

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: February 13, 2024**

**Geneva, IL –Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham**



### **CUNNINGHAM: CLERK'S OFFICE SET RECORD FOR PASSPORT APPS, GENERATED MORE REVENUE & SAVED TAX DOLLARS IN 2023**

2023 was another great year for each department in the Office of Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham.

Clerk Cunningham said, "Even after a banner year in 2022, we set more records in the services we provided to the residents of Kane County. We also generated more revenue than in any prior year, which benefits the taxpayers of Kane County. One of the major milestones last year is that we began the transition to a more modern, secure, and transparent voting system for Kane County voters, to be used beginning with the March 19 General Primary Election."

Every year, the Office of Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham serves the public in many areas including voter registration and election administration, issuing marriage licenses, providing certified copies of marriage, birth and death records, accepting applications for passports and taking passport photos, redemption of delinquent property taxes, and extending taxes for hundreds of local governmental units in Kane County.

In 2023, the Clerk's Office completed **4791** passport applications, which **set a record for a single year**. This was a 22% increase over the 3929 passport applications completed in 2022, the prior single year record. The revenue generated through passport applications has significantly increased since the Clerk's Office began offering applicants the option to purchase passport pictures when applying for passports. The Vital Records Department issued 3256 marriage/civil union licenses. Overall for the year, the Vital Records Department served more customers seeking certified copies of birth, death, and marriage/civil union records and passports than in 2022. Vital Records also accepted, processed and posted online hundreds of Economic Interest Statements for elected and appointed officials in Kane County.

The Tax Extension and Redemption Department had a strong year as well. In 2023, the Office processed 1,740 tax redemptions. The Clerk's Office extended taxes for more than 197,000 county parcels valued at over \$19 billion and completed the calculations on extending a total of over \$1.5 billion reflected in the property tax bills mailed to taxpayers by the County Treasurer. The Clerk's Office plays a vital role in making sure that all of Kane County's local governments received its property tax revenue on time to provide the critical services residents need.

The Elections Department began the year by administering the Consolidated Primary Election in February and the Consolidated Election in April, in which many local elected officials such as city/village, school, library, and park district board members are elected. Preparation for the 2024 election started following the April election. Upgrades to the training of election judges, including the implementation of new software for online training and the written manual were made. Following the County Board's purchase of new voting machines, the training manual was also updated to teach election judges how to set up, take down, and use the new machines. The Clerk's Office began the voter education program by conducting demonstrations of the new equipment at libraries and community centers across the county. Once the equipment was received, staff began testing all of the new machines to prepare them for use in the March 2024 election. Additionally, a review of transparency, security and accessibility procedures were made, and with input from election judges, the State's Attorney's Office, and the public, procedures were updated.

The Clerk's Office **set another record by generating nearly \$1.7 million in revenue** in FY23, which was an increase over the record set in 2022. The revenue generated by the Clerk's Office goes back to the County for general operating expenses. The money returned by the Clerk's Office back to the general fund at the end of the year, due to the increased income generated during the year, helps to balance the county's budget in future years.

Cunningham added, "The Clerk's Office today generates more than **2 ½ times the revenue** than when I was first elected. I'm proud that we generate non-property tax revenue, which **reduces the burden on Kane County taxpayers**. We continue to provide exceptional customer service while **staying under budget**."

The Kane County Clerk serves as the custodian of County records, registrar of vital records, chief election official, and tax extension official for Kane County. The Clerk's Office has modernized election equipment, improved training of election workers, implemented new software to automate the tax extension process, updated the scanning and processing of vital records, and increased election security and transparency. The Clerk's Office provides information directly to residents via [clerk.kanecountyil.gov](http://clerk.kanecountyil.gov), X/Twitter [@KaneCoILClerk](https://twitter.com/KaneCoILClerk), and Facebook [@kanecountyclerk](https://facebook.com/kanecountyclerk).

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