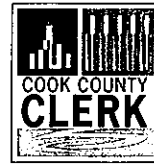


**COOK COUNTY CLERK DAVID ORR**  
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November 7, 2017

Dear Commissioners,

As you know, I strongly supported your proposal to combine the offices of Clerk and Recorder of Deeds. I applaud the Board of Commissioners and the voters of Cook County for voting overwhelming to support this merger.

Let me start here: this isn't the first time we have combined offices to realize cost-savings. In 2009, the City of Chicago Vital Records Department was merged into my office. This not only saved taxpayer dollars, but it also made it more convenient to access vital records.

Before that, I successfully championed in the state legislature the consolidation of all Illinois local elections in odd-numbered years. Adjusted for inflation, the total savings to the county since the first Consolidated Election in 1999 is just over \$50 million—and the savings statewide is over \$200 million. More importantly, this type of cost-savings didn't hurt people by taking away healthcare, pensions and other benefits. This is government savings at its best—helping taxpayers, not hurting them.

I am confident that a carefully managed merger of the offices of Clerk and Recorder of Deeds will maintain excellent service for Cook County residents while saving taxpayers at least \$2 million per year, initially by eliminating administrative redundancies in top-level management, human resources, information technology and communications.

The referendum called for the offices to merge by December 2020. As you know, I will no longer be Clerk at that time. While much of this effort will be overseen by my successor, I look forward to collaborating with all parties over the next year to ensure a successful merger.

I look forward to your input and collaboration.

Sincerely,

David Orr  
Cook County Clerk