



**FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION  
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD**

APPELLANT: Alanna Cotham  
DOCKET NO.: 24-20489.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 15-26-401-018-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) are Alanna Cotham, the appellant, by attorney Kelly J. Keeling, of KBC Law Group in Chicago; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, PTAB hereby finds **No Change** in the Cook County Board of Review's assessment of the property is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$2,680  
**IMPR.:** \$33,453  
**TOTAL:** \$36,133

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a Cook County Board of Review decision pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) contesting the assessment for the 2024 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

**Findings of Fact**

A 2,253 square feet, one-story masonry building on a 2,680 square feet lot in North Riverside of Riverside Township, Cook County constitutes the subject property. The 69-year-old, class 2-06 residence per the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance included two bathrooms, central air conditioning, and a two-car garage.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the petition, arguing that the subject assessment must be lowered to \$13.08 per improvement square foot to be equitable. To show the subject was not uniformly assessed, the appellant volunteered four class 2-06 improvements within 1.03 miles of the subject as assessment benchmarks. The appellant's proposed comparators featured one or two bathrooms, no garage to a two-car garage, and a full or partial basement. These properties were 76 or 77 years in building age; 2,496 to 3,008 square feet in area; and \$13.08 to \$13.74 per improvement square foot in assessment.

The county board of review maintained in its “Notes on Appeal” that the subject improvement was fairly assessed at \$33,453, or \$14.85 per living square foot. In defense of the \$36,133 total subject assessment, the board of review presented four two-story buildings in the subject’s subarea as equity comparables. The board of review’s selections contained 1.5 to 2.5 bathrooms, a full or partial basement, and a two-car garage. These improvements further ranged from 72 to 76 years in age; 2,273 to 2,434 square feet in size; and \$15.17 to \$15.72 per living square foot.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The Illinois Constitution requires that real estate taxes “be levied uniformly by valuation ascertained as the General Assembly shall provide by law.” Ill. Const., art. IX, § 4 (1970); Walsh v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 181 Ill. 2d 228, 234 (1998). This uniformity provision of the Illinois Constitution does not mandate absolute equality in taxation, however; instead, a reasonable degree of uniformity in the taxing authority’s assessments suffices. Peacock v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 339 Ill. App. 3d 1060, 1070 (4th Dist. 2003).

When a property tax appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment, appellants must prove the inequity of the assessments by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e); Walsh, 181 Ill. 2d at 234 (1998). Clear and convincing evidence means more than a preponderance of the evidence, but it does not need to approach the degree of proof required for a criminal conviction. Bazyldo v. Volant, 164 Ill. 2d 207, 213 (1995). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation for the year in question of demonstrably similar properties with compelling proximity to, and a lack of distinguishing characteristics from, the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) finds the appellant fell short of satisfying this burden of proof.

Based on their resemblance to the subject improvement, board of review comparables #2 through #4 constitute the best evidence of subject assessment equity. Each board of review comparator featured more living area than the subject (which offset the comparator’s lesser bathroom functionality) and otherwise exactly matched the subject’s garage size, fireplace count, and air conditioning inclusion. By contrast, the appellant’s properties were all significantly larger than, and at *least* over a half mile away from, the subject improvement. Given this record, PTAB finds the subject would be equitably assessed between \$15.17 and \$15.72 per improvement square foot. Because the subject improvement’s \$14.85 per living square foot assessment actually falls below the comparators’ assessments, PTAB concludes the appellant failed to show assessment inequity by clear and convincing evidence and a reduction in the total subject assessment is not justified.

This is a final administrative decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board which is subject to review in the Circuit Court or Appellate Court under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.) and section 16-195 of the Property Tax Code. Pursuant to Section 1910.50(d) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(d)) the proceeding before the Property Tax Appeal Board is terminated when the decision is rendered. The Property Tax Appeal Board does not require any motion or request for reconsideration.



Chairman



Member



Member



Member



Member

DISSENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION

As Clerk of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board and the keeper of the Records thereof, I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and complete Final Administrative Decision of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board issued this date in the above entitled appeal, now of record in this said office.

Date:

May 19, 2026



Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code provides in part:

"If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel after the deadline for filing complaints with the Board of Review or after adjournment of the session of the Board of Review at which assessments for the subsequent year or years of the same general assessment period, as provided in Sections 9-125 through 9-225, are being considered, the taxpayer may, within 30 days after the date of written notice of the Property Tax Appeal Board's decision, appeal the assessment for such subsequent year or years directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board."

In order to comply with the above provision, YOU MUST FILE A PETITION AND EVIDENCE WITH THE PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ENCLOSED DECISION IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR OR YEARS. A separate petition and evidence must be filed for each of the remaining years of the general assessment period.

Based upon the issuance of a lowered assessment by the Property Tax Appeal Board, the refund of paid property taxes is the responsibility of your County Treasurer. Please contact that office with any questions you may have regarding the refund of paid property taxes.

PARTIES OF RECORD

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