

CHICAGO TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL 25



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UNIONS FIGHT TO AVOID LAYOFFS AS COUNTY PASSES SALES TAX ROLLBACK

Cook County Commissioners Endanger Vital Services With Tax Increase Elimination

The Cook County Board of Commissioners prepared to decimate jobs and services to residents on Tuesday by voting 12-5 in favor of rolling back last year's penny-on-the-dollar sales tax increase by 50 percent.

In a move that will blow a multi-million dollar hole in the county budget, commissioners will force the county to make severe reductions to vital services, including layoffs, to make up for the lost tax revenue. As the board ignores viable revenue alternatives, residential resources including hospitals, corrections facilities, county courts, detention centers and social service industries hang in the balance.

Teamsters Joint Council 25 and more than 50 members of Teamsters Locals 714, 726, 727, 731 and 743 were joined by representatives of AFSCME, SEIU, the Carpenters Union and the Chicago Federation of Labor at Tuesday's County Board meeting. Labor personally expressed its opposition to multiple commissioners.

"As the representatives of millions of hardworking men and women, Cook County Commissioners have an obligation to protect the welfare of Cook County residents without destroying the framework of their well-being," said John T. Coli, President of Joint Council 25. "Unfortunately, it's easier for these politicians to roll back the county sales tax and cripple citizen resources than it is to seek out a sound budgetary solution."

Last year, the county sales tax was increased by one percent, or one cent, by Board President Todd Stroger and the current board. Legislation passed on Tuesday will rollback the tax by half-a-cent and leaves the very commissioners who passed the law with millions of dollars to replace.

Locals 714, 726 and 743 collectively represent more than 7,000 county employees, including more than 3,000 corrections officers, 2,000 court employees, 700 workers in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, 200 social workers and more than 100 employees of Provident Hospital.

"At a pivotal moment for our national and local economies, when residents statewide are looking for their leaders to make conscientious financial decisions, opting to widen the county's budget cap is a monumental mistake," said Coli. "Working families must not be placed into jeopardy so a handful of county commissioners can score cheap political points."

Teamsters Joint Council 25 represents more than 100,000 hardworking men and women throughout Illinois.

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Cook County Board of Commissioners

Roll Call of Votes on Sales Tax Repeal

Please note: "Yes" votes indicate a vote to repeal the sales tax; "No" votes indicate support of the labor position.

District	Commissioner	Vote	Phone	Fax
1	Earlean Collins	Yes	312-603-4566	312-603-3696
2	Robert Steele	Yes	312-603-3019	312-603-4055
3	Jerry "Iceman" Butler	No	312-603-6391	312-603-5671
4	William M. Beavers	No	312-603-2065	312-603-4678
5	Deborah Sims	No	312-603-6381	708-371-4251
6	Joan Patricia Murphy	No	312-603-4216	312-603-3693
7	Joseph Mario Moreno	No	312-603-5443	312-603-3759
8	Edwin Reyes	Yes	312-603-6386	312-603-9531
9	Peter N. Silvestri	Yes	312-603-4393	312-443-1154
10	Bridget Gainer	Yes	312-603-4210	312-603-3695
11	John P. Daley	Yes	312-603-4400	312-603-6688
12	Forrest Claypool	Yes	312-603-6380	312-603-1265
13	Larry Suffredin	Yes	312-603-6383	312-603-3622
14	Gregg Goslin	Yes	312-603-4932	312-603-3686
15	Timothy O. Schneider	Yes	312-603-6388	312-603-6500
16	Anthony J. Peraica	Yes	312-603-6384	312-603-4744
17	Elizabeth Doody Gorman	Yes	312-603-4215	312-603-2014