



The League of Women Voters of Cook County

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COMMENTS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COOK COUNTY RE: Finance Committee Mid-Year Budget Hearings, July 23-24, 2018

The League of Women Voters of Cook County commends Chairman Daley and the Commissioners for holding these mid-year budget hearings as a follow-up to the Fiscal Year 2019 Preliminary Forecast, Item 18-4447. We hope that each office has fully responded to Chairman Daley's letter of June 29 to provide an Executive Budget Summary which details the items outlined in the letter. Such items include

- Detailing how the budget request relates to budget targets and compares to last year's budget
- Describing issues of importance or concern with respect to the budget request
- Detailing any risks associated with the request and how service levels will be impacted
- Summarizing any planned management improvements or efficiencies that will provide better service at lower cost, and
- Discussing how the budget request relates to the office's core mission and functions

In our letter to Chairman Daley, Budget Director Tanya Anthony, and all the Commissioners dated January 12, 2018, we noted that there were a number of ideas for cost-savings and new revenues that were put forward during last year's autumn Finance Committee meetings with departments as part of the review of the Executive Budget. However, many of those ideas required further study and so could not be implemented for the 2018 Cook County Budget. Therefore, the League urged that a process be held earlier in the year so such ideas could be identified and there would be time for information to be gathered and consideration be given to the pros and cons of such ideas before decisions are made during the main budget process.

We hope that these Mid-year Budget Hearings will provide the mechanism so that cost-saving and revenue ideas that are found worthy can be incorporated into the 2019 Budget.

We also look forward to the follow-up from last year's ideas that are in progress, such as

- The court-utilization study, and
- The report from the Chief Information Officer on the opportunities to consolidate and centralize information technology in the County.

We continue to urge that the Commissioners do all they can to see the necessary steps are being taken so that Shakman court-ordered oversight that has been going on for many years in the County, the Assessor's office, and the Recorder of Deeds office, as well as the newly-ordered oversight in the Clerk of the Court's office, can be concluded swiftly. First and foremost, the League wants all areas of the County to be in compliance with the requirements of the Shakman case. Secondly, these court-ordered oversights have cost the County millions of dollars.

We look forward to observing these Mid-year Budget Hearings and hope they will be productive.

Dated: July 23, 2018

The League of Women Voters of Cook County is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Cook County League is composed of over 1500 members of the 13 local Leagues within Cook County.