



Media Contact: Harlene Ellin

708.431.6603 (cell)

comms@womensmarchchicago.org

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Women's March Chicago Announces Exciting Final Details About March to the Polls 10.13.18

Fired Up Crowd Expected In Wake of Kavanaugh Confirmation

CHICAGO, Illinois, October 9, 2018 — Along with final details about Saturday's March to the Polls 10.13.18, Women's March Chicago (WMC) announced today that its is expecting a highly vocal and energized crowd in reaction to the fraught confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States.

"My community is tired — said fed up — frustrated and disappointed, but we are also powerful, hopeful and resilient," said WMC board member Eman Hassaballa, during a press conference today at City Hall. "Congressional leadership and the current White House administration have actively and pointedly disregarded the best interests of women at every possible turn. We are beyond ready to use our voices and our votes to remove anti-female politicians from office, and we will come together Saturday en masse to begin this process."

March to the Polls 10.13.18 kicks off at 9.a.m. with the opening of the rally site and the new festival-style Voter Village. Marchers can enter on Columbus Drive at either Congress Parkway or Balbo Drive. Families and persons with disabilities will enter at Monroe Street and Columbus.

The Voter Village, will feature more than 50 exhibitors, including an array of progressive organizations, political candidates, businesses and more. The village was created as a space for marchers to engage with fellow activists, as well as offer a complement to the main stage activities. (A complete list of [Voter Village participants](#) is attached.)

The First Time Voter Experience: Parade to the Polls™, co-hosted by Chicago Votes, also begins at 9 a.m. A special area in the rally space has been set aside for new voters, who will mingle with speakers and performers, elected officials, community leaders and others while celebrating their new voting power. The Community Youth Development Institute Drumline will step off the march, leading thousands of new voters and marchers through the streets of downtown Chicago. After the march, first time voters will head to early voting sites to cast their first ballots. Their day will culminate with an after-party headlined by Chicago rapper Lucki. (More details about the after-party will be announced as they become available.)

Main Stage activities begin at 10 a.m. The following speakers are scheduled to appear (to date) on the Main Stage:

- **Dr. Barbara Ransby**, author of *Making All Black Lives Matter: Reimagining Freedom in the Twenty-First Century*, historian, and activist;
- **Heather Booth**, activist and founder of the Jane Collective, a Chicago underground abortion service operating from 1969 until after the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision;
- **Adrienne Lever**, political director, Swing Left, a new national movement to take back the House;
- **Tichina Haywood**, first-time voter and SEIU member;
- **Amani Johnson**, cofounder, B.R.A.V.E, St. Sabina Church's youth-led anti-violence movement;
- **Melissa DuPrey**, Chicago actor/comic and rally emcee.

Chicago-area artists will also perform during the Main Stage event. Performers were selected specifically to appeal to young voters and include:

- **Ric Wilson**, rap artist and activist;
- **FM Supreme (Jessica Disu)**, rap artist and founder/director of the HERStory: My Sisters' Keeper, a program empowering young women and girls of color through creative writing and spoken word;
- **Evie the Cool**, deejay and curator.

The march is planned to step off around 12:30 p.m., as the rally concludes. The proposed route (**subject to change at the discretion of the City of Chicago**) will take marchers down Jackson Street to Federal Plaza, where the primary march officially terminates. From there, the Parade to the Polls™ continues as those intending to vote can follow marshals to these early voting sites: **Cook County Early Voting Site**, 69 W. Washington Street (Pedway); **City of Chicago Early Voting Site**, 175 W. Washington Street.

Both sites are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, so marchers can vote at any time throughout the day. Due to the high number of anticipated marchers, neither site can guarantee that all participants will be able to cast their ballots on Saturday.

To inspire marchers to stay engaged in the political process *beyond* Saturday's march/rally, WMC has joined forces with Swing Left on its *The Last Weekend* project. This national initiative aims to engage volunteers in Get Out the Vote efforts during the critical days before the midterms — November 3rd through 6th. Marchers will be able to sign up to participate in *The Last Weekend* during the rally portion of the day or at <https://thelastweekend.org/wmc>.

[Women's March Chicago](#) is a nonprofit organization that brings together those who identify as women and allies in support of women's rights including equal rights, equal pay, reproductive justice, affordable healthcare, affordable childcare, racial justice, voting rights, freedom from violence, LGBTQ+ rights, immigrant rights, fair wages, access for persons with disabilities, environmental protections, and other critical areas of focus.

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Media FAQs

Q: How many people do you expect at the march?

A: There are so many factors that play a part in people coming out. And for so many reasons, it is difficult to estimate crowds. However, with the recent confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court of the United States and the overall anti-women agenda of the GOP-controlled Congress and the White House, our marching community is fired up to begin the process of voting out politicians who ignore, demean and disrespect women. Whatever the turnout, the day will be impactful as those who identify as women stand together and draw strength from one another on 10.13.18 in Chicago, then cast ballots and help others do the same.

Q: Are you coordinated with the other marches around the country?

A: We are affiliated with a national organization called March On (wearemarchon.org), which was founded by organizers of women's marches around the country — including here in Chicago. Together, we have helped coordinate hundreds of marches around the world. We have also worked closely with other marches across the state. However, we are a nonprofit organization that operates independently of all other marches and we have the freedom, for example, of deciding when we want to march and what other initiatives we care to participate in.

Q: Why are you marching in October rather than January?

A: Well, the obvious answer is “the weather.” We have been lucky so far, but did not want to risk marching in freezing temperatures and snow. The more substantive reason, however, is that we want to impact the results of the upcoming midterms by encouraging and firing up people to go to the polls rather than celebrating our victories or mourning our defeats.

Q: Do you know of marches in other cities?

A: Initially, WMC was one of a handful of women's march groups that had planned pre-election calls to action. We had a few “sister marches” pop up — including one, for example, in Rockford and one in Springfield. However, with the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh, women across the country have been calling for marches more broadly where they can vocalize their dissatisfaction regarding his elevation to one of the most powerful positions in our country *and* protest the overall anti-women agenda of the White House and the Republican party. We now know of marches in the following areas to date and expect more to come:

- Chicago, IL 10/13
- Rockford, IL 10/13
- Springfield, IL 10/13
- Massachusetts 10/13
- Seattle, WA 10/21
- Atlanta, GA 10/27

- Houston, TX 10/27
- Little Rock, AR 10/27
- North Carolina 10/27
- San Jose, CA 10/27
- South Carolina 10/27
- Washington, DC 10/27
- NYC, NY 11/06
- +18 college campuses 11/06

[March On](#) is tracking these actions nationally.

Q: What does marching accomplish?

A: The inaugural Women’s March motivated women across the country to become more engaged in the political process. We’ve seen that in increases in voter registration, voter turnout and the fact that more women than ever are running for office.

The women’s marches also show women they have support and are not alone. Perhaps most importantly, women understand very clearly that as a united force, they have the power to effect change in the political system through their voices and votes.

Q: How do you measure success?

A: Success is all about motivating women and their allies to become politically active and head to the polls in November and beyond — and hopefully inspire others to join them.

Q: Do you want to see Trump or Kavanaugh impeached?

A: We want everyone who marches to identify the issues that are most important to them. We welcome anyone to march who is committed to women’s rights and wants to make their voices heard.

Q: Are the pink hats a symbol for the march?

A: The pink hats were a grassroots phenomenon that helped unite and galvanize many women. We appreciate that the hats do not resonate with everyone. We encourage all women and their allies to embrace what inspires them to be part of this movement.

Q: What if you end up being unable to march?

A: Attendance at our first march in 2017 went above and beyond what we ever could have imagined and officially “the march portion was cancelled.” However, women and allies actually still marched through the streets and the city was shut down completely by our turnout. In January 2018 the city was prepared for a larger turnout and we were able to officially march.

We are thrilled to see many women and their allies filling the streets of Chicago to stand up for their issues. Exact numbers, and whether safety considerations alter or cancel a march route,

are not our biggest focus. On 10.13.18 we intend to activate people to get them to the polls to vote, and to help others do the same. We can't predict the numbers we'll have on Saturday, but we are preparing for any and all possibilities, with safety top of mind.

Q: Some people have raised concerns about the level of diversity in past marches. How are you addressing those concerns?

A: Ensuring that our actions and our programming reflects the diversity of Chicago and Illinois is very important to Women's March Chicago. We are always striving to do more. We continue to connect and work with diverse groups and individuals around the city. We are always looking for new opportunities to help amplify the messages of groups doing wonderful work in our communities. Additionally, we have recently expanded our board of directors from five to 10 women. Our expanded board, as well as our volunteer teams and organizing partners, include a group of diverse, multi-generational individuals, who cross the spectrum of race and religion and represent a wide range of issues critical to Chicago.

Q: What is the march route?

A: The rally will take place at the same location as it has in the past - with the stage on Columbus Parkway at Jackson Drive. Marchers can enter on Columbus Drive at either Congress Parkway or Balbo Drive. As the rally concludes, our proposed route takes marchers down Jackson Street and terminates at Federal Plaza. From there activists are encouraged to vote. ***Cook County voters will head to 69 W Washington Street (Pedway), while Chicago voters will head to 175 W Washington.*** We'll have marshals marking that path. In coordination with the City of Chicago and safety considerations, whether we march, our event timing and our final march route is always subject to change.

See next page for a visual depiction of key points and entrance info.

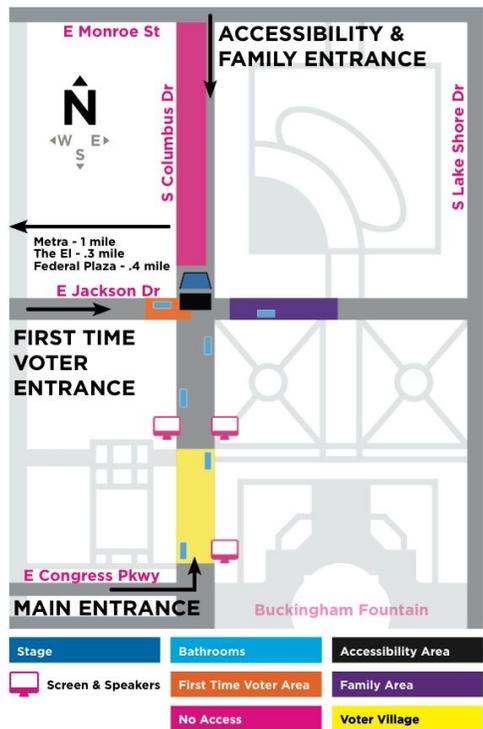
This reference map gives an idea of what people need to know. Please keep in mind that whether we march, our event timing, and our final march route is always subject to change in coordination with the City of Chicago and safety considerations.

The rally site, First-Time Voter Experience and the Voter Village open at 9am.

Rally, March and Early Voting key points to know for March to the Polls 10.13.18



Rally Site Detailed Map for March to the Polls 10.13.18



Voter Village Booths for October 2018

These organizations will be hosting booths in the Voter Village rally space along Columbus Drive on 10.13.18. Visit them at their booth and learn about their organization or business.

<u>2nd Ward Dems</u>	<u>Access Living</u>	<u>The Advocates Tees</u>
<u>Alderman Carrie Austin, Ward 34</u>	<u>Alderman Michele Smith, Ward 43</u>	<u>Alderman Pat Dowell, Ward 3</u>
<u>Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 308</u>	<u>American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU)</u>	<u>Busy Beaver Button Company</u>
<u>CBD Natural Care</u>	<u>Chicago NOW (National Organization for Women)</u>	<u>Chicago Women in Trades</u>
<u>Chicago Women Take Action (CWTA)</u>	<u>DuPage Dems</u>	<u>The Economist</u>
<u>Equality Illinois</u>	<u>Equip For Equality</u>	<u>Fully Promoted of Crystal Lake</u>
<u>Garry McCarthy for Mayor</u>	<u>Good Cause Goods</u>	<u>Green Mountain Energy</u>
<u>Human Rights Campaign</u>	<u>IL Muslim Civic Coalition</u>	<u>Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV)</u>

<u>Illinois Democratic Women (IDW)</u>	<u>Illinois Nurses Association</u>	<u>Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL)</u>
<u>Indivisible Chicago</u>	<u>Intelligentsia</u>	<u>Ja'mal Green for Mayor 2019</u>
<u>JB Pritzker for Governor</u>	<u>Kwame Raoul for Attorney General</u>	<u>Lamont Robinson, candidate for State Rep, District 5</u>
<u>The Last Weekend</u>	<u>League of Women Voters of Illinois</u>	<u>Mik Mocha Prints</u>
<u>Moms Demand Action</u>	<u>Mujeres Latinas en Accion</u>	<u>Muslim Community Center</u>
<u>Muslim Women's Alliance</u>	<u>National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)</u>	<u>Northwestern All of Us Research Program</u>
<u>NRG Energy</u>	<u>Passantes Foods</u>	<u>Planned Parenthood Illinois Action</u>
<u>Rainbow PUSH Coalition</u>	<u>She Votes Illinois</u>	<u>Sierra Club Chicago</u>
<u>State Matters</u>	<u>State Senator Mattie Hunter, District 3</u>	<u>Paul Vallas for Mayor of Chicago</u>
<u>Women Employed</u>	<u>YWCA Metropolitan Chicago</u>	

