Let's Talk.

No pitch, no obligation. Ask us anything, and if you want to learn more, a volunteer will sit down with you to discuss. Free.

linktr.ee/ilbtccouncil

info@illinoisbitcoincouncil.org

Greater Chicagoland Area

Scan the QR and fill out the short form to become a free member!

Proof, Not Theory

50%

lower card processing fees when customers pay in bitcoin

Dan Edwards, COO Steak 'n Shake

Steak 'n Shake has accepted bitcoin over the Lightning Network at its U.S. locations since May 2025. Founded in Normal, Illinois, 1934



"As a salon owner serving the Chicago community, accepting bitcoin gives my customers another way to support a local business while using money they truly own. It's about more than a payment. It's about building stronger, more connected communities and helping create a future where local merchants have greater freedom and control."

Staci Costopoulos,
Owner of Angie's Hair Studio

Chicago Merchants Network

Bitcoin payments.
Chicago businesses.
One network.

What You Get

FREE TO JOIN

Free education

-16 week “What Is Bitcoin?” course
https://edu.myfirstbitcoin.io/course/finance-lit-and-btc-ed

-8 week Lightning Network for SMBs course edu.myfirstbitcoin.io/course/ln-for-smbs

Listed in the network

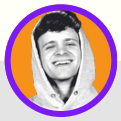
Customers looking to spend bitcoin in Chicago find you

Free gets you found.
Node status gets you promoted.

Merchant Node **$210/yr**

- A voice in Springfield speaking on your behalf to support positive Bitcoin legislation
- Featured in our newsletter and across IBC socials
- Collaborate with other Chicago merchants
- “IBC Member” & “Bitcoin Accepted Here” stickers
- Merchant meetups, working groups, etc

Why accept bitcoin?



“[The banks are] effectively holding merchants hostage and bribing the person at checkout.”

On card networks charging merchants 3–5% and funding customer rewards with it.

Jack Mallers, founder of Strike, born & raised in Chicago

Lower Fees Than Credit Cards

Instant Settlement

No Chargebacks

CASE STUDY

Fork & Coin



An Asian-influenced public house opening in Portage Park in 2026, new American bar fare, craft drinks, and a members-first supper club. Built from day one to run on bitcoin.

3938 N Central Ave, Chicago, IL 60634

info@forkandcoin.com

(312) 925-3938

The Illinois Bitcoin Council is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit. IBC holds no affiliation, endorsement, or partnership with Square, Block, Strike, Fork & Coin, Steak 'n Shake, or Staci Costopoulous. Figures cited are as reported by the companies named. Verify integrations independently. Nothing here is financial, tax, or legal advice.