

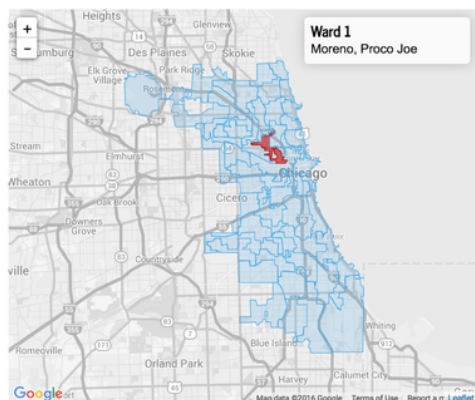
by guest author Derek Eder








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Look up your council member

Enter your address



Alderman	Ward
 Moreno, Proco Joe	Ward 1
 Hopkins, Brian	Ward 2
 Dowell, Pat	Ward 3
 Burns, William D.	Ward 4
 Hairston, Leslie A.	Ward 5
 Sawyer, Roderick T.	Ward 6
 Mitchell, Gregory I.	Ward 7

Since then, Chicago Councilmatic has consistently been one of our most popular projects. The City Council is always up to something, and before Councilmatic existed, getting information about it was pretty hard.

New features in Councilmatic

- **Who's my alderman, anyway?** Many Chicagoans don't know what ward they're in, let alone who their alderman is. This simple information is essential if you want to engage with City



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Tech Tuesday

How we use

Council, so we made it [really easy to find out](#), either by searching your address or browsing a neat-o interactive map.

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Aldermen

Look up your council member

Merchandise Mart Chicago, West Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, IL

Search

Alderman

Reilly, Brendan

Ward

Ward 42

Ward 42

Reilly, Brendan

Chicago

- **Committees are the key:** In Chicago, controversial ordinances are rarely voted down on the Council floor. Instead, they are held to languish in committee and die a slow, quiet death. You can now see exactly what that Finance Committee has been up to, and see the [graveyard of legislation](#) that never saw the light of day.

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Committee on Public Safety

The Committee on Public Safety shall have jurisdiction over all matters relating to the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Office of Emergency Management and Communications, the Independent Police Review Authority, and matters affecting emergency city services generally (other than operation of emergency medical facilities), except those matters affecting collective bargaining agreements, employee benefits and pensions

View on the Chicago City Clerk website

Recent Legislative Activity

Action	Legislation
1/12/2016 Recommended for Re-Referral	Resolution 2015-805 Call for hearing(s) on "Welcoming City Ordinance" to determine if further actions are necessary to promote protection of all residents, regardless of immigration status
1/12/2016 Recommended to Pass	Appointment 2015-168 Appointment of Sharon Fairley as Chief Administrator of Independent Police Review
10/26/2015 Recommended to Pass	Ordinance 2015-5401 Donation of City vehicle(s) to Charcas, San Luis Potosi, Mexico
10/26/2015 Recommended to Pass	Resolution 2015-480 Call for hearing(s) on suitability of certain programs for domestic violence victims

- **Public meetings:** Knowing when City Council meets is important. Knowing when the Zoning Committee is voting on your ordinance is even more important. You can now see every [past and upcoming committee and City Council meeting](#), and the stated agenda for each.

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Wednesday's Winners

Transparency triumphs and opengov victories



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Shining a light on the opengov world beyond Washington



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Recommended to Pass Call for hearing(s) on suitability of certain programs for domestic violence victims

- **Timeliness:** City Council meets a about once a month, and when they do, it's a flurry of activity. With the new Councilmatic, we cranked up the updates and refresh our data *every day* instead of once a week.

The screenshot shows the Chicago Councilmatic website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: About, Aldermen, Committees, Meetings, Legislation. Below this, a filter bar allows users to 'Browse by month' (set to January) and '2016', with a 'View events' button. The main section is titled 'Upcoming Meetings' and lists several meetings with their dates and times:

- Thu 01/28/2016** at 11:00 a.m.: Committee on Transportation and Public Way
- Wed 02/03/2016** at 12:00 p.m.: Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety
- Mon 02/08/2016** at 10:00 a.m.: Committee on Finance
- Tue 02/09/2016** at 10:00 a.m.: Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards
- Tue 02/09/2016** at 10:00 a.m.: Committee on Budget and Government Operations
- Tue 02/09/2016** at 11:00 a.m.: Committee on License and Consumer Protection
- Wed 02/10/2016** at 10:00 a.m.: City Council

On the right side, there's a section titled 'What are these meetings?' explaining that there are two types of meetings: committee meetings and full city council meetings. It notes that most legislative debate happens in committee meetings, which occur several times a month, while full city council meetings occur once a month at City Hall. It also states that all city council meetings are open to public participation. A link 'More on how City Council works »' is provided.

RSS Feeds

- [Sunlight Foundation blog](#)
- [OpenGov Voices](#)
- [Technology](#)

- **Fast access on any device:** Councilmatic now has a brand new and lightning fast interface — and it looks so amazing on your smartphone.

What should we add next?

[DataMade](#) is committed to maintaining and improving the new Chicago Councilmatic. There's still a lot more we plan to do with it, including email alerts, visualizing flows of legislation and measuring councilmembers' performance.

To get updates as we add them, [join our email list](#). If you have any suggestions on features we should add, let us know by emailing info@datamade.us or filing a new [GitHub issue](#)

Today Chicago and New York, tomorrow the world!

We've designed Councilmatic to be easily re-deployable in new cities by building it on top of the [Open Civic Data](#) standard. We've already brought it to [New York City](#) and are actively [spreading it to other cities](#)!

If you're interested in bringing Councilmatic to your city, sent us an email at info@councilmatic.org! Until then, go forth and help us keep an eye on what our elected officials are up to!

Derek Eder is the founder of DataMade, a civic technology company. We build open source technology using open data to empower journalists, researchers, governments and advocacy organizations. Since its founding in June 2012, DataMade has successfully launched dozens civic technology applications including data merging tools for journalists, powerful geospatial open data platforms for researchers, citizen access websites to help scale up meaningful municipal policy and powerful web visualizations to improve government budget transparency.

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1 comment • 20 days ago

AvatarTheChisel — Congratulations on your work!


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1 comment • a month ago

AvatarData Chfs — This is fantastic! One suggestion: since this visualization doesn't really need to be displayed on a literal ...

A message from Michael Klein, co


3 comments • 4 months ago


 Jakub Górnicki — Go John! It's your time


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1 comment • 4 months ago

AvatarRobert Rawlings Jr. — this good and all..but .. what about what's happening at this very minute in Iowa? Do I need to call ...

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