



## **OF COOK COUNTY**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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League of Women Voters of Cook County  
Peggy Kell, Co-President  
Nancy Marcus, Co-President  
(312) 939-5935 Ext. 27

### **Cook County League Recommends Measures to Improve Property Tax Assessments**

CHICAGO, IL – The League of Women Voters of Cook County endorses County Commissioner Richard Boykin's proposal to have the Finance Committee investigate alleged unfairness in the County's property tax assessment system. League Co-President Nancy Marcus testified on this topic at the June 28 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Marcus reiterated the League's longstanding position that Commissioners more actively oversee the performance of all departments within Cook County. The troubling issues within the Assessor's Office, brought to light by a recent *Chicago Tribune* report, demonstrate the urgent need for this more active role. "While the Assessor's Office has taken steps to make it easier for property owners

to appeal their assessments, the goal should be to assess parcels correctly in the first place,” Ms. Marcus said.

Correct assessments save taxpayers time and money. They relieve property owners of the cost and burden of appealing. And they minimize the time and resources needed to handle appeals, both in the Assessor’s Office and at the Board of Appeals.

To ensure that initial assessments are as fair and accurate as possible, the League recommends that both the Assessor’s Office and the Board of Review incorporate measures into their performance management and budget processes, including:

- The total number of residential and commercial parcels assessed in a given year
- The total number of appeals to the Assessor in each category
- The total number of assessments reduced via appeal in each category
- A yearly target for the expected number of successful appeals, based on the best practices of U.S. counties known for accurate assessments
- The main reasons why assessments were reduced
- What steps the Assessor’s Office will take to improve initial assessments

The League’s full recommendations, along with a written copy of Ms. Marcus’s public comments, can be found on the League’s website.

### **About the League of Women Voters of Cook County**

The League of Women Voters of Cook County (LWVCC) encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We do not support political parties or candidates; we are nonpartisan. We study selected issues for which the County has significant responsibility, including health care, criminal justice and housing, and then educate the public and advocate about those issues. Members are residents, taxpayers and voters in Cook County. We believe that in order to make

good choices when we vote, we need to be informed about our government. <http://www.lwvcookcounty.org/>

For inquiries about LWVCC's reports, activities, or policy positions, or to seek comment from the League, please call (312) 939-5935 Ext. 27, or email [cook@lwvil.org](mailto:cook@lwvil.org).