

News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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FORD STATEMENT ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) on Thursday released this statement on Black History Month and the importance of exercising the right to vote:

Dear Editor:

While most of us consider voting a fundamental right, for African Americans, this was not always the case. Although black males were given the right to vote with the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870, it was not until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that voting would be free of interference. This milestone drove a stake through the heart of Jim Crow and upheld the belief that all men are created equal.

To fully appreciate the struggles of our forefathers, we must do more than simply learn about black history. Every year, with new absentee voting and early voting measures, it becomes easier to vote, and the excuses are quickly dwindling. According to census data from 2004, around 16 million (64 percent) African Americans are registered to vote. With 25 million eligible, it is clear that we have enough representation to decide the outcome of elections.

This Black History Month, I will be visiting local schools and churches to stress the importance of voting and registering family members to vote. Please join me in setting a good example for our children by voting in the primary election on February 27 and telling your children why it is important that you did so.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative – 8th District

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