



Cook County Assessor's Office

Joseph Berrios

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Assessor Berrios's Office Certifies 27,000 Exemption Certificates of Error

Certification Will Result in Over \$6 Million Dollars in Refunds for Taxpayers

Chicago -- Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios announced Wednesday that his office has certified over 27,000 residential exemption Certificates of Error which will result in over \$6 million dollars being refunded to Cook County taxpayers.

Residential exemption Certificates of Error are issued to taxpayers when an exemption does not appear on a second-installment bill or when a taxpayer fails to apply for an exemption prior to receiving a bill. The 27,000 Certificates of Error certified by the Assessor were issued during this past second-installment tax bill period.

"I am pleased my office was able to work quickly to process and certify these Certificates of Error so that taxpayers may receive their money," Assessor Berrios said. "Now that my office has completed the certification process, the Cook County Treasurer's Office can begin its work to issue taxpayers their refund checks."

The Assessor's expedited certification will also allow the Treasurer to use the reduced amounts when calculating first-installment tax bills mailed in 2011. First-installment bills are by law 55% of the total taxes paid the previous year and the bills will reflect the exemption savings.

Exemptions available to Cook County taxpayers include the:

- *Homeowner Exemption* – Owners of single-family homes, townhouses, condominiums, co-ops or apartment buildings up to six units may be eligible for this exemption. The home must be used as a principal place of residence and the taxpayer must be responsible for payment of the property taxes.
- *Senior Citizen Exemption* – Taxpayers 65 years of age or older that meet the requirements for the Homeowner Exemption may qualify for this exemption.
- *Senior Freeze Exemption* – Taxpayers eligible for the Senior Citizen Exemption and who have a total household income of \$55,000 or less, may be eligible for this exemption.
- *Long Time Occupant Exemption* – Taxpayers must have owned and occupied their homes for the last 10 years in order to qualify for this exemption. They must also have a total household income of \$100,000 or less and an assessment increase significant enough to exceed the maximum exemption amounts set by the state legislature.
- *Returning Veterans' Exemption* – Taxpayers returning from active duty in armed conflict may be eligible to receive this exemption.
- *Disabled Veterans' Exemption* – Veterans with a service-connected disability as certified by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs may be eligible for this exemption.
- *Disabled Persons' Exemption* - Disabled taxpayers may qualify for this exemption if they occupy the property as their principal residence and are liable for payment of the property taxes.

"Exemptions can save taxpayers a significant amount of money on their tax bills," Berrios said. "I strongly encourage all taxpayers to ensure that they apply for and receive all exemptions to which they are entitled."

Detailed exemption information may be obtained by visiting the [exemptions section](#) on this website.