

## 2021 Tax Year Property Tax Exemption Information

The following exemptions will automatically renew for homeowners who received them last year (tax year 2020) and remained eligible this year (tax year 2021).



**Homeowner Exemption**  
(annual auto-renewal)



**Senior Exemption**  
(annual auto-renewal)



**Senior Freeze Exemption**  
(2021 auto-renewal)



**Persons with Disabilities Exemption**  
(2021 auto-renewal)



**Veterans with Disabilities Exemption**  
(2021 auto-renewal)

Please Note:

Longtime and Returning Veterans Exemptions will not auto renew this year.



**Fritz Kaegi**  
COOK COUNTY  
ASSESSOR

[cookcountyassessor.com](http://cookcountyassessor.com)

Dear Homeowner,

This brochure contains important information about how you can apply for past property tax exemptions that you may have been entitled to receive. This is referred to as the Certificate of Error process.



The goal of our office is to create an assessment process that is fair, ethical, and transparent. With many unprecedented events over the past few years, our office continues to adapt and put safety first. Most of our outreach efforts are conducted through virtual seminars on YouTube and Facebook. We also collaborate with local elected officials across Cook County to provide socially-distanced assistance to inform homeowners of the exemptions available to them.

In addition, we will continue to make improvements to the technology we use and simplify our processes to reduce the need for time-consuming office visits and forms. Our office continues to automatically renew exemptions for those who qualify which eases the administrative process for many homeowners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please know that you can contact us by phone, email, or social media with any questions you have.

Sincerely,  
**Fritz Kaegi**  
Cook County Assessor

Connect with us:



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# How to apply for missing property tax exemptions

## CERTIFICATES OF ERROR FOR EXEMPTIONS



**ASSESSOR'S  
OFFICE**

## What is a Certificate Of Error?

Many homeowners are unaware of property tax exemptions that can translate into savings and help contribute in lowering property tax bills. The Certificate of Error process provides homeowners an opportunity to redeem missing exemptions for up to three prior years. Homeowners can now file for past exemptions for the **2020, 2019, and 2018** tax years.

**Example Scenario:** A homeowner who is 68 years old recently learned that they were qualified for the Senior Exemption since they were 65 years old. This homeowner can apply for Certificates of Error to receive refunds for prior eligible years.

### Reviewing a Second-Installment Property Tax Bill:

Property tax exemptions are applied and listed on second installment property tax bills mailed by the Cook County Treasurer's Office. If a homeowner is missing an exemption, they can apply for a Certificate of Error. The Assessor's Office administers the Certificate of Error process and, upon approval, the Treasurer's Office issues refund checks. It is important to note that a homeowner is still responsible for paying the entire property tax bill by the due date, even if a Certificate of Error application is in process. Applying for a Certificate of Error does not guarantee approval.

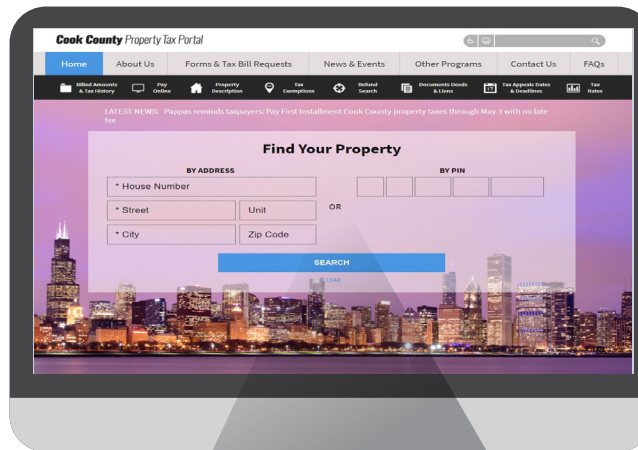
TAX CALCULATOR	
2018 Assessed Value	15,900
2019 Property Value	159,000
2019 Assessment Level	X 10%
2019 Assessed Value	15,900
2019 State Equalizer	X 2.9160
2019 Equalized Assessed Value (EAV)	46,364
2019 Local Tax Rate	X 13.434%
2019 Total Tax Before Exemptions	6,228.54
2019 Total Tax After Exemptions	4,885.14
First Installment	2,585.25
Second Installment +	2,299.89
Total 2019 Tax (Payable in 2020)	4,885.14

## How to Check Exemptions Received in Prior Years

A homeowner can check the Cook County Property Tax Portal to access past property tax bills and review exemptions received in past years. Some exemptions automatically renew every year, such as the Homeowner and Senior Exemptions.

Others, such as the Senior Freeze, and Persons and Veterans with Disabilities Exemptions must be filed annually. Checking exemptions received in past years will help the homeowner determine if they should file for a Certificate of Error.

[www.cookcountypropertyinfo.com](http://www.cookcountypropertyinfo.com)



## How to Apply

To apply, a homeowner can visit [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com) and submit an online application. By applying online, homeowners have the ability to track the status of their applications and the Assessor's Office can provide status updates. It is important that homeowners carefully review the criteria including required supporting documentation.

A common mistake is that homeowners fail to submit documentation that reflects the tax year in which they are applying. For example, if a homeowner is applying for a 2019 Certificate of Error for the Veterans with Disabilities Exemption, the required documentation needs to reflect the 2019 tax year.

## An application was submitted. Now what?

During peak periods, it takes 3-4 weeks for Assessor's Office staff to process an application. Next, the homeowner will receive a notification of approval or denial. If an application is denied due to missing documentation, the homeowner may reapply with complete documents. If the application is approved, the homeowner will receive a mailed refund check from the Treasurer's Office within 3-4 weeks.

### EXEMPTIONS

2020: Not Available  
2019: 1 Exemptions Received  
2018: 1 Exemptions Received  
2017: 1 Exemptions Received  
2016: 1 Exemptions Received

[More Exemption Information](#)

