

## PROFILE OF COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The County was created on January 15, 1831 by an act of the Illinois General Assembly and became the 54th county established in the State of Illinois (the “State”). On May 7, 1831, the County elected its first officials. The population of the County was estimated at 5,211,263 as of July 1, 2017 making it the second most populous county in the United States.

Within the County, there are 134 municipalities, (including the City of Chicago [the “City”], also including the City of Elmhurst which lies partially in Cook County but has no taxable value in Cook), 29 townships, 223 special districts, and 164 school districts. The City and the suburban municipalities account for approximately 85% of the County’s 946 square miles, while unincorporated areas make up the remaining 15%. The unincorporated areas of the County are under the jurisdiction of the County Board.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the County is a home rule unit of government and, except as limited by State law, may exercise any power and perform any function relating to its government and affairs, including the power to borrow money and levy taxes. There are no current statutory limitations on the power of the County to levy real property taxes or to issue general obligation bonds or notes; however, the Illinois constitution contains a provision that limits the maturity of County debt payable from ad valorem property taxation to 40 years.

The County’s powers are exercised through a 17-member Board of Commissioners. The County Board is the legislative authority which is led by its President. The Commissioners are elected from single member districts to four-year terms, while the President is elected by the voters of the entire County to a four-year term.

The County presently performs three principal functions: the protection of persons and property; the provision of public health services; and general governmental services including, among others, the assessment of property, levy, collection and distribution of property taxes, and maintenance of certain highways.

*Protection of Persons and Property (“Public Safety Fund”).* Protection of persons and property consists of the operation of the Circuit Court of Cook County, prosecution of persons charged with criminal offenses, and other activities of the State’s Attorney’s Office, operation of the County Jail (including Cermak Hospital, which serves inmates), operation of a Sheriff’s police department, and other costs, such as those associated with facilities, highways, and administration. The Circuit Court of Cook County is the second largest unified court system in the United States, and the County Jail is the largest single site jail facility in the country.

*Public Health in the form of Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems (“CCHHS” or “Health Fund”).* Cook County Health & Hospitals System (CCHHS) serves as the safety net for health care in Chicago and suburban Cook County. CCHHS is comprised of two Joint Commission-accredited hospitals, Stroger and Provident, more than a dozen community health centers, the Ruth M. Rothstein Core Center, a primary care center for patients with HIV and other infectious diseases, the Cook County Department of Public Health and Cermak Health Services, which provides primary and specialty care to individuals at the Cook County Jail and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, and CountyCare, a managed Medicaid health plan with more than 333,000 members in FY2018.

CCHHS cares for more than 300,000 unique patients each year with a commitment to providing comprehensive, compassionate and high quality care. CCHHS’s flagship 450-bed John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital provides nationally-certified stroke, oncology and burn care and has centers of excellence in emergency medicine, infectious disease, endocrinology and others. The nation’s first comprehensive trauma unit opened at Cook County Hospital in 1966. CCHHS emergency department saw approximately 139,000 visits in FY2018.

In fiscal year 2008, a new independent CCHHS Board was created by the Cook County Board of Commissioners to provide oversight of health care operations, and in May 2010, the Cook County Board of Commissioners voted to make the CCHHS Board permanent. The CCHHS Board is accountable to the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

In Fiscal Year 2018, the CCHHS Strategic Plan, Impact 2020 that was approved in FY 2017 continued with implementation. Impact 2020 affirms CCHHS Board and Management focus on transforming the provision of health care in Cook County by promoting community-based primary and preventive care, developing a robust, collaborative health plan and enhancing the patient experience.