



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Kam Buckner Announces He's Running for Mayor**

CHICAGO – State Rep. Kam Buckner launched his campaign for Mayor today surrounded by friends, family and supporters from throughout the city, from Roseland to Ravenswood.

Buckner, a two-term state legislator whose district stretches from South Chicago to the Gold Coast, championed his history of bringing people together throughout his career in public service and shared his vision for Chicago's path forward.

"I'm running for Mayor, because we cannot wait a day longer for a safe and just Chicago for all of us," said Buckner, who also released [a campaign video](#) in conjunction with the announcement. "Now is the time to invest in Chicago's schools and its future to give our children more pathways to success."

The son of a Cook County law enforcement officer and CPS teacher, Buckner grew up with his four sisters in Roseland and Washington Heights and made his Mayoral announcement in the South Loop.

"I had a number of friends from High School who were shot and murdered. Who died before they were adults. That's not right. It wasn't right then and it isn't right when it happens today," Buckner said. "Where you live, shouldn't determine if you live."

During his remarks, Buckner committed to a balanced approach to safety and justice that will include increasing the gun violence prevention budget, investing in organizations doing the work on the ground, working with Springfield and Washington toward common sense gun legislation, and replenishing the ranks of CPD and increasing clearance rates.

He also vowed to negotiate the 2024 teachers contract, fight for affordable housing, and change the course of environmental injustice.

"We can create the future that our children deserve and that our city needs if we have leaders who can muster the courage and make the effort to find unity of purpose," Buckner said. "We can become one city with one future if we work to overcome the divisions and realize our full potential."





Working to bring people together through public service has been at the core of Buckner's career.

After he graduated from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and DePaul University College of Law., Buckner worked for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) and later for the Mayor of New Orleans. He went on to lead World Sport Sport Chicago, creating sports programming and mentoring to 70,000 Chicago children.

He's been a member of the Illinois House of Representatives since 2019 and serves as chairman of the Illinois House Black Caucus. In his role, he fought for more school funding, dignity for youth in foster care, better tools for retail corridors, and negotiated some of the most transformative pieces of legislation in the country around clean energy and public safety and criminal justice.

He currently lives in the Bronzeville neighborhood with his partner and their 5-month-old son.

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