CHICAGO MAYORAL ELECTION FEBRUARY 27, 2007

A <u>WARD</u> AND <u>PRECINCT</u> ANALYSIS

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Richard M. Daley was easily re-elected Mayor of Chicago for a record tying sixth term on February 27, 2007. Since Daley started his successful mayoral run in 1989 his victories have been very similar, as three crucial political realities have dominated Chicago mayoral politics. First – Daley's original 1989 electoral winning coalition of white ethnics, Latinos and Lakefronters (wards 42 - 43 – 44 – 46 – 48 – 49) has held steady in their overwhelming support for the mayor. Second – Daley's mayoral opponents have been as they were in 2007 African-American and once again these foes centered their energy mainly in the black community. Three – Daley's support among African-American voters has grown and though in 2007 it was less than in 2003, it still was politically massive.

This report will show clearly how the above mentioned political realities impacted the election results. It should be noted that though one of his two rivals, Dorothy Brown, is an elected county-wide official who has in the past demonstrated considerable vote getting ability – neither she or William Walls, the other mayoral candidate, were taken very seriously by either Daley, the media or Chicago voters. Both challengers lacked the financial resources, campaign organization and issue mastery to take on the incumbent. Thus, though they tried hard to lure the mayor into a debate on issues of city hall corruption, city service fairness, and the city's quest for the 2016 Olympic Games – the mayor never took the bait.

In the end, the results were predictable but nevertheless astounding. Despite rumblings in various aldermanic campaigns against some of Daley's city council allies who were labeled "rubberstamps"; and despite the infusion of unprecedented labor union dollars in many council races against aldermen who supported the mayor's veto of the so-called "Big Box" ordinance; and despite the fact that several city administrators and employees have been indicted and convicted in highly publicized federal court cases – Daley breezed to victory.

As Table 1 reveals Daley won every city ward, only the south side middle class black 6th ward denied him a majority of its vote (he won that ward with a plurality against his two opponents).

As in the past Daley's strength centered on his rock solid electoral base of white ethnics, Lakefronters, and Hispanics. Margin-wise (based on Brown and Walls combined vote) seven of his eleven top wards were on the city's northwest and southwest sides (#19 - 23 - 13 - 41 - 45 - 11 - 36) three others were along the north lakefront (#42 - 46 - 43) while the remaining ward was the far north side 50^{th} . Each of these wards gave Daley 6000+ vote margins.

Of special interest is the lakefront 46th ward and its Alderman Helen Shiller who in the past had been an oft-times Daley critic. Her ward is undergoing serious gentrification and this demographic change has turned the 46th into a Daley bailiwick. Alderman Shiller who won a close re-election victory herself on February 27th has followed her ward voters and has become very pro-Mayor Daley.

Daley's best African-American margin wards were the west side 29th ward led by the mayor's ally Alderman Ike Carothers and the southside 16th ward. Among Hispanic wards another long-time Daley supporter Alderman Danny Solis (25th ward - Pilsen) and 31st ward Alderman Ray Suarez (near north west side) produced the biggest margins for the incumbent.

The 2nd ward, a racially diverse and demographically shifting near south and west side ward (this ward meanders for many miles west) gave Daley a solid 4300+ margin win. In the run-off aldermanic campaign on April 17th this ward also saw its incumbent black alderman Madeline Haithcock lose to white challenger Bob Fioretti. Both Daley's landslide win and Fioretti's victory again demonstrates population movement impacting Chicago politics.

Percentage-wise Daley had three wards provide him with 90%+ of their vote #14 – 11 and 13. All three of these southwest side wards are located in Daley's former home-base and are led by such Democratic notables as city council Finance Chairman Ed Burke (14), the mayor's brother and Cook County Commissioner John Daley (11) and Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan (13). Besides Burke's ward other top percentage Hispanic Daley wards were #12 – 31 and 30. In no predominantly Hispanic ward did Daley receive less than 60% of the vote.

In all, the mayor captured 80%+ of the vote in twenty wards besides his 90%+ big three. Lastly, as stated earlier, only in the far south side 6th ward did Daley not win a majority of the vote while carrying the ward.

As for his two opponents – Brown ran best in her south side black middle-class wards (#6-8-21) and overall received at least a thousand votes in thirty-five of fifty wards. Walls followed the same pattern as Brown but ran behind her in every ward.

It is also interesting to note that only one west side ward #24 (Brown) made the top ten vote total for either losing candidate. Lower turnouts combined with some changing demographics and Daley popularity has made the west side less influential in supporting black mayoral candidates.

An even more remarkable analysis of Daley's staggering 2007 victory is a precinct-by-precinct analysis of Chicago's 2605 precincts. In his 1999 re-election victory over Congressman Bobby Rush (1-CD) Daley carried 1583 of Chicago's then 2537 precincts – a 65% winning percentage. As Table 2 reveals in 2007 Daley won 2561 of 2605 precincts – a 98.3% winning percentage! To be sure, mayoral turnout was lower in 2007 (33%) compared to 42% in 1999 and Rush did carry seventeen wards against Daley – and strangely Daley's 2007 city wide vote percentage was comparable to his 1999 percentage – thus it's the breath and scope of his latest victory that is most remarkable. (I discount Daley's 2003 re-election win in this analysis because of his minor opponents.)

Look at the numbers – Daley won a majority of the vote in -2220- precincts (85.2%) and a vote plurality in -341- precincts (13.1%). Brown carried -30- precincts, Walls -1- and -13- precincts were tied (Daley's vote was matched by Brown and Walls' combined vote). In thirty-one of Chicago's fifty wards, Daley did not lose or tie a single precinct. Not surprisingly, most of these Daley -31- "shut out" wards are situated in his coalition base areas white ethnic – Lakefront and Hispanic. However, it should be noted that in a few predominantly African-American wards Daley won every precinct and came very close to winning every precinct in several others.

Table 3 is perhaps the most illuminating analysis of this report. In twenty-eight wards, Richard Daley won precincts with an overwhelming 90%+ of the vote. City wide 243 precincts (9.3% of all Chicago precincts) were in the 90%+ Daley column.

An examination of these 90%+ precincts reveals clearly where Daley vote muscle in Chicago truly resides. His father's old power base on the city's southwest side has remained undeniably loyal to him – even after much demographic change (a large influx of Hispanics and Asians have moved into these areas). Wards 11 - 13 - 14 each had over thirty 90%+ precincts for Daley; the 11^{th} ward alone had almost 80% of its precincts come in at 90%+ for Daley; and the mayor posted 90%+ precincts along the Lakefront and in predominantly Hispanic wards.

In sum, 2007 was another Daley landslide re-election. His main opponent, Brown was a credible opposing candidate who simply got buried by the Mayor's solid electoral coalition. Predicting the future, especially in Chicago politics, is a risky business but one does not have to be a seer or a prophet to predict that unless some one can break off part of the Daley "political triple" (white ethnics, Latinos and Lakefronters) the Mayor will be tough to beat in 2011 or 2015.

Table <u>1</u> CHICAGO 2007 MAYORAL ELECTION

2/27/07

Richard M. Daley Dorothy H. Brown William Walls III

| City wide vote | 324519 | 91878 | 40368 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Margin - Daley | | | |
| Vs. Brown & Walls | 192273 | | |
| Margin - Daley | | | |
| Vs. Brown | 232641 | | |
| Wards won - | | | |
| majority | - 49 - | 0 | 0 |
| Wards won - | | | |
| plurality | - 1 - | 0 | 0 |
| Total wards won | - 50 - | 0 | 0 |
| % | 71.05% | 20.11% | 8.8% |

Table <u>2</u>
CHICAGO 2007 MAYORAL ELECTION
2/27/07

Precinct Analysis

| Ward | Precincts in Ward | Daley Majority wins v Brown & Walls | Daley Plurality wins v Brown & Walls | Ties No Daley Plurality | Brown Wins | Walls Wins |
|------|-------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 50 | 49 | 1 | | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 60 | 49 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | 54 | 32 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 | 55 | 39 | 15 | | 1 | 0 |
| 5 | 55 | 35 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | 64 | 19 | 42 | | 3 | 0 |
| 7 | 65 | 53 | 11 | | 1 | 0 |
| 8 | 70 | 34 | 31 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 9 | 53 | 37 | 14 | | 2 | 0 |
| 10 | 49 | 48 | 1 | | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 50 | 50 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 24 | 24 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 50 | 50 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 35 | 35 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 52 | 32 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 46 | 33 | 12 | | 1 | 0 |
| 17 | 64 | 45 | 18 | | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | 62 | 50 | 12 | | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | 67 | 65 | 2 | | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | 50 | 30 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | 74 | 43 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | 29 | 27 | 1 | | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | 56 | 55 | 1 | | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | 59 | 30 | 25 | | 4 | 0 |
| 25 | 31 | 31 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |

CHICAGO 2007 MAYORAL ELECTION

2/27/07

Precinct Analysis

| Ward | Precincts in Ward | Daley Majority wins v Brown & Walls | Daley Plurality wins v Brown & Walls | Ties No Daley Plurality | Brown Wins | Walls Wins |
|------|-------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 26 | 63 | 62 | 1 | | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | 59 | 46 | 9 | | 3 | 1 |
| 28 | 61 | 44 | 15 | | 2 | 0 |
| 29 | 52 | 49 | 3 | | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | 41 | 41 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | 51 | 51 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | 52 | 52 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | 27 | 27 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 34 | 61 | 50 | 10 | | 1 | 0 |
| 35 | 36 | 36 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | 55 | 55 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 37 | 43 | 32 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 38 | 53 | 53 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 39 | 47 | 47 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 40 | 49 | 49 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 41 | 57 | 57 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 42 | 69 | 69 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 43 | 59 | 59 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | 51 | 51 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 45 | 53 | 53 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 46 | 47 | 47 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 47 | 52 | 52 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 48 | 56 | 56 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 49 | 42 | 42 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 50 | 45 | 45 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |

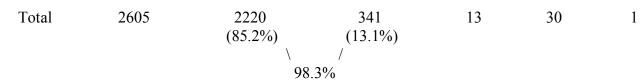


Table 3 Daley 90% + Wards

| Ward | Precincts over 90% | Total Precincts in Ward |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 50 |
| 10 | 5 | 49 |
| 11 | 39 | 50 |
| 12 | 11 | 24 |
| 13 | 34 | 50 |
| 14 | 32 | 35 |
| 16 | 1 | 46 |
| 19 | 5 | 67 |
| 22 | 4 | 29 |
| 23 | 17 | 56 |
| 25 | 1 | 31 |
| 27 | 1 | 59 |
| 29 | 2 | 52 |
| 30 | 3 | 41 |
| 31 | 13 | 51 |
| 32 | 2 | 52 |
| 33 | 2 | 27 |
| 36 | 9 | 55 |
| 38 | 9 | 53 |
| 39 | 10 | 47 |
| 40 | 2 | 49 |
| 41 | 2 | 57 |
| 42 | 16 | 69 |
| 43 | 7 | 59 |
| 44 | 2 | 51 |
| 46 | 1 | 47 |
| 47 | 3 | 52 |
| 50 | 9 | 45 |
| Total | 243 | |

% of 90%+ Daley Precincts -City wide