



Date: May 11, 2026

TO: Interested parties

RE: Chicago Survey on Gun Violence and Gunshot Detection Technology

On behalf of SoundThinking, Change Research polled 616 likely 2026 general election voters in Chicago from April 22 to 28, 2026 to gauge opinions on gun violence and the use of gunshot detection technology in Chicago. The modeled margin of error is $\pm 4.4\%$.

Change Research recruited respondents by placing advertisements on Facebook and Instagram and sent text messages using the voter file data, targeting respondents who matched the survey sample's universe. Ads placed on social media targeted likely voters in Chicago. Those who indicated that they were not registered to vote were terminated.

To ensure that the final sample was representative of Chicago's voting population, Change Research used dynamic online sampling: adjusting ad budgets, lowering budgets for ads targeting groups that were overrepresented, and raising budgets for ads targeting groups that were underrepresented.

Additionally, post-stratification was performed on age, gender, education, race/ethnicity, and the 2024 presidential vote. Weighting parameters are based on the demographic composition of registered voters in the city, based on voter file data.



Toplines

Q1. How did you vote in the 2024 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

70% Kamala Harris, the Democrat
15 Donald Trump, the Republican
6 A third party candidate
1 Not registered/Too young/Ineligible
8 Did not vote

Q2. How did you vote in the April 2023 runoff election for Mayor?

38% Brandon Johnson
25 Paul Vallas
4 Another candidate
10 Don't remember
23 Did not vote

Q3. Which TWO of the following do you think are the most important issues facing Chicago today?

46% Crime and public safety
37 Affordable housing
28 Taxes
23 Jobs and the economy
18 Homelessness
15 Public transit
14 Inflation
14 Healthcare
13 K-12 public education
11 Immigration
11 Roads, bridges, and other infrastructure
3 The Israel/Palestine conflict in Gaza
3 Climate change
2 Abortion
7 Something else [please specify]
0 None of the above

Q4. How safe do you feel in your neighborhood?

36% Very safe
45 Somewhat safe
12 Somewhat unsafe
7 Very unsafe
1 Not sure



Q5. In your view, how have gun violence levels in Chicago changed over the past year?

- 37% Increased
- 23 Decreased
- 33 Stayed about the same
- 7 Not sure

Q6. Regardless of whether gun violence has increased or decreased, how important is it that the City has the ability to quickly detect and respond to gunfire incidents?

- 80% Very important
- 14 Somewhat important
- 3 Not too important
- 3 Not at all important

94% Total Important
6 Total Not important

Q7. If gunfire occurs and no one calls 911, do you think police should still be automatically alerted?

- 78% Yes
- 11 No
- 12 Not sure

Q8. How important is it that police are automatically alerted to gunfire so they can respond quickly and potentially locate victims who may not be able to call 911?

- 73% Very important
- 12 Somewhat important
- 5 Not too important
- 4 Not at all important
- 5 Not sure

86% Total Important
9 Total Not important

Q9. Which approach do you believe is more effective for responding to gunfire?

- 60% Automatically alerting police using technology
- 25 Relying primarily on 911 calls and other methods
- 15 Not sure

Q10. When the City cancelled SpotShotter, its previous gunshot detection system, do you believe residents were led to expect an alternative would be put in place?

- 52% Yes
- 22 No
- 26 Not sure

[Text] Here's what supporters and opponents say about the use of gun detection technology to alert Chicago police to the location of gunshots:



Supporters say that gun detection technology is a critical tool for police to immediately identify gun violence, which allows them to respond to shooting scenes much more quickly than if they relied on 911 calls alone.

Opponents say that gun detection technology is too expensive, does not prevent crime because it only notifies police after gun violence occurs, and contributes to over-policing in Black and Latino communities.

Q11. Based on what you know today, do you believe the City has delivered a gunshot detection solution that is clearly better than what was previously in place?

8%	Yes
61	No
32	Not sure

Q12. When it comes to public safety, which approach do you believe elected officials should prioritize, even if neither is perfect?

34%	Supporting technologies and tools that may help police respond more quickly to incidents like gunfire
14	Reducing reliance on such technologies and focusing on other approaches
48	A balanced approach between both
4	Not sure

Q13. Based on this information, do you support or oppose the use of gun detection technology in Chicago?

40%	Strongly support
29	Somewhat support
10	Somewhat oppose
13	Strongly oppose
9	Not sure

69%	Total Support
22	Total Oppose



Q14. Below are some arguments from supporters of gun detection technology. Please indicate how convincing you find each one.

	<u>Convincing</u>					<i>Total Convincing</i>	<i>Total Not convincing</i>
	Very	Smwt	Not Very	Not At All	Not sure		
[SPEED] Gun detection technology notifies law enforcement and 911 dispatchers less than 60 seconds after the gunshot. This helps police and paramedics get on the scene quickly to provide urgent medical care and restore safety before anyone else gets hurt.	44	31	10	10	4	76	21
[CREDIBILITY] Gun detection technology has been deployed successfully in more than 170 cities, including Chicago, New York, Denver, and Boston. Superintendent Larry Snelling and Chicago police officers say that the technology is a valuable tool.	40	31	14	11	5	71	25
[ACCURACY] Gun detection technology is highly accurate at detecting outdoor gunshots. One company in particular has reported a 97% accuracy rate in identifying gunshot sounds over the past four years, and less than 0.5% of reported incidents were false positives.	38	33	11	12	6	71	23
[EVERY TOOL] Gun violence is a real problem in Chicago, and many people can't walk around their neighborhoods or get to school or work without fear of gun violence. Police need to use every tool available to tackle the gun violence epidemic, including gun detection technology.	46	24	13	14	3	70	26
[911] Without gun detection technology, police only learn about gunshots if people call 911 to report them—but in neighborhoods with lots of gun violence, people often don't call 911, which means police don't get notified. Gun detection technology solves that problem by automatically alerting police to gunshots.	40	29	13	13	6	68	26
[ARRESTS] Most gun crimes in Chicago are never solved, which means that perpetrators stay on the streets to commit more crimes. Gun detection technology allows police to get on the scene fast enough to identify shooters and witnesses, make arrests, and prevent further violence.	36	29	13	16	5	65	29



Q15. After everything you've read, do you support or oppose the use of gun detection technology in Chicago?

- 47% Strongly support
- 25 Somewhat support
- 9 Somewhat oppose
- 12 Strongly oppose
- 6 Not sure

73% Total Support
21 Total Oppose

D1. Are you:

- 44% A man
- 56 A woman

D2. Age

- 25% 18 to 34
- 27 35 to 49
- 26 50 to 64
- 22 65+

D3. What is your race?

- 57% White / Caucasian
- 25 Black or African American
- 11 Hispanic or Latino/a
- 3 Asian / Pacific Islander
- 1 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 3 Other

D4. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 11% High school diploma or less
- 19 Some college, but no degree
- 7 Associate's degree, or two-year college degree
- 34 Bachelor's degree, or four-year college degree
- 29 Graduate degree

D5. Party Identification

- 43% Strong Democrats
 - 17 Weak Democrats
 - 12 Independent lean Democrats
 - 13 Pure independents
 - 6 Independent lean Republicans
 - 2 Weak Republicans
 - 6 Strong Republicans
-
- 60% Base Democrats
 - 31 Independents + Leaners
 - 9 Base Republicans



72% Democrats
13 Pure independents
15 Republicans