



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

APPELLANT: Lorna Balan  
DOCKET NO.: 24-25127.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-19-413-011-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Lorna Balan, the appellant, by attorney Brian S. Maher, of Weis, DuBrock, Doody & Maher in Chicago; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds **No Change** in the assessment of the property as established by the **Cook** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$26,240  
**IMPR.:** \$62,084  
**TOTAL:** \$88,324

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Cook County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging 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**

The subject property consists of a 2-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 4,060 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 76 years old. Features of the home include a full basement, 4 full bathrooms, central air conditioning, 2 fireplaces, and a 2-car garage. The property has a 16,400 square foot site and is located in Northfield, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on four comparables that are located within the subject's assessment neighborhood and from 1.4 to 2.6 miles from the subject property. The comparables consist of class 2-06, 2-story dwellings of frame, masonry, stucco, or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 3,441 to 4,108 square

feet of living area. The comparables are from 71 to 101 years old. One comparable has a slab foundation, and three comparables have a partial or full basement with "N/A" reported in the grid analysis for the finished area. Each comparable has from 2 to 4 full bathrooms, central air conditioning, 1 or 2 fireplaces, and from a 1-car to a 2.5-car garage. Two comparables each have 1 half bathroom. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$42,000 to \$52,623 or from \$11.88 to \$12.81 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the improvement assessment be reduced to \$50,385.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal disclosing the total assessment for the subject property of \$88,324. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$62,084 or \$15.29 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparables that are located within the same assessment neighborhood and subarea as the subject. The comparables consist of class 2-06, 2-story dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 2,206 to 3,293 square feet of living area. The comparables are 69 or 83 years old. Each comparable has a partial or full basement with three having finished area, 2 or 3 full and 1 or 2 half bathrooms and a 1-car or a 2-car garage. Three comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$50,076 to \$68,440 or from \$18.80 to \$25.13 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the assessment be confirmed.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted eight equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The appellant's comparables significantly differ from the subject in location whereas the board of review comparables have significantly smaller dwelling sizes than the subject. Nevertheless, the board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables that are located from 1.4 to 2.6 miles away from the subject and based on the comparables' parcel index numbers are also located within a different subarea than the subject property. Moreover, two of the appellant's comparables have a much older dwelling or dissimilar foundation type than the subject dwelling. The Board also gives less weight to the board of review comparables #3 and #4 which are significantly less similar in dwelling size to the subject property.

The Board gives more weight to the board of review comparables #1 and #2 which are located within the assessment neighborhood and subarea as the subject property and are also relatively similar to the subject in age and foundation type. However, these comparables are inferior to the subject due to differences in their fewer bathroom counts and 19% or 28% smaller dwelling

sizes. These two comparables have improvement assessments of \$54,764 and \$68,440 or \$18.80 and \$20.78 per square foot of living area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of \$62,084 or \$15.29 per square foot of living area is bracketed by these two comparables on an overall basis and falls below these comparables on a per-square-foot basis. After considering adjustments to these two most similar comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's 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: \_\_\_\_\_

October 21, 2025



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

AGENCY

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