

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** Democrats, Welcome to Chicago. Behold What Progressivism Hath Wrought

**Article**

**Link:** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/08/16/chicago-progressivism-urban-politics/>

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**Tweet:** .@GeorgeWill argues, “Chicago’s population has declined for 9 consecutive years as education has cratered, crime has soared, and public services have withered because almost 1/2 of the city budget goes to debt service and government employees’ pensions.”

**Summary:** Spending on public schools (more than \$24,000 per student, not counting debt service and capital expenditures) has increased 107% since 2012, but proficiency in reading and math in grades 3-8 plummeted 63% and 78%, respectively. Crime is higher than in any other major U.S. city. Year-on-year, robberies are up 21%, assaults 7%, violent crimes in schools 26%. Chicago has led the nation in number of homicides for 12 consecutive years. The [Illinois Policy Institute] says Chicago’s population has shrunk by more than a quarter since it peaked in 1950; in 2023, the city hit its lowest point since 1920. Chicago’s population has declined for nine consecutive years as education has cratered, crime has soared, and public services have withered because almost half of the city budget goes to debt service and government employees’ pensions. These have been negotiated with government sitting on both sides of the table: its employees demanding that it do what it wants to do — grow. The steep price of this progressivism is disproportionately paid by its supposed beneficiaries.

**Related Articles:** Young Families Have Continued Leaving Big Cities Post-Pandemic and Students Are Making a ‘Surprising’ Rebound From Pandemic Closures. But Some May Never Catch Up and Long COVID for Public Schools: Chronic Absenteeism Before and After the Pandemic

**Primary Topic:** Growth

**Topics:** Database, Demographics, Education, GDP, Growth, Important!, K-12, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Poverty/Crime, Workforce

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