

# ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

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**MIKE SIMMONS**  
**SENATOR • 7TH DISTRICT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:**  
**APPROPRIATIONS - HEALTH**  
**BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**  
**HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND**  
**AVAILABILITY (VICE-CHAIR)**  
**TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**  
**TRANSPORTATION**

Dear Cook County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of the Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day Resolution (21-0565) and the Cook County Land Acknowledgement Ordinance (21-0597). As both a resident of Cook County and an elected official, I am honored to stand beside our indigenous brothers and sisters to advocate for both of these pieces of legislation, confront our history with white supremacy, and fight for justice in our County.

In December of 2020, the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed 20-3460, which officially recognized Juneteenth as a paid holiday for its employees, to celebrate Black Americans and honor their contributions to our country. This ordinance is not only reflective of the past year, which encompassed protests for the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and too many others, but reflective of a centuries-long fight against white supremacy. This ordinance was a step forward, bringing forth systemic accountability in our government to the black community.


Previously Columbus Day was marked to honor those who slaughtered and pillaged men, women, and children to claim land that was never theirs. This led to mass genocide and forced displacement of indigenous peoples, and centuries of injustice. The Celebrating Indigenous People's Day Resolution, like the Juneteenth ordinance, reframes this holiday, honors the indigenous lives of the past, their contributions to our nation, and celebrates our vibrant indigenous people and nations today.

The Cook County Land Acknowledgment reminds us and the generations that will come after us of Cook County's history and holds our government accountable to the people harmed for so long. By requiring a Land Acknowledgement, we are paying respect to Sovereign Nations who previously occupied this land, including the Potawatomi, Ojibwe and Odawa, Ho-Chunk, Miami, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Illini, and many others.

It's urgent that the Cook County Board pass both the Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day Resolution and the Cook County Land Acknowledgement to begin confronting the intergenerational harm and white supremacy that our economy and government were founded on well before Cook County's Incorporation in 1831.

Associated local and national elected leaders and I stand in solidarity with the indigenous people of Cook County and urge you to pass both 21-0565 and 21-0597.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Simmons" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Simmons

7th Senate District