



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL *City of Chicago*

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To the Mayor, Members of the City Council, the City Clerk, the City Treasurer, and the residents of the City of Chicago:

As it has done in each of the past two years, the Inspector General's Office (IGO) will release a Budget Options report containing options to decrease City spending or increase revenue this fall. We will present an overview for each option, and an estimate of the savings or increased revenue the option would generate. We will also provide a brief discussion of what proponents might argue in support of the option and, conversely, what opponents might argue against the option. Past reports can be viewed on the [Budget Options page](#) of the IGO's website.

The impetus for this report is to fulfill a component of the core mission of IGO: promoting effectiveness and efficiency in City operations. A City government that spends more than it brings in cannot long be effective; budgets that carry forward the waste and ineffective aspects of prior budgets cannot serve the goal of efficiency.

In order to ensure that the options continue to come from a wide range of sources, and represent a broad array of programs, constituents, user interests, we are soliciting input for ideas for options to include in this year's report. Please submit your ideas, to budgetoptions@chicagoinspectorgeneral.org.

The report will be released in mid-September in order to ensure adequate time for the Mayor, the City Council, and the public to consider and research the options presented. Alternatively, the IGO is prepared to provide additional information and analysis from the IGO. In order to meet that deadline, please submit your ideas by August 10.

It is our hope that the Budget Options reports have and will continue to positively influence future budget decisions. Fundamentally, the inclusion of any option in this or past reports is not, and should not be construed as, an endorsement by the IGO. The report's intent is not to advocate for any specific way or ways for the City to confront its continuing structural fiscal challenges, but rather to provide information to elected officials and the public to inform the debate over how to confront our fiscal challenges in a way that results in a budget that moves the City to greater efficiency and effectiveness. The report is intended merely to provide a background and framework for more detailed analysis and public discussion.

In our continuing effort to be fully responsive to the City's challenges and supportive of the efforts of the Mayor and City Council in meeting those challenges, we welcome any suggestions or comments you may have on how to improve the report. Again please send your suggestions, comments, questions, corrections, and criticisms to budgetoptions@chicagoinspectorgeneral.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Ferguson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph M. Ferguson
Inspector General
City of Chicago