



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 10, 2008

MEDIA CONTACT:

PRESS RELEASE

COMMISSIONER MIKE QUIGLEY INTRODUCES MEASURE TO CREATE BACK-TO-SCHOOL TAX HOLIDAY FOR COOK COUNTY RESIDENTS

Today, Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley (D-10) introduced legislation creating an annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday for Cook County residents. The proposed Ordinance mirrors recent state legislation approved by the Illinois Senate that would create a state sales tax holiday.

“Our country is in a recession and many families are having difficulty making ends meet,” Commissioner Quigley stated. “Back-to-school shopping creates an additional financial burden at a time when children should be excited about a new school year - not worrying about how to pay for school supplies.”

The measure would eliminate the County’s portion of the sales tax for nine days beginning on the first Friday in August. It would exempt the County sales tax on purchases of school supplies, clothing or footwear under \$200 and computers that are under \$3,000.

According to the National Retail Federation, the average family spends over \$500 on back-to-school supplies, an amount which might put a substantial strain on many families’ budgets. The *American Journal of Business* has found that sales tax holidays are especially beneficial to families with incomes of \$10,000-\$40,000.

Commissioner Quigley’s measure has already received praise from the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Retail Merchants Association.

“A sales tax holiday would be a win-win-win opportunity because it could help taxpayers who need relief from escalating taxes, spur our economy, and boost the bottom line of countless businesses,” said Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jerry Roper.

“Aiding families through a sales tax holiday will generate sales, encourage job growth and provide lower costs for Chicago consumers,” stated David F. Vite, President of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association. “A sales tax holiday will be welcome news to Chicagoans who have been beset by increasing costs of government at all levels.”

Commissioner Quigley also introduced a Resolution encouraging local municipalities throughout Cook County, including the City of Chicago, to pass similar resolutions for the same time period. The Illinois Senate recently passed SB2892, which creates a sales tax holiday for the same time period for the state’s portion of the sales tax. A version of the bill is currently in the Illinois House.

Currently, eleven states offer back-to-school tax holidays.

The measures will be on the agenda of the April 23rd meeting of the Cook County Board of Commissioners

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Mike Quigley is Cook County Commissioner for the 10th District, representing over 300,000 people in the Near North Side, Old Town, Lincoln Park, Lakeview, Uptown, Edgewater, Rogers Park, West Ridge, North Park, and Sauganash neighborhoods of Chicago. He is the chair of Cook County’s Human Relations and Environmental Control committees and the Forest Preserve District’s Finance and Environmental committees. A champion of greater transparency and accountability in government, he has authored eight reports on how to restructure Cook County government and the Forest Preserve District since he joined the County Board in 1998.