Save Trees, Save Cash, Stay Legal: The Triple Win

How Kendall County dropped plat books

From paper plan books → digital books → open data



Once upon a filing cabinet…



October 2018

- Paper books
- Filing cabinets
- Storage areas
- Printers
- “Can I pick up a copy?”

We scanned ***everything***

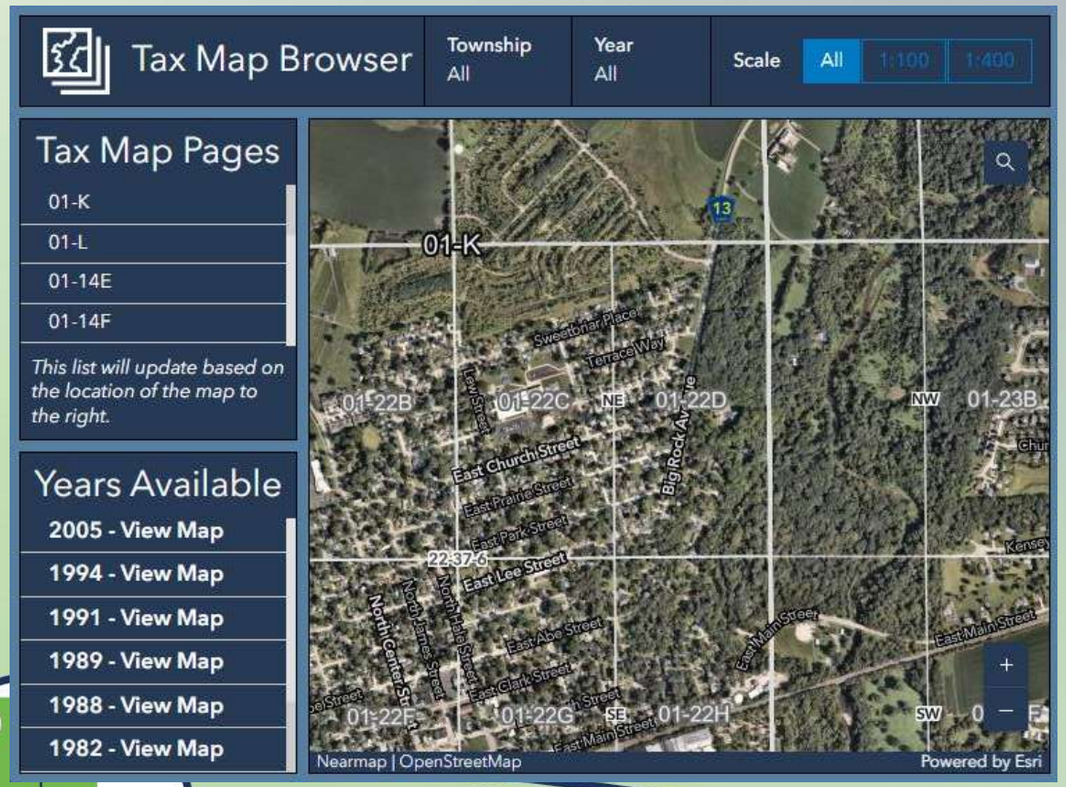


15,439 pages covering 40 years

My deepest apologies to current and former employees.

😬 🤦‍♀️

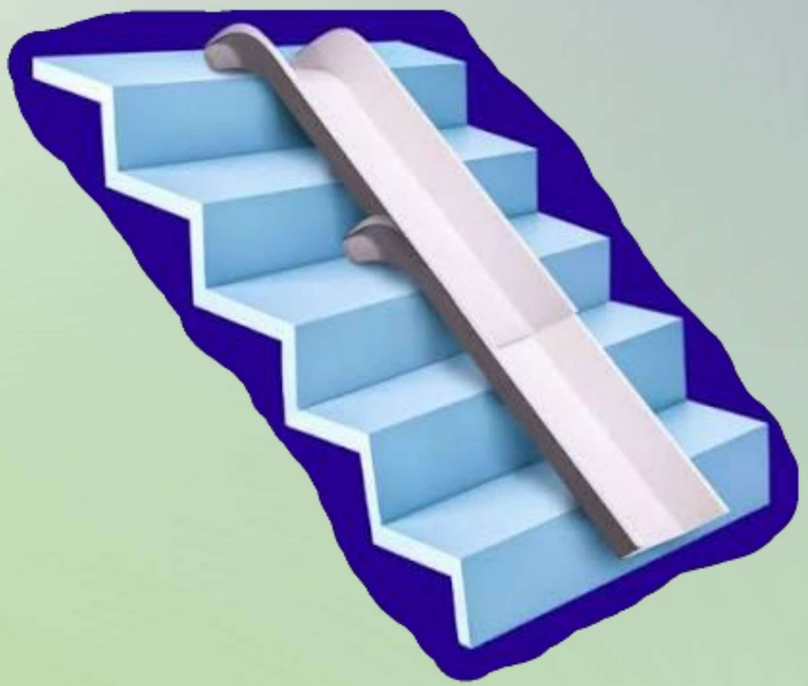
Pretty pleased with ourselves 🥴



Paper books officially gone in 2019

But producing effectively the same product

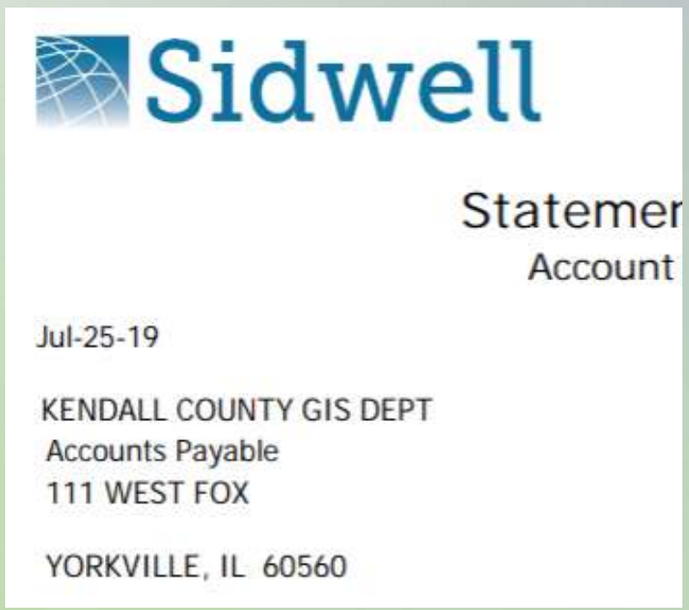
Same Information. Radically Different Workflow.



We did not just remove paper.

We removed steps.

Paper has a price tag



Sidwell

Statemer

Account

Jul-25-19

KENDALL COUNTY GIS DEPT
Accounts Payable
111 WEST FOX

YORKVILLE, IL 60560

- Paper
- Printing
- Postage
- Storage
- Equipment
- Staff retrieval time
- Duplication
- Public counter transactions

Time Is Also a Budget



Old staff-dependent workflow:

Find the book → Make a copy → Email → Wait → Repeat

New self-service workflow:

Search → Click → Done

That is not just a technology improvement.

That is increased staff capacity.

What does the law say?



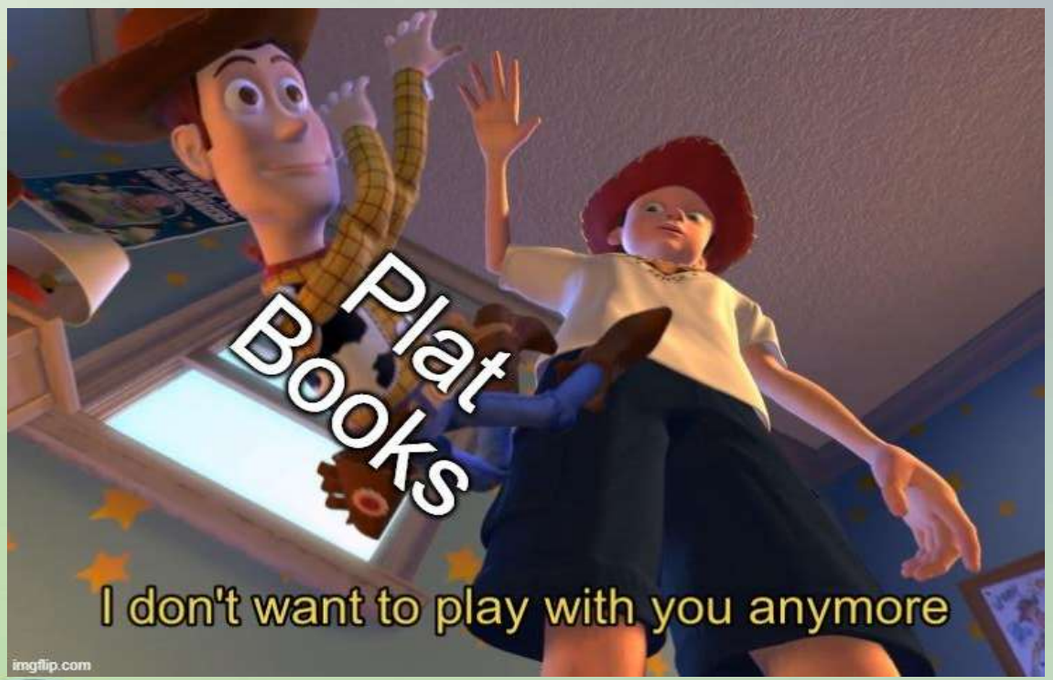
Property Tax Code is 35 ILCS 200/

1-5: an assessment "book" can include mechanically, electronically, or otherwise produced record-making material

9-35: county tax maps shall be up-to-date at regular intervals

9-50: maps will be open and accessible to the public

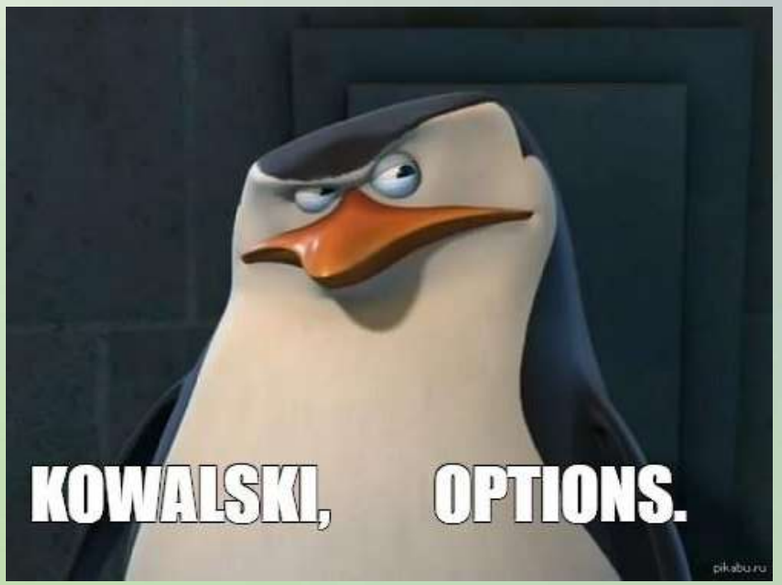
Compliance Is About the Record, Not the Binding



Digital is compliant when it preserves the required record.

We're not going to preserve the historical inconvenience of how we used to meet compliance.

What do we have now?



Historic Tax Map Browser

Digital Change Record Viewer

Open Parcel Data

Time Slider App

The Triple Win: Better Information With Less Paper



- Save Trees
- Save Cash
- Stay Legal