

# UP FRONT



Newsletter from John A. Cunningham, Kane County Clerk

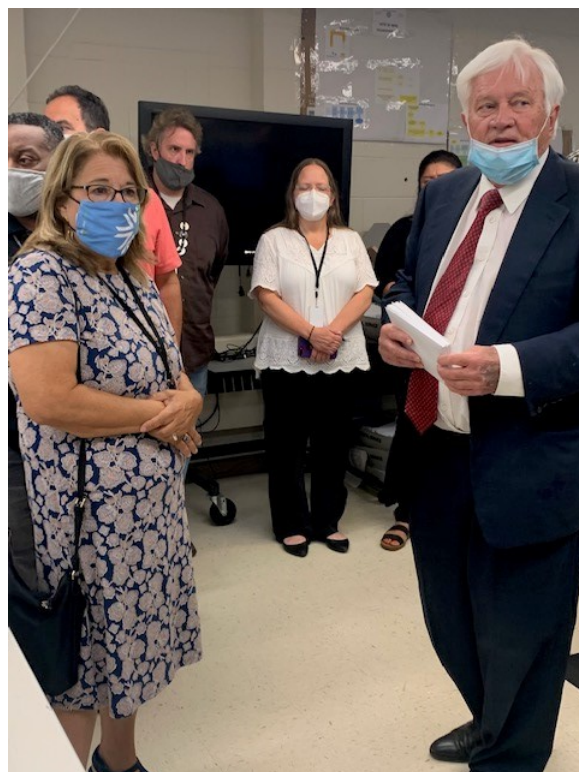
## Clerk Cunningham Hosts Lake County Clerk and Staff for Tour of Kane County's Vote By Mail Automation Equipment

**Kane County's state-of-the-art Vote by Mail automation equipment, which processed a record number of applications for mail-in ballots in the 2020 Presidential Election - all the while ensuring mail ballot voting integrity - continues to draw attention from election officials from throughout the state and country.**

**Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham** recently hosted a tour of his Kane County Elections operations in Geneva and warehouse in St. Charles for Lake County Clerk Robin O'Connor and a dozen members of her staff.

Cunningham provided a demonstration of the automated mail ballot processing and explained how it improved productivity and saved money in the Nov. 3 General Election.

Cunningham said, "It was a pleasure to host Robin and her staff. As former president of the National Association of County Recorders and Clerks, I have worked with other clerks from both parties around the country and built a network to discuss best practices, evaluate election equipment, and develop new innovative ways to provide services. I work closely with clerks from around the state, especially in the collar counties, because we share some of the same challenges and can work together to find creative ways to serve the public more efficiently."

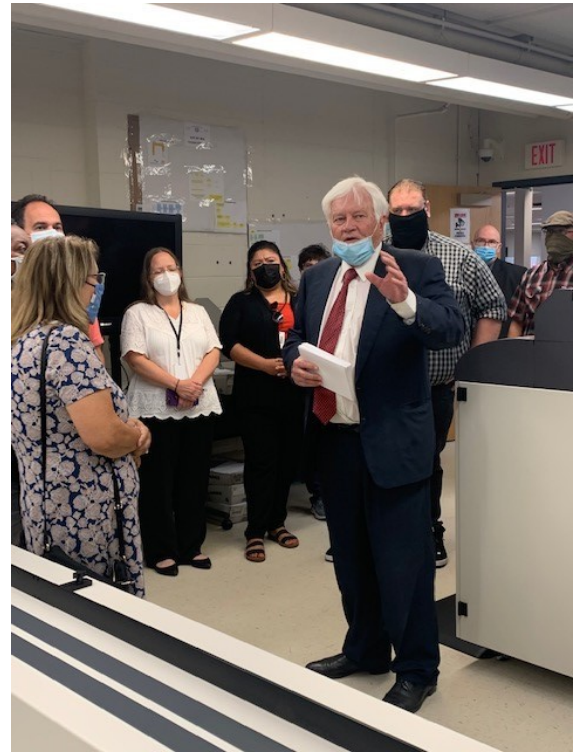


# Clerk Cunningham hosts Lake County Clerk O'Connor and staff

O'Connor is investigating Vote by Mail equipment and reached out to Cunningham about bringing her staff to visit Kane County. O'Connor previously visited Kane County last year to discuss preparations for the 2020 General Election and to view Devnet, Kane County's tax extension and vital records software.

O'Connor said, "I want to thank Jack and his staff for hosting us at the office. I look forward to talking to Jack because I always learn something. Kane County is a model for many of us because they have made so many advancements in the field, and we like to see what they are doing that works so well. The relationships I have with other clerks like Jack have helped me to modernize my office and provide better services to the residents of Lake County."

The Lake County Clerk's Office recently purchased a Votemobile, joining Kane County as the second election authority in Illinois with one.



Through automation and efficient management, Cunningham estimated that the Clerk's Office **saved over \$500,000** in additional staff salaries to assemble and process more than 80,000 Vote by Mail ballots **and an additional \$175,000 in postage** by folding ballots a second time to fit a smaller return envelope. While other counties were processing Vote by Mail ballots late into the night last November and catching up in the days to come, Kane County had processed and tabulated all of the early and Vote by Mail votes that has been cast prior to Election Day by 7:15 p.m. that night.

Prior to the November 2020 election, Cunningham purchased a sorter to automate the processing of inbound Vote by Mail ballots and an inserter to assemble the outbound Vote by Mail ballots and envelopes. The sorter time stamps the ballot when it comes into the office, scans the voter's signature so that a bipartisan panel of election judges can compare it to the signature in the voter registration database, sorts the unsigned or empty envelopes from the good ones, and prepares the envelopes to be opened by the election judges. The inserter automates the formerly manual process of assembling the Vote by Mail ballot, affidavits, instructions, and return envelope inside a larger envelope.

# TAX EXTENSION

## DID YOU MISS THE SEPTEMBER 1 DEADLINE TO PAY YOUR PROPERTY TAXES?

### *What happens next? What should you do?*

Kane County's 2020 payable 2021 real estate taxes were due in June and September. **If you have not paid one or both payments**, please make your payments as soon as possible as fees and other penalties begin after the due date.

For payments made after the due date, a 1.5% per month penalty will be added.

October is a critical time for delinquent tax bills, and some additional rules apply. If your payment is made from Oct. 1– 21, an additional \$10 publication fee will be added to the penalties.

If your payment is made from Oct. 22-29, **only payments of cash, cashier's check, money order, or certified check will be accepted**, and these payments must also include a **\$10 publication fee in addition to any penalties**.

The annual tax sale will be conducted by the Treasurer's Office on Nov. 1. If property taxes are not paid in full prior to Nov. 1, your 2020 payable 2021 Real Estate taxes will be sold at tax sale.

The tax sale is an auction where the Tax Buyers bid on purchasing your taxes. The bid is a percentage of the taxes, which can be as high as 18%, will be added to the amount already owed, every 6 months until property is redeemed.



Beginning two weeks after the tax sale, you can redeem your property taxes at the Kane County Clerk's Office in Geneva or Aurora. Contact the Kane County Clerk's Office at (630) 232-5964 for an estimate of redemption. **Only cashier's check, certified check, money order or cash will be accepted.**

If your taxes have been purchased at tax sale, a three year process for residential properties and two years for vacant property and farmland can result in your property being sold to the tax buyer.

Information about the Tax Sale can be found at <https://www.kanecountytreasurer.org/Documents/KANE%20COUNTY%20TO%20HOLD%20TAX%20SALE%202021.pdf>, or by calling the Treasurer's Office at (630) 232-3565.

More information about redemptions is available at [kanecountyclerk.org/TaxExtension/Pages/taxRedemption.aspx](http://kanecountyclerk.org/TaxExtension/Pages/taxRedemption.aspx).

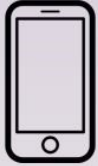


**“UP FRONT”** is posted on the Kane County Clerk's website. If you prefer to receive the newsletter via e mail, please send your request to EmersonJohn@co.kane.il.us.

# VITAL RECORDS

**Marriage License applicants:  
Save time and complete your questionnaire online**

[kanecountyclerk.org/VitalRecords/Pages/Marriage-License.aspx](http://kanecountyclerk.org/VitalRecords/Pages/Marriage-License.aspx)



You can answer the application questions online from a computer or any mobile device. Save time and start the application process!



**At the Clerk's Office, both parties must appear to complete the application process:**

- ✓ Present valid identification
- ✓ Sign the application
- ✓ Pay the license fee



***Note:** Due to the Governor's current Executive Orders, marriage licenses do not currently have an expiration date. However, this could change with future Executive Orders, and the marriage licenses could expire within 60 days again in the future. Please contact the Clerk's Office with any questions regarding marriage licenses and applications for licenses .*

## **Office Hours for the Kane County Clerk's Office**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

The Clerk's Office will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, October 11 for Columbus Day; Thursday, November 11 for Veteran's Day; and Thursday and Friday, November 25-26 for Thanksgiving.

## **FOLLOW THE CLERK'S OFFICE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

@KaneCoILClerk on Twitter

@SecretarioKane on Twitter (Spanish)

facebook.com/kanecountyclerk

facebook.com/secretariokane (Spanish)

Website: [www.kanecountyclerk.org](http://www.kanecountyclerk.org)





# PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE

## ARE YOU PLANNING TO TRAVEL OUT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON ?

**Normal passport processing time has been delayed due to the pandemic, so please don't wait until the last minute!**

**A passport is required if you are traveling outside the United States.** Normally, applicants usually receive passports in 6-8 weeks after completing an application, but processing times at the Department of State have increased due to the pandemic. **Currently, the Department of State is recommending that applicants should expect to receive passports approximately 18 weeks after submitting an application.**

For your convenience, you can apply for a passport at the Kane County Clerk's Office. Some requirements for a passport application include valid photo identification, proof of citizenship (often a certified copy of the applicant's birth certificate), a recent color passport photo, proof of any name changes over the years (marriage certificate, death certificate, court order, etc.), and a check or money order for payment (fees depend on the type of passport documents sought). Information about passport fees, acceptable forms of identification, passport photography, as well as passport application forms can be found on the Clerk's website at [kanecountyclerk.org/Records/Passports/passports.aspx](http://kanecountyclerk.org/Records/Passports/passports.aspx) or by calling (630) 232-5964.

Copies of birth certificates for those born in Kane County can be purchased at the Clerk's Office. Passport photography is available at the Clerk's Office for \$15 per person.

You can apply for passports at both Clerk's Office locations, 719 S. Batavia Ave. (Bldg. B) in Geneva, and 5 E. Downer Pl. (Suite F), in Aurora. Hours for applications are 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; and from 8:30 a.m.- 7 p.m. Wednesday.

## FEDERAL REAL ID UPDATE

**The Department of Homeland Security delayed the REAL ID deadline until May 3, 2023.** Beginning May 3, 2023 **all** travelers who wish pass through TSA security checkpoints to board an airplane, **even for a domestic flight**, must have a REAL ID-compliant form of identification. **A current and valid United States passport is REAL ID-compliant.**

# Kane County Elections



[www.kanecountyelections.org](http://www.kanecountyelections.org)

## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Visit [kanecountyclerk.org/Elections/Pages/Voter-Search.aspx](http://kanecountyclerk.org/Elections/Pages/Voter-Search.aspx) to find out.



### Important Dates for the June 28, 2022 Primary Election

**PLEASE NOTE: THESE DATES ARE NOT FINAL & SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

#### Candidate Petition Circulation Begins

(More information about petitions will be available on Clerk's website in the near future)  
Thursday, Jan. 13

#### Candidate Petition Filing Period

(Filing at Clerk's Geneva Office)  
Monday, March, 7 - Monday, Mar. 14

#### Last Day to Register to Vote

Tuesday, May 31

#### Grace Period Registration & Voting

(Clerk's Geneva & Aurora Offices)  
Wednesday, June 1- Tuesday, June 28

#### Early Voting Period

(**All** Early Voting Polling Places)  
Tuesday, June 13 - Monday, June 27

#### Request Vote By Mail Ballot

Wednesday, March 30\*  
\*Ballots will be mailed after Thursday May 19

#### Issue Vote By Mail Ballot

**Military/Overseas:** Friday, May 13 - Monday, June 20  
**All Others:** Thursday, May 19 - Thursday, June 23

#### Last Day to Count Vote By Mail & Provisional Ballots

Tuesday, July 12