

# Budget Presentation of Cook County Clerk David Orr

October 23, 2013





**COOK COUNTY CLERK DAVID ORR**

69 W. Washington, Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60602



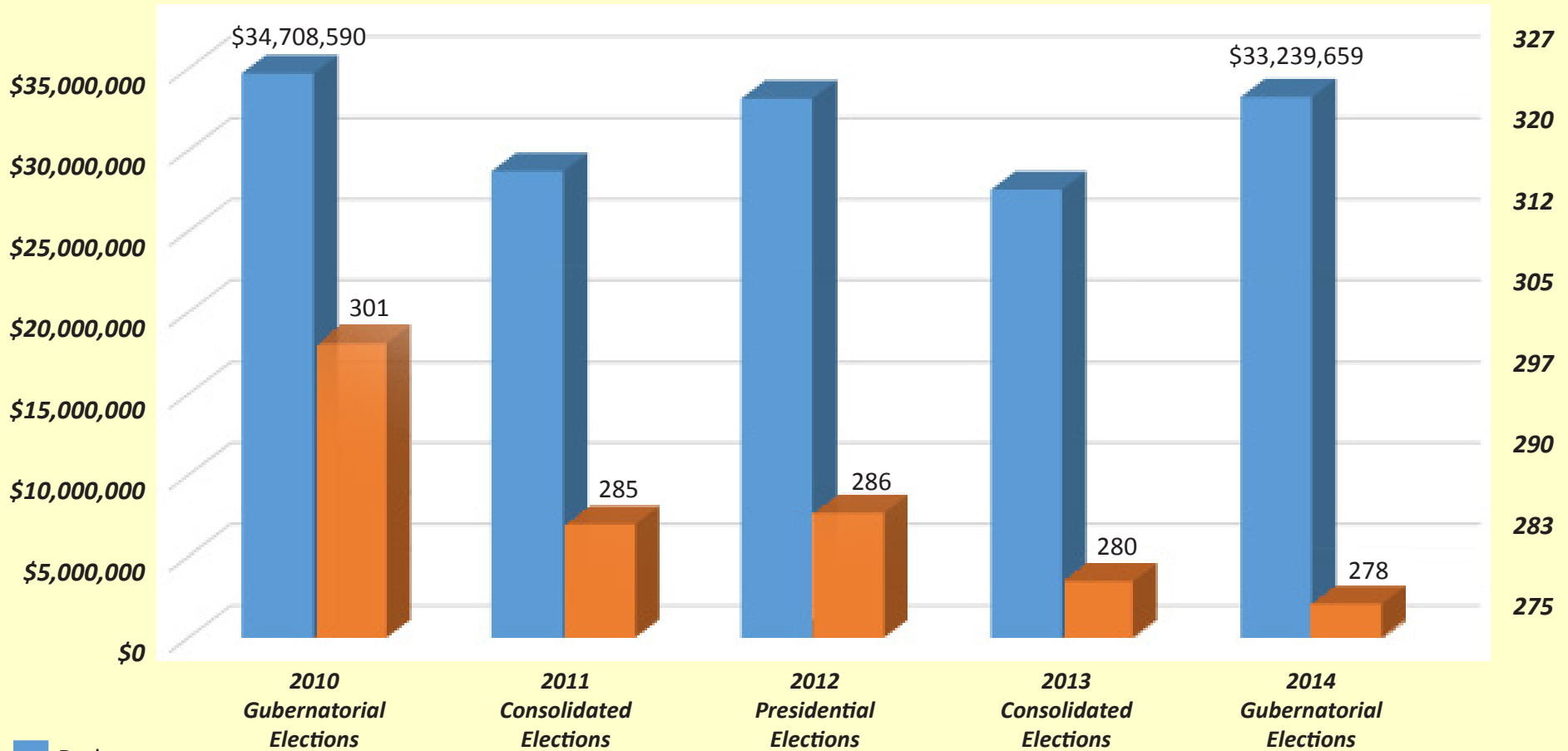
TEL (312) 603-0996 FAX (312) 603-9788 WEB [cookcountyclerk.com](http://cookcountyclerk.com)

Good afternoon Chairman Daley and County Commissioners. Thank you for your continued support for time- and money-saving initiatives in the Cook County Clerk's office. I am pleased to present you with our budget for 2014.

We continue to do more with less. We have undertaken new projects and adopted many innovations even with a reduced budget:

- √ Our total budget is down \$1.47 million from 2010, the last comparable election year.
- √ Our 524 Elections account alone has been cut by nearly \$1 million, a 4 percent decrease since 2010.
- √ Our head count is down 7.6 percent since 2010, from 310 to 278 employees. This includes two positions cut for the 2014 budget.
- √ Our revenue exceeds our corporate 110 budget by \$800,000.

# FTE Down 7.6% Since 2010



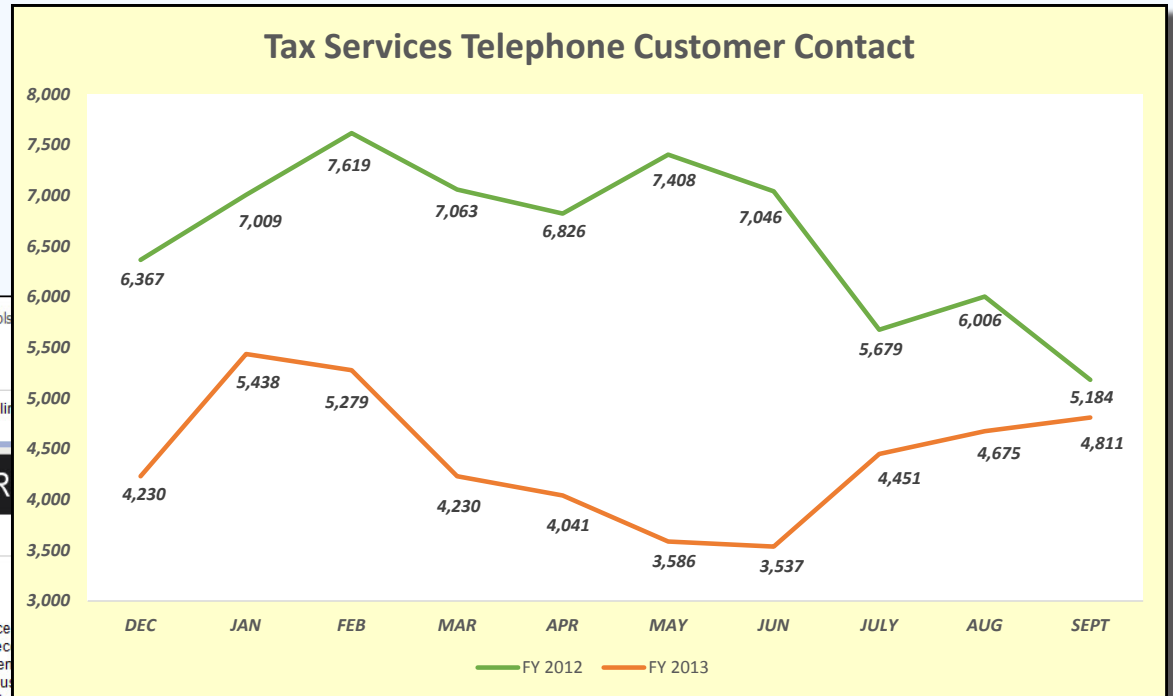
## New responsibilities and features by year

Year	New responsibilities and features
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobbyist Online</li> <li>No-excuse mail voting</li> <li>Online TIF search</li> <li>Assumed responsibility for birth/death records from Chicago Dept. of Public Health</li> </ul>
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil unions</li> <li>Statements of Economic Interests Online</li> <li>Precinct reduction - \$1M savings/year</li> </ul>
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County tax portal online</li> <li>Commemorative Certificates</li> <li>Smartphone voter tool</li> </ul>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online delinquent property tax search</li> <li>Wallet certificates</li> <li>Online voter registration bill signed</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 year old voting (January)</li> <li>Online mail ballot application (February)</li> <li>Online voter registration (summer)</li> <li>TIF information on tax bills (2nd installment)</li> </ul>

Our multi-year strategic planning has allowed us to adopt new technology and cross-train staff to work in several divisions.

Just one example is our 20 Year Tax Search tool. At the beginning of the 2013 fiscal year we launched an online system allowing individuals, property owners and banks to search for outstanding or sold taxes on our website. The result was 33% fewer phone calls to Tax Services over a comparable period during the previous year.

# 33% Drop in Customer Calls with Launch of Delinquent Property Tax Search



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**DAVID ORR** COOK COUNTY CLERK

Vital Records | Elections - Suburban Cook County | Real Estate and Tax Services | Ethics Filings

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- Tax Redemption
- Delinquent Property Tax Search
- Tax Extension
- Tax Agency Reports
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts
- Tax Maps
- FAQ
- Glossary

## Delinquent Property Tax Search

When delinquent or unpaid taxes are sold by the Cook County Treasurer's office, you can provide us with an Estimate Cost of Redemption, detailing the amount needed to pay the taxes and the amount of interest. The Clerk's office also provides calculations of delinquent taxes. Delinquent taxes are either "open" (pending action or review) or "forfeited" (previously sold, forfeited or open, for prior years (currently defined as 2010 and earlier)). Please enter your property address and parcel number in the search box below. For 2011 taxes, please visit the [Cook County Treasurer's website](#).



Office of the Cook County Clerk

New Search Print

10-20-228-037-0000  
Data as of 10/20/2013

### Sold Taxes

Tax Sale ?	From Year - To Year (Scav Sale Only)	Status ?	Status Document Number ?	Date	Comment
2009 Annual Sale		Sold		7/19/2011	URGENT

The tax sale noted "URGENT" is within six months of the last day for redemption, as currently shown in the Clerk's records. Please contact our office at (312) 603-5645.

### Delinquent Taxes

Tax Year	Status ?	Forfeit Date	1st Installment Tax Balance	2nd Installment Tax Balance	Type	Warrant Year ?
1992	Forfeited	2/8/1994	\$26.32	\$28.60		
<b>Total Tax Balance Due*</b>			<b>\$26.32</b>	<b>\$28.60</b>		

\*Tax Balance Due does not include penalties.  
[Click here for information on ordering a calculation of taxes that have been forfeited or are open.](#)

After the December 2012 launch of our Delinquent Property Tax Search, our Tax Services division experienced a significant drop in customer calls. From FY 2012 to FY 2013, the number of calls dropped 33 percent.

At a time when elections are more demanding than ever, we have to take on new responsibilities without increasing our budget or positions.

In elections alone, we have had several changes in just a few years:

√ no fault mail balloting

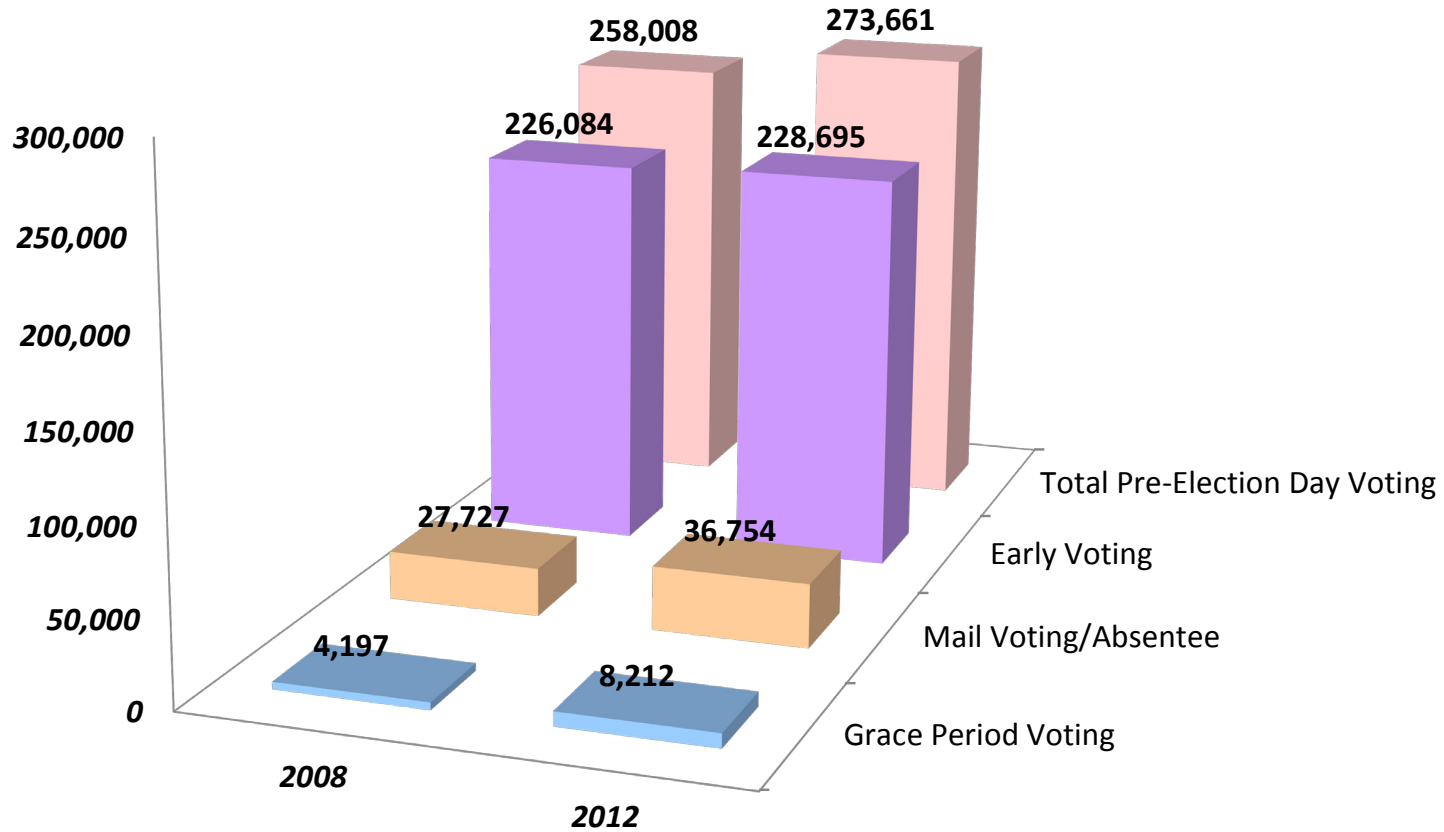
√ a longer grace period

√ early voting closer to election day

√ unveiling judge connect—a web-based judge communications tool

√ and a new online ballot request system for overseas and military voters

## Pre-Election Day Voting Continues to Climb



■ Grace Period Voting   ■ Mail Voting/Absentee   ■ Early Voting   ■ Total Pre-Election Day Voting

While overall turnout dipped slightly from 2008 to 2012, the number of voters casting ballots before Election Day grew to 27 percent of all ballots cast. Nearly twice as many people registered and voted during the grace period and mail voting increased by 33 percent.

This coming year will see more innovations. The 2013 elections omnibus bill, HB 2418 passed this summer, charged us with many new tasks to implement for the 2014 gubernatorial primary and general elections. We expect our technological experience to really pay off when we adopt online mail ballot requests and when the State of Illinois implements online voter registration in July.

Here are a few highlights from 2013 and projections for 2014:



**MAIL BALLOT REQUESTS:** As part of HB 2418, election authorities may accept mail ballot requests online, beginning with the March 18 primary. We are now developing an interface to provide this service to voters. This dovetails nicely with the law passed several years ago to allow voting by mail

without an excuse. Online mail ballot requests will simplify the process for voters and our office by cutting out some back-and-forth in the mail.

Already, our vigorous mail balloting and early voting programs mean that 27 percent of voters cast their ballots before Election Day for the 2012 presidential election, up from 24 percent in 2008.

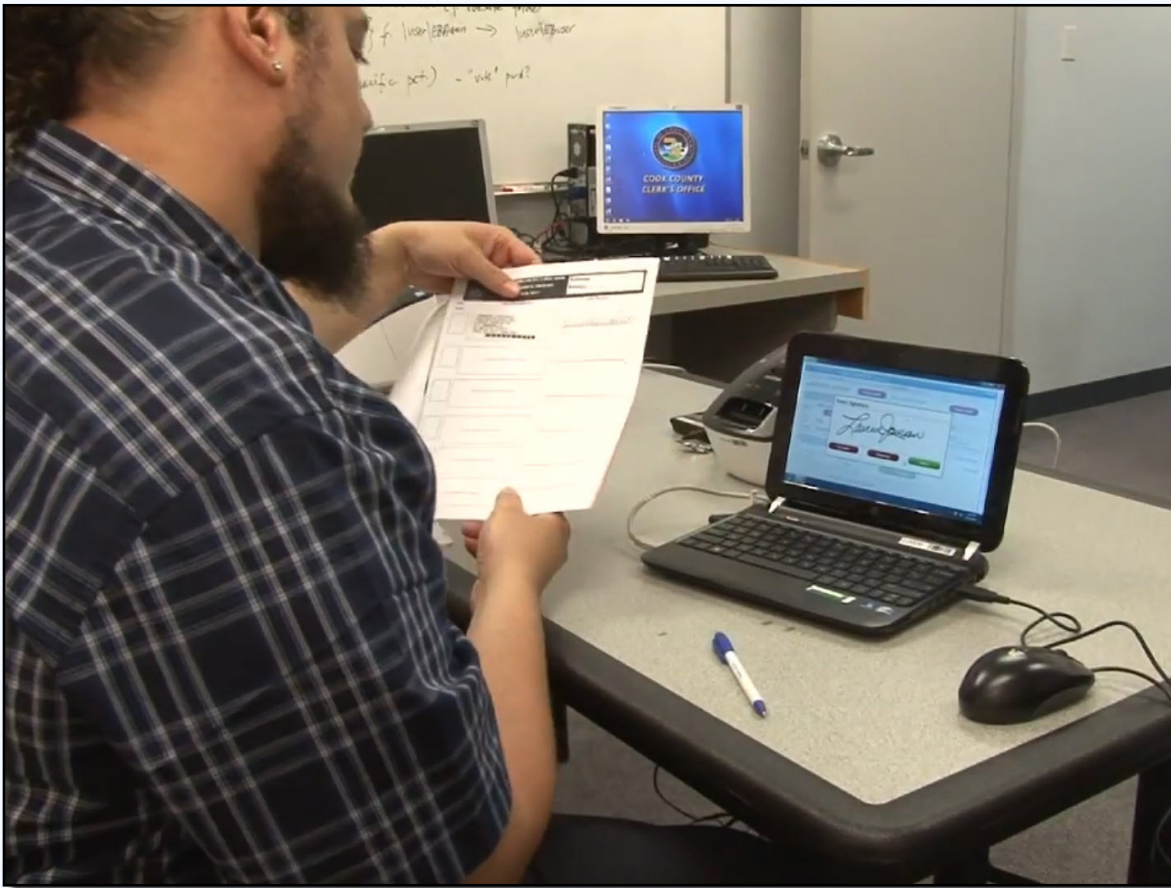


**ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION:** Another key provision of HB 2418 is the requirement for Illinois to offer online voter registration to eligible citizens with driver's licenses and state IDs, beginning in July. I have been a longtime proponent of online voter registration, which 18 other states already offer.

The benefits of online voter registration include lower costs and fewer errors and omissions from voter registration forms. We expect to realize similar advantages since direct data transmission from the Secretary of State and State Board of Elections eliminates the need to scan applications.



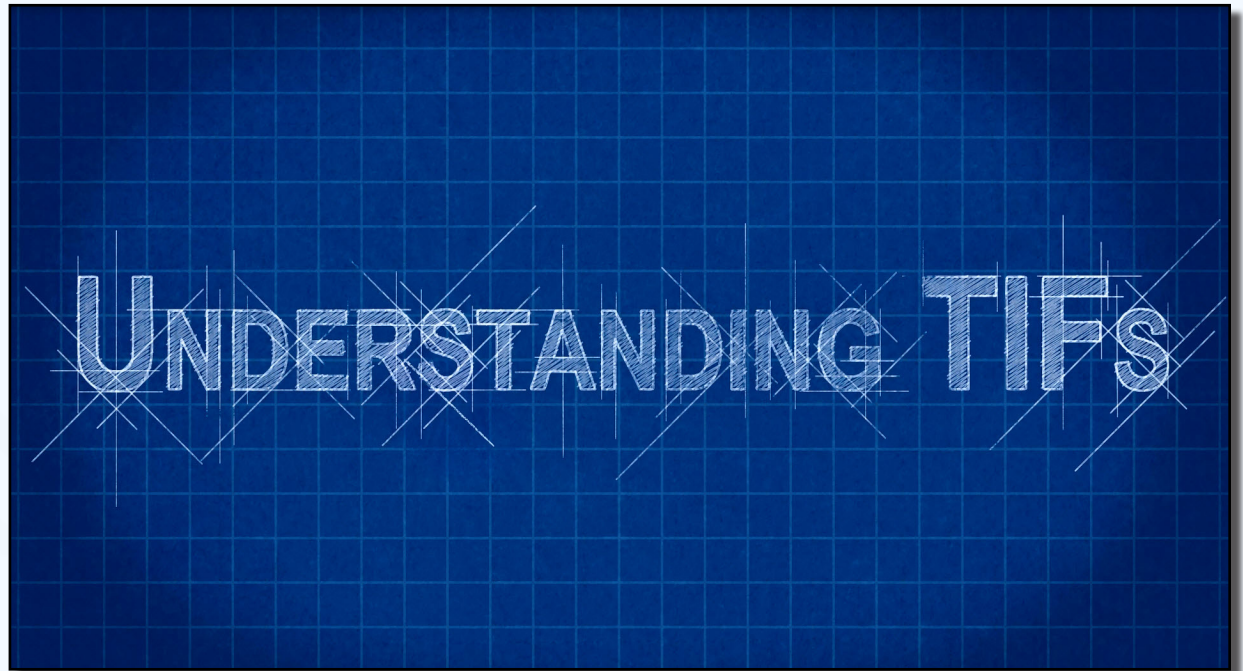
**ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS:** In April 2013 we conducted a successful trial using electronic pollbooks in precincts on Election Day. E-pollbooks reduce check-in time, eliminate errors in processing provisional ballots and help judges easily re-direct 'lost' voters to their proper precincts. In 2014, we will expand our use of e-pollbooks, deploying them in up to half of our precincts by November.



Like the high-speed mail sorter we purchased in 2012, our e-pollbooks were purchased with grant funds, allowing taxpayers to benefit without bearing the cost of acquisition.

**NEW MEDIA:** Since releasing our Smartphone Voter Tool, which lets voters check their voter registration and ballot information on the go, we have beefed up our use of other new media. Notably, we now have YouTube videos in multiple languages, including a guide to voter registration, and a deputy registrar training refresher.

“Understanding TIFs,” a primer on TIF districts, was released in July. It is already one of our most popular videos, and has been linked to many organizational and media websites.



We are also working on ways to harness the power of resources like Twitter, which can allow voters to have access to information on the fly on Election Day.

**ASSUMED BUSINESS NAMES:** Our Bureau of Vital Records continues to use technology to improve customer service. Last year, we worked with the Secretary of State to dramatically reduce wait time for issuing a Notary Commission. With the help of the County Board, we also standardized fees this year.

**COOK COUNTY CLERK** ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION

You may search the Assumed Business Name Registration Database by business name, owner name, address or registration number. For best results, search by business name and leave the other fields blank. The database is updated in real time.

Registration applications that have been voided or are pending will not be displayed among your search results.

**Assumed Business Name Search**

File Number:  Assumed Business Name:  Owner Name:

Address:  City:  Zip Code:

[Clear](#)

Records returned: 6

Only the top 100 records will be displayed. Refine your search criteria to locate more accurate results.

LANDSCAPING BY DESIGN		
No: D91004145	File Date: 9/4/1991	Status: APPROVED
LANDSCAPING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION		
<b>Business Address(es)</b>	<b>Business Owner(s)</b>	
1) 0 P.O. BOX 115, WINNETKA, IL 60093	1) WILLIAM E MUSSETT, JR	

LANDSCAPING ELEGANCE		
No: D07107387	File Date: 5/10/2007	Status: APPROVED
LANDSCAPING		
<b>Business Address(es)</b>	<b>Business Owner(s)</b>	
1) 10510 FULLERTON AVENUE, MELROSE PARK, IL 60164	1) ENZA VICARI	

LANDSCAPING EXPRESS		
No: D07106249	File Date: 2/28/2007	Status: APPROVED
LANDSCAPING SERVICES		

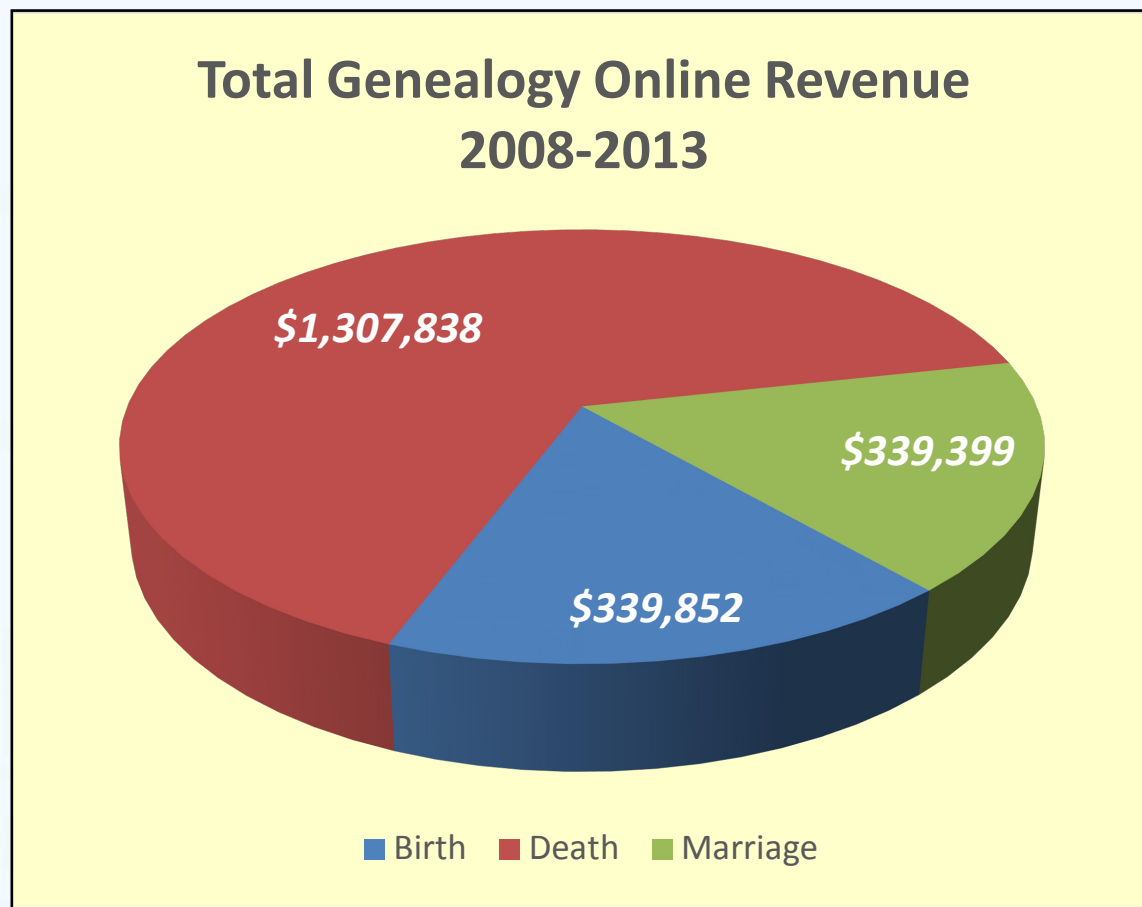
We just finished revamping our Assumed Business Names system in September by creating an online system to modernize business name registration, and to allow consumers to browse the database. We also upgraded the official documents we provide to businesses. Altogether, our new practices are more user-friendly and should generate more revenue.

**LICENSING SOFTWARE AND PRODUCTS:** This past year, the Bureau of Vital Records also launched a new software application for managing marriage and civil union records in Cook County. This software program has many features, including capturing modern data, such as email addresses.

It also allowed us to bring a new product online in 2013—wallet-sized official marriage and civil union certificates. These certificates appeal to partners with different last names, frequent travelers, and same-sex couples. Many couples purchase these in addition to, not in place of, traditional, full-sized certificates.



**GENEALOGY ENHANCEMENT:** The Bureau of Vital Records continues to scan and index new genealogical records to market through our Genealogy Online portal. CookCountyGenealogy.com has now brought in more than \$2 million since its launch in July 2008. That's more than 130,000 genealogy records sold in five years. We expect revenues to remain steady as more records age into availability.



# TIF AMOUNTS ON TAX BILL:

For the summer of 2014, we will add the tax amount the Tax Increment Financing district will receive to the TIF line item already found on the tax bill. This will allow citizens to compare how much of their tax bill is going to the taxing bodies, like schools, and how much is going to the TIF. We are working with the Bureau of Technology to implement this transparency initiative.

**COMING  
2014**

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE		2012 Second Installment Property Tax Bill					
<b>\$1,597.01</b>		Property Index Number (PIN)	Volume	Code	Tax Year (Payable In)	Township	Classification
By 08/01/13 (on time)		16-99-377-000-0000	004	11002	2012 (2013)	BERWYN	2-02
IF PAYING LATE	08/02/13-09/01/13	09/02/13-10/01/13	10/02/13-11/01/13	LATE PENALTY IS 1.5% PER MONTH, BY STATE LAW			
PLEASE PAY	\$1,620.97	\$1,644.93	\$1,668.89				
TAXING DISTRICT BREAKDOWN							
Taxing District	2012 Tax	2012 Rate	2012 %	Pension	2011 Tax		
<b>MISCELLANEOUS TAXES</b>							
Metro Water Reclamation District	90.45	0.370	3.00%	5.13	75.48		
Berwyn Park District	91.42	0.374	3.03%	7.57	74.54		
<b>Miscellaneous Taxes Total</b>	<b>181.87</b>	<b>0.744</b>	<b>6.03%</b>		<b>150.02</b>		
<b>SCHOOL TAXES</b>							
Morton Community College Dist 527	135.91	0.556	4.51%		8.90		
Berwyn Cicero Stickney HS 201	667.84	2.732	22.14%		78.78		
School District 100	891.02	3.645	29.55%		54.54		
<b>School Taxes Total</b>	<b>1,694.77</b>	<b>6.933</b>			<b>151.22</b>		
<b>MUNICIPALITY/TOWNSHIP TAXES</b>							
Berwyn Library Fund	1.50	0.006	0.01%		93.03		
City of Berwyn	1.50	0.006	0.01%		103.03		
Public Health Berwyn	1.50	0.006	0.01%		18.40		
Berwyn Twp Mental Health District	1.50	0.006	0.01%		14.00		
General Assistance	1.50	0.006	0.01%		8.70		
Town of Berwyn	1.50	0.006	0.01%		9.91		
<b>Municipality/Township Taxes Total</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>0.036</b>	<b>0.30%</b>		<b>849.18</b>		
<b>COOK COUNTY TAXES</b>							
AXI	85.00	0.343	2.79%	0.48	13.68		
Dist	80.00	0.320	2.63%		5.90		
County	87.00	0.347	2.82%	26.40	52.58		
Cook Public	0.181	1.47%			37.98		
Cook Public	0.063	0.51%			18.40		
Cook Public	145.21	0.594	4.81%		128.50		
<b>County Taxes Total</b>	<b>3,015.78</b>	<b>12.337</b>	<b>100.00%</b>				
TAX CALCULATOR							
2011 Assessed Value	12,990	2012 Tax Before Exemptions	4,450	You for your payment of:			
2012 Property Value	129,900	2012 Tax Before Exemptions	4,450				
2012 Assessment Level	X 10%	Homestead's Exemption					
2012 Assessed Value	12,990	2012 Tax Before Exemptions	4,450				
2012 State Equalization Factor	X	2012 Equalized Assessed Value					
2012 Local Tax Rate	X 12.337%	2012 Total Tax Before Exemptions	3,015.78				
2012 Total Tax Before Exemptions		2012 Total Tax Before Exemptions	3,015.78				
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE		<b>\$1,597.01</b>		<b>IMPORTANT PAYMENT MESSAGES</b>		PROPERTY LOCATION	
By 08/01/13 (on time)		If paying later, refer to amounts above.		Use of this coupon authorizes the Treasurer's Office to reduce the check amount to prevent overpayment. Include only one check and one original coupon per envelope.		MAILING ADDRESS	
				SN 0020120200 RTN 500001075 AN (see PIN) TC 008922		DETACH & INCLUDE WITH PAYMENT	
				Include name, PIN, address, location, phone and e-mail on check payable to Cook County Treasurer.		Amount Paid	
				0020120200216993770000000006922400001597013000016209740000164493000001666892			
				COOK COUNTY TREASURER			
				PO BOX 805438			
				CHICAGO IL 60680-4118			
				16993770000000/0/12/F/0000159701/2			



**TWENTY YEAR TAX SEARCH:** As previously mentioned, our new online 20 Year Tax Search allows property owners and mortgage and title companies to check for back taxes at any time, night or day.

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### REAL ESTATE & TAX SERVICES

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**Delinquent Property Tax Search**

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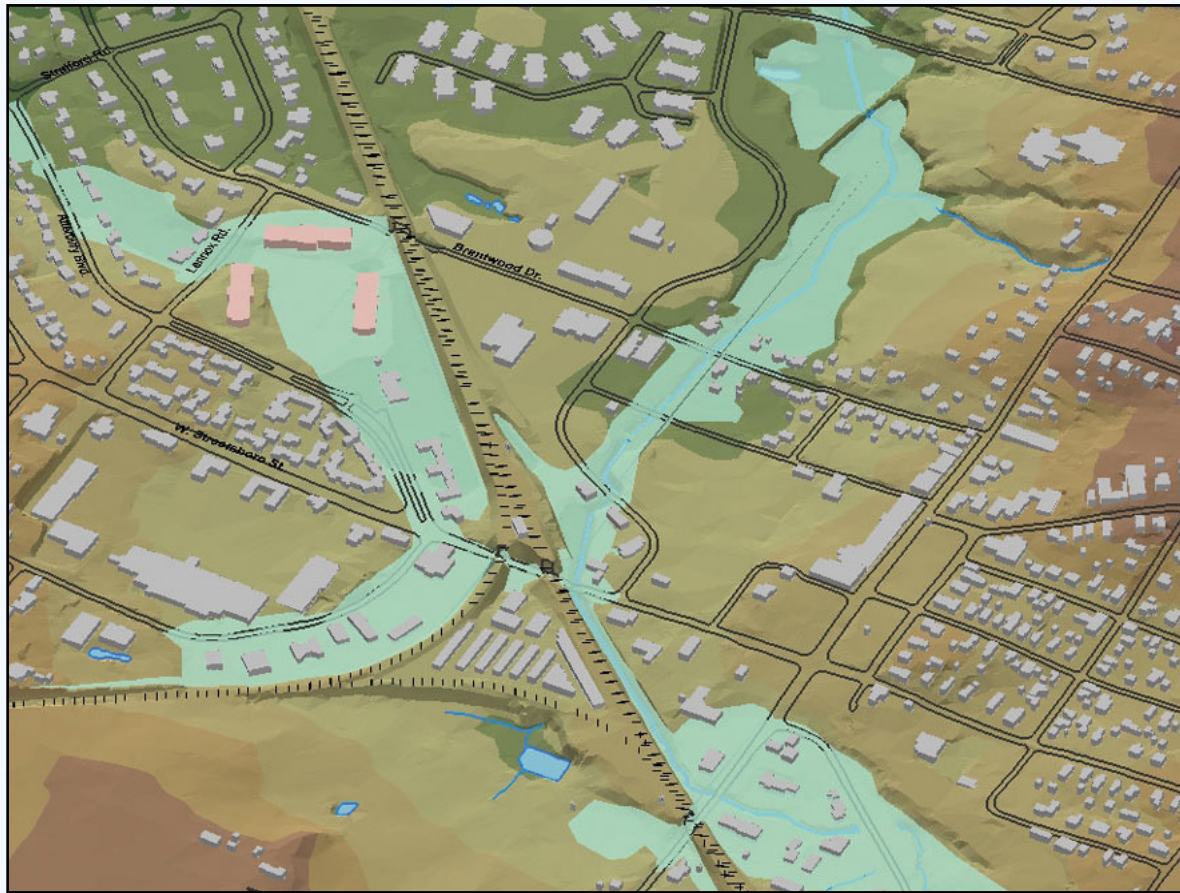
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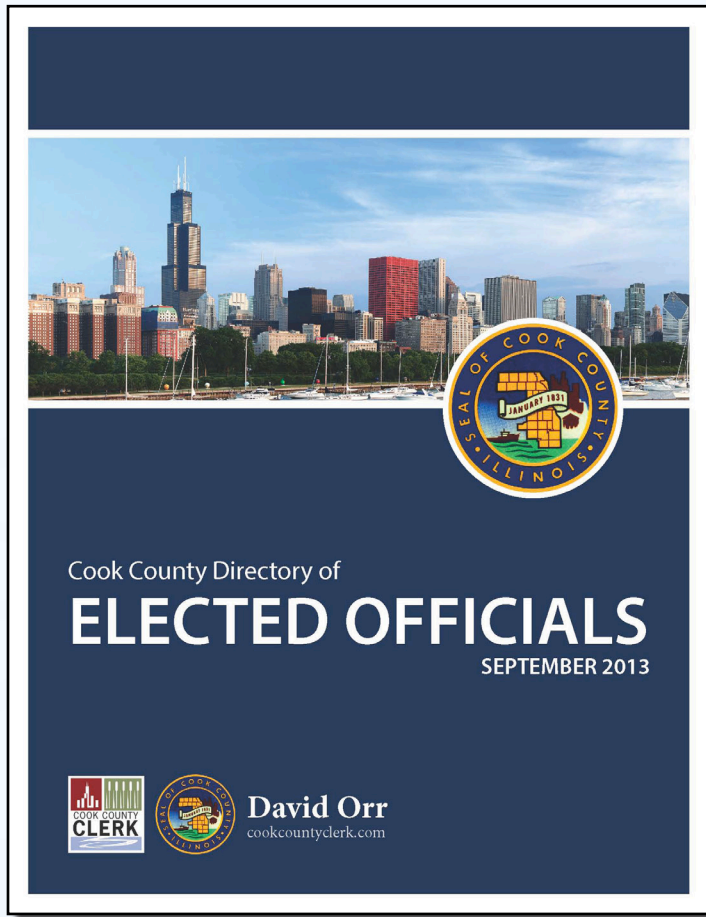
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This year we began to realize its benefits, as our phone inquiries fell from 66,000 to 44,000 over comparable periods. At the same time, page views on our website doubled.

**GIS TAX MAPPING UPGRADE:** In conjunction with the County's GIS, our office is in the process of upgrading the parcel maintenance application. This upgrade will allow us to provide improved analysis by incorporating 3D mapping capabilities. Plus, it will streamline and centralize workflow across multiple county tax agencies and aid in the storage and automation of documentation.



In non-budget news, we are proud that many jurisdictions around the state and country are utilizing our software innovations. Clerks in Illinois have adapted our software for filing Statements of Economic Interests, and other states have expressed interest in using the incident-tracking software we developed for election issues. Likewise, after its test-run in the March primary, we plan to make our online ballot request tool available to clerks around the state.



Finally, this year we were able to deliver printed versions of our popular Directory of Elected Officials on a quicker schedule, thanks to software shortcuts.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions.