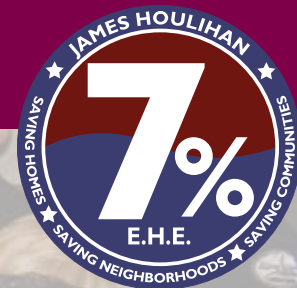


James Houlihan

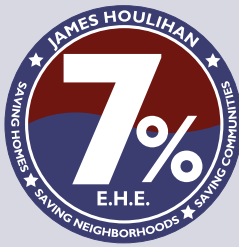
Saving Homes. Saving Neighborhoods. Saving Communities.



7% SAVES



www.jimhoulihan.com



Dear Friends,

People have asked me why I'm running again for Cook County Assessor and the answer is simple: because this next term will be the most important in our efforts to reform the property tax system and properly fund education.

Over the past ten years I have worked hard to improve the quality of services our office provides, to make our work more transparent, and to shine the light on the larger policy issues that effect Cook County's taxpayers.

The system by which we fund education in the City of Chicago, in Cook County, and in the State of Illinois is broken. Education funding still relies too heavily on property taxes. As a result, the quality of education our system provides is unequal and the burden on our property taxpayers' shoulders is excessive.

Too often these inequalities reinforce long-standing socio-economic and racial boundaries. Our current system ensures that the economic opportunity of homeowner's equity, so crucial to the American dream, is threatened by skyrocketing taxes. At the same time, the system provides an inferior education to the children who need the most to have a chance at success. This must change.

For too long this issue has been stuck in the Illinois State Legislature. Everyone agrees something should be done but no one can move it. Why? For two reasons. The first is that it's a complicated issue that involves many branches and levels of government. The second is that in order to solve difficult issues, policy makers have to be courageous.

I will make a commitment to use my position as Cook County Assessor to fix this problem. I will fight for and advocate for homeowners in Cook County by using tools like the 7% E.H.E. to control skyrocketing property taxes. At the same time I commit to taking a lead role in the larger effort to pressure the legislature to fix the problem of education funding and work to eliminate the inappropriate burdens of the classification system.

This is no time to lose heart. Our cities are changing. Our communities are alive. Our policies have to respond. I am counting on your help.

Thank you,

James Houlihan