



Harold Washington Rainbow Coalition: Perspectives

Posted on April 19, 2023 by Lilia Fernandez

On March 27, a week ahead of the 2023 Chicago mayoral race, this webinar offered a historical view on multiracial coalitions in Chicago and their legacy in the city, particularly in relation to the 2023 mayoral contest between Paul Vallas and Brandon Johnson.

The event featured moderator Juan Gonzalez (co-host of *Democracy Now!*) and historians Jakobi Williams (University of Indiana), Lilia Fernandez (University of Illinois Chicago), and Gordon Mantler (George Washington University).

The participants discuss the election of the city's first black mayor, Harold Washington and the possibilities of multiracial coalition and solidarity in 2023.

Here are some highlights to guide viewing.

0:00 Welcome from Teresa Cordova, Director of the Great Cities Institute, University of Illinois Chicago

- 3:39 Juan Gonzalez on his observations of multiracial coalitions and black mayors; and panel introductions
- 8:31 Jakobi Williams on historical context
- 10:45 Williams on Rainbow Coalition
- 22:03 Lilia Fernandez on Latino Chicago and multiracial coalitions
- 37:16 Gordon Mantler on interracial coalition and Harold Washington election and mayoralty
- 51:40 2023 Chicago mayoral election
- 53:05 Historical lessons from Washington and other mayoral elections and interracial coalition today
- 1:05:48 Crime as organizing theme in electoral campaigns; police brutality as unifying issue among the poor
- 1:10:26 Role of class in coalitions like the one that elected Harold Washington
- 1:13:15 Audience questions

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