On Nov. 8, 2016, Commissioner Josina Morita became the first Asian American elected county-wide in Cook County. Commissioner Morita is currently serving as the Chairman of the Budget & Employment Committee, the Information Technology Committee and the Maintenance & Operations Committee. She is also the Vice Chairman of the Engineering and Monitoring & Research Committees.

Commissioner Morita is director of the United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations, a multiethnic alliance of community organizations working together across 30 communities in Cook County. She serves on the State of Illinois’ Racial Profiling and Data Oversight Board, the Asian American Employment Plan Council and the city of Chicago’s Commission on Equity. She also presides on the boards of the Woods Fund of Chicago and the Asian American Action Fund of Greater Chicago.

In 2007, the Community Renewal Society named Commissioner Morita one of Chicago’s “35 Under 35,” fighting racism and poverty. In 2012, she was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. The same year, she was selected as a Jim Edgar Fellow and a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow. In 2013, she received the Emerging Leader Award from the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform and the Breaking Barriers Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women. Commissioner Morita’s human rights and social justice work has been recognized by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the Japanese American Citizens League.

She holds a master’s degree in Urban Planning and Public Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a B.A. in Sociology and International Race Relations from Pitzer College.