

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Frederick (Fritz) Kaegi

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Education is Key--Public School Funding* Oral History project

Interview #EF-A-L-2019-053

Fritz Kaegi, the Cook County Assessor, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key—Public School Funding* Oral History project.

Date: Aug. 6, 2019 Location: Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Interview being  
processed

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## Abstract

### Fritz Kaegi, Education is Key, #EF-A-L-2019-053

**Biographical Information Overview:** Fritz Kaegi was born in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Chicago and attended University of Chicago Labs schools through eighth grade. Fritz attended Kenwood Academy in Hyde Park, graduating in 1989. Fritz then attended Haverford College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1993. Upon graduation, Fritz worked at an internship with the State Department which allowed him to travel to Russia to observe their local banking efforts. He later returned to Russia as a financial analyst for UBS. Upon a banking collapse in Russia in 1998, Fritz returned to the United States and attended Stanford Business School, earning an MBA. He then gained employment at Columbia Wagner Asset Management Group, which led to a career as an investment banker for worldwide emerging markets. He later worked for the Acorn Fund. In 2017, Fritz ran as a candidate for Cook County Assessor, an elected position. He won the election and at the time of the interview was in his 2nd year in this position.

Kaegi discusses the duties of the Cook County Assessor as it relates to the property tax yearly cycle. He also talks about assessor training requirements, the role of the Board of Review, the property tax appeals board, the state multipliers, the various types of property to be assessed, and coordination with the County Clerk and County Treasurer on the Property tax cycle leading to tax bills. The impact of Tax increment Finance districts (TIF) were also discussed, as were the differences in Illinois law between Cook County and the other 101 counties. Fritz also reflects upon the high number of parcels in the county that must be reviewed.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Cook County Assessor; property taxes; assessing property; tax exemptions; Cook County; Wrigley Field; United Center

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