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COAL Launches a Chicago Board of Education Voter Guide

Encourages Chicagoans to view school board candidate questionnaire responses and ratings at **coalitionvoterproject.org**

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Chicago, IL — Few responsibilities in local government are more important than overseeing Chicago's public education system. The Chicago Board of Education oversees a district serving students in more than 630 schools and manages an annual budget of approximately $10 billion.

Chicago's public schools face significant challenges and opportunities for improvement. The transition to a representative elected school board marks an important step toward greater accountability and community engagement.

As Chicago voters elect representatives from each of the city's 20 school board districts and a citywide board president, they deserve clear, objective information about the candidates seeking these positions.

To help voters make informed decisions, the **Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL)** again developed a **Chicago Board of Education Candidate Questionnaire**. The questionnaire assesses each candidate's qualifications, preparedness, priorities, and commitment to public service.

COAL believes that an informed electorate is essential to building a professional, qualified, independent, and engaged Board of Education that is accountable to the communities it serves. Our goal is to help voters identify leaders committed to improving educational outcomes and ensuring every child, regardless of neighborhood, family income, or zip code, has access to a high-quality public education.

COAL is sharing candidate responses at **coalitionvoterproject.org**. The site also includes candidate headshots, biographies and résumés, COAL ratings, district maps, information about school board responsibilities, and guidance on the qualities needed to be an effective board member.

This is an extremely important election. The individuals elected will help shape policy, governance, and accountability for one of the nation's largest public school systems.

COAL encourages all Chicagoans to visit **coalitionvoterproject.org** to learn more about the candidates running in their school board districts. The board members elected by voters will collectively address the challenges and opportunities involved towards improving CPS and educational outcomes for Chicago's students.

> ***"Our children deserve a quality education. It is a fundamental human right. A quality education provides the foundational tools that empower our next generations to build good lives for themselves, for their families, and for their community."***

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