



IEC 50

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, EVERGREEN MISSION

2025

CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD



Dear Supporter,



The Illinois Environmental Council is proud to release the third edition of our Chicago City Council Scorecard. Since our most recent installment, released in February 2023, IEC and our partners have continued to grow and strengthen environmental momentum in City Hall. Our scorecards are a valuable tool in measuring that progress. Within this report, you will find a mid-term scorecard encompassing votes from January 2023 (not included in the previous scorecard) through July 2025.

At the halfway point of Mayor Brandon Johnson's mayoral term, evaluating how the Mayor and alderpersons have acted on environmental issues is necessary. Their support is crucial as we witness unprecedented rollbacks of environmental policy at the federal level; cities like Chicago must step up to protect our air, soil, water, and public health. **Our scorecard appraises their work thus far and gives constituents a tool to hold Chicago's City Council accountable for their votes.**

Despite the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and growing budget deficit, we have successfully defended environmental programs from significant cuts. The \$188 million allotted for climate-related infrastructure under the Chicago Recovery Plan continues to fund tree planting, home decarbonization, and electrification of the city's vehicle fleet. As of January 2025, the city has successfully delivered on its 2022 commitment to transition all of its municipal buildings and operations, including Midway and O'Hare airports, to 100% renewable energy. After a nearly two-year campaign, the City also re-established the Department of Environment. Since then, despite budget constraints, the Department's budget has increased in size and funding.

Our advocacy work on these and more issues has included fun, new tactics. **For Earth Month 2025, IEC organized the first-ever Chicago Environmental Lobby Week**, where we connected over 120 Chicagoans with their alderpersons to discuss environmental justice, water affordability, single-use plastics, and trees. In addition to this scorecard, IEC released our annual City of Chicago budget analysis and published our 2023 Mayoral Report that laid out our recommendations for the Johnson administration. In close partnership with our affiliates, we're building a strong foundation for long-term environmental progress in Chicago. By bringing Chicagoans into the policymaking process and equipping decision-makers with data and clear recommendations, we're setting the stage for even bolder action in the years ahead.

But we still have much more to get done. In early 2024, Mayor Johnson introduced the Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance (CABO), which would require all new buildings to be all-electric. This ordinance would reduce climate-warming pollution, lower utility costs, improve public health, and create

jobs. Despite significant public support, CABO has faced intense opposition from the fossil fuel industry.

In June, as part of the City's agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Southeast Environmental Task Force, the South East Side Coalition to Ban Petcoke, and People for Community Recovery to address environmental inequities, Alderperson Julia Ramirez (12th Ward) introduced the Hazel Johnson Cumulative Impacts Ordinance (CIO) with the support of Mayor Brandon Johnson and the Chicago Environmental Justice Network. Named after Hazel M. Johnson, known as the "Mother of Environmental Justice," the ordinance calls for the City of Chicago to consider the cumulative impacts of pollution sources like commercial traffic, industrial plants, and other environmental stressors on public health when approving new permits and zoning changes.

Neither CABO nor CIO appears in this scorecard, as the fight for their passage continues. However, highlighting these ordinances offers helpful context in understanding the most significant environmental fights underway during this scorecard's timeframe.

While this scorecard cannot capture the entire picture of the business conducted by the Chicago City Council or its alderpersons, it's a great supplement to better understand the progress they did and did not make over their respective terms. **Each vote is critical to protecting Chicagoans' health and the environment.**

We would be remiss not to express how grateful we are to the city council alderpersons who have introduced ordinances at the request of IEC or our members and to those who have pushed for environmental protection at the request of their constituents.

IEC would like to extend a special thank you to **Alderpersons Daniel La Spata, Lamont Robinson, William Hall, Julia Ramirez, Jeylú Gutierrez, Derrick Curtis, Jeanette Taylor, Michael Rodriguez, Byron Sigcho-Lopez, Jessie Fuentes, Rosanna Rodriguez-Sánchez, Bill Coway, Andre Vasquez, Timmy Knudsen, Bennett Lawson, Angela Clay, Matt Martin, Leni Manaa Hoppenworth, Maria Hadden, and former Alderperson Carlos Ramirez-Rosa for voting 100% with the environment.**

Thank you for learning more about your elected officials! We encourage you to dive into this tool and keep it at hand as you head to the polls, read the news, engage with our updates, or reach out to your alderperson's office.



Iyana Simba
 City Government Affairs Director
 Illinois Environmental Council

Daniel La Spata
Lamont Robinson
William Hall
Julia Ramirez
Jeylú Gutierrez
Derrick Curtis
Jeanette Taylor
Michael Rodriguez
Byron Sigcho-Lopez
Jessie Fuentes

Rossana Rodriguez-Sánchez
Bill Conway
Carlos Ramirez-Rosa*
Andre Vasquez
Timmy Knudsen
Bennett Lawson
Angela Clay
Matt Martin
Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth
Maria Hadden

POWER AND DUTIES OF CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL ALDERPERSONS: A QUICK OVERVIEW

The Chicago City Council is presided over by the mayor of Chicago and comprises 50 elected alderpersons who represent Chicago's 50 different wards.

The council proposes, debates, and passes ordinances to regulate city affairs. Any alderperson or citizen can submit an ordinance to the City Clerk's Office. Ordinances are introduced at the monthly full City Council hearing, after which they are assigned to a committee. Once assigned to a committee, alderpersons serving on that committee can hold a hearing where they consider public testimony in support or opposition of the ordinance. If an ordinance passes out of the committee, it continues to the full city council for a vote. An ordinance becomes law if a majority of the city council votes in support.

Alderpersons have a strong influence within their wards. For example, they can influence the City's Department of Planning decisions, which can mean the difference between their community getting a new park or a new industrial polluter.

Alderpersons also control the budget for their ward, meaning they can allocate funds to bike lanes, park infrastructure and updates, rain gardens, and other green projects or constituent services that improve the health and well-being of the community and environment. These budgets are often a window into the values and priorities of each alderperson.

Similarly, the City's overall budget can be a critical tool to support the environment. The budget reflects the City's priorities, and, too often, environmental initiatives are last to be included and first on the chopping block. Funding environmental oversight, including polluter inspections, tree canopy protection, park maintenance, public transit, electric vehicle charging, water infrastructure upgrades, and other programs is necessary for Chicago to achieve its environmental priorities.

When determining if your alderperson is doing enough to protect our environment, consider how they voted when it mattered and how they prioritize the environment within their ward.



EXPLANATION OF SCORING

For each bill, alderpersons are evaluated on whether they voted with the pro-environment position ("+") or against it ("-"). For bills the environmental community supported, a YES vote is a "+" and a NO vote is a "-". For bills we opposed, a NO vote is a "+" and a YES vote is a "-". We tally the votes and calculate an overall score. For instance, someone who voted pro-environment on six bills and against four earns a 60% score.

The only votes not counted are those that took place when an alderperson had an excused absence (noted in the chart as "A"), which generally meant they were not present in the city council on that day due to an illness or other unexpected circumstances. Alderpersons who had absences are scored according to the other votes they cast.

When an alderperson is present in the city council on the day of a vote but fails to cast their vote, we have counted it the same as a "no" vote on the ordinance. This circumstance is noted in the voting chart as "NV" and counted the same as a "+" when this action supports the pro-environment position. It is indicated as "nv" and counted as "-" when it does not support the pro-environment position.



ORDINANCE VOTES SCORED

LOWER SPEED LIMIT (SO2024-0010990) - SUPPORT

Sponsor: Alderperson Daniel La Spata (1st ward)

- This ordinance, part of a larger pedestrian safety package called Vision Zero, would lower the speed limit on streets from 30 miles per hour (mph) to 25 mph and 15 mph in alleys. Reducing the default speed limit saves lives and optimizes our streets for bike, e-bike, and e-scooter users, and pedestrians. Unfortunately, SO2024-0010990 did not pass by a vote of 21-28-1.

DATA CENTER RESIDENCY ORDINANCE (SO2024-0008201) - SUPPORT

Sponsor: Alderperson Gilbert Villegas (36th ward)

- Last summer, advocates quickly urged the City Council to amend an ordinance that encouraged the expansion of data storage in the City of Chicago without any environmental safeguards, despite the enormous amount of water and energy they consume. As a result, this ordinance now creates an environmental working group and a study that will develop environmental policy recommendations. SO2024-0008201 passed 48-0-2.

EXTENSION OF SMART STREETS PILOT PROGRAM (SO2024-0007768) - SUPPORT

Sponsor: Alderperson Brendan Reilly (42nd Ward)

- Extends the Smart Streets Pilot Program, which created two small pilots downtown that use new technology to enforce parking violations, including cars parked in bus lanes, bike lanes, and crosswalks. SO2024-0007768 passed unanimously.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY (SO2024-0007754) - SUPPORT

Sponsor: Alderperson Deborah Silverstein (50th ward)

- Sets lithium-ion safety standards for micromobility devices and requires annual reporting of fires caused by battery-powered bicycles and mobility devices. SO2024-0007754 passed 48-0-2.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING ORDINANCE (SO2023-0002910) - SUPPORT

Sponsor: Mayor Johnson

- Puts Chicago on a pathway to seamlessly begin requiring new state electric vehicle (EV) charging readiness standards (Public Act 103-0053) in addition to the City's existing EV charging readiness requirements. Chicagoans can now charge their EVs at residential and commercial buildings more conveniently. SO2023-0002910 passed 48-0-2.

QUARTERLY CTA HEARINGS (SO2023-0004078) - SUPPORT

Sponsor: Alderperson Andre Vasquez (40th ward)

- Requires the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to host quarterly hearings regarding service levels, operation, and security of the CTA system, increasing transparency and accountability to riders' safety and reliability concerns. SO2023-0004078 passed 49-0-1.

FY2024 BUDGET MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE (SO2023-0005294) - SUPPORT

Sponsor: Mayor Johnson

- Formally establishes the Department of Environment and requires the city's Chief Sustainability Officer to provide recommendations for the Department's duties, putting the City one step closer to returning enforcement power back to the Department of Environment. SO2023-0005294 passed 40-9-1.

PARKING REFORM SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE (SO2025-0015577) - SUPPORT

Sponsor: Alderperson Daniel La Spata (1st Ward)

- Eliminates the requirement to include a fixed amount of new parking for new developments near public transit, reducing new housing costs and encouraging the use of public transportation. SO2025-0015577 passed unanimously.



5CITY VOTING RECORD										
WARD	NAME	S02024-0010990: ✓ Lower Speed Limit	S02024-0008201: ✓ Data Center Residency Ordinance	O2024-0007768: ✓ Extension of Smart Streets Pilot Program	S02024-0007754: ✓ Lithium-Ion Battery Safety	S02023-0002910 ✓ Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinance	S02023-0004078: ✓ CTA Quarterly Hearings	S02023-0005294: ✓ FY2024 Budget Management Ordinance	S02025-0015577: ✓ Parking Reform Substitute Ordinance	Score
	1	Daniel La Spata	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	2	Brian Hopkins	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	3	Pat Dowell	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	4	Lamont Robinson	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	5	Desmon Yancy	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	6	William Hall	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	7	Gregory Mitchell	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	8	Michelle Harris	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	9	Anthony Beale	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	75
	10	Peter Chico	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	11	Nicole Lee	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	12	Julia Ramirez	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	13	Marty Quinn	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	75
	14	Jeylú Gutierrez	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	15	Raymond Lopez	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	75
	16	Stephanie Coleman	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	17	David Moore	-	+	+	+	nv, -	-	+	62.5
	18	Derrick Curtis	+	+	+	+	A	+	+	100
	19	Matthew O'Shea	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	20	Jeanette Taylor	+	A	+	A	+	+	+	100
	21	Ronnie Mosley	-	+	+	+	+	A	+	85.7
	22	Michael Rodriguez	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	23	Silvana Tabares	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	75
	24	Monique Scott	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	25	Byron Sigcho-Lopez	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	26	Jessie Fuentes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	27	Walter Burnett	-	A	+	A	+	+	+	83.3
	28	Jason Ervin	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	29	Chris Taliaferro	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	30	Ruth Cruz	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	31	Felix Cardona	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	75
	32	Scott Waguespack	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	87.5
	33	Rossana Rodriguez-Sánchez	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	34	Bill Conway	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	35	Carlos Ramirez-Rosa*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	36	Gilbert Villegas	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	37	Emma Mitts	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	38	Nicholas Sposato	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	39	Samantha Nugent	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	40	Andre Vasquez	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	41	Anthony Napolitano	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
	42	Brendan Reilly	nv, -	+	+	+	+	-	+	75
	43	Timmy Knudsen	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	44	Bennett Lawson	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	45	Jim Gardiner	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	75
	46	Angela Clay	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	47	Matt Martin	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	48	Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	49	Maria Hadden	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
	50	Debra Silverstein	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	87.5
KEY		nv	Not voting, anti-environment vote		* Resigned and replaced by appointed alderperson Anthony J. Quezada who took the final vote					
+		Pro-environment vote	NV	Not voting, pro-environment vote						
-		Anti-environment vote	E or A	Excused or Absent						





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The Environmental Scorecard is published by the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) for purposes of public education. It provides a record and analysis of votes in the Illinois General Assembly on a wide range of environmental and conservation bills with the goal of creating a better-informed populace.

No endorsement of any party, elected official, or political candidate is implied in this scorecard or in any other publications or activities of the Illinois Environmental Council. IEC does not make financial contributions to any candidate or political party.

Since 1975, the Illinois Environmental Council has worked to safeguard Illinois—its people, its plants, and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends by building power for people and the environment. Representing over 130 environmental organizations in the state, IEC carries out its mission to advance equitable public policies that create healthy environments across Illinois through education, advocacy, and movement building.

