



Q & A for the Indigenous Peoples' Day Resolution for Cook County (March 2021)

Who else in the USA has changed Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day?

This is a growing National movement, since 1992, in which 14 states, 9 counties, over 150 cities/towns including Bloomington, IL, a few dozen Universities and school districts, including the Chicago Public Schools, Evanston, Oak Park, Niles Township, and more in Illinois have already made this change. Over 72 million people around the country live in states, cities and counties that recognize Indigenous People's Day. In Cook County, over 7,000 people have signed the petition, as well as over 100 organizations which represent many thousands of constituents. The list of supporting organizations and policy makers is attached.



Why should Cook County change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day?

When discussing Columbus, it should be noted that this so-called hero was an invader upon Indigenous lands and caused irreparable damage through the extraction, exploitation and unimaginable acts of physical, mental, and sexual abuse inflicted upon the original inhabitants. Christopher Columbus' kidnapping of 500 Native Americans on his first bumping into modern day Dominican Republic morphed into the trans-Atlantic slave trade by the mid-16th century. Despite the atrocities committed by Columbus and the colonizers, Indigenous communities are still here and thriving. In Cook County alone, the Native population is over 65,000 and home to the sixth largest Urban Native population in the country. By continuing to commemorate Columbus as a hero, we undermine the rich history and diversity that created modern-day Cook County.

Is this resolution Anti-Italian?

No, this resolution is not Anti-Italian. We have respect and love for our Italian American sisters and brothers, and we know they had been discriminated against in terms of housing, employment, education, and health care, in decades past. However, this resolution IS Anti-Columbus. The purpose of this movement is to end the celebration of a man who represents for rape, murder, genocide, and the origins of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.



For more info, contact Les Begay (Dine'), Former Board Member of the American Indian Center at: ipdcoalition@gmail.com

These Organizations support changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day for Cook County, Cook County Forest Preserves, Chicago, and Illinois State (v. 12 as of 3/10/21):

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| UIC Native American Support Program | Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois |
| Mitchell Museum of the American Indian | CPS American Indian Education Program |
| American Indian Center | Italian American Heritage Society of Chicago |
| Chicago Teachers Union | Newberry Library |
| American Indian Association Illinois | UNITED WORKING FAMILIES |
| Visionary Ventures NFP Corporation | Covey Group |
| Black Millennial Renaissance | SURJ Chicago (Showing Up for Racial Justice) |
| Pilsen Alliance | Indigenous Peoples' Day Concert Chi |
| National Lawyers Guild Chicago | CAIR-Chicago (Council on American Islamic Relations) |
| WE WILL | LSNA - Logan Square Neighborhood Association/Leaders Shaping Neighborhood Action |
| Anti-Racism Art Festival | MAMAS (Mamas Activating Movements for Abolition & Solidarity) |
| American Muslims for Palestine/Chgo chptr | Machtia Toltekatl |
| Arab American Action Network (AAAN) | MECA: Movimiento para la educación cultural y autónoma |
| Arab American Cultural Center | McKensie Mack Group |
| Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago | My Brother's Keeper Chicago |
| Brown Beret National Organization | National Council of Jewish Women Chgo North Shore |
| Buddhist Temple of Chicago | NAME Illinois - Nat. Ass. for Multicultural Ed. Chptr |
| Canaan Community Church | National Teachers Academy Student Congress |
| Cabrini Green Legal Aid | New Life Centers of Chicagoland |
| Chicago Action Medical | Niles Township Neighbors for Change |
| Chicago Activist Coalition for Justice | Northside Action for Justice |
| Chicago Afrosocialists + Socialists of Color Caucus | (AfroSOC) - Chicago DSA |
| Chicago Children's Choir | Northwest Chicago Historical Society |
| Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition | Northwest Side Coalition Against Racism & Hate |
| Chicago Community Bond Fund | Off Color Brewing |
| Chicago Democratic Socialists of America | Organic Oneness |
| Chicago Fair Trade | Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD) |
| Chicago Raza Research Consortium | Palos/Orland Progressives |
| Chicago Regional Organizing for AntiRacism (CROAR) | Parents 4 Teachers |
| Chicago Street Artists and Panhandlers United | PopUpKaraoke LLC |
| Community Connective | Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation |
| Cultivating Better Tomorrows | Prison & Neighborhood Arts Project |
| Drive 45 th Ward | Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education |
| Edgewater Environmental Coalition | Read/Write Library |
| Equiticity Racial Equity Movement | The Red Handed Warrior Society |
| Evanston Present and Future | River City Community Development Center |
| Every Single Person Committed to Anti-Racism | Semillas y raises |
| Families in Action and Resistance Together | Seven Generations Ahead |
| First Unitarian Church of Chicago | She Votes Illinois |
| Global Early learning Network | Solidarity Sundays Logan Square |
| Grow Your Own Illinois | Southwest Suburban Activists |
| Holy Trinity Lutheran, Chicago | SPEAK Des Plaines |
| Illinois Families for Public Schools | SPEAK UP |
| Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition | St. John's Episcopal Church |
| IMAN (Inner-City Muslim Action Network) | Suburban Solidarity Network |
| Inspiration Corporation | Tikkun Chai Inter-National |
| International Capoeira Angola Foundation-Chgo | Tulia's Artisan Gallery |
| It Could Be Your Kid | UIC Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy |
| Jane Addams Resource Corporation | University of Chicago Labor Council |
| Jarochicanos | US Palestinian Community Network (USPCN) - Chgo |
| Lawndale Christian Legal Center | Young Life Chicago-Northside |
| The Learning Center/House of Connections | YWCA Metropolitan Chicago |
| Lifted Voices | Wahe Guru Yoga |
| Literacy Works | The WasteShed |
| Marz Community Brewing Co | Wolf River Consulting |

Elected Officials' Supporters:

- Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle
 - Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson
 - Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya
 - Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison
 - Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton
 - Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen
 - Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry
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- Alderwoman Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez, 33rd Ward
 - Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, 35th Ward
 - Alderman Daniel LaSpata, 1st Ward
 - Alderman Jeanette Taylor, 20th Ward
 - Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez, 25th Ward
 - Alderman Roberto Maldonado, 26th Ward
 - Alderman Matt Martin, 47th Ward
 - Alderman Maria Hadden, 49th Ward
 - Alderman Andre Vasquez, Jr. 40th Ward
 - Alderman Scott Waguespack, 32nd Ward
 - Alderman Michael Rodriguez, 22nd Ward
 - Alderman Felix Cardona, Jr., 31st Ward
 - Alderman Harry Osterman, 48th Ward
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- Daniel Biss, Mayor-elect of Evanston, Ret. State Senator
 - Bushra Amiwala, Board of Education Member, Skokie School District 73.5
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- State Representative Delia Ramirez
 - State Representative Barbara Hernandez
 - State Representative Lakesia Collins
 - State Representative Carol Ammons
 - State Representative Will Guzzardi
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- State Senator Robert Peters
 - State Senator Daniel Biss (Ret), Mayor-elect of Evanston
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- US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky