



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2025

CONTACT

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMS MICHAEL BELSKY AS CITY OF CHICAGO COMPTROLLER

Belsky is a public finance expert who will lead City's financial operations and guide fiscal strategy.

CHICAGO — Mayor Brandon Johnson today announced the City Council's confirmation of Michael Belsky as the City of Chicago's new Comptroller, following a unanimous vote by City Council. In this role, Belsky will be responsible for ensuring the integrity, accuracy, and compliance of the City's financial operations.

"Michael Belsky brings decades of experience in finance, government and public service, and I'm proud to officially welcome him as our City Comptroller," **Mayor Brandon Johnson** said. "His steady leadership and deep knowledge of municipal finance will be critical as we continue building a more affordable and financially stable Chicago."

As Comptroller, Belsky will oversee critical functions including accounting, payroll, audit readiness, and financial reporting. Belsky will lead efforts to continue strengthening the City's financial systems and transparency.

"It's an honor to serve the City of Chicago in this role and I'm grateful for the opportunity to work alongside a dedicated team to tackle the City's fiscal challenges and help drive meaningful progress," **Comptroller Michael Belsky** said. "I look forward to working with Mayor Johnson, the City Council and with our exceptional fiscal teams to strengthen the City's financial health."

Belsky has served as Acting Comptroller since May 2025 and brings a wealth of knowledge with over 35 years of experience spanning state, county and local governments, as well as



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



the private sector. He previously served as the inaugural Executive Director of the Center for Municipal Finance at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, where he led research and advised on the fiscal sustainability of cities and states on a national level. Belsky has held senior leadership positions in several financial service organizations, including more than a decade at Fitch Ratings, where he rose to the position of Group Managing Director and was named Top Rating Agency Executive, for three consecutive years, by a poll of major investors.

In addition to his financial expertise, Belsky has a strong record of public service, having spent 16 years serving first as a suburban City Council member and eventually as Mayor of Highland Park, Illinois, where he was recognized for fiscal management, his adoption of a climate- protection plan and for championing affordable housing. His career has centered on municipal bond markets, investment strategy, and public budgeting.

"As Comptroller, I'm committed to working closely with the CFO and the budget director to help put Chicago on a path of consistently balanced budgets," **Belsky** said. "My priorities include delivering timely, accurate, and transparent financial statements; maximizing revenue collection by fully staffing our parking enforcement and tax auditing teams; and continuing to leverage technology for more data-driven and equitable enforcement. I'm also focused on accelerating payments to vendors and delegate agencies that rely on City funding to do critical work in our communities."

Most recently, Belsky served on Governor J.B. Pritzker's Transition Committee on Finance and Debt and has advised the City of Chicago, several sister agencies and other governments on sound fiscal management, financial forecasting and budgeting best practices.

Belsky holds a Bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Lake Forest College and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Chicago. He brings the experience, leadership and vision needed to assist in advancing the City's financial operations with transparency, fiscal discipline and a strategic focus on long-term stability and inclusive growth. His appointment reflects Mayor Johnson's continued commitment to strong financial stewardship, accountability and forward-looking governance that delivers meaningful results for all Chicagoans.



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



###