

# 2018 Budget Presentation: Cook County Clerk David Orr

October.25.2017





Good afternoon Chairman Daley and Commissioners. Thank you for your continued support throughout this last fiscal year. My team and I are ready to work with you to help fill the FY2018 budget gap caused by the repeal of the sweetened beverage tax. With that, I am pleased to present you with our budget for 2018.



**COOK COUNTY CLERK DAVID ORR**

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## Budget numbers at a glance:

- ✓ The Clerk's office is only .77% of Cook County's total budget
- ✓ Our overall budget has only gone up 2% compared to 2014 (a similar election year)
- ✓ Our election account is up only .6% from FY2014 to FY2018



## Doing more with less:

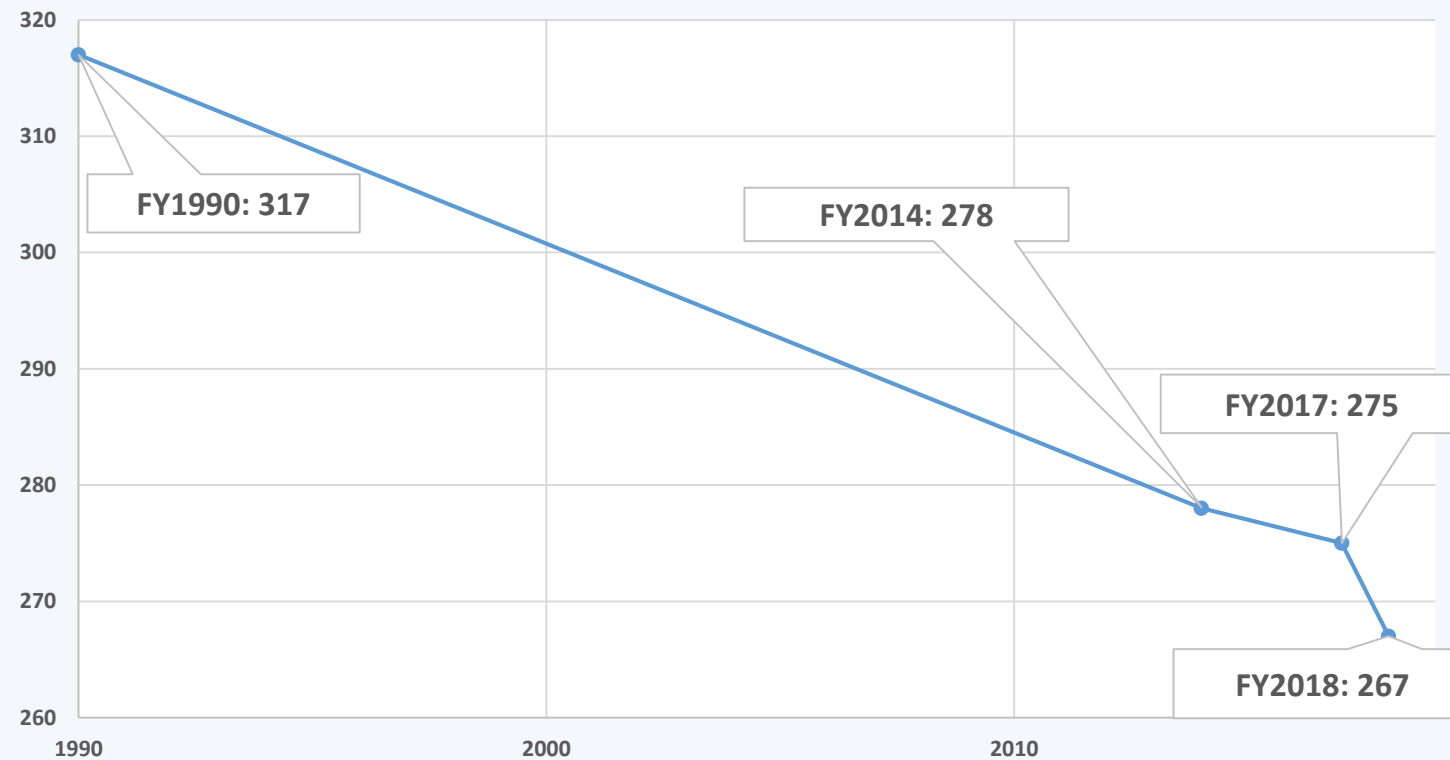
- ✓ Our FTE count has gone down 11 positions in the past 4 years
- ✓ Our head count has steadily dropped, from 317 to 267 employees since 1991 (see next page); while our responsibilities have significantly expanded to include:
  - o Increased election security measures
    - Forensic Testing
  - o Early Voting staffing and equipment
  - o Took over vital records for the City of Chicago

These numbers show we have placed a priority on strategic planning



## Personnel over time:

**Cook County Clerk Personnel Count**





## **Here are just a few highlights from 2017 and looking forward to 2018:**

Once again, we have set new milestones in election participation, from the 2016 Presidential Election to this year's Consolidated elections -

- ✓ There were more registered voters for the April 2017 Consolidated Election than ever before in suburban Cook County with more than 1.5 million voters.
- ✓ Early Voting remained wildly popular with EV turnout up nearly 80% from 2015.
- ✓ More than 64,000 voters took advantage of Early Voting for the April 2017 Consolidated Election.

## Suburban Cook: Pre-Election Ballots Cast

	2008 TOTAL	2012 TOTAL	2016 TOTAL	% CHANGE 2012-2016
Registered Voters	1,436,210	1,416,811	1,512,190	6.7%
Early Voting	226,084	228,695	360,383	57.6%
Grace Period Voting	4,197	8,212	14,658	78.5%
Mail Voting	27,727	36,754	87,987	139.4%
Pre-Election Ballots Cast	258,008	273,661	463,028	69.2%
Election Day Ballots Cast*	798,234	728,032	626,812*	-13.9%
Total Ballots Cast	1,056,242	1,001,693	1,089,840	8.8%
% Pre-Election Ballots	24.4%	27.3%	42.5%	55.7%

*\*Includes 24,266 Election Day Registration voters*

In the November Presidential election, pre-election day voting, including Early Voting, Mail Voting and Grace Period Registration and Voting accounted for 42.5 percent of all ballots cast, an increase of 55.7 percent from the November 2012 Presidential Election.

- More than 360,000 early votes were cast – a 57.6 percent increase from 2012.

# Victory in 2017 - Automatic Voter Registration Passes



*AVR is the natural conclusion to the voter renaissance.*

- ✓ Hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans remain registered at addresses where they don't live, and AVR will be a tremendous help in cleaning and updating our voter rolls.
- ✓ We were disappointed that the Governor vetoed the bill last year and now remain concerned that while it's been signed into law we hear it may not be fully implemented until at least early 2019. A concerning revelation that we will continue to monitor.

The security and integrity of our Elections is something we continually work to protect. We have measures in place throughout the election process to guard against and investigate any possibility of voter or registration fraud, ballot tampering, or anything that could be done to affect an election. Our Elections department undertakes a number of steps to ensure the integrity of every ballot.

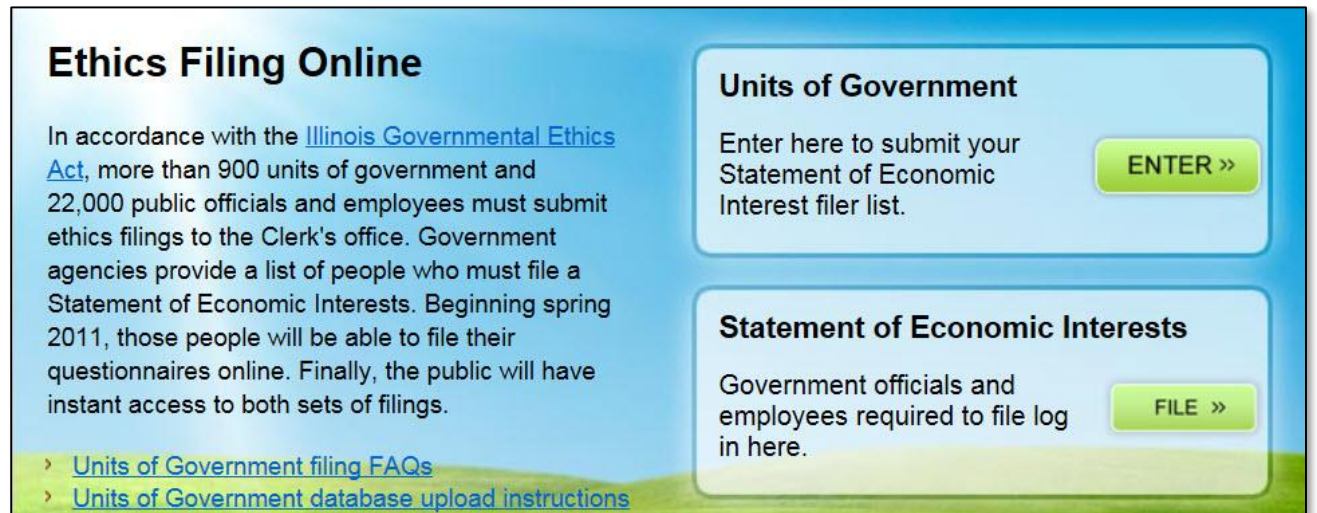
# Election Protection and Security Procedures:

- **Pre-Election Testing Procedures** – Logic and accuracy testing is conducted on all voting machines to ensure there are no programming or ballot errors and that each machine is sealed for use on Election Day.
- **Election Day Audits** – Voting equipment is audited to make sure voting tallies match ballots cast. Before voters begin voting on Election Day, Election Judges verify that no votes have been cast on any of our equipment. Each of these verification reports is signed by a judge from each party.
- **Forensic Audits** – We take detailed software comparisons during each election. These snapshots alert us to tampering and ensure software quality.
- **Paper Trails** – For every touchscreen vote cast, there is a corresponding piece of paper that each voter can review. Because of the paper trail, we limit our downside risk to cyberattack.

# Ethics

Our Ethics division successfully launched two online filing systems for lobbyist registrations and reporting, as well as statements of economic interest filers. With the change in the lobbyist ordinance in 2014, the lobbyist online system was enhanced to incorporate the changes and improve the flow of the program as well as increase the ability to obtain more useful reports.

To reduce the costs associated with paper mailings and ensure compliance, the Ethics division has automated its communications with filers. A movement toward emails and calls to filers is the trend as it encourages timely filing and produces overall program efficiencies.



**Ethics Filing Online**

In accordance with the [Illinois Governmental Ethics Act](#), more than 900 units of government and 22,000 public officials and employees must submit ethics filings to the Clerk's office. Government agencies provide a list of people who must file a Statement of Economic Interests. Beginning spring 2011, those people will be able to file their questionnaires online. Finally, the public will have instant access to both sets of filings.

- › [Units of Government filing FAQs](#)
- › [Units of Government database upload instructions](#)

**Units of Government**

Enter here to submit your Statement of Economic Interest filer list. [ENTER »](#)

**Statement of Economic Interests**

Government officials and employees required to file log in here. [FILE »](#)

# Vital Records Department



Our office worked with the Cook County Board of Commissioners to pass an amendment to a Vital Records ordinance that removes the fees for birth certificates for homeless residents, domestic violence survivors and recently released inmates.


- The amendment to the Vital Records fees ordinance states that homeless Cook County residents or not-for-profit organizations representing them, individuals who have been released from the Illinois Department of Corrections or the Cook County Department of Corrections in the past 90 days and individuals residing in domestic violence shelters, may receive a copy of their birth record at no cost.
- Organizations such as the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, other social service organizations and groups that provide assistance to domestic violence survivors are working to ensure that all eligible persons know about this fee waiver.

# Real Estate and Tax Services

In 2017, the Clerk's Real Estate and Tax Services division was again successful in assisting the County by calculating tax rates in a timely manner so that second installment tax bills were sent out with an August 1st due date.



- The 4 full-time employees in the tax extension department processed taxing district levies and created tax rates for more than 1,000 taxing agencies.



DAVID ORR COOK COUNTY CLERK

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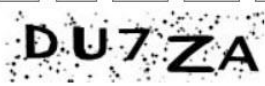
Delinquent Property Tax Search

When delinquent or unpaid taxes are sold by the Cook County Treasurer's office (at an annual sale or scavenger sale), the Clerk's office can provide you with an Estimate Cost of Redemption, detailing the amount necessary to redeem (pay) your taxes and remove the threat of losing your property. The Clerk's office also provides calculations of delinquent taxes owed from prior years when those taxes have not been sold and are either "open" (pending action or review) of "forfeited" (previously offered for sale but not sold). To see if your taxes have been sold, forfeited or open, for prior years (currently defined as 2015 and earlier), please enter your property index number (PIN) in the search box below. For 2016 taxes, please visit the [Cook County Treasurer's website](#).

\*PIN

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\*Verify Image



Our online 20-year tax search, which allows individuals and businesses to search overdue tax records on any PIN, continues to be heavily used to review payment status of properties. Last year, total page views climbed to 3,067,116, a 24% increase over 2,481,523 in 2015. This 24/7 self-service tool continues to conserve staff resources. From January 1, 2017 – August 1, 2017, we have already experienced more than 1.2 million unique page views.

- The tax department has experienced improved production time from the recent GIS system upgrade, which was part of a county-wide project. We look forward to implementing e-government solutions for other records such as tax delinquency, tax sale judgement books and all budget, levy and bond information.
- Tax Services is also increasing outreach efforts, partnering with community organizations and leaders to insure that all residents of Cook County understand tax delinquency issues and the information that is available and services provided by the County Clerk.

## New Technology

Our office has always embraced new technologies to improve the customer and voter experience.

Our most recent efforts:

- Running for Office Starter Kit
- Online Marriage Application
- Early Voter Wait Time Tool
- Online Slipping



## Running for Office Starter Kit

The kit allows suburban Cook County residents to view the elected offices they are eligible to run for and receive the necessary information and documentation to complete the process of running for office.



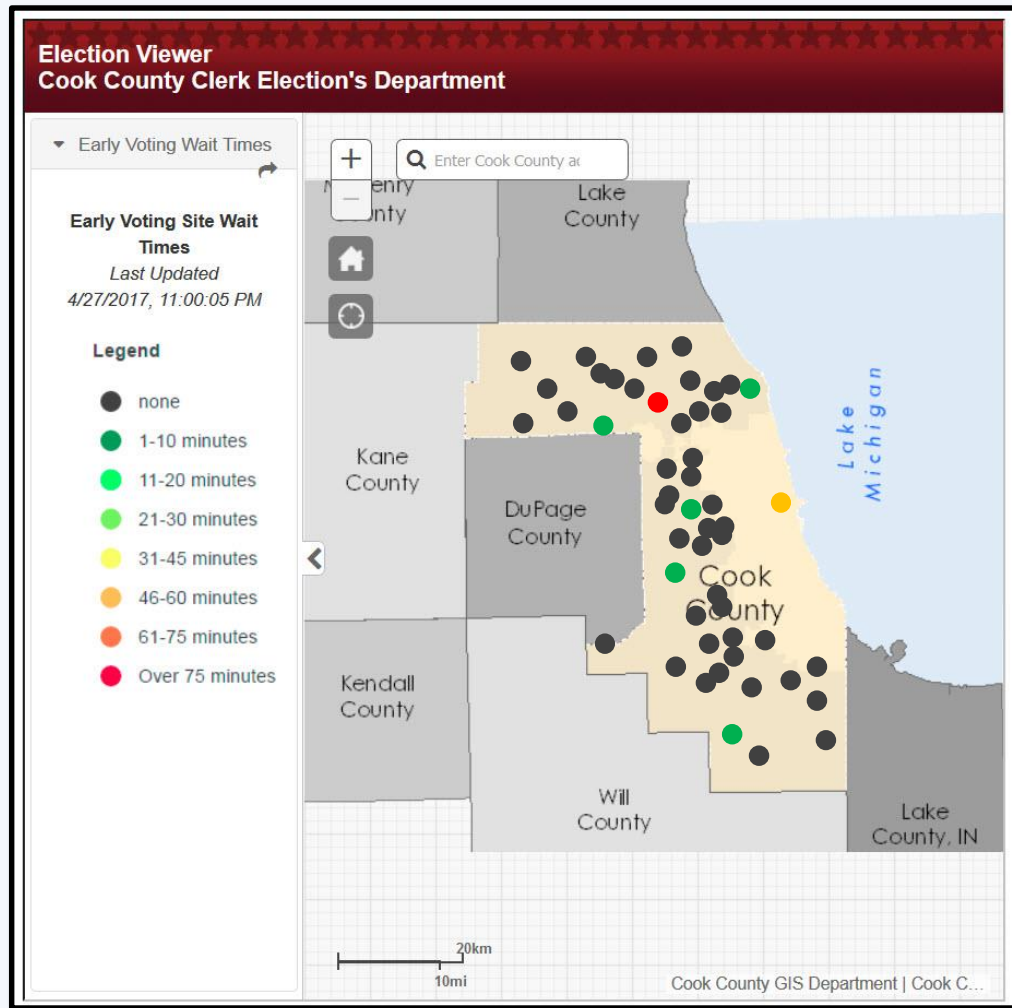
376 prospective candidates utilized the RFO application to generate their candidate packets for the April 4th Consolidated Election. Of the original 376 prospective candidates to generate a candidate packet, 248 filed their paperwork in 129 contests and made it onto the ballot – accounting for nearly 10 percent of all candidates (2,542). Additionally, the Running for Office Starter Kit has earned high praise nationally by winning the 2017 Innovator Award by the International Association of Government Officials as well as the 2017 Guardian Award from the Election Center.

# Online Marriage Application

Anyone seeking to marry in Cook County now has the opportunity to apply for a marriage license online. Both parties can begin the application online and are then required to appear in person at one of the Cook County Clerk's six locations to complete the application and obtain the marriage license. This will greatly reduce the amount of time that residents will spend in line at the customer service counter.



# Early Voting Wait Time Viewer



- Our office and County's GIS department collaborated to develop a Wait Time Viewer – an interactive map on the Clerk's website which shows real-time waits at our 52 Early Voting sites.
- The tool uses an algorithm that considers the number of people in line, the number of active check-in stations and the speed of each check-in process to give voters an approximate wait time for each voting site.

# Online Witness Slipping

The Clerk's office is working with the Cook County President's office and the Secretary of the Board to create an online witness slipping program that will let residents and advocacy groups weigh in on pending legislation online. We will work over the next several months to finalize the technology required to implement a system similar to the one the Illinois Legislature uses. This service will hopefully encourage more Cook County residents to express their opinions on legislative matters before the Board of Commissioners.





## Election Equipment RFP

We're in the final stages to procure new election equipment. Cook County last rolled out new election equipment in 2006. Our election equipment has served us well for a decade, but it has aged significantly. The public – as well as our poll workers – deserve the best election equipment that address the technological and security issues.

The new election equipment will cost an estimated \$25 - \$30 million. Our goal is to test new equipment in some suburban Cook County locations as early as 2018. The Clerk's office – in collaboration with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners – hosted a demonstration expo for vendors earlier this year to showcase their balloting solutions, as both election authorities seek to replace their voting machines.

# New Warehouse

The Clerk's office has been working in conjunction with Capital Planning to move our warehouse operation. This collaborative effort will save the County millions of dollars and lead to a more efficient election operation for our warehouse.



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