

**Cook County Property Taxpayer,**

Last year, the proposed Cook County property tax levy increase was 26.1%. After much citizen input, the actual increase was set at 11.2%.

Now, our county officials are telling property owners to be prepared for double-digit tax increases for the next three years with future increases estimated to fall between 6 - 7%.

Some in the county believe these increases are necessary, while others believe they are out of control.

Your opinion is important, so please take a moment to complete the survey and return it to us by September 15, 2017.

The survey should take you **less than 10 minutes to complete.**

Your confidentiality is also important, and your answers cannot and will not be used to identify you in any way.

The results of this survey will be published in the Cook County News Herald and will also be submitted to county officials.

We acknowledge and thank the capable staff at the Minnesota Center for Fiscal Excellence for their knowledgeable assistance in drafting the questions for this survey.

Should you have any questions, you may call me at 218-387-9100.

Thank you for committing your time to complete this important property taxpayer survey.

Sincerely,

**Hal Kettunen**  
Publisher

***"The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right."*** –Thomas Jefferson

# COOK COUNTY TAXPAYER SURVEY

## "Your opinion matters"

### Instructions

Please answer the following questions by filling in the corresponding circle. EX:

Your answers are anonymous. When completed enclose in the postage paid envelope and mail before September 15th. Know your participation is encouraged and greatly valued. Thank YOU!

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### 1. What is your opinion regarding the present cost of Cook County government?

- Very satisfied    Somewhat satisfied    Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
 Somewhat dissatisfied    Very dissatisfied    Not able to answer

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### 2. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the job our County Commissioners are doing in keeping costs down?

- Very satisfied    Somewhat satisfied    Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
 Somewhat dissatisfied    Very dissatisfied    Not able to answer

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### 3. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the job our County Administrator Jeff Cadwell is doing in keeping costs down?

- Very satisfied    Somewhat satisfied    Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
 Somewhat dissatisfied    Very dissatisfied    Not able to answer

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### 4. Do you believe the county should be considering the use of taxpayer dollars to build and staff a local day care facility?

- Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree  
 Disagree    Strongly disagree    No opinion

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### 5. Do you believe the county should be using taxpayer dollars to fund the local YMCA?

- Strongly Agree    Agree    Neutral/Neither agree nor disagree  
 Disagree    Strongly disagree    No opinion

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### 6. Rank in order of greatest concern the economic issues facing you and your family?

(1 Greatest concern through 5 Least concerned)

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ___ Earning a livable wage      | ___ Increasing property taxes                                |
| ___ Cost of Health Care         | ___ Believing we can no longer afford to live in Cook County |
| ___ High cost of buying locally | ___ None of the above  |

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### 7. How concerned are you that you will be able to afford to own your home or seasonal residence in Cook County with the tax increases being proposed over the next 3 years?

- Not concerned    A little concerned    Very concerned    Extremely concerned

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### 8. Which Commissioner represents your district?

- Robert Deschampe – District 1    Myron Bursheim - District 2    Jan Sivertson - District 3  
 Heidi Doo-Kirk - District 4    Ginny Storlie - District 5    Don't know

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(Continued on the other side)

# Demographic Questions

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## 1. Gender?

- Male  Female
- 

## 2. What is your age?

- 18-24 years  25-34 years  35-44 years  45-54 years  55-64 years  
 65-74  75 years or older  Rather not say
- 

## 3. What is your marital status?

- Now married or living with partner  Widowed  Divorced  
 Separated  Never married  Rather not say
- 

## 4. Are you/your family primary residents (year-round) or seasonal residents of Cook County?

- Primary resident(s)  Seasonal resident(s)
- 

## 5. How long have you owned property in Cook County?

- Less than a year  7 - 8 years  20- 25 years  41- 45 years  
 1 - 2 years  9 - 10 years  26- 30 years  46- 50 years  
 3 - 4 years  11- 15 years  31- 35 years  51- 55 years  
 5 - 6 years  16- 20 years  36- 40 years  Most/All of my life
- 

## 6. Source of income?

- Employed in the private sector (non-governmental services)  
 Employed in the public sector (various governmental services)  
 Self-employed  
 Retired, living solely on Social Security (fixed income)  
 Retired, living on multiple sources of income  
 Currently unemployed  
 Rather not say
- 

## 7. Approximately what is your household income?

- \$0 - \$9,999  \$10,000 - \$19,999  \$20,000 - \$29,999  \$30,000 - \$39,999  
 \$40,000 - \$49,999  \$50,000 - \$59,999  \$60,000 - \$69,999  \$70,000 - \$79,999  
 \$80,000 - \$89,999  \$90,000 - \$99,999  \$100,000 - \$149,999  \$150,000 or more  
 Rather not say
- 

## 8. Market Value of your Home/Property?

- Under the median market value of \$247,100  
 At or over the median market value of \$247,100  
 Don't know the market value of my home/property
- 

That's it! Please enclose in the postage paid envelope and mail before September 15th.

**Thank YOU!**

*Know your participation is greatly appreciated!*