

Statement in Support of Revenue Forecast

Commissioner Garcia's proposal for an independent consensus revenue forecast represent a best financial practice undertaken by states, counties and cities all over the Country. It is in fact cited by all the major rating agencies as a positive credit factor and can lead to a ratings upgrade in some cases. Rather than being driven by expenditures it enables the County to be assured that resources are available over a 3 to 5 year period to budget accordingly.

The composition of the forecasting committee, including key Board Committee Chairman, The President's Office and outside experts helps facilitate a partnership and consensus on matters of taxation and revenues, which often are contentious without such a structure.

Annual updates to the forecast with quarterly monitoring puts the County in a better position to react to downturns as the one we experienced in 2008. Commissioner Garcia should be applauded for this initiative and we here at The University of Chicago's Center for Municipal Finance support this measure and urge his fellow Commissioners to do the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

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