

## **Lise Valentine**

Vice President and Director of Research  
The Civic Federation

Lise Valentine is Vice President and Director of Research at the Civic Federation, an independent, non-partisan government research organization founded in 1894. The Federation's membership includes business and professional leaders from a wide range of Chicago area corporations, professional service firms and institutions. The Civic Federation seeks to assist public policy opinion leaders in the Chicago area and to advance issues such as property tax reform, tax simplification, privatization, and joint purchasing with the objective of improving governmental efficiency and financial accountability.

Lise conducts and supervises research on a wide variety of local government finance issues including public pension funds, property tax reform, transit funding, public school finance, and annual analysis of ten state and local government budgets. Her recent property tax research includes extensive studies on the effects of the expanded homeowner exemption in Cook County (known as the "7% cap"), annual estimates of the full value of property in Cook County, and annual estimates of sample effective tax rates in the six-county region of northeastern Illinois.

Before joining the Civic Federation in 2003, Lise earned a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Iowa, where she received numerous honors including a U.S. Department of Education Jacob K. Javits Graduate Fellowship. Her doctoral dissertation addressed methodological issues in public policy research, using the 1996 U.S. welfare reform as a case study.