

# Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**  
September 14, 2015

**For More Information:**  
State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford  
773 378-5902

## Ford Stands with President Obama to Designate September 22<sup>nd</sup> as National Voter Registration Day

**CHICAGO** – Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, introduced House Resolution 694 on August 10, 2015 to “designate September 22, 2015 as Voter Registration Day in the State of Illinois.” The proposal came just four days after President Obama recognized the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by calling on Congress to “revise and strengthen” the law in response to the recent Supreme Court decision which severely weakened it. President Obama also declared “...the fact of the matter is that far more people disenfranchise themselves than any law does by not participating, by not getting involved...huge chunks of us citizens give away our power.”

In a monumental effort to strengthen our democracy by ensuring that all eligible Americans register to vote, Rep. Ford is doing in Illinois what the President hopes to do nationally: engage future voters and inspire all citizens to reflect on the importance of the act of voting.

Marshall Hatch Jr., a dual-degree graduate student at the University of Chicago and Rep. Ford’s Chair of Civic Engagement, is working to encourage other young people to take advantage of the nearly year-old state law which allows eligible 17 year-olds to register to vote: “These are critical times. The vitality of our democracy hangs in the balance,” said Hatch. “We must continue to encourage our young people to empower themselves with the ballot.”

“Marshall Hatch Jr. is an example for all Millennials on the West Side and all of America,” said Ford. “He has the energy and the ability to engage Generation Xers and Ys and Millennials to become more active in improving relations between the community and our government. It’s great to have a bright young man volunteer his time and talents as he gives back to the community.”

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962), or contact Marshall Hatch Jr., Chair of Civic Engagement, at 773-418-6178 or [marshatchjr@gmail.com](mailto:marshatchjr@gmail.com).

<b>Who:</b>	<b>State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, Marshall Hatch Jr., voters</b>
<b>What:</b>	<b>National Voter Registration Day Event</b>
<b>When:</b>	<b>Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 12 noon</b>
<b>Where:</b>	<b>Chicago Public Library - West Chicago Ave Branch, 4856 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, 60651</b>

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