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Tobolski Votes to Reduce Cook County's Budget

2012 budget cuts \$200 million; does not include suburban tax

"This scaled-back budget sends a loud-and-clear message that we are moving toward a more efficient, transparent, and business friendly Cook County," Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski "We need to keep making cuts, continue to hold the line on spending and stay focused on moving the county forward in the right direction."

Chicago, IL –Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski voted with a bi-partisan group of lawmakers Friday to decrease the county's 2012 budget by \$200 million, helping pass the budget by a vote of 16-1.

The \$2.9 billion 2012 budget included a more streamlined county government and a further rollback of the Stroger Sales Tax increase. A budget amendment passed today also restores funding for vitals services in the State's Attorney and Public Defender's Offices.

"This scaled-back budget sends a loud-and-clear message that we are moving toward a more efficient, transparent, and business friendly Cook County," said Tobolski, who applauded the leadership of President Toni Preckwinkle and his fellow Republican and Democrat Commissioners who voted for the new budget. "Since the initial rollback of the Stroger sales tax, we have already seen an increase to Cook County businesses. We need to keep making cuts, continue to hold the line on spending and stay focused on moving the county forward in the right direction."

Commissioner Tobolski also worked to stop a proposed "amusement tax" on suburban small businesses and a new Special Service Areas tax on unincorporated residents. He also voted against a new parking tax at Cook County Courthouses.

"I ran for Cook County commissioner to look out for the interests of the residents of the 16th District, which had often been overlooked in the past," Tobolski said. "My constituents and the small businesses located in the district have borne enough of the burden. This budget addresses those concerns and incorporates cost-cutting initiatives that will better position the county heading into 2012."

Cook County District 16 includes the villages of Berwyn, Cicero, Schiller Park, Franklin Park, McCook, Hodgkins, Lyons, Summit, Willow Springs, Countryside, Western Springs, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Northlake, Forest Park, Westchester, Stone Park, Berkeley, Broadview, Hillside, Melrose Park, Brookfield, Riverside, North Riverside and Stickney.

