

**Excerpt from “Harold Washington’s Announcement of Candidacy for the Democratic Nomination for Mayor of Chicago” (1983)**

I see a Chicago of educational excellence and equality of treatment in which all children can learn to function in this evermore-complex society, in which jobs and contracts are dispensed fairly to those that want and qualify for them, and in which justice rains down like water.

Some may say this is visionary—I say *they* lack vision.

Already, a new day is dawning. The unprecedented voter registration and voter turnout in Chicago in the last week is evidence of this. The people of Chicago who have been neglected by the political bosses have announced their willingness to become involved, to unify and to act. I invite them to join my campaign. If I’m to be mayor, it would be as the spokesperson of this new movement—not the mayor of just a political faction, but mayor of all Chicago. We devoutly search for unity.

As mayor of this city, I would open the doors of City Hall. I would dig into that untapped reservoir of talented whites, Latinos, women and Blacks and unleash that ability for the benefit of this city.

SOURCE: “Harold Washington’s Announcement of Candidacy for the Democratic Nomination for Mayor of Chicago,” 1983. In *Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance, Reform, and Renewal; An African American Anthology*, edited by Manning Marable and Leith Mullings, 537. New York: Bowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2000.