



July 14, 2023

We Expect our Black Elected Officials to *Deliver for Us*

"Democracy is not a state. It is an act...Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting into what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society."

- John Lewis

We have voted for and helped, in many ways, elect or appoint the following individuals in the state of Illinois. It should be their understanding that we expect and insist that they act in our best interest.

FEDERAL

Hon. Danny Davis, U.S. Congressman
Hon. Robin Kelly, U.S. Congresswoman
Hon. Jonathan Jackson, U.S. Congressman
Hon. Lauren Underwood, U.S. Congressman

STATE

Hon. Joy V. Cunningham, Justice - State Supreme Court
Hon. Scott P. Neville, Justice - State Supreme Court
Hon. Lisa Holder White, Justice - State Supreme Court
Hon. Julianna Stratton, Lieutenant Governor
Hon. Kwame Raoul, Attorney General
Hon. Christopher Belt, State Senator
Hon. Napoleon Harris, State Senator
Hon. Mattie Hunter, State Senator
Hon. Adriane Johnson, State Senator
Hon. Emil Jones III, State Senator
Hon. Kimberly A. Lightford, State Senator
Hon. Willie Preston, State Senator
Hon. Mike Simmons, State Senator
Hon. Elgie Sims, State Senator
Hon. Doris Turner, State Senator
Hon. Patricia Van Pelt, State Senator
Hon. Carol Ammons, State Representative
Hon. Kambium Buckner, State Representative
Hon. Lakesia Collins, State Representative
Hon. William Davis, State Representative
Hon. Kimberly du Buclet, State Representative
Hon. Marcus C. Evans Jr., State Representative
Hon. Mary E. Flowers, State Representative
Hon. LaShawn Ford, State Representative
Hon. Jehan Gordon-Booth, State Representative
Hon. Sonya Harper, State Representative
Hon. Thaddeus Jones, State Representative
Hon. Camille Y. Lilly, State Representative
Hon. Rita Mayfield, State Representative
Hon. Debbie Meyers-Martin, State Representative
Hon. Cyril Nichols, State Representative

STATE (cont'd)

Hon. Justin Slaughter, State Representative
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, State Representative
Hon. Curtis J. Tarver, II, State Representative
Hon. Emanuel Chris Welch, Speaker, State Representative
Hon. Maurice A. West, II, State Representative
Hon. Jawaharial Williams, State Representative

COOK COUNTY

Hon. Toni Preckwinkle, President Cook County Board
Hon. Tim Evans, Chief Judge Cook County Circuit Court
Hon. Kim Foxx, Cook County State's Attorney
Hon. Karen Yarbrough, Cook County Clerk
Hon. Dennis Deer, Commissioner, Cook County Board
Hon. Monica Gordon, Commissioner, Cook County Board
Hon. Bill Lowry, Commissioner, Cook County Board
Hon. Donna Miller, Commissioner, Cook County Board
Hon. Stanley Moore, Commissioner, Cook County Board
Hon. Tara S. Stamps, Commissioner, Cook County Board
Hon. Larry Rogers, Commissioner, Board of Review
Hon. Yumeka Brown, Commissioner, MWRD
Hon. Kari K. Steele, President Commissioner, MWRD

CHICAGO

Hon. Brandon Johnson, Mayor - Chicago
Hon. Melissa Ervin, City Treasurer- Chicago
Hon. Anthony Beale, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Walter Burnett Jr., Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Angela Clay, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Stephanie Coleman, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Derrick Curtis, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Pat Dowell, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Jason Ervin, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Maria Hadden, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. William E. Hall, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Michelle A. Harris, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Matt Martin, Alderman - Chicago

CHICAGO (cont'd)

Hon. Gregory Mitchell, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Emma Mitts, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. David Moore, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Lamont Robinson, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Monique Scott, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Chris Taliaferro, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Jeanette Taylor, Alderman - Chicago
Hon. Desmon C. Yancy, Alderman - Chicago

SUBURBAN COOK

Hon. Andre F. Harvey, Mayor - Bellwood
Hon. Katrina Thompson, Mayor - Broadview
Hon. Robert E. Polk, Mayor - Burnham
Hon. Ronald Denson, Mayor - Calumet Park
Hon. Thaddeus Jones, Mayor - Calumet City
Hon. James W. Ford, Mayor - Country Club Hills
Hon. Fitzgerald Roberts, Mayor - Dixmoor
Hon. Tiffany Henyard, Mayor - Dolton
Hon. Thomas A. Brown, Village President - East Hazel Crest
Hon. Michelle Nelson, Mayor - Flossmoor
Hon. Charles Griffin, Mayor - Ford Heights
Hon. Rory Hoskins, Mayor/President - Forest Park
Hon. Christopher J. Clark, Mayor - Harvey
Hon. Vernard Alsberry Jr., Village President - Hazel Crest

SUBURBAN COOK (cont'd)

Hon. Jada Curry, Mayor - Lynwood
Hon. Roger A. Agpawa, Mayor - Markham
Hon. Sheila Y. Chalmers-Currin, Village President - Matteson
Hon. Nathaniel George Booker, Mayor - Maywood
Hon. Sterling M. Burke, Village President - Olympia Fields
Hon. Joseph Woods, Village President - Park Forest
Hon. Taylor Wells, Mayor - Phoenix
Hon. Lawrence L. Jackson, Mayor - Riverdale
Hon. Darren Bryant, Mayor - Robbins
Hon. Derrick Burgess, Mayor - Sauk Village
Hon. Joseph E. Roudez III, Mayor University Park

GREATER ILLINOIS

Hon. David Goins, Mayor - Alton
Hon. Richard C. Irvin, Mayor - Aurora
Hon. Mboka Mwilambwe, Mayor - Bloomington
Hon. Thomas Simpson, Mayor - Cairo
Hon. Rickey Williams Jr., Mayor - Danville
Hon. Charles Powell III, Mayor - East St. Louis
Hon. Donna Johnson, Mayor - Libertyville
Hon. Leon Rockingham, Jr., Mayor - North Chicago
Hon. Rita Ali, Mayor - Peoria
Hon. Billy McKinney, Mayor - Zion

In addition to the listed officials, there are a significant number of elected and appointed Black Judges, heads of major state, county and local Agencies and Departments, City Managers and Administrators, City and Village Aldermen and Trustees, and Committeemen, across Illinois.

“Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”

- Frederick Douglass

The above are all African-American. We voted them into office or they were appointed by someone we voted for. **Let us:**

Demand that they make a positive, most needed, and measurable difference in Black lives;

Recommend that our caucuses at the State and local levels truly perform as a caucus. Developing strategy and plans of action, supporting each other by refraining from individual side deals that weaken the caucus, and be resolute in pushing a Black agenda, while building the necessary coalitions to deliver on a Black agenda;

Request that our Black Illinois congressmen perform as a caucus, and together develop a caucus plan, and in turn, work with our U.S. Illinois senators to deliver for the Black community;

Require, as a condition of our vote, that our elected representatives begin to coordinate their efforts at the federal, state, county and local levels (and if this is being done, that it be done at a more strategic and intentional level). There must be a Black legislative and investments agenda that our U.S. Congressman, State Officials, County Board President and Commissioners, City Mayors and alderman, and other officials, work from that deliver policies, legislation and investments that improve the lives of Black Illinoisians;

Encourage our elected representatives to recognize that in performing their job, the coordination of their efforts must be a priority, if they truly wish to deliver for their community. We do not expect that there will be agreement upon all aspects of a Black agenda, but we do demand that they work together on those priority items that we all can and do agree upon. Note: the responsibility of our representatives, to move on our community's agenda cannot end at their district boundaries, they have a responsibility to deliver for Black Illinoisians;

Understand that there is competition among our elected officials as each maps out a course for their respective political career, but agree that this cannot supersede them working together to move an agenda that benefits our community; others do it for their people and constituencies, we expect no less of our representatives;

Insist, as a condition of our continued support, that our elected representatives work hard and smart and intentionally, to make a positive, most needed, and measurable difference in Black lives, making our tax dollars work for us.

We cannot simply hope that our elected representatives deliver for our community. We must actively and intentionally reach out to each and every one of them to make our demands and our priorities known, to understand how and why each voted on important items, to have them detail what community investments they are pursuing, to have them explain what their priorities are and how they plan to accomplish their priorities, and if those priorities are not aligned with an agenda that benefits the Black community, then why not.

Starting today, COAL asks our members and the greater community to individually or via your clubs, sororities, fraternities, churches, associations and other organizations, to contact your elected representatives to make your requests and demands known and to ask for updates on what they are accomplishing on behalf of our community.

And if any one of our elected representatives gets upset at you or your organization for asking them to do their job or responds that they do not have the time to engage with you or your organization, then this will simplify our decisions, come next election.

The Coalition of African American Leaders, in concert with partners, will issue report cards on the performance of our elected representatives.

Clarence N. Wood, Chairman

Craig K. Wimberly, President



The song *Glory* states,

***“No one can win the war individually,
It takes the wisdom of the elders and young people's energy”***

COAL builds upon this and states,

***“No one can win the war individually,
It takes the wisdom of the elders and young people's energy,
and the courage and committed work of our elected representatives...”***



COAL calls upon our black elected and appointed officials to ***“gather your courage and together, rise to this moment, to deliver on behalf of black people.”***

