



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

October 9, 2026

Office of the City Clerk
Anna Valencia, City Clerk
121 North LaSalle Street
Room 107
Chicago, Illinois 60602

To the Honorable, The City Council of the City of Chicago and City Clerk Valencia:

I return herewith, without my approval, an ordinance passed by the City Council on September 29, 2026 (O2026-0026270), requiring any debt issuance ordinance to be approved by a three-fifths vote of alderpersons entitled by law to be elected.

Neighborhoods with the greatest infrastructure needs should not face additional barriers to securing essential public investment. Delaying infrastructure projects can increase construction costs, worsen deterioration, and ultimately cost taxpayers more. While this ordinance increases a voting threshold, it does not put into place any additional measures around debt affordability, reporting requirements, or financial oversight. The vote requirement of three-fifths put in place for this particular matter is greater than that of the City of Chicago's \$16.6 billion dollar budget or any other critical matter that comes before this body.

For the above-stated reasons, it is my duty to veto this ordinance. Madam Clerk, please read this letter at the October 14, 2026, City Council meeting under the heading of "Reports and Communications from the Mayor and other City officers."

Sincerely,

Mayor Brandon Johnson

Chicago City Clerk-Council Div.
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