



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2026
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GAPA COALITION ANNOUNCES PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR DISTRICT COUNCILORS

GAPA Coalition partners launch a new media campaign aimed at expanding awareness of, and engagement in, Chicago’s Police Accountability system ahead of 2027 elections.

CHICAGO, IL — Today, the Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA) announced the launch of a new social media public awareness campaign focused on educating Chicago residents about the city’s District Councils and the critical role they play in advancing community-centered police accountability.

The campaign comes as Chicago prepares for the 2027 municipal elections and seeks to build broader public understanding of the police accountability system established through the Empowering Communities for Public Safety (ECPS) ordinance, which was enacted in 2021. The ordinance created elected District Councils in each of the city’s 22 police districts, with the first councilors elected in 2023.

The new social media campaign aims to introduce more Chicagoans to the purpose and responsibilities of District Councilors, encourage greater public participation in local police accountability processes, and widen the pipeline of future candidates interested in serving their communities through these elected positions.

District Councils serve as a key community oversight body within Chicago’s police accountability system. Councilors work to gather community input on public safety priorities, hold regular public meetings, engage with local police leadership, and help ensure that neighborhood voices are reflected in policing policies and practices. GAPA Coalition leaders believe that increasing awareness now is essential to ensuring stronger civic engagement and a more representative pool of candidates ahead of the next District Council elections in 2027.

“Too many Chicagoans still don’t know that District Councils exist, what they do, or that these are elected positions open to everyday community members,” said Joel Rodriguez, a member of GAPA’s Education and Elections team and a Lead Organizer with Southwest Organizing Project. “This campaign is about making sure residents understand that they have a direct role in shaping public safety in their neighborhoods. Not only as voters, but potentially as future District Council candidates themselves.”

The campaign, which will run across digital platforms through early next year, will feature a rotating assortment of direct-to-camera testimonials from District Councilors. The first video, which launched over the weekend on Instagram and Facebook, [can be viewed here](#). It features testimonials from elected District Councilors Erin Vogel (9th Police District), Leo Quintero (12th Police District), and Dr. Deondre Rutues (15th Police District).

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