



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #: 20-5667, Version: 1**

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### **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.