



## **RESOLUTION ON ENDORSING BRANDON JOHNSON FOR MAYOR, LORI TORRES FOR ALDERWOMAN AND MUEZE BAWANY FOR ALDERMAN**

1 **WHEREAS** our vision for a school district, city, and state that is committed to common good  
2 unionism that provides for our members, their families and the students and families we serve,  
3 and our commitment to mass-based organizing to achieve it, and

4 **WHEREAS** student based budgeting, educator shortages, staffing vacancies, underfunding of  
5 the vast majority of school communities serving Black and Brown students, an unfair evaluation  
6 system, over-sized class, unclean school buildings in need of major repairs won't be addressed  
7 without a partner in city hall, and

8 **WHEREAS** to build the Schools Chicago Students Deserve and fight for a Just Chicago, our  
9 movement will need governing power, defined as the ability to win and sustain power within  
10 multiple arenas so as to shift the power structure of governance and establish a new governing  
11 paradigm, and

12 **WHEREAS** pursuing governing power requires contesting in the electoral arena as one of many  
13 strategies required to build the mass power needed to protect our members, students and school  
14 communities by enacting radical, durable, and self-evident change, and

15 **WHEREAS** that having elected a dynamic group of co-leaders to city, county, state, and federal  
16 office over the past decade, including members of the Chicago Teachers Union and close allies  
17 in our struggles for education justice, has resulted in profound shifts in the landscape of the  
18 possible while simultaneously illustrating the limits of our own minority position, and

19 **WHEREAS** that despite our victories, we still have to remain organized to realize both a just  
20 Chicago and the schools Chicago students deserve, and

21 **WHEREAS** that the terrain of the 2023 municipal elections—including a combative and  
22 destructive Mayor and an unprecedented wave of aldermanic retirements—provides us with a  
23 generational opportunity to continue organizing for alternatives that speak directly to our values  
24 and an opportunity to support individuals who will struggle with us to obtain a more equitable  
25 and just city and school district, and

26 **WHEREAS** we must continue to make power-building as important as the win in our pursuit of  
27 governing power, foregoing the most expedient political choices in order to build broad and deep  
28 support of the multiracial working-class, organized at worksites, in communities, on the streets  
29 and at the ballot box, and

30 **WHEREAS** our members, Lori Torres, Mueze Bawany and Brandon Johnson have deeply lived  
31 this vision and mission, as residents of Chicago, classroom teachers, organizers and leaders in  
32 the Chicago Teachers Union, and

33 **WHEREAS** Lori, Mueze and Brandon are not merely better than the alternatives, nor merely

34 values-aligned, but they are truly leaders in our Union and our struggle for educational, social,  
35 economic, and racial justice, and

36 **WHEREAS** that we do not seek savior, and that it is the work of the many, not a single  
37 candidate, to organize and win such that new horizons—free lifelong care and education, housing  
38 and healthcare as a human right, clean air and water, and replacing police and prisons with life-  
39 affirming systems of care and justice—are made possible, and

40 **WHEREAS** that nonetheless, the Mayor and city council have legal jurisdiction over the City of  
41 Chicago’s sister agencies, city departments, and public boards as well as the office’s traditional  
42 leadership over City Council makes it a critically important seat from which to expand the  
43 common good, therefore, be it

44 **RESOLVED** the Chicago Teachers Union endorses Lori Torres and Mueze Bawany for  
45 alderman and we join the call urging Brandon Johnson to run for Mayor of Chicago. The  
46 implications of this decision are as follows:

- 47 1. **This resolution shall constitute an endorsement of Brandon Johnson for Mayor of**  
48 **Chicago if and when the campaign is officially launched.** If Commissioner Johnson  
49 does not run for Mayor, this endorsement does not automatically transfer to any other  
50 candidate; any other candidate seeking the Chicago Teachers Union endorsement for  
51 Mayor must be brought to the HOD for a vote.
- 52 2. **The Chicago Teachers Union will use this electoral cycle to build power to ensure a**  
53 **City Hall and an elected representative school board that centers, champions and**  
54 **reflects the needs of our members, their families, our students and their families and**  
55 **every stakeholder in our school communities.**

*Adopted*       *Adopted as Amended*       *Defeated*       *Tabled*       *Other*

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