



ChicagoSpeaks®

Quarterly Report: Q3 2026

Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation

Report Summary

This report describes findings from a survey of Chicagoans regarding opinions on the mayor's job performance and their views on potential candidates in the 2027 Chicago Mayoral election. Key findings include the following:

- Alexi Giannoulias leads a crowded field of potential candidates. When asked their top-choice candidate, 25% of likely voters chose Giannoulias, placing him well ahead of all other candidates (Page 8). Giannoulias also registered the highest level of excitement, with 59% of likely voters reporting that they were somewhat or very excited about his candidacy (Page 6).
- Brandon Johnson was in second place, with 13.6% of likely voters selecting him as their first choice (Page 8). However, Johnson's candidacy elicited little excitement: 55% of respondents said they were not excited about Johnson running, far more than any other candidate (Page 5). Even among respondents who said they voted for Johnson in 2023, only 25% said he would be their choice in 2027 (Page 10).
- Giannoulias was the top choice among all demographic groups measured in the survey, including by race and ethnicity, age, city region, and income (Pages 24-25). For example, Giannoulias led among Black likely voters with 28% support, compared with 20% for Johnson.
- The only other candidates to receive more than 5% support were Susana Mendoza (9.5%) and Willie Wilson (6%) (Page 8).
- 34% of likely voters said they were "Not Sure" who they would vote for, which exceeded the share of support received by any individual candidate (Page 8). This suggests that the race remains in flux.
- Brandon Johnson's job approval was 22%, marking the sixth consecutive quarterly survey in which his job approval was below 30% (Page 4).

The survey included 1,108 Chicagoans age 18+ and was completed between September 13 to September 23 as part of the quarterly ChicagoSpeaks® panel. 935 respondents identified themselves as likely voters. Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, ChicagoSpeaks is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the city of Chicago household population. The margin of sampling error for adults overall is plus or minus 4.11 percentage points. Since its founding in 2024, ChicagoSpeaks has produced quarterly surveys. ChicagoSpeaks is the most scientifically rigorous multi-client Chicago panel available in the U.S. market. <https://www.norc.org/research/projects/chicagospeaks.html>

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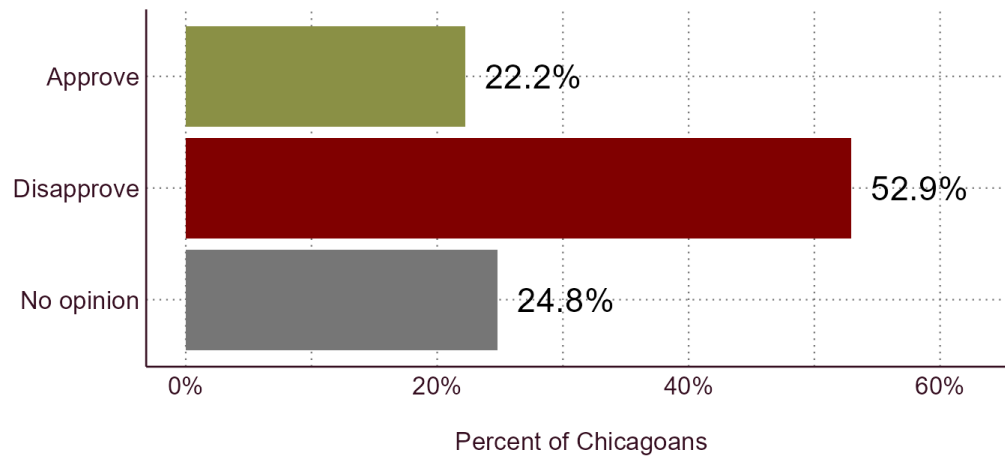
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Top-Level Results

General Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Brandon Johnson is handling his job as mayor?

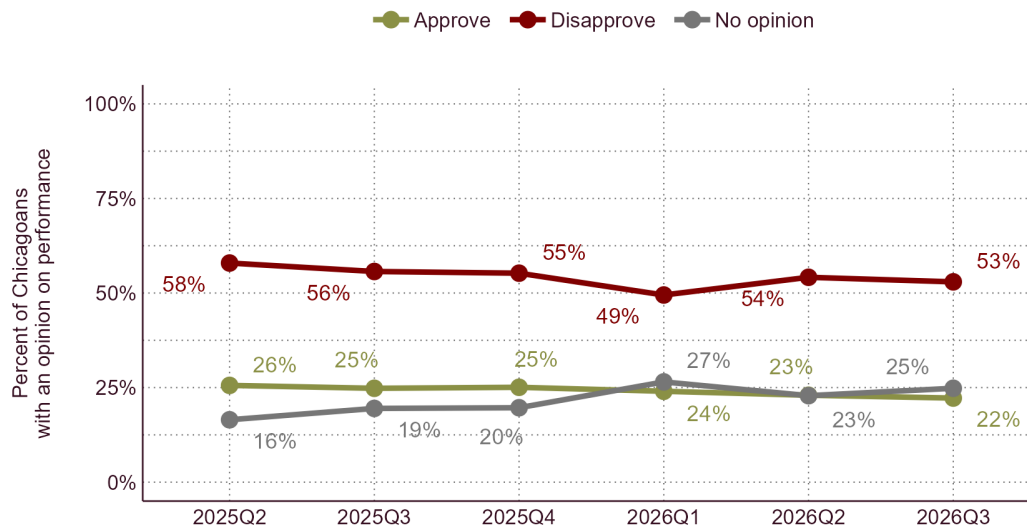


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3
Question: Do you [approve or disapprove/disapprove or approve] of the way Brandon Johnson is handling his job as mayor?

General Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Brandon Johnson is handling his job as Mayor?

Share of approval or disapproval of people with an opinion

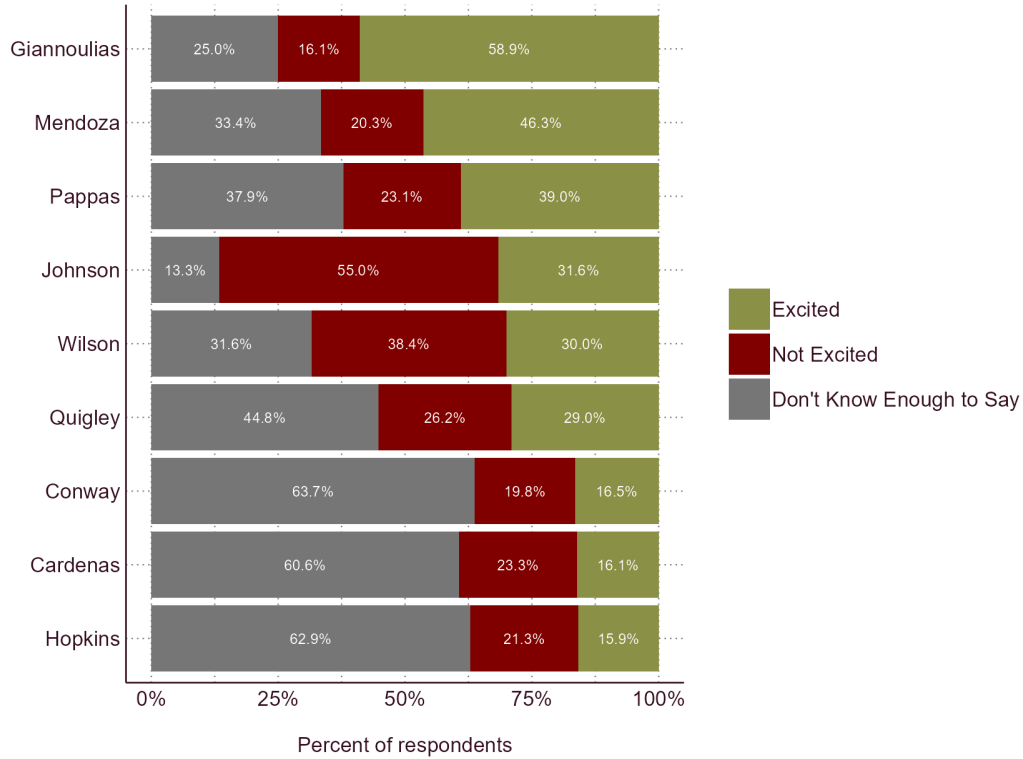


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Level of Excitement for Each Candidate Among Likely Voters



Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

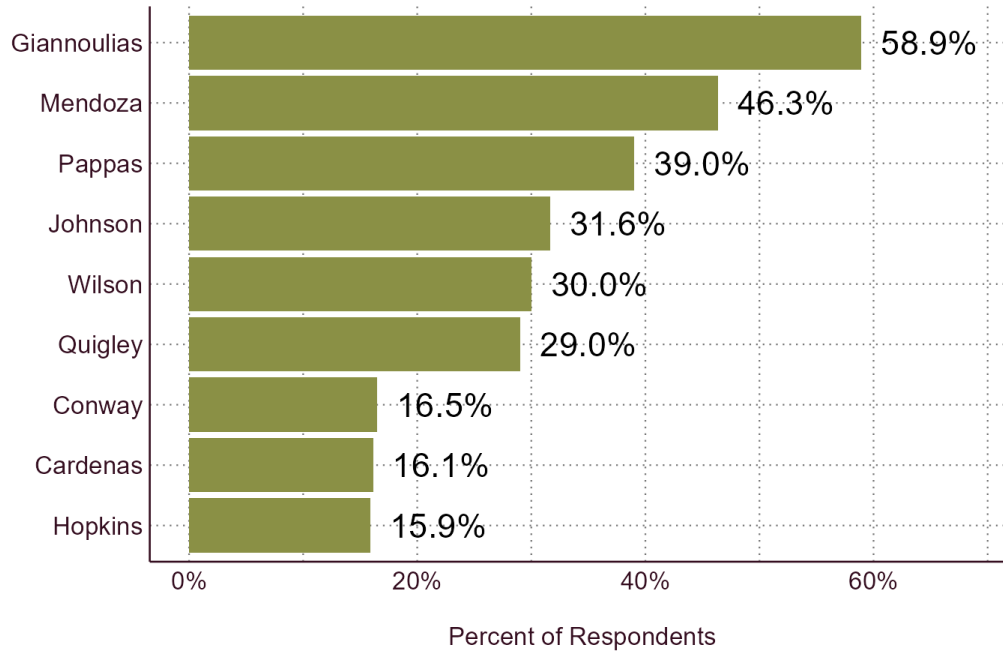
Likely voters: n = 935 (unweighted)

Question: There are several potential candidates for the 2027 Chicago mayoral election.

Please indicate your level of excitement for each.

Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

**Percentage of Respondents Excited for Each Candidate
Among Likely Voters**



Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

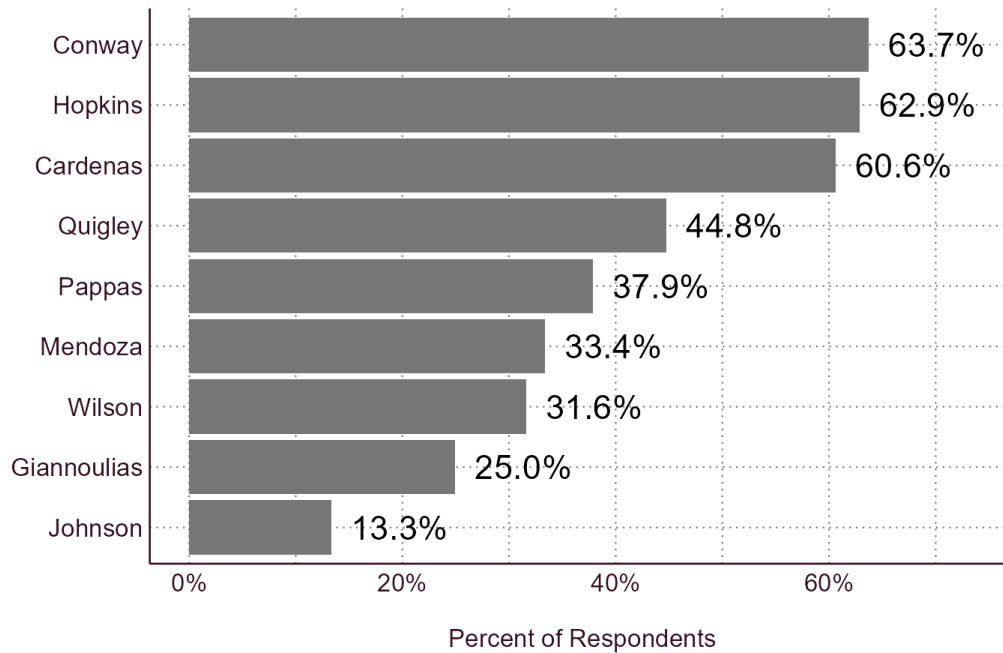
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Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

**Percentage of Respondents Who Don't Know Enough
About Candidate Among Likely Voters**



Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Likely voters: n = 935 (unweighted)

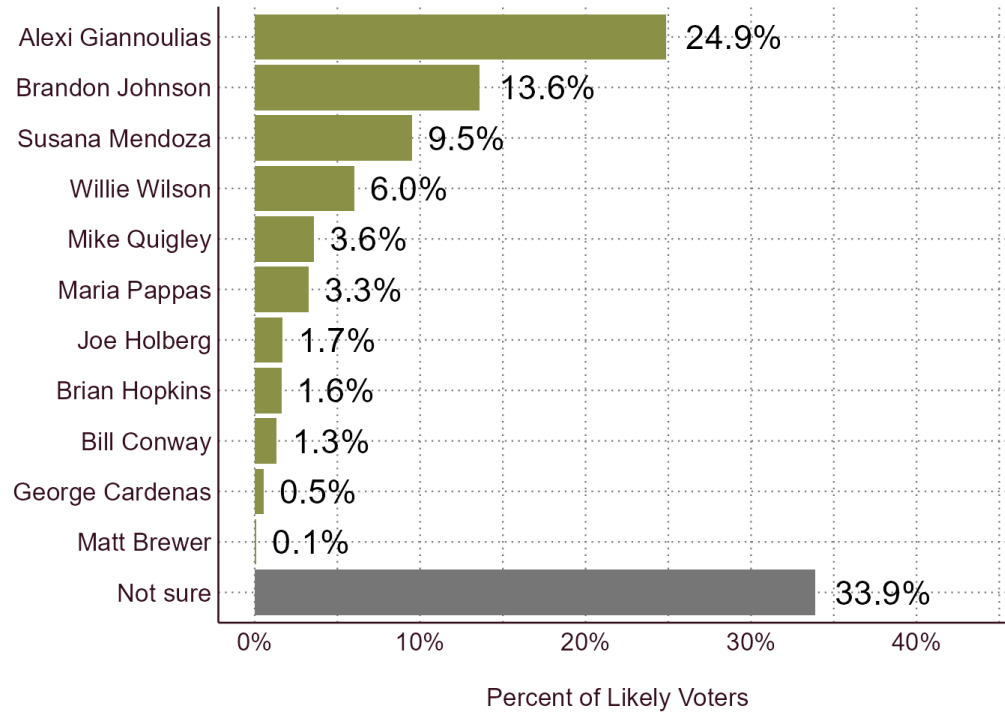
Question: There are several potential candidates for the 2027 Chicago mayoral election.

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Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

First Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

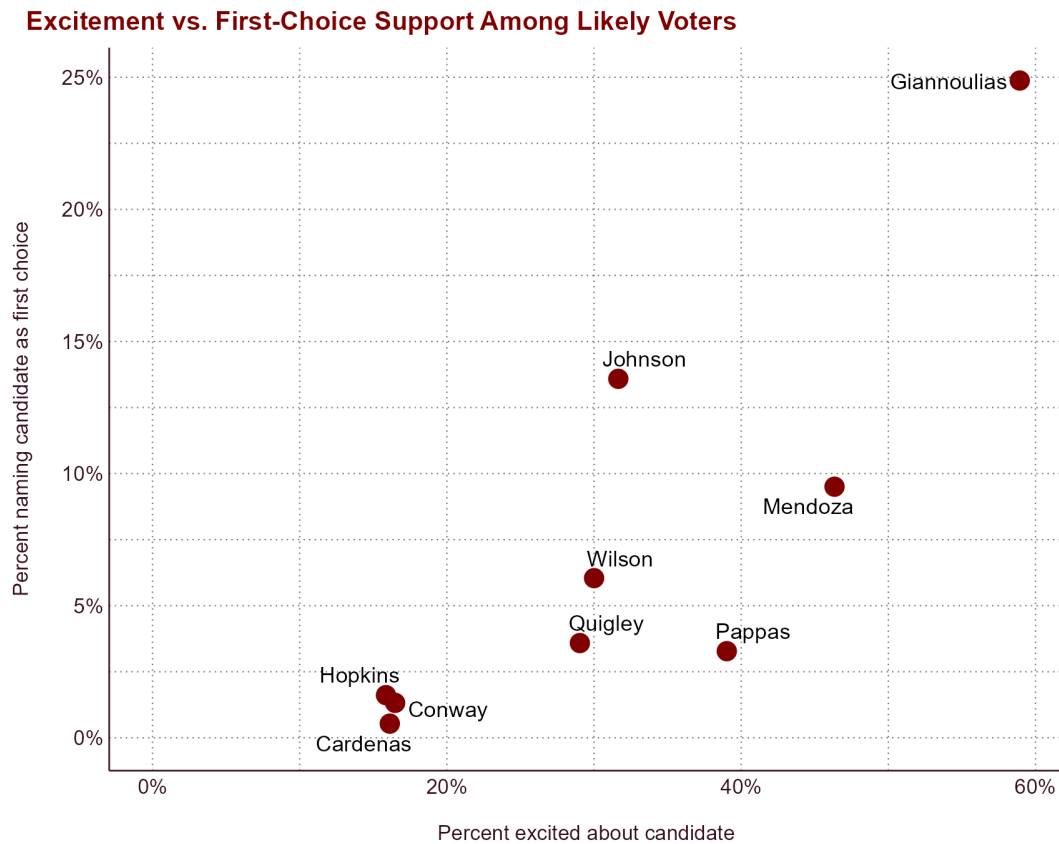


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Likely voters: n = 935 (unweighted)

Question: In the 2027 election for Chicago mayor, who is your first choice candidate?

Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

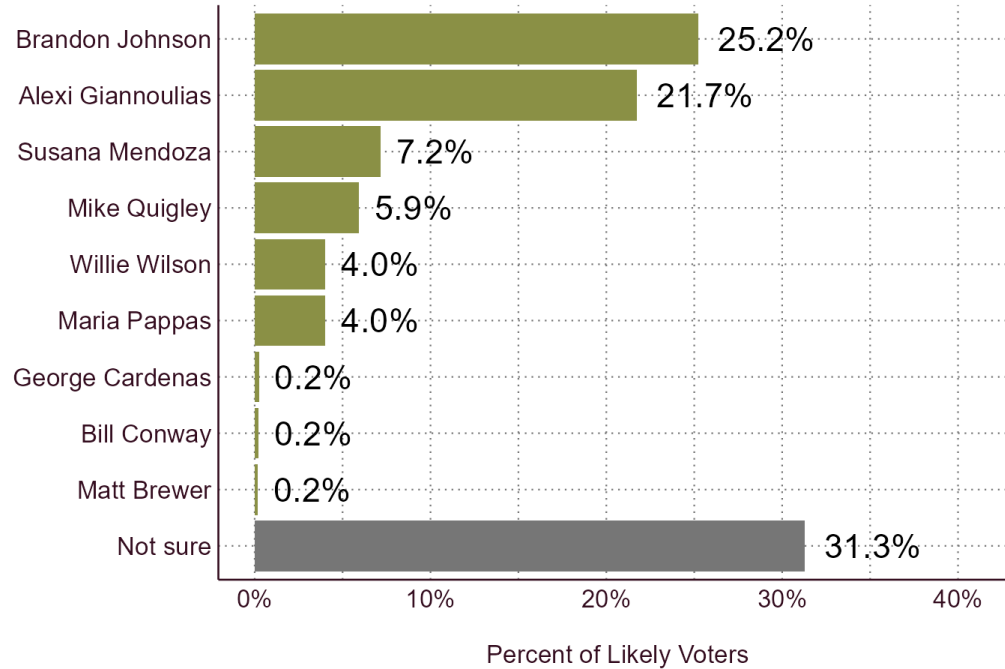


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3
 Likely voters: n = 935 (unweighted)

Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

First Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

Among 2023 Brandon Johnson voters (n = 318)



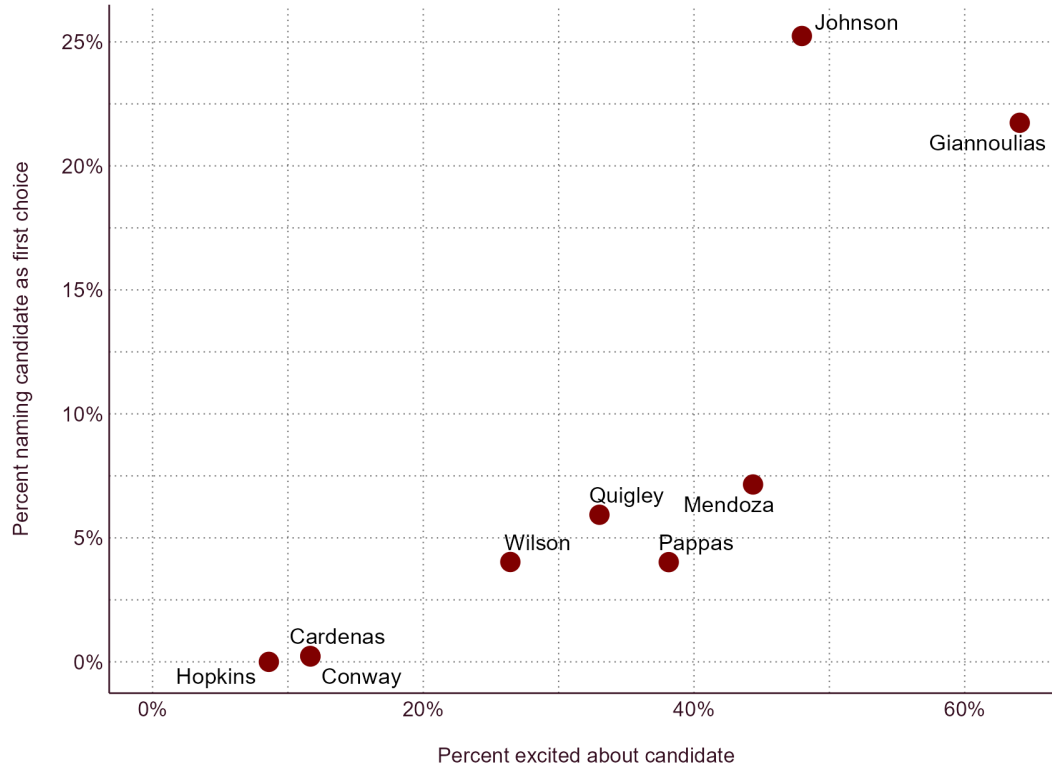
Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Question: In the 2027 election for Chicago mayor, who is your first choice candidate?

Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Excitement vs. First-Choice Support Among Likely Voters

Among 2023 Brandon Johnson voters (n = 318)

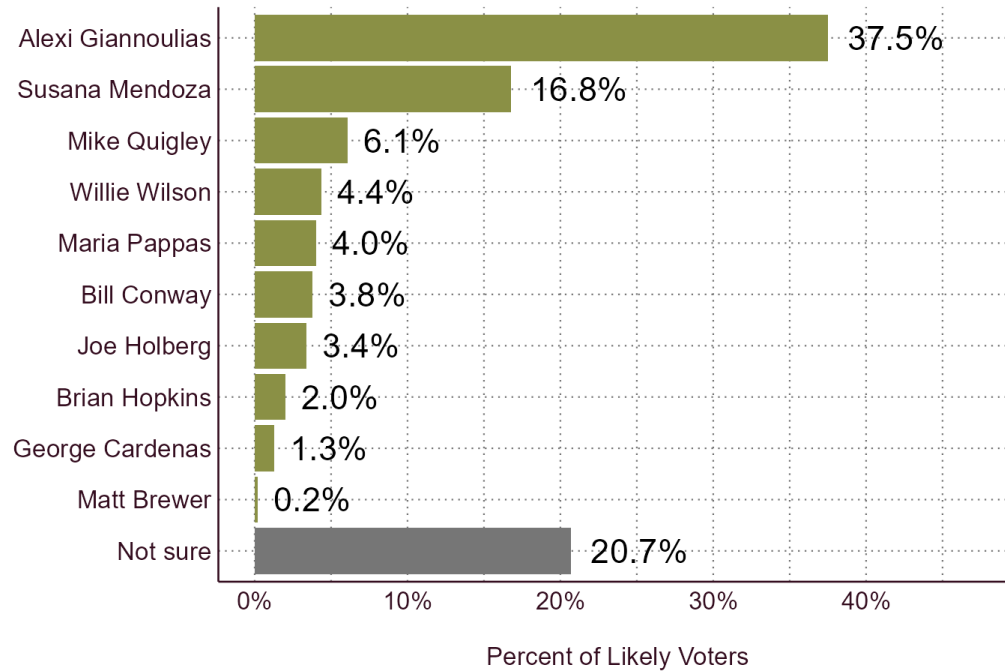


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

First Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

Among 2023 Paul Vallas voters (n = 188)



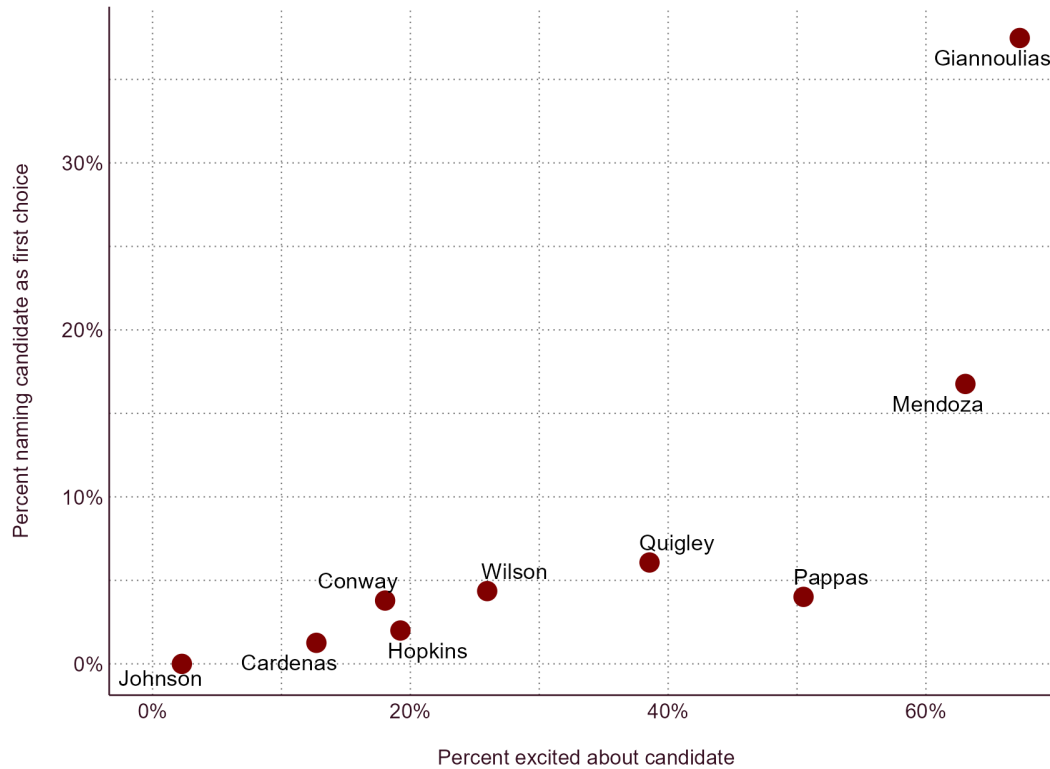
Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Question: In the 2027 election for Chicago mayor, who is your first choice candidate?

Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

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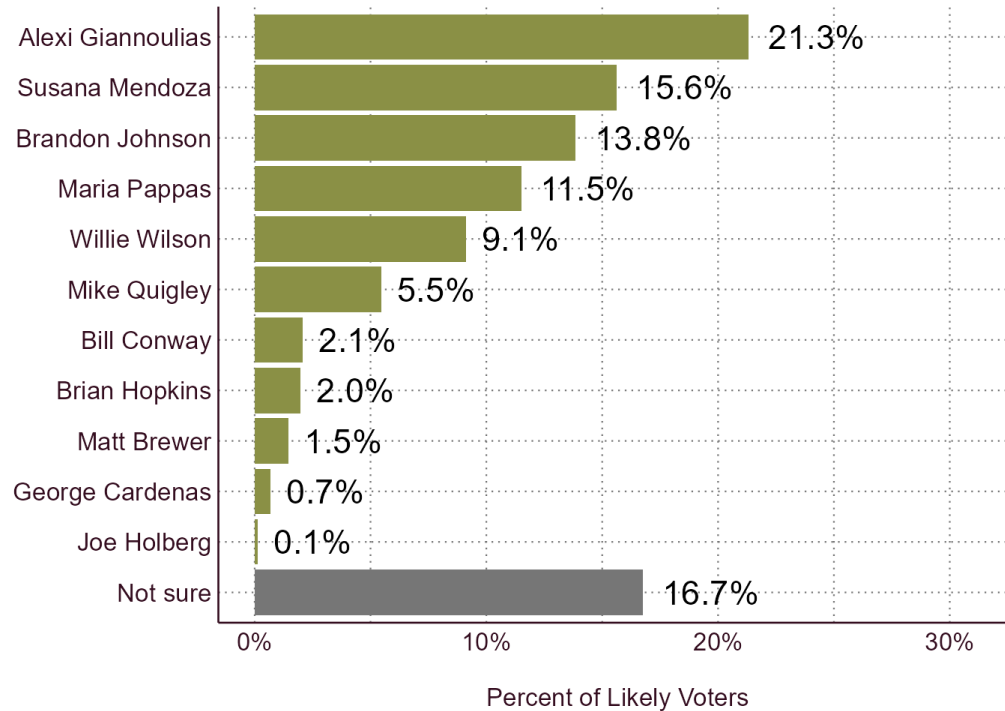


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Chicago Residents' Second Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Chicago Residents' Second Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Second Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters



Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

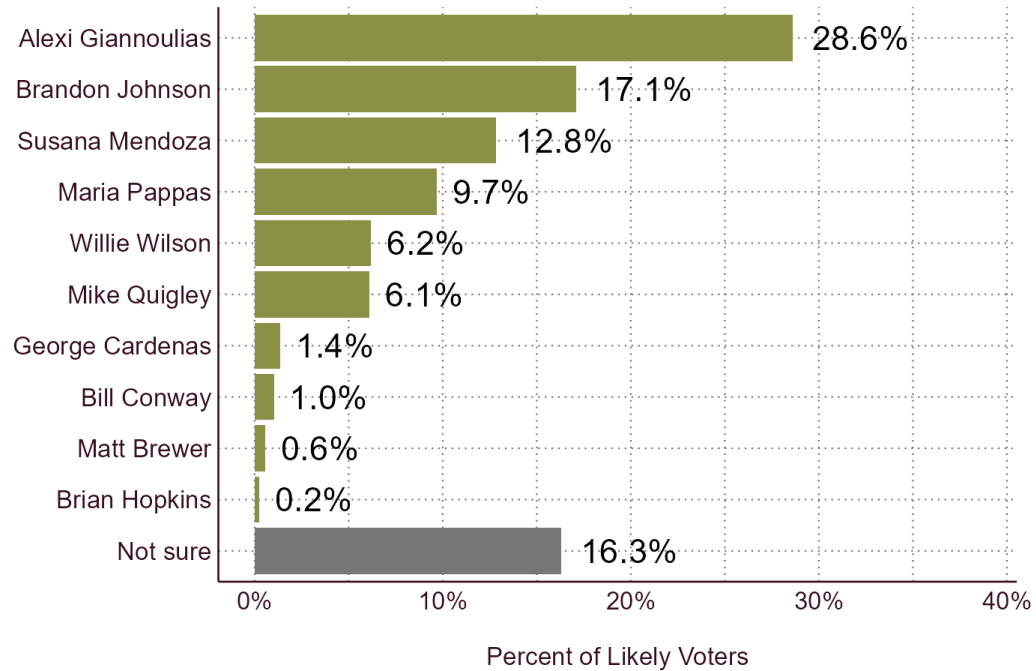
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Question: In the 2027 election for Chicago mayor, who is your second choice candidate?

Chicago Residents' Second Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Second Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

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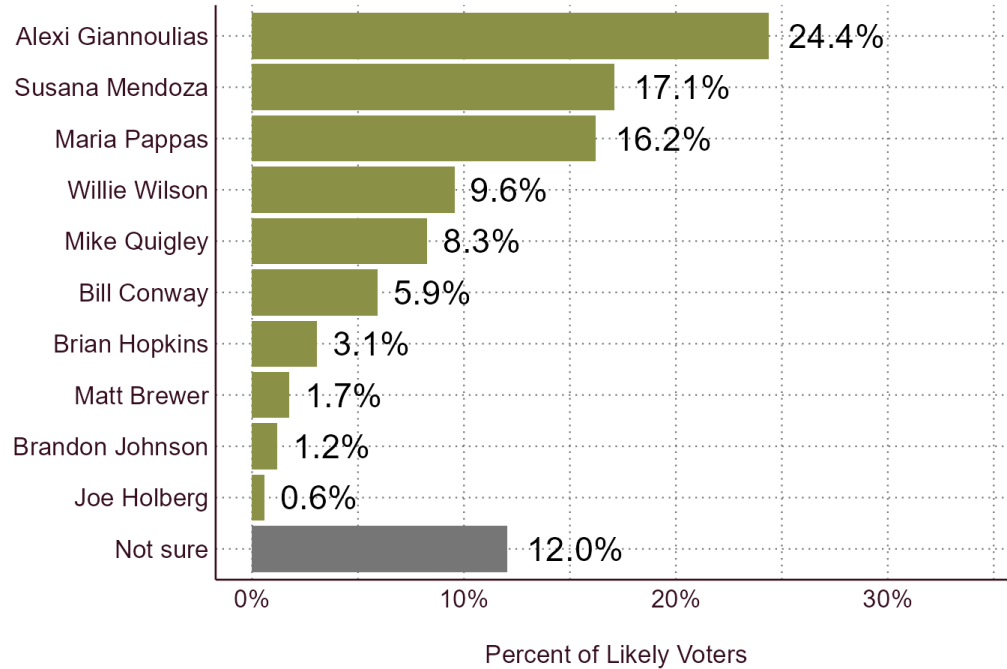
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Chicago Residents' Second Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Second Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

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Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

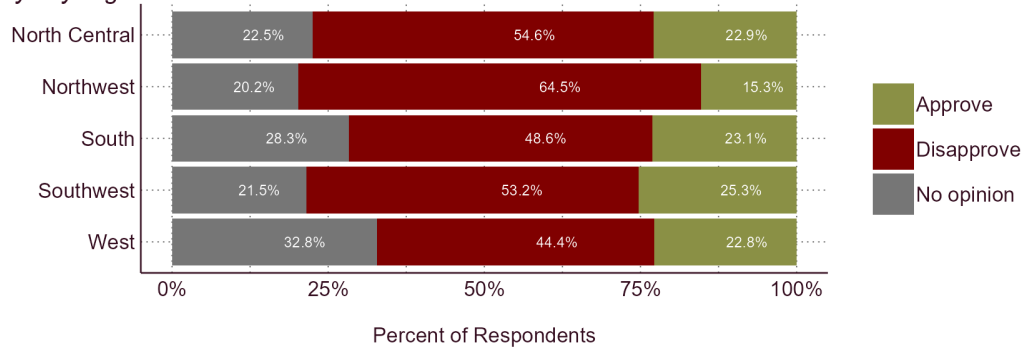
Question: In the 2027 election for Chicago mayor, who is your second choice candidate?

Sociodemographic Breakdown

General Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Brandon Johnson is handling his job as mayor?

By city region

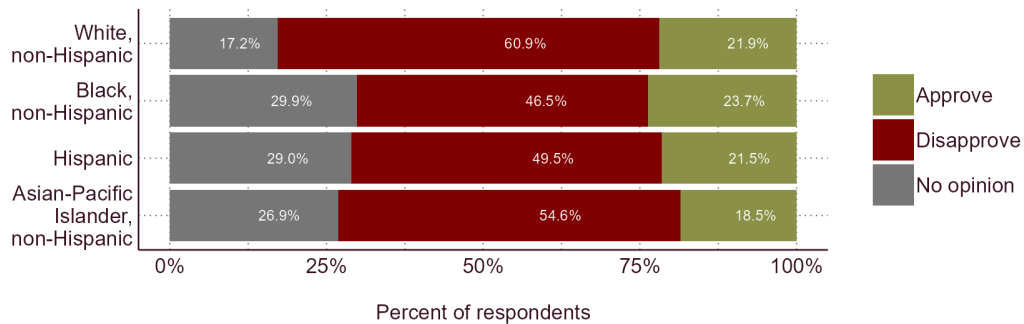


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Question: Do you [approve or disapprove/disapprove or approve] of the way Brandon Johnson is handling his job as mayor?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Brandon Johnson is handling his job as mayor?

By race and ethnic background



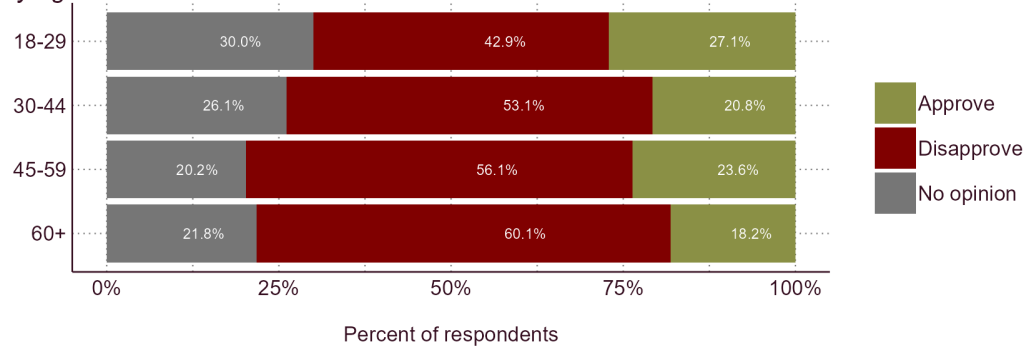
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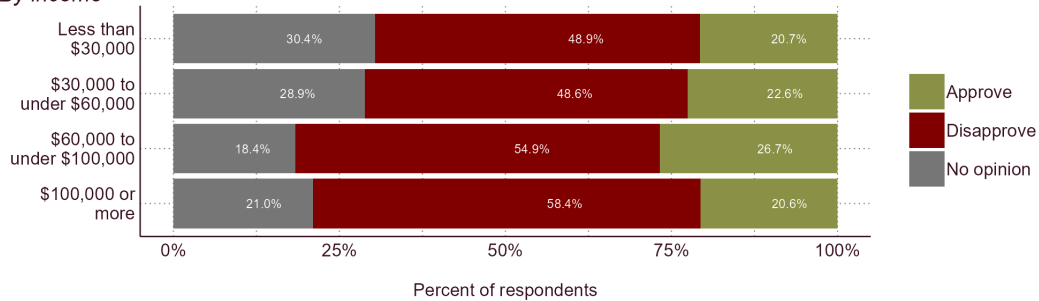
By age



Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3
 Question: Do you [approve or disapprove/disapprove or approve] of the way Brandon Johnson is handling his job as mayor?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Brandon Johnson is handling his job as mayor?

By income

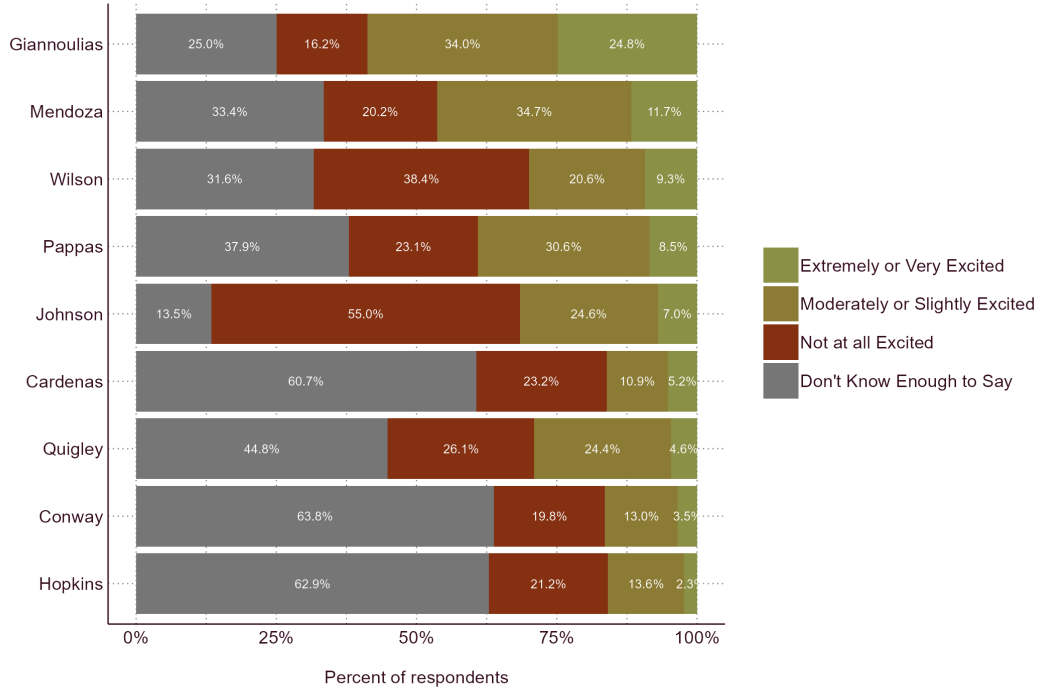


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3
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Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Detailed Levels of Excitement Among Likely Voters



Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

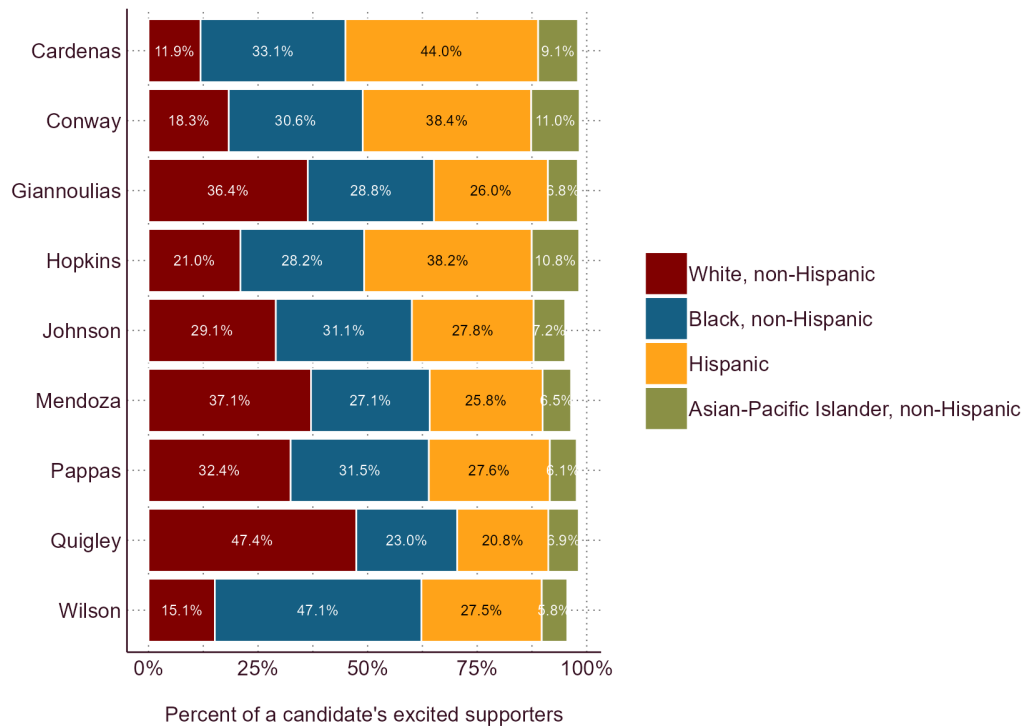
Question: There are several potential candidates for the 2027 Chicago mayoral election. Please indicate your level of excitement for each

Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

The following graphs break down various socioeconomic factors among voters who indicated they were excited for each candidate. For instance, in the following graph, of all of the voters who indicated they were excited for George Cardenas to run, 51.6% of them identified as Hispanic. Voters could indicate they were excited for multiple candidates.

Likely Voters Excited for Each Candidate

By race and ethnic background



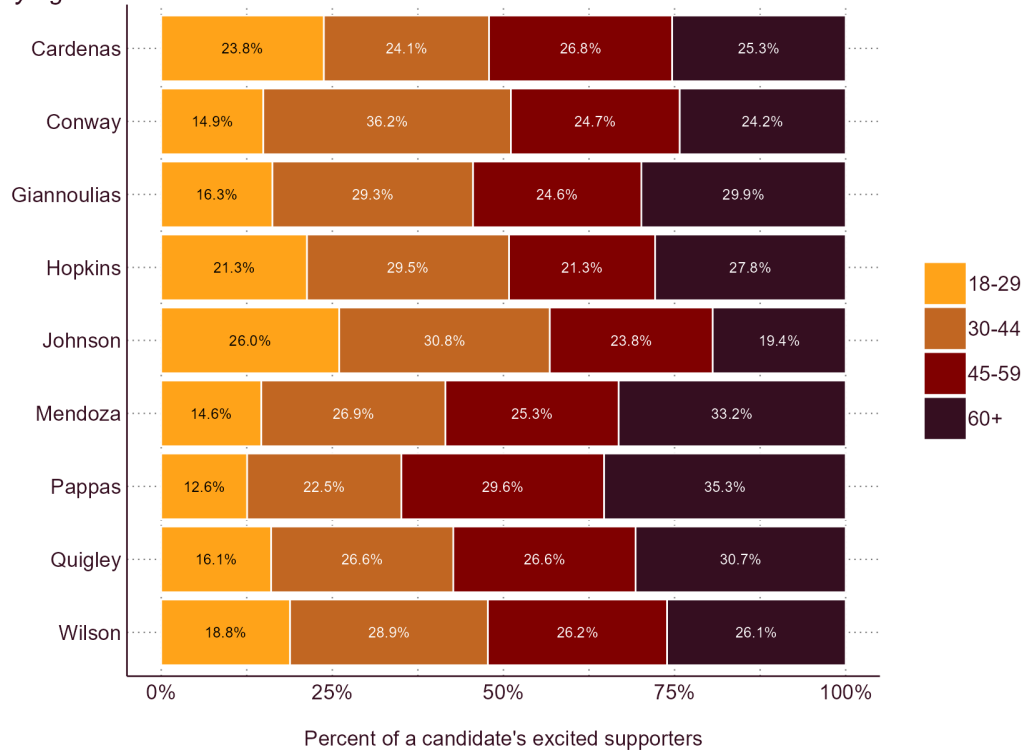
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Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Likely Voters Excited for Each Candidate

By age

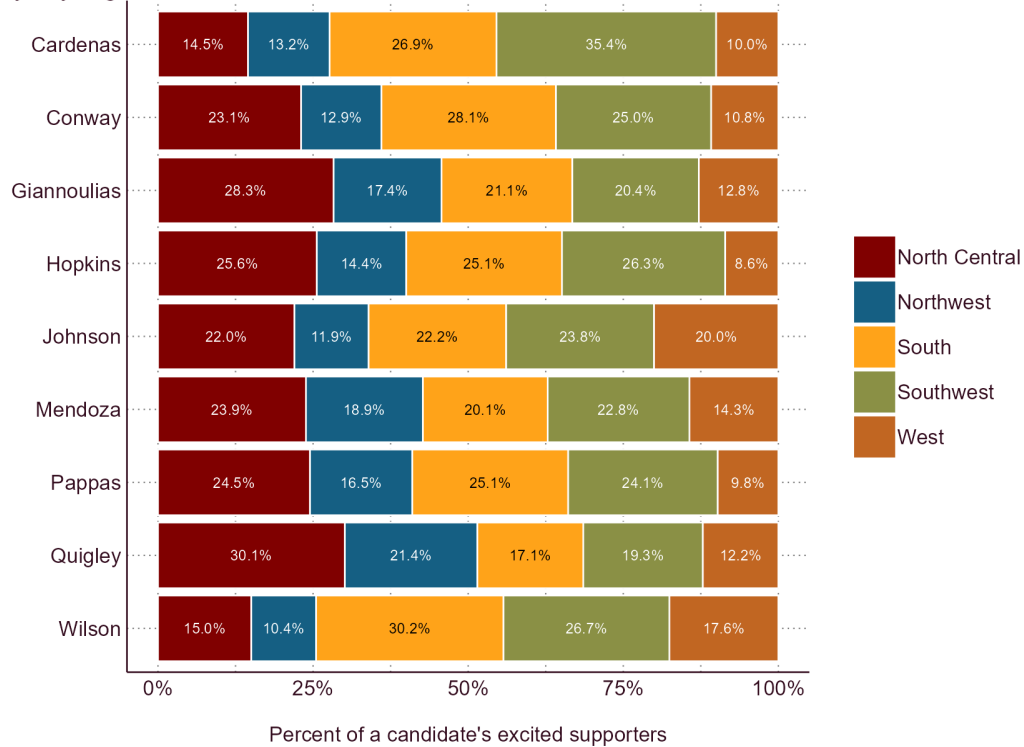


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Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Likely Voters Excited for Each Candidate

By city region

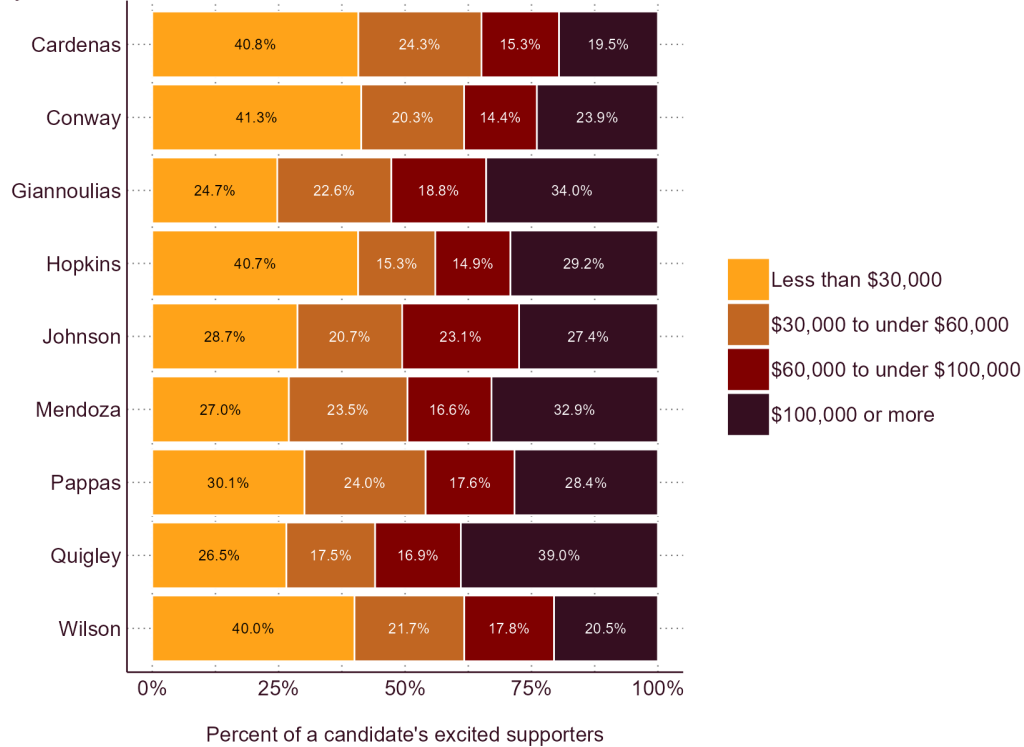


Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3
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Chicago Residents' Excitement for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Likely Voters Excited for Each Candidate

By income



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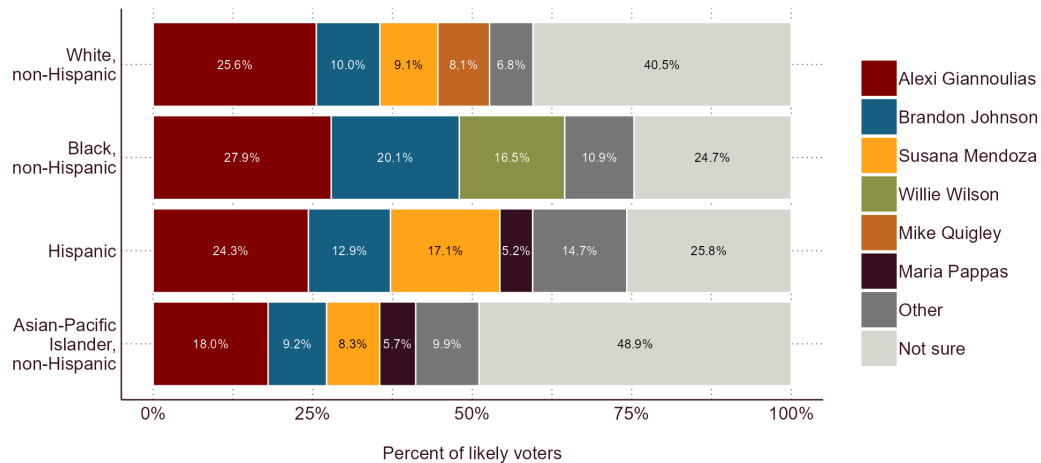
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Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

First Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

By race and ethnic background



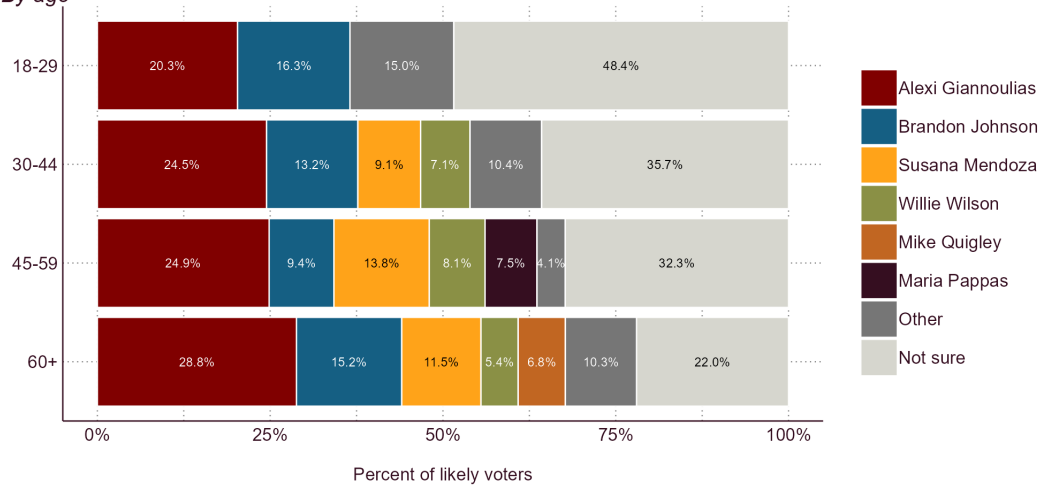
Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

Likely voters: n = 935 (unweighted)

Question: In the 2027 election for Chicago mayor, who is your first choice candidate?

First Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

By age



Source: Mansueto Institute, ChicagoSpeaks® 2026 Quarter 3

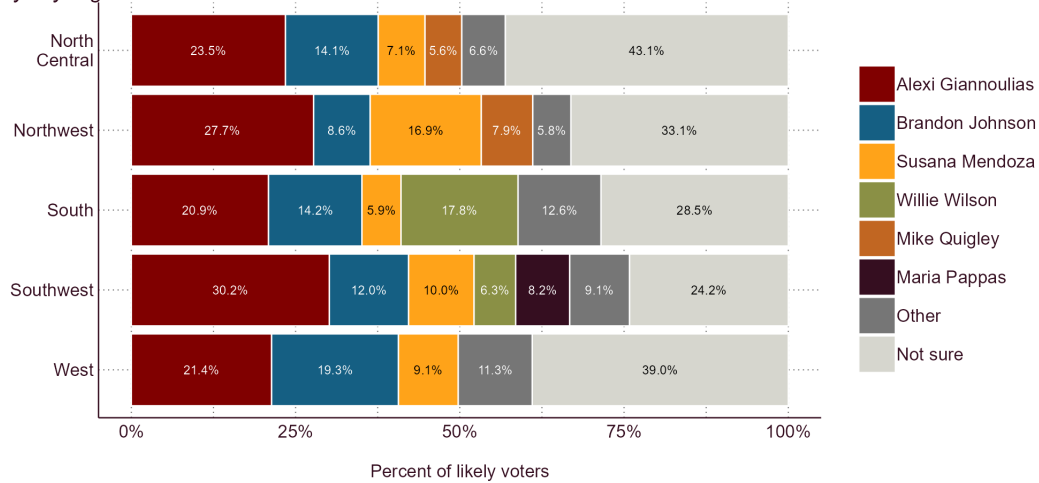
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Chicago Residents' First Choice for Potential 2027 Mayoral Candidates

First Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

By city region



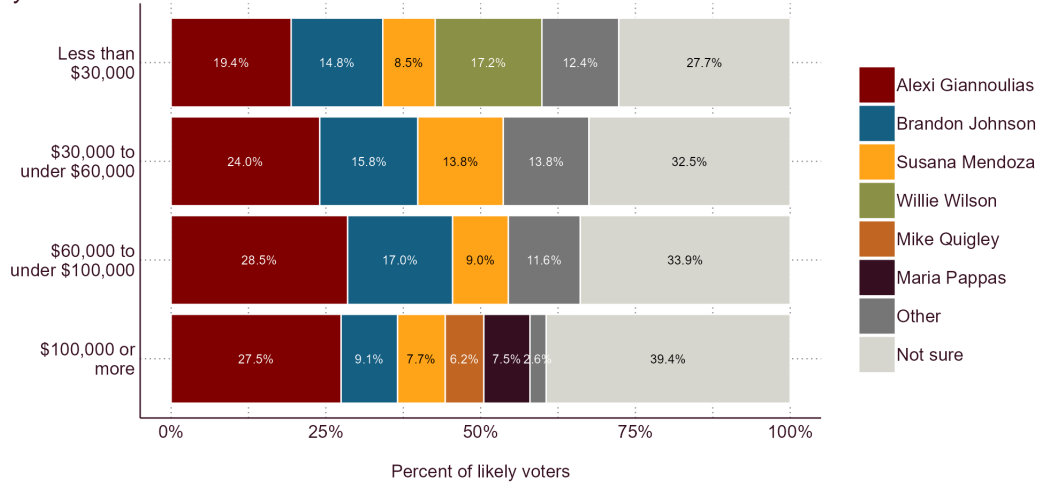
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First Choice for Mayor Among Likely Voters

By income



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