



LINCOLN INSTITUTE  
OF LAND POLICY

**International Association of Assessing Officers**

85<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Assessment Administration  
Niagara Falls, ON, Canada  
September 11, 2019

**What Assessors Need to Know About Tax Abatements and Incentives**

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**AGENDA**

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- 2:15 – 2:20 p.m.**      **Introduction & Moderator**  
*Joan Youngman*, Senior Fellow and Chair, Department of Valuation and Taxation, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- 2:20 – 3:00 p.m.**      **GASB 77 and Practices to Enhance Transparency Around the Use of Tax Abatements**
- Presenters:  
*Ron Rakow*, Fellow, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy  
*Greg LeRoy*, Executive Director, Good Jobs First
- In 2017, the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) implemented a new accounting standard – Statement No. 77 on Tax Abatement Disclosures. GASB 77 requires governments to disclose information about tax abatement agreements in their financial statements. This session will review GASB 77 objectives and the first 2 years of experience since its adoption. It will also explore limitations of the standard and present other best practices around transparency and disclosure of tax abatements.
- 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.**      **Q & A**
- 3:15 – 3:30 p.m.**      **Break**

**3:30 – 4:15 p.m.      Best Practices for Implementing and Administering Tax Incentives**

Presenters:

*Ron Rakow*, Fellow, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

*David Merriman*, Professor, Institute of Government and Public Affairs,  
University of Illinois at Chicago

This session will highlight the potential benefits and pitfalls of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and discuss important practices to improve the outcome of TIF programs. It will also include a presentation about the City of Boston's approach to tax incentives, which contributed to a successful economic development program.

**4:15 – 4:30              Q & A**

**4:30 p.m.                Adjourn**