

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 17, 2021  
Scott Smith, Chief Communications Officer  
Cook County Assessor's Office  
312-919-3213 / ssmith@cookcountyassessor.com

## **Assessor Fritz Kaegi Releases Strategies for a More Equitable Property Tax Structure**

Essay appears in "Reclaiming Right to the City" collection from the Chicago Council on Global Affairs



**CHICAGO** – Assessor Fritz Kaegi released an essay this week outlining strategies for reforming Chicago and Cook County's property tax system to make it more equitable for all, especially Black and Latino residents, which often suffer from high property tax rates. The essay includes a discussion of how federal and state governments can help bring down high tax rates, which cause the greatest inequities.

The essay appears in a recent collection from the Chicago Council on Global Affairs titled "Reclaiming the Right to the City."

The essay is reprinted in full on the Cook County Assessor's Medium page:

<https://medium.com/@AssessorCook>

Excerpts appear below:

*"Illinois provides the lowest level of funding for education of any state in the nation. An increase in federal school funding through Title I of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, is the most direct way to decrease property taxes and geographic inequality while investing in education. If we doubled the current \$300 million in Title I funding for Chicago's public schools and passed on the savings to ratepayers, the property tax levy for schools could be reduced by 10 percent."*

*"As digital technology and the pandemic further uncouple economic activity from physical property, taxation that focuses on the income generated — rather than on the assets that can generate it — becomes ever more vital, especially for cities."*

*"[Cook County] communities with the 20 highest property tax rates exceed the other 110 communities by three to five times, even though the level of education funding per pupil is comparable or less. Most of these communities are majority Black."*

[The Chicago Council on Global Affairs](#) is an independent, nonpartisan organization that provides insight on critical global issues, advances policy solutions, and fosters dialogue



about what is happening in the world and why it matters to people in Chicago, the United States, and around the globe.

The full collection is [available on the CCOGA website](#).