Eileen O'Neill Burke

One-Year Progress Report | December 2025

Mission Statement

To uphold justice and public safety in Cook County by fairly, ethically, and effectively prosecuting crime, supporting victims, and protecting the rights of all residents.

Getting Results.

- ☑ On day one, State's Attorney Burke immediately implemented new policies requiring prosecutors to seek detention in the highest classes of violent offenses, all violent offenses that occur on public transit, any offense that involves an assault weapon, as well as numerous felony domestic violence/sex offenses and crimes against children.

- ☑ State's Attorney Burke has reinvested in the people of the State's Attorney office through restructuring, training, and collaboration with other government offices. **As a result, prosecutors are successfully keeping dangerous individuals off the street** and protecting victims and witnesses. Under her administration, judges are granting detention in 80% of cases involving violent crime, 85% of cases involving aggravated domestic battery, and 76% of machine gun cases (as compared to 70%, 61% and 41% in the prior administration, respectively).

- ☑ While there is more work to do, the past year has seen violent crime in Cook County drop to historic lows. In fact, in 2025, Chicago has seen the **fewest homicides since the 1960s.**

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

September 26, 2025

Cook County's top prosecutor is pushing for pretrial detention for anyone charged with machine gun possession

Priorities.

Getting guns off the streets

- Upon taking office, State's Attorney Burke instituted a new policy requiring prosecutors to **seek detention on all felony offenses where the offender used an illegal gun modified with a machine gun conversion device, a ghost gun, or an extended magazine.**

- Demonstrating **her commitment to collaboration at every level to go after illegal guns**, State's Attorney Burke has rejoined the Crime Gun Intelligence Center, formed a Regional Gun Crimes Task Force and hosted a national summit on Machine Gun Conversion Devices.

- In partnership with Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling, State's Attorney Burke implemented **the new Expedited Felony Review standard for low-level non-violent crimes** to get police officers back on the beat sooner and 911 calls answered as expeditiously as possible.

Daily Herald

June 13, 2025

Cook County's New Top Prosecutor Continues to Target Retail Theft

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

July 11, 2025

Man charged in July 4th weekend killing was on electronic monitoring over prosecutors' objections

Standing up for victims and survivors of domestic violence

- To better respond to the needs of victims, **State's Attorney Burke created a "Special Victims Bureau,"** increasing staffing and utilizing trauma-informed practices and vertical prosecution.
- State's Attorney Burke advocated for the successful passage of House Bill 2690, which updated multiple Illinois sex crimes statutes, **extended protections for survivors of human trafficking**, and expanded services provided to witnesses.
- Within moments of taking office, State's Attorney Burke instituted a new policy requiring prosecutors to **seek detention on any felony domestic violence-related, stalking, or sex offense** where the offender used or possessed a weapon.

abc7

June 4, 2025

'It's a house on fire': Top Cook County prosecutor lays out plan to address domestic violence crisis

Chicago Tribune

June 8, 2025

Editorial: Eileen O'Neill Burke is a marvel so far as State's Attorney. Her office needs more resources.

Creating pathways to diversion

- State's Attorney Burke championed and advocated for the successful passage of Senate Bill 1899, which, supported by both the Illinois State Police and the Cook County Public Defender's Office, allows **first-time, nonviolent offenders charged with a weapon-related offense to apply for a FOID card while they participate in a diversion program.**
- State's Attorney Burke created a pilot program to connect juvenile offenders with mental health support, job training, transportation and after-school resources in lieu of pretrial detention.

Building Skills, Breaking Silos

- State's Attorney Burke has **implemented robust mandatory office-wide training**, including a new curriculum and orientation bootcamp for incoming attorneys.
- State's Attorney Burke collaborated with the Circuit Clerk and the Office of the Chief Judge to **provide ASAs in domestic violence court access to the full background of offenders**, including any Civil Orders of Protection, ensuring they can present the most thorough assessment of risk when seeking detention.
- In response to the rise in harassment, threats and violence, **State's Attorney Burke established the first of its kind Choice Protection Unit**, a highly trained team prepared to prosecute crimes and litigate civil actions that result from attempts to thwart access to reproductive healthcare in Cook County.

The Daily Line

October 30, 2025

Domestic Violence Cases and Hiring are Top Priorities for Cook County State's Attorney in 2026

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May 19, 2025

Cook County's Top Prosecutor Seeks More Protections for Reproductive Health Centers After Palm Springs Bombing

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