Visit cookcountytreasurer.com

- Search for tax refunds
- Update your mailing address
- Make payments
- Print a copy of your bill
- Check tax exemptions for homeowners and senior citizens

HOW TO AVOID THE MAY 4, 2018 TAX SALE
What’s a Tax Sale?
- By law, the Cook County Treasurer’s Office is required to put delinquent taxes—but not the property—up for auction.
- The May 4, 2018, Tax Sale is for taxes that weren’t paid when due on March 1 or August 1, 2017.
- It is called the 2016 Annual Tax Sale because taxes in 2016 are collected in 2017.

What happens at the Tax Sale?
- Investors called “tax buyers” bid on the right to pay the overdue taxes. This is called “buying the taxes.”

What should you do?
Check to see if your property taxes are going up for sale.
- Go to cookcountytreasurer.com to look up your Property Index Number.
- Use the website to look up your property or see the list of properties with delinquent taxes.
- Use the website to contact the Treasurer’s Office by calling 312.443.5100
- Visit the office at 118 N. Clark St., Room 112, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

What if your property taxes are going up for sale?
- By law, the only way to avoid the sale is to pay all taxes and interest due before the Tax Sale.

How do you pay?
- Until April 30, 2018, the most efficient and fastest way to pay is at cookcountytreasurer.com.
- Click on “Make an Online Payment.”

If you are not paying online, all payments in person must be made by:
- Certified check
- Cashier’s check
- Money order, or
- Cash

What if you think there is an error?
- Call the Treasurer’s Office at (312) 443-5100 or visit the office with proof of payment.

What if your lender is supposed to pay the taxes?
- Contact your lender to request proof of payment. Make sure the PIN is correct.

What if your taxes have already been sold?
- After a Tax Sale, to avoid loss of property, the owner must repay the Cook County Clerk the back taxes, interest and fees. This is called “tax redemption.”
- The Cook County Clerk is located at 118 N. Clark St., Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602, or you can visit their website at cookcountyclerk.com.
- Pay the current taxes on time. Otherwise, a tax buyer has the right to make those payments and charge high interest rates.

How can you lose your property?
- If the property owner doesn’t pay the taxes before the deadline, usually 2½ years, the tax buyer can go to court and obtain ownership of your property.
- For commercial properties, the deadline typically is just six months.