



Good morning,

I am here today on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Chicago to urge you to **reject**, both the proposal to suspend its Rules in order to consider and vote on the Rules of Order and Procedure of the City Council for the 2023-2027 term, and the proposal to establish City Council Committee Chairs for the new 2023-2027 Council that has not yet taken office.

We believe that the results of our elections should matter, and that the will of the voters should determine how we are governed. That is why the rules governing the City Council of 2023-2027, including selection of its committee chairs, should be decided by the members of the City Council of 2023-2027. For the outgoing Council to usurp the authority of the incoming Council, which has a fresh mandate from the people, is antithetical to the basic principles of democracy.

The League firmly believes that the public, along with the new Council members, have a right to see what is being proposed, and that the new City Council members should have a say in the matter. This Council should refer its proposals to the Rules Committee where the discussion can begin – not only among the existing Council members, but also the public.

If the City Council wants to assert greater independence and to play a larger role in the governance of Chicago, it should act with integrity and transparency. That is the best way to earn voters' trust. And that is why this Council should respect the new one and allow the next Council to vote on its Rules and its Committee Chairs. Rushing the conversation now is a disservice to the people of Chicago.

The League has been proud to work with many of the people in this room to expand voter access and increase electoral fairness, but we cannot be silent when members of this body seek to undermine a basic democratic process, especially now.

Today, you have an opportunity to show the world that the City of Chicago has a government that is truly of, by, and for the people of Chicago. We urge you not to squander it.

Thank you.