David Earl Williams III’s 2027 Chicago Election Analysis: The Mayoral Race, 48th Ward Candidates & Political Perspectives

An Independent Assessment of Mayor Brandon Johnson, the 48th Ward Aldermanic Incumbent/Candidates, Their Accomplishments, Challenges, and What Chicago Voters Should Consider Ahead of February 2027.

DAVID EARL WILLIAMS III | NOVEMBER 9, 2026



Hello, everyone. It’s been quite some time since I last reached out, and plenty has happened in Chicago and across the country—especially after the recent historic midterm election! For those who may need a little reminder of who I am, my name is David Earl Williams III, former candidate for 48th Ward Alderperson (2019) and 24th Police District Council (2023), U.S. Navy veteran, author of the LitRPG series Valor Tale, and political commentator. Many of you have been asking for my thoughts on the upcoming 2027 Chicago municipal election, and as promised, the time has finally arrived! In a series of articles I’ll be releasing, we will be taking a look at the mayoral race, the 48th & 49th Wards, one candidate for the 20th Police District Council, the 24th Police District Council, and a certain self-proclaimed “political pundit,” Stephanie Skora, along with her voter guide, Girl, I Guess…, who deserves some special attention of her own! But don’t worry, folks, she’ll get her own separate article!

My assessments will be candid, fair, and based on each candidate’s accomplishments, public record, qualifications, and weaknesses. Whether I’m handing out praise or delivering some tough criticism, my goal remains the same: offering an independent perspective on those looking to represent the people

of Chicago. And believe me, there's plenty to discuss!

For those wondering whether I'll ever step back into the political ring, I haven't ruled it out, but don't expect another campaign until sometime after the 2030s. I still have personal and professional goals to accomplish. Until then, I'll continue sharing my political perspectives, advocating for important issues, and making a difference outside elected office. The show goes on!

Before we get this show on the road, a shameless plug! In late September, I completed Valor Tale: Renascence, Volume III, the grand finale of my original trilogy! All three books are available to read absolutely free at www.davidearlwilliamsiii.com. If you enjoy them, you can also find them on Amazon and leave an honest review. Your support is always greatly appreciated!

Now, with the shameless self-promotion out of the way, let's get down to business!

Mayor Brandon Johnson: My Assessment Ahead of Chicago's 2027 Election



Mayor Brandon Johnson, I'll say this: I wasn't too crazy about him at first, but over time, he's earned my support. I've been encouraged by the reductions in violent crime and efforts toward police reform, although there's certainly more work to be done. And while groups of teenagers gathering downtown during the summer can sometimes be annoying, I believe much of that comes down to parenting and supervision. Kids shouldn't be locked up simply for being kids unless they're actually committing crimes.

Beyond public safety, I also believe Johnson deserves recognition for several accomplishments that don't always receive the attention they deserve. His administration has expanded summer employment opportunities for more than 31,000 young Chicagoans, reopened public mental health facilities, strengthened workers' rights through expanded paid leave protections, and made substantial investments in affordable housing.

I particularly appreciate his efforts to address the underlying causes of crime rather than relying exclusively on policing and incarceration. These are meaningful accomplishments that directly affect working-class Chicagoans, and while I certainly don't agree with every decision he's made, I believe it's important to acknowledge progress where progress has been made.

I also appreciated that months before the Trump ICE raids, I reached out to the mayor's office with suggestions about how Chicago could respond. And would you know it? Those ideas were reflected in the administration's approach, which I greatly appreciated seeing implemented. Whatever criticisms I've had of Johnson, I genuinely believe he cares about Chicagoans.

What I find intriguing, and frankly, a bit wasteful and annoying, is seeing elected officials currently serving in other positions pursuing the mayor's office. Of course, they have every right to do so, but here's my question: How about doing the jobs you were elected to do where you're currently needed?

As things currently stand, Mayor Johnson will be getting my vote in February. If he makes the runoff, he'll get my vote again.

Giving Credit Where It's Due: Alderwoman Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth



When Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth was elected alderwoman of Chicago's 48th Ward in 2023, I was initially critical of her as well. However, nearly three and a half years later, I can acknowledge that she has pleasantly surprised me.

As the daughter of Filipino immigrants, a mother, a small-business owner, and a longtime community organizer, she overcame barriers to become the first Filipina elected to the Chicago City Council. Her background in grassroots activism and community advocacy reflects her longstanding commitment to public service.

What has particularly impressed me is her dedication to constituent services, neighborhood engagement, and community outreach.

From what I've personally observed, her accessibility and willingness to address residents' concerns have been surprisingly impeccable. Her office has reportedly completed more than 31,000 city service requests during her first two years in office, while her Safe48 public safety initiative has coincided with substantial reductions in violent crime and robberies.

She has also championed affordable housing, supported efforts to move unhoused residents into permanent housing, secured investments in pedestrian safety and neighborhood infrastructure, and expanded opportunities for residents to participate directly in local government decisions.

Furthermore, according to a public election tracker, Manaa-Hoppenworth has maintained a 100% attendance record at Chicago City Council meetings and voted with the majority on 87.1% of divided votes, reflecting her consistent participation in the legislative process.

Now, does that mean I agree with everything she's done? Absolutely not. However, I believe in giving credit where it's due. Although I was initially skeptical of her leadership, I'm more than willing to acknowledge when an elected official exceeds my expectations.

Ultimately, public service should be about accountability, accessibility, and tangible results, and from what I've personally witnessed, Manaa-Hoppenworth has demonstrated those qualities. With another election approaching, I look forward to seeing how she continues to address the needs of the 48th Ward while remaining responsive to residents, including those who may disagree with her decisions.

Troy McMillan: Community Experience and a Campaign for the 48th Ward



Troy McMillan, a resident of Chicago's 48th Ward for 27 years, is running for alderperson in the February 2027 municipal election. McMillan brings an extensive background in public service, having spent decades working for the Illinois Department of Employment Security before retiring as a Labor Market and Career Resources program manager.

Her experience extends beyond government employment, including involvement in the Edgewater Community Council, Edgewater Historical Society, Peterson Garden Project, Edgewater Chamber of Commerce, and other neighborhood organizations. She has also held leadership positions with Friends of the Parks and participated in advisory councils for Berger Park and Broadway Armory Park.

McMillan officially filed her nominating petitions on October 19, 2026, joining incumbent Alderwoman Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth among the candidates seeking the position. Her campaign emphasizes government transparency, public safety, affordable housing, economic development, environmental protection, and stronger community engagement.

Her campaign platform also calls for improved pedestrian and cyclist safety, neighborhood infrastructure, youth programming, protection of the lakefront and public spaces, and support for vulnerable residents. She has expressed concerns about decisions being imposed on neighborhoods without sufficient community input.

I particularly appreciate her emphasis on ensuring residents have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their neighborhoods. Her longstanding involvement in the community and professional experience are certainly worth acknowledging.

While I look forward to learning more about her candidacy, particularly how she intends to implement and fund her proposals, I believe her background demonstrates a serious commitment to public service. Regardless of where anyone stands politically, it’s encouraging to see individuals with extensive community experience stepping forward to serve their neighborhoods. I wish McMillan the very best as she continues her campaign for the 48th Ward.

Justin Carmien: A Fresh Perspective on Progress, Prosperity, and the 48th Ward



Another individual running to represent the 48th Ward is Justin Carmien, who established his campaign committee in May 2026. Although I do not know Carmien personally, his professional background and

community involvement are worth acknowledging.

He has worked in communications design for the Government Finance Officers Association and served as co-chair of the Edgewater Beach Neighborhood Association, along with holding a community engagement leadership role with the Bryn Mawr Alliance. His experience also includes work in product design, political philosophy, and local government finance.

Carmien’s campaign emphasizes what he calls “Progressivism 2.0,” focusing on practical governance, neighborhood stability, and long-term financial sustainability.

Among his proposals are initiatives addressing affordable housing, displacement, property taxes, environmental sustainability, pedestrian safety, and improvements to existing residential buildings. He has also proposed exploring an Urban Wealth Fund that could generate additional public revenue through municipal assets.

While I would certainly like to learn more about his accomplishments and how he intends to implement these proposals, I appreciate anyone willing to become actively involved in their community and contribute ideas toward improving our city.

I wish Carmien the very best of luck in his campaign and look forward to hearing more about his vision for the 48th Ward.

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