

# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**February 29, 2016**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
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## **FORD EXPLAINS CAMPAIGN FOR VOTER REFERENDUM AND 29<sup>TH</sup> WARD COMMITTEEMAN**

**CHICAGO** – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, recently had these words regarding his voter referendum and his write-in campaign for 29<sup>th</sup> Ward Committeeman: “In 2013, the United States Supreme Court decided to strike down some key features of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, setting off a flurry of new attempts to tighten access to voting that the law would have previously prevented. Our right to vote is being threatened, so that is why I am asking you to support an advisory referendum for the 29<sup>th</sup> Ward which would ask, “Should the United States Constitution be amended to include an explicit right to vote?”

“I have lived on the West Side of Chicago for 42 years, and the longer I live on the West Side, the stronger I feel about the promise of the West Side - that's why I try to continue to stand up with and for the people of the West Side. The community stood by me when I had to fight off attacks that tried to send me to prison for a very long time, which would have ended my life in public service. After overcoming such an attack, my commitment has been strengthened and has deepened my love and will to fight for a better West Side. We can no longer allow the same politics of the past to erode our community. The same buddy system - where only those who pass petitions or give money to help politicians get elected have access to the government – has got to end. This same system has been used over and over on the West Side - with political meetings held only to advance politicians' careers. We need to come together as a community - not to help politicians get elected - but to help politicians serve our community. We need policy Town Hall meetings, not political Town Hall meetings. We need Town Hall Meetings on Jobs on the West Side, not meetings to pass fliers and petitions for politicians.

“Elect me as the next Committeeman of the 29th Ward and we will end the same buddy system that has held the 29th Ward back for too long. Our government belongs to each of us, not just a few of us. Let's fight together to have a 29th Ward that stands above the other wards in the city. If you allow me to serve you, we will work together and end the “politics over people” in the 29th Ward.”

*La Shawn K. Ford - A Leader in Civic Issues – Protecting our Right to Vote*

- Introduced a House Resolution which urges Congress to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to make all its provisions permanent, adopted by the House (HR0909, 93<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly)
- Introduced a House Joint Resolution which supports amending the United States Constitution to explicitly guarantee an individual's right to vote, adopted by the House (HJR 0076, 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)

- Introduced successful legislation stating the State of Illinois ratifies the agreement among the states to elect the President by National Popular Vote, to ensure that the candidate with the most votes is elected President of the United States (Public Act 095-0714)
- Introduced House Resolution designating September 22 as Voter Registration Day in the state of Illinois, awaiting further action (HR 0694, 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)
- Alternate Chief House Co-sponsor of legislation which became law that allows on-line voter registration (Public Act 099-0221)
- Chief Co-Sponsor of House Joint Resolution which passed both Houses which proposes to amend the Suffrage and Elections Article of the Constitution and provides that no person shall be denied the right to register to vote or to cast a ballot in an election based on race, color, ethnicity, status as a member of a language minority, sex, sexual orientation, income, national origin or religion (Ford introduced HJRCA0039 which later became HJRCA0052, 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)
- Introduced the Prisoner Census Adjustment Act in the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and again in the 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (HB 62) proposing that for purposes of creating election districts and redistricting, requires that State and local governmental bodies use census figures adjusted to reflect the pre-incarceration addresses of persons imprisoned in State or federal facilities in Illinois; passed the House
- Introduced a House Bill which creates the No Representation Without Population Act, directing the Illinois Department of Corrections to collect a record of the legal home residence, outside of the facility, with the aim of having the person counted in the Census as a resident of their home address rather than at the prison address, passed Committee, not brought up for vote in House, awaiting further action (HB1489, 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)
- Chief House Sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution establishing a Complete Count Commission to ensure an accurate count in the 2020 census (SJR0029 in the 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, on the Calendar of Resolutions)
- Introduced a House Bill which provides that a person is not prohibited from photographing his or her own ballot at any time during the voting process, but a person who buys or sells their vote based on a ballot photograph is guilty of a Class 4 felony, awaiting further action (HB0431, 99<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)

The right to vote is just that - a right, and not a privilege, for those people in America who take the time register to vote, and then vote!

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