

NEW LEADERSHIP

CCSSR1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

In 1983, Harold Washington was the first African American elected mayor of Chicago. He brought important reforms. Read this speech and then answer the question.

Harold Washington’s Acceptance Speech – April 12th, 1983

Tonight we are here. Tonight we are here to celebrate a resounding victory. We, we have fought a good fight. We have finished our course. And we have kept the faith. We fought that good fight. We fought it, with unseasoned weapons and with a phalanx of people who mostly have never been involved in a political campaign before. This has truly been a pilgrimage. Our government will be moving forward as well, including more people. And more kinds of people, than any government in the history of Chicago. Today... today... today, Chicago has seen the bright daybreak for this city and for perhaps this entire country. The whole nation is watching as Chicago is so powerful in this! Oh yes, they’re watching.

Out of the crucible... Out of the crucible of this city’s most trying election, carried on the tide of the most massive voter turn out in Chicago’s history. Blacks. Whites. Hispanics. Jews. Gentiles. Protestant and Catholics of all stripes. Have joined hands to form a new democratic coalition. And... and to begin in this place a new democratic movement.

The talents and dreams of our citizens and neighborhoods will nourish our government the way it should be cherished and feed into the moving river of mankind. And we have kept the faith in ourselves as decent, caring people who gather together as a part of something greater than themselves. We never stopped believing that we were a part of something good and something that had never happened before.

We intend to revitalize and rebuild this city. To open its doors and be certain that its babies are healthy! And its old people are fed and well-housed. We intend, we intend that our city will grow again and bring prosperity to ALL of its citizens.

Extended Response

How was Harold Washington’s election like the election in 2008 of Barack Obama?

Use information from the speech and what you know about the 2008 election to answer.

Make notes in the chart, then write your response.

Information from the Speech	Ideas and Information from My Experience