

My name is Shari Runner, President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League, the oldest civil rights organization in this city.

The Chicago Urban League applauds the forward-thinking budget and policy agenda set forth by President Preckwinkle as she continues to seek meaningful remedies to the social and economic challenges of Chicagoans.

In particular, the new public safety initiatives, such as holding juvenile detention hearings on weekends and holidays, and the Cook County Health and Hospital Systems

Behavioral Care expansion, are important as a matter of justice. They will undoubtedly help expand the civil liberties and rights of African Americans throughout the city.

We are concerned, however, about the proposed tax on sugary and sweetened beverages. Though we recognize that the County needs to find revenue from somewhere to close the budget gap, a “sugary drink tax” is regressive, as sugar-sweetened soft drinks are disproportionately consumed by people of color and those facing poverty, according to the National Institute of Health.

Additionally, while we understand that the consumption of sugar sweetened beverages is associated with a range of serious health issues, we believe that an undertaking to reduce consumption needs to be part of an overarching comprehensive public health and education strategy.

We appreciate President Preckwinkle's work in crafting her proposed budget and look forward to working with the Cook County Board to strengthen the African American community and the city of Chicago at large.

Energize your day with our

HEALTHIER

food and drink choices!

The snack and beverage machines in your vending areas have sprouted FitPick® decals. These products align with the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans:

- calories - 250 or less
- fat - 10 grams or less
- saturated fat - 3 grams or less
- trans fat - 0 grams
- sugar - 20 grams or less
- sodium - 230 mg or less

The General Services Administration, the Chicago Federal Executive Board Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, State of Illinois, and the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors have worked together to bring you these healthier options.



Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors



Feedback? Please feel free to reach out with questions or comments to Lesley.Craig@hhs.gov.