



## Support SB3592 Elected Chicago School Board

**SB3592** establishes an elected school board for Chicago Public Schools. Voters would elect representatives from districts across the city to four year terms. In addition, a chairperson would be elected by voters from the city at large.

### Why is this important?

- **Voters want it:** Nearly 90% of Chicago voters across the city in 2012 and 2015 voted in favor of an elected school board.
- **Taxpayers need a voice:** CPS levies more than \$6B annually without the approval of any democratically elected body. An elected board would better represent the voices of communities served.
- **It's the standard statewide:** CPS is the only district statewide without an elected board.
- **It's the standard nationwide:** 98% of all school districts have elected school boards.
- **It's the standard in large districts:** Most large school districts have elected boards. Of the ten largest school districts nationwide only three, including Chicago, have Mayor controlled boards.

### Why the current model isn't working:

- **Lack of transparency:** Mayoral control has limited public input and accountability. Policies are enacted without genuine public input, budgets pass with little debate from the board, and capital spending is allowed to be done ad-hoc and without a comprehensive plan.
- **Lack of fiscal accountability:** Instead of bringing stronger fiscal management, Mayoral control has resulted in failures to make pension payments and extensive borrowing which combined to create a nearly billion dollar structural deficit. A school board is supposed to act as a watchdog to the district.
- **Corruption:** Mayoral control has not saved the district from scandals like SUPEs, and contracts continue to be approved without scrutiny from the board in the face of public opposition. A system of checks and balances is necessary.
- **Lack of evidence:** A 2015 report from the University of Illinois at Chicago found that "There is no conclusive evidence that mayor-appointed boards are more effective at governing schools or raising student achievement."