8
Undecided	215	34.5	33.1	182	33	31.9
Skipped	25	4	3.8	16	2.9	2.9
Total cases		624			552	

Order of options was randomized. Collins was disqualified due to an insufficient number of signatures..

Candidate preference by respondent ethnoraical identity

	White alone	Latine from any race	Black alone
Lori E. Lightfoot	9.6	19.9	22.5
Paul Vallas	23	8.1	5.4
Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia	10.4	25.1	3.2
Willie L. Wilson	4.4	6.1	16.7
Brandon Johnson	4.9	3.3	5.4
Ja'Mal Green	0.8	1.3	4.7
Sophia King	2.7	1.3	2.1
Kam Buckner	3.6	0.3	1.8
Frederick Collins	1.5	1.6	1.4
Roderick T. Sawyer	1.2	0	1.1
Undecided	35.6	30.1	30.2
Skipped	2.3	3	5.6
Raw # of cases	264	118	187

Note: Preferences among other groups not reported due to limited sample sizes.

Candidate preference by respondent gender

	Woman	Man
Lori E. Lightfoot	18.12	15.35
Paul Vallas	10.9	15.07
Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia	14.74	8.74
Willie L. Wilson	6.85	10.91
Brandon Johnson	2.79	5.59
Ja'Mal Green	2.54	2.84
Kam Buckner	1.4	2.25
Sophia King	0.91	2.82
Frederick Collins	0.41	2.4
Roderick T. Sawyer	0	1.41
Undecided	37.82	28.69
Skipped	3.53	3.92
Raw # of cases	331	279

Note: Preferences among respondents identifying as some other gender not reported due to limited sample sizes.

Methodology

The Cook County Community Survey (CCCS) is fielded annually by researchers at Loyola University Chicago. The sample is provided by Dynata. Dynata recruits respondents from a national pool of millions of potential respondents. For this study, Dynata recruited adults residing in Cook County, and sought descriptive representation, meaning that the respondents in the sample are similar to the population estimates reported by the US Census in terms of gender, ethnoracial identification, age, and level of education. The recruitment procedure yielded a sample of Chicago residents that roughly approximates Chicago demographics reported by the Census (ACS, 2021), although we note that the sample underrepresents the share of Chicago residents that are Latine from any race and overrepresents respondents who are White.

We restrict our sample to respondents who both reported a ZIP code that intersects with Chicago and reported living in the city of Chicago (approximately 52% of our Cook County sample) We report unweighted estimates, as well as findings with post-stratification weights applied to more precisely match target demographics. Weights were based on respondent's self-reported gender, ethno-racial identity, age, and educational attainment (leveraging Census estimates of the share of residents 25 years old and older who have a college degree). Below we report the raw number of Chicago respondents with various demographic characteristics, as well as the unweighted and weighted percentages of the sample in each group.

Please contact David Doherty (ddoherty@luc.edu) with questions about the survey.

Gender			
	Raw number of cases	Unweighted %	Weighted %
Woman	331	53.04	50.00
Man	279	44.71	48.00
Other	14	2.24	2.00

Ethno-racial self-identification			
	Raw number of cases	Unweighted %	Weighted %
White alone	264	42.31	33.00
Latine from any race	118	18.91	28.60
Black alone	187	29.97	27.60
Asian alone	29	4.65	7.00
Other	10	1.60	0.80
More than one	16	2.56	3.00

Education (25+)			
	Raw number of cases	Unweighted %	Weighted %
25+, No College Degree	301	48.24	55.05
25+, College Degree	259	41.51	39.85
18-24 years-old	64	10.26	5.10

Age Groups			
	Raw number of cases	Unweighted %	Weighted %
18-29	147	23.60	22.75
30-39	172	27.61	21.79
40-49	94	15.09	15.85
50/59	80	12.84	14.86
60-69	68	10.91	12.88
70+	62	9.95	11.89

Note: Total number of cases = 624. Sampling margin of error +/- 4.5%