



Former Cook County Commissioner Richard R. Boykin, 1st District, began his career in public service as a Lyndon B. Johnson Intern for U.S. Representative Bobby Rush. He went on to serve as a Congressional Black Caucus Fellow for former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, the first African American woman elected to the United States Senate.

Former Commissioner Boykin went on to make his mark as Legislative Director and then Chief of Staff to U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis. He served as Congressman Davis' Chief of Staff for nine years, where he was responsible for a staff of twenty-two and a \$1.4 million annual budget. He was instrumental in the Congressman's welfare-to-work, health care, energy and utility, and appropriations accomplishments.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi and raised in the Englewood community in Chicago, Former Commissioner Boykin spent a part of his childhood on public assistance. He attended Chicago Vocational High School and accepted an athletic scholarship to Central State University (CSU) in Ohio. While at CSU, Former Commissioner Boykin majored in Political Science, and consistently made the National Dean's List, going on to attain the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1990. In 2015, Central State University inducted Former Commissioner Boykin into its Achievement Hall of Fame.

Following graduation, Former Commissioner Boykin returned to Chicago to teach in the Chicago Public Schools for a year. In 1991, he began his legal education at the University of Dayton, School of Law. In 1992 he received the prestigious Benjamin H. Logan NAACP Scholarship in recognition of his excellence in legal education.

Former Commissioner Boykin practiced law in the Chicago and Washington D.C. offices of Barnes & Thornburg LLP. In November of 2014 he was elected Cook County Former Commissioner for the 1st District, and sworn in on December 1, 2014. His agenda on the County Board of Commissioners prioritizes the reduction of gun violence, criminal justice reform, jobs, economic development, and the expansion of mental health services.

Former Commissioner Boykin has been a champion for human rights. He demanded a Department of Justice investigation into allegations of Human and Civil Rights violations at the Homan Square Police site. Former Commissioner Boykin led the initiative to place referendum question regarding expanded funding for mental health treatment on the November 2014 ballot. The referendum was county-wide and passed with over 1.4 million votes. Former Commissioner Boykin led the effort to encourage Facebook to be more responsive in removing horrific and vile videos from their platform.

In 2015, Former Commissioner Boykin was the sponsor of numerous ordinances that benefited the residents of Cook County, including: a "no choke" ordinance that bans Cook County Law Enforcement from using chokeholds on suspects; an ordinance that created stiffer financial penalties for individuals caught carrying illegal handguns; an ordinance that created a Cook County Commission on Youth; an ordinance placing a tax on ammunition; an ordinance creating a Cook County Gun Violence Coordinator and Task Force; an ordinance that removed the tax on Feminine Hygiene Products and an ordinance that urged Cook County Law Enforcement to adopt the ACLU's Stop and Frisk recommendations. Further, he stood with the people and voted "no" to the 1% sales tax increase and he voted "no" on the beverage tax increase.