



**Statement on the City Budget
December 20, 2025**

Today, after months of dialogue and debate, Chicago’s City Council passed the FY26 City Budget. No party walked away with everything they wanted in this process, but Chicago has a storied history of tackling our challenges together, and our alderpersons and an array of other stakeholders put their differences aside despite often contentious opposition; employed a “one table” approach; and made the tough, responsible choices needed to get this budget across the finish line.

The Civic Committee commends the alderpersons who stepped in and stood their ground in demanding the final budget positions our city for much-needed economic growth and long-term stability instead of relying on short-sighted fixes that jeopardize jobs and opportunity. That effort—which we, alongside many others, helped inform by providing policy expertise—included removing the potentially devastating head tax and upholding our commitment to fully funding our pension payments, bettering our city’s ability to avoid further credit rating downgrades. Tensions remain high and there is still significant work needed as the budget is implemented in the months ahead. It is clear all parties will need to take a real look at how we are strengthening efficiencies and building out more sustainable, structural change, but this was a critical step forward. Our city thrives when solution-minded decisionmakers work in partnership across sectors and differences to get hard things done—and today, they did. Chicago is stronger for it. We urge Mayor Johnson to recognize this and join with City Council to sign this budget.