



IMAGINE A NEW 'CHICAGO WAY'

VOTE EQUITY 2019

Are you ready to get your friends, co-workers, and neighbors to imagine a better future for Chicago?

Sign up to host a Vote Equity conversation with at least 10 Chicagoans to discuss racial equity, what a better Chicago might look like, and tangible options that should be prioritized by the next mayor and alderpeople.

Along with a host of awesome organizations and community input, a ballot has been created of policy ideas and structural changes that would help make Chicago a more racially equitable city. **But we need your help to prioritize which issues should be top of the list for 2019!**

At your meet-up, we ask that you and your guests fill out Vote Equity ballots or use the online portal (ChicagoForAll.org) to fill out these ballots and vote on the ideas you feel are the most pressing for racial equity in Chicago.

Once we've collected all the data from now until January 31st, we'll release the top-voted ideas and send them as a questionnaire to every mayoral and aldermanic candidate.

Next, we'll collect the candidates' positions/opinions and responses to those ideas and publish a Voter Guide for Racial Equity that you can use to help assess who is right for Chicago's future!

Ready to get involved?

Still have questions?

Not sure what "equity" even means?

Keep reading!

How to host a Vote Equity conversation

Meet-up, gathering, party, whatever you want to call it, you are volunteering to bring people together to have an honest conversation about race in Chicago, how we can all work together to create a more equitable society, and how we all benefit from that equity!

You can get folks to fill them out on your lunch break at work, integrate it into your holiday party, or host a Vote Equity focused party at your home or organization.

Hosts are paid \$50 to help offset any costs, but all hosts must either attend an in-person training session or review the training toolkit prior to receiving ballots.

STEP 1

Let us know you're hosting by signing up online at ChicagoForAll.org. We'll reach out about picking up paper ballots at the CUE office downtown (1 W. Monroe) or getting them to you another way. If you prefer online voting,

STEP 2

Host your party! Invite people, make space, and plan how you are going to structure the conversation and introduce the Vote Equity project. Some tips on the next page!

TIP: This is a great time for story sharing around race and equity in Chicago. We recommend creating space for folks to share their experiences with one another.

STEP 3

Return your ballots by February 1st by dropping them off at the CUE Office (1 W. Monroe) or arranging pick-up with us at information@chicagounitedforequity.org. If you hosted a party with the online ballot, you're all set! We'll follow up from here to get you your host gift.



Suggested Vote Equity conversion format

Having a hard time wrapping your brain around how to host a Vote Equity Party? No worries! We've got you covered. A suggested format is provided below:

Party Intro (10-15 minutes)

Introductions, icebreakers

Explain that the Vote Equity Party is part of a citywide campaign to make Chicago work better for all of us after the 2019 election and the meet-up is about helping us set some priorities for our next elected leaders.

Share some information about racial equity and why this issue is important (**see guide**).

Allow time for discussion and questions.

Preparing Your Guests to Vote on the Ballot (10 -15 minutes)

Before you, your friends, and colleagues fill out the Vote Equity Ballot, it's helpful to think about how our choices will impact different groups of Chicagoans. Here are a few questions that can help us think about that:

Examples:

- Why do some racial groups have better or worse outcomes (health, education, etc.)?
- How can our government help support better outcomes across populations?
- In considering a ballot choice, who would be impacted by this ballot choice?
- What are the benefits and who would be most likely to receive them? Could this ballot choice positively benefit racial/ethnic groups?
- What are the burdens and who be most likely to bear them? Could this ballot choice negatively affect racial/ethnic groups?
- Will this ballot choice allow people most harmed by inequity to be meaningfully involved and authentically represented in policy/program development or decision-making?

Individual Voting (10-15 minutes or however long folks want!)

When taking the ballot, you will get two options at a time and will be asked which one our next leaders should prioritize. If you can't choose, don't stress! Just fill in the "I can't decide" option. If someone has a question or wants to talk about something on their ballot, feel free to create space for the group to discuss. But folks will need to fill out their ballots on their own.

Closing (10 minutes)

After the votes are in, ask folks to discuss how they felt in the process. How did this make them think differently about our city's future?

Highlight that the purpose of this project is to remind all of us -- voters and candidates -- that the real power to decide Chicago's future is in the hands of us, the voters. Remind them to vote by February 26th in the actual election!

Thank everyone for participating and ask if they want to come back together to discuss the results and the Vote Equity Voter Guide when it is released in February 2019.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the election, and when are Vote Equity conversations happening?

The Chicago municipal election is Tuesday, February 26th. Vote Equity conversations (and online ballot submission) are happening throughout the city now until January 31st.

How soon will I get my \$50? Is there a limit to how many hosts will get the \$50 stipend?

You will get your stipend within two weeks of returning in the completed ballots or completing your party ballots online. Contact information@chicagounitedforequity.org to let us know your Vote Equity Party is complete and we will follow-up with \$50 to offset your costs -- or a token of our appreciation if you'd like to donate the \$50 to another party host. When you sign up to host, we will let you know if there are still stipends left!

How do I get people interested in a Vote Equity conversation?

We find the easiest way is to ask! Start a conversation, create a Facebook event, or ask your local community group if you can bring this to this next meeting. Once you start the conversation, you'll probably find that a lot of your friends want to talk about our city. Who doesn't want to make their voice heard about Chicago's future?

If guests have questions about some of the choices on the ballot, can we have a discussion?

Yes! This is a great time to have a discussion about the issues and make room for different voices to share their experience with that issue. When it comes time to vote, people should make their final choices on their own.

Do party participants have to be registered to vote? Voting age? Citizens?

Nope. Regardless of age, citizenship status, or voter registration you can still fill out this survey. This is not an official ballot with the state or city election authority. It is a survey of our city!

I know a group/organization that should host a Vote Equity conversation. How can get them involved?

Absolutely! You can either send them to our website ChicagoForAll.org OR pick up an extra packet (or two, or three!) of ballots when you pick up your packet at the Vote Equity Hub and share them with an organization or with your friends who you think would be interested in hosting a party. You may also find that folks who attend your Vote Equity Party may also want to take extra ballots to distribute to their friends.

Are the online ballots and the paper ballots the same?

The paper ballots and the online ballot are all randomized in the same way! You can access the online ballot at www.chicagoforall.org.

Are the materials nonpartisan?

Yes, the Vote Equity project is entirely nonpartisan. Racial equity does not belong to a particular political party. We encourage folks of all political affiliations to think about public policy in Chicago with a racial equity lens.

I hosted a Vote Equity conversation and want to get more involved, what can I do?

Visit our website to connect with us on social media, sign up to receive our newsletter, make a donation to invest in equity: <https://www.chicagounitedforequity.org/join>

What language translations are available?

Yes! We have surveys available in Spanish. If you need surveys translated in another language, you can contact us here information@chicagounitedforequity.org.