



Formed in 1962, North River Commission (NRC) is the local nonprofit community development organization for the Northwest Side of Chicago. We and our forum partners serve over 130,000 amazingly diverse residents living in the community areas of Albany Park, North Park, and Irving Park.

NRC and 31 community partner organizations organized the Chicago Communities Mayoral Forum, which took place on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at the Theodore Roosevelt High School Auditorium in Albany Park. The forum was non-partisan and open to all candidates. Those that attended include: Bob Fioretti, Jerry Joyce, John Kozlar, Lori Lightfoot, and Paul Vallas. The other 9 candidates had either declined the invitation or cancelled; several attempts were made to reach all candidates.

Questions asked to the candidates were formed by community engagement via a public survey. Attached you will find the results of our public survey that framed our questions centered around these issues: arts and culture, economic development, education, environment and recreation, housing, public health and social services, and public safety.

Forum Organizers included:

- North River Commission
- Albany Park Chamber of Commerce
- American Indian Center—Chicago
- Aspire
- Lawrence Hall
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Theodore Roosevelt High School
- 33rd Ward Youth Council
- Lawrence Avenue Development Corporation (LADCOR)

Community Partners included:

- Active Transportation Alliance
- Albany Park Community Center
- Cambodian Association
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Friends of the Forest Preserves
- Friends of the Parks
- Hollywood—North Park Community Association
- Horner Park Neighbors
- Latino Union of Chicago
- Mayfair Civic Association
- North Mayfair Improvement Association
- North Park Village Advisory Council
- North Park University
- Old Irving Park Association
- Openlands
- People of East Albany Park
- Peterson Park Improvement Association
- Portage Park for Action, Respect, and Community
- Portage Park Neighborhood Association
- Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association
- Sauganash Park Community Association
- TRIP—The Residents of Irving Park
- West Walker Civic Association

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Mission • Improving the quality of life for all constituents in our community by creating affordable housing, quality education, arts & cultural endeavors, open spaces, and stable neighborhood businesses.

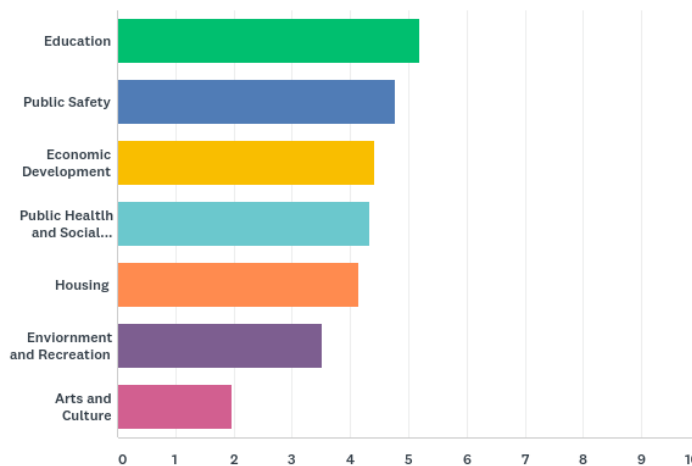


Public Survey Results: Overview

Ranked by the survey respondents, below are the priority areas listed in order of importance:

1. Education
2. Public Safety
3. Economic Development
4. Public Health and Social Services
5. Housing
6. Environment and Recreation
7. Arts and Culture

Q1 Please rank the following topics in order of importance.(1 being the most important, and 7 being the least)



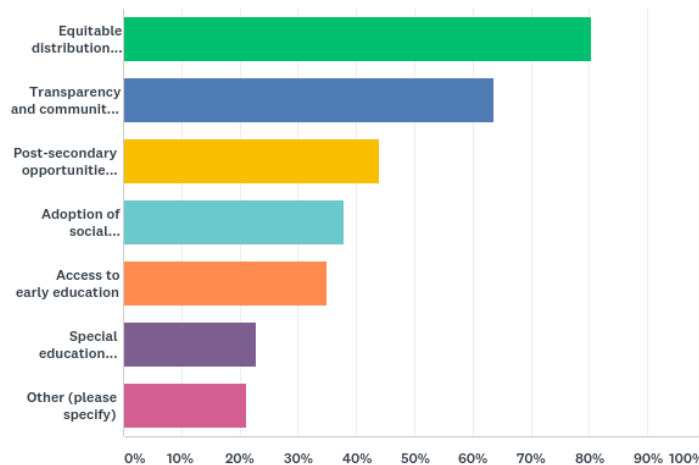
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EDUCATION

Q9 Please select the top three (3) issue areas you feel need to be addressed by the next Mayor of Chicago:



The order of importance as ranked by the respondents:

1. Equitable distribution of educational funds city – wide (80%)
2. Transparency and community involvement in CPS decision making process (school closings, elected school board) (63%)
3. Post – secondary opportunities (college and/or technical career readiness) (44%)
4. Adoption of social emotional learning and restorative practices (38%)
5. Access to early education (38%)
6. Special education resources (23%)

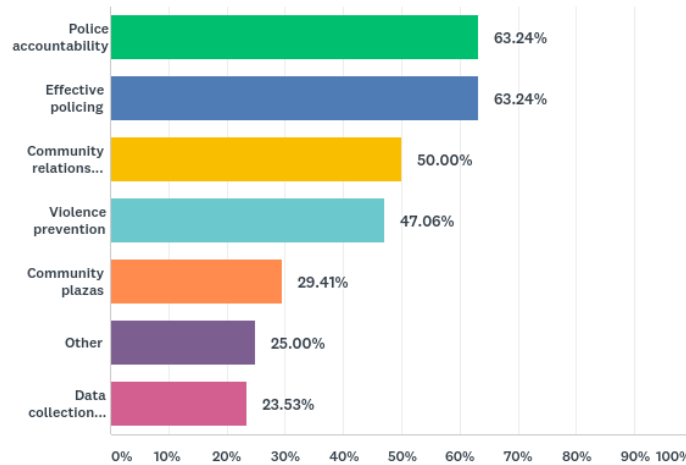
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Q21 Please select the top three (3) issue areas you feel need to be addressed by the next Mayor of Chicago:



The order of importance as ranked by the respondents:

1. Police accountability (63%)
2. Effective policing (63%)
3. Community relations (CAPS) (50%)
4. Violence prevention (47%)
5. Community plazas (29%)
6. Data collection methods and purposes (gang database) (24%)

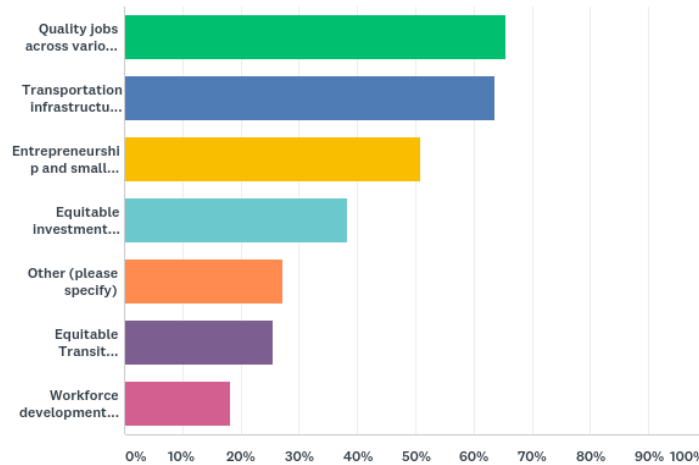
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Q6 Please select the top three (3) issue areas you feel need to be addressed by the next Mayor of Chicago:



The order of importance as ranked by the respondents:

1. Quality jobs across various industries and skillsets (retail, labor, technical, professional, manufacturing) (65%)
2. Transportation infrastructure and maintenance (64%)
3. Entrepreneurship and small business development and retention (51%)
4. Equitable investment city – wide (ex: oversight by Chief Equity Officer) (38%)
5. Equitable Transit Oriented Development (eTOD) near L Stations (25%)
6. Workforce development training (18%)

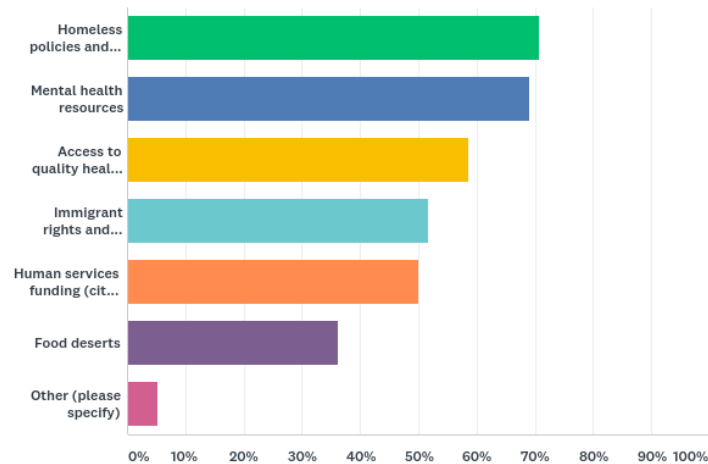
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PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Q18 Please select the top three (3) issue areas you feel need to be addressed by the next Mayor of Chicago:



The order of importance as ranked by the respondents:

1. Homeless policies and services (71%)
2. Mental health resources (69%)
3. Access to quality health care (59%)
4. Immigrant rights and services (52%)
5. Human services funding (city and nonprofit social service providers) (50%)
6. Food deserts (36%)

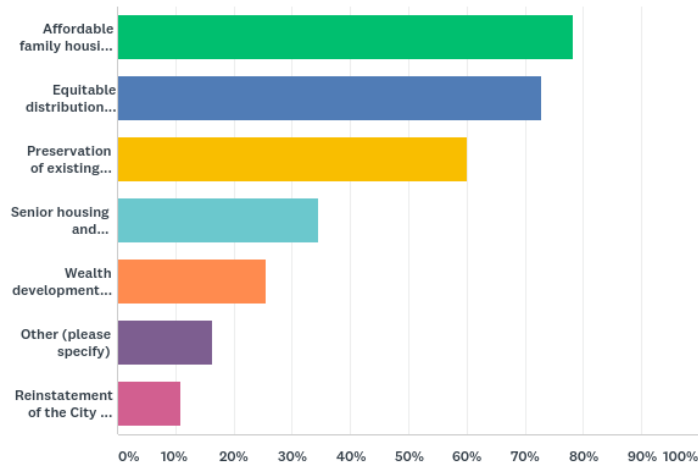
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HOUSING

Q15 Please select the top three (3) issue areas you feel need to be addressed by the next Mayor of Chicago:



The order of importance as ranked by the respondents:

1. Affordable family housing units (R = 78%)
2. Equitable distribution and creation of affordable units across all Wards (73%)
3. Preservation of existing affordable units and support to these landlords (60%)
4. Senior housing and accessibility (35%)
5. Wealth development through homeownership pathways and mortgage lending (25%)
6. Reinstatement of the City of Chicago's Department of Housing and ARO reform (11%)

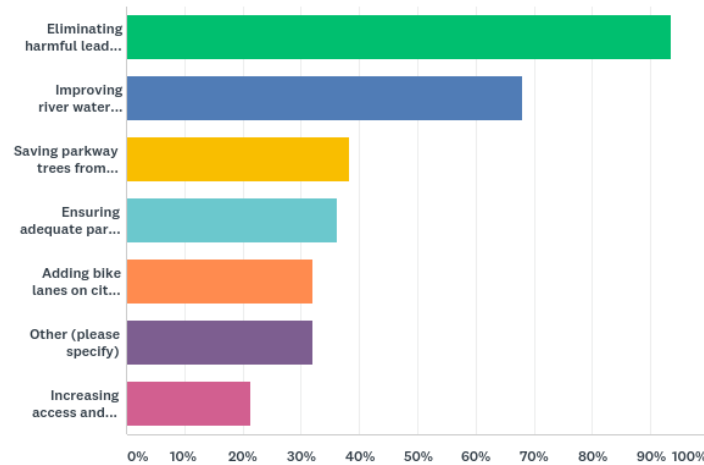
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ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

Q12 Please select the top three (3) issue areas you feel need to be addressed by the next Mayor of Chicago:



The order of importance as ranked by the respondents:

1. Eliminating harmful lead levels from the Chicago water system (94%)
2. Improving river water quality by reducing sewer overflows (68%)
3. Saving parkway trees from being destroyed by invasive insect species (38%)
4. Ensuring adequate park space in the large-scale development (ex: Lincoln Yards) (36%)
5. Adding bike lanes on city streets and expanding Chicago's trail network (32%)
6. Increasing access and recreational opportunities along the Chicago River (21%)

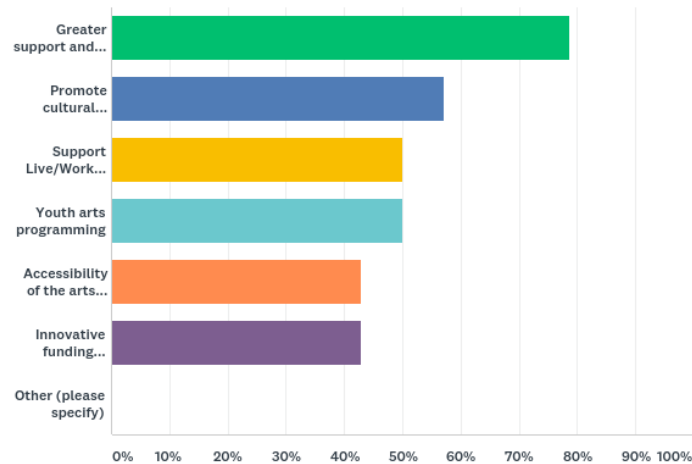
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ARTS AND CULTURE

Q3 Please select the top three (3) issue areas you feel need to be addressed by the next Mayor of Chicago:



Order of importance as ranked by the respondents:

1. Greater support and marketing for small arts organizations beyond the Loop. (79%)
2. Promote cultural diversity through the arts. (54%)
3. Support live/work spaces for artists (zoning allowances/variances) (50%)
4. Youth arts programming (50%)
5. Accessibility of the arts city – wide (43%)
6. Innovative funding channels to support neighborhood beautification and arts programs. (43%)

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