



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Virtual Meeting

New Items Agenda

Thursday, November 19, 2020, 10:00 AM

Fourth Set

[20-5667](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, DONNA MILLER and JOHN P. DALEY, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING PRESENTATIONS FROM THE COOK COUNTY TREASURER AND COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF INCREASED PROPERTY TAXES ON CONSTITUENTS

WHEREAS, property taxation in Cook County is a complex system that involves numerous stakeholders and factors; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Treasurer is tasked with overseeing the second-largest property tax collection and distribution system in the United States collecting approximately \$15.6 billion each year in taxes and distributing the funds to over 2,000 local government agencies with tax collection jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Assessor is tasked with establishing fair and accurate property assessments and conducts a reassessment of one-third of Cook County each year; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020 Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas released an analysis of real property taxation in Cook County spanning a twenty-year time period titled “The Pappas Study”; and

WHEREAS, the report findings include a substantial increase in property taxes of up to 87% in Suburban Cook County and 115% in the City of Chicago, which outpaces the increase in wages throughout Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) conducted a study of 2018 commercial assessments in Cook County and found that estimated market values of commercial properties in the City of Chicago and Cook County did not meet the IAAO’s standards for high-quality assessments; and

WHEREAS, the IAAO Report found that underassessments of commercial properties means that residential properties are paying more than their fair share of property taxes, and

WHEREAS, in addition to these issues, the COVID-19 pandemic has further strained household incomes and has forced outreach to become virtual in nature, potentially leaving constituents who lack Internet

access without needed information or assistance; and

WHEREAS, the increase in property taxes has posed a growing burden on the taxpayers of Cook County who own residential and commercial property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Treasurer and Cook County Assessor are invited to present to the Finance Committee on the following matters:

- 1) that the Cook County Treasurer present on the major findings of her office's report, specifically on the areas within Suburban Cook County and the City of Chicago that have seen the greatest difference between an increase in property taxes and an increase in wages and cost of living;
- 2) that the Cook County Assessor present on the accuracy of assessments in Cook County and the impact of inaccurate assessments on the property tax bills that Cook County taxpayers pay.

NOW, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that these presentations serve to equip the Board of Commissioners and the public with an understanding of which Cook County communities have been most impacted by an increase in property taxes, and where more outreach on how to apply for exemptions and appeals may be needed.

[20-5642](#)

Presented by: MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Report Title: FY' 20 4th Quarter Open Recommendation Status Report

Report Period: November 2020

Summary: Report on the status of open audit recommendations