

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
July 23, 2026

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center, 102 East Main Street, Urbana, Illinois, County Executive Steve Summers presiding and Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members present: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 18; absent: Crane, Fortado, and Rogers – 3. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Board Member Wiggs was briefly absent from the room, missing the votes for Resolution Nos. 2026-165 and 2026-166.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In lieu of a prayer, County Executive Summers read a quote from Benjamin Franklin in honor of the United States' semiquincentennial, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

READ NOTICE OF MEETING

The Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting, said Notice having been published in the *News Gazette* July 9, July 16, and July 22, 2026.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt the Agenda/Addendum; Board Member Sullard seconded.

Board Member Peugh offered a motion to amend the Agenda/Addendum to remove item XV. Z. Resolution No. 2026-174; Board Member Settles seconded. The motion failed by voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to amend the Agenda/Addendum by moving items XV. P through XV. V. Resolution Nos. 2026-165, 2026-166, 2026-167, 2026-168, 2026-169, 2026-170, and 2026-171 to follow XII. A. FY2024 Audit Presentation, *and* to move item XIII. Communications to follow XVI. A. 3. Reallocation of ARPA Funds.; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to amend the Agenda/Addendum to move item XV. Z. Resolution No. 2026-174 to follow XII. A. FY2024 Audit Presentation; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion failed by voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPOINTING COUNTY BOARD MEMBER

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-149 appointing Chyna Figueroa-Dixon as a County Board Member in District 6 to fill Samantha Carter's unexpired term ending November 30, 2028; Board Member Arres seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

County Clerk and Recorder Aaron Ammons administered the oath of office to Board Member Figueroa-Dixon.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

- A. County Facilities Committee
Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee
Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee
Friday, August 7, 2026 at 9:00 AM
1605 E Main St, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

- A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; Finance
Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-150 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Member Sullard seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. State's Attorney

Julia Rietz was invited to speak, and she praised the work of Stephanie Clemmons. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-106 honoring retiring county employees; Board Member Rogers seconded. County Executive Summers read the entire text of the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jeff Brownfield, Champaign County Republican Party Chair, urged the County Board to request oversight of county elections by the Illinois State Board of Elections and the United States Department of Justice.

Gabriel Dunn, of Urbana, spoke about partisan politics in the county.

Stuart Levy, of Champaign, spoke against Resolution No. 2026-174.

Persephone Hernandez-Vogt, of Urbana, spoke against Immigration and Customs Enforcement's violent tactics and its impact on communities.

Jim McGuire, of Champaign Township, spoke in support of Resolution No. 2026-174.

Charlisa Hart, of Champaign, spoke against Resolution No. 2026-174.

Brian Dolinar, of Urbana, spoke against Flock license plate cameras in the community, noted the death of a recent County Jail inmate, and spoke against Resolution No. 2026-174.

Sanford Hess, of Champaign, commended the service of recently retired County Board member Samantha Carter and spoke about County procurement policies and recent county purchases.

Ekaterina Tsytsarina, of Champaign, spoke against the County Sheriff's use of Flock license plate cameras.

Angel Johnson, of Urbana, spoke against Resolutions No. 2026-174.

Craig Walker, of Champaign, congratulated Board Member Figueroa-Dixon and County Director of Administration Michelle Jett on their recent primary election victories, spoke against the fascism of the Trump Administration, and invited board members to attend the annual Love and Peace Barbecue on Sunday, July 26, 2026, at Douglass Park in Champaign.

Ann Marie spoke against Flock license plate cameras.

Bryan Maxwell, of Urbana, spoke against Resolution No. 2026-174.

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to extend Public Input by 10 minutes; Board Chair Locke seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Bhavana Bheem spoke against Flock license plate cameras.

PROCLAMATION

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt the Proclamation in Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Champaign County Courthouse, Urbana, Illinois; Board Member Farney seconded. County Executive Summers read the entire text of the proclamation. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION

Sandy Cook of Clifton Larson Allen gave a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit.

RESOLUTIONS No. 2026-165 to No. 2026-171

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-165 approving Budget Transfer BUA 2026/6/94 to transfer funds to the temporary staff line in order to pay election judges for the 2026 General Election; Board Member Arres seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 18

Nays: none

Temporarily Absent: Wiggs – 1

Board Member Figueroa-Dixon offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-166 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/6/110 appropriation to support activities related to coordination of the Continuum of Service Providers to the Homeless (CSPH); Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 18

Nays: none

Temporarily Absent: Wiggs – 1

Board Member Schoell offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-167 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/7/47 appropriation required for autopsy services

provided by Sangamon County; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-168 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/7/46 appropriation for the purchase of budget software; Board Member Farney seconded. County Finance Director Travis Woodcock was invited to join the discussion. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-169 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/7/165 appropriation to cover new contract for employee health insurance and related benefits broker/consultant services; Board Member Figueroa-Dixon seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-170 approving the allocation of Opioid Settlement Funds to Support Champaign County Drug Court; Board Member Wiggs seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Sexton offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-171 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/7/191 transferring Opioid Settlement Funds for Drug Court services; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Wilson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on June 18, 2026; Board Member Schoell seconded. Board Member Esry noted a typographical error in the second paragraph of page 4. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending correction.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-151 authorizing payment of claims; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-152 purchases not following Purchasing Policy; Board Member Schoell seconded. Director Jett was invited to join the discussion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2026-153 approving an intergovernmental agreement for Animal Control and Impound Services with the Village of Mahomet and No. 2026-154 approving an intergovernmental agreement for Animal Control and Impound Services with the City of Champaign; Board Member Sexton seconded. The omnibus motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-155 amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Physical Plant Department – Lead Grounds Worker; Board Member Schoell seconded. Director Jett was invited to join the discussion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-156 approving an exception to the Champaign County Purchasing Policy Ordinance 2022-9 – Physical Plant Department; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Director Jett was invited to join the discussion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-157 appointing Susan Fowler to the Developmental Disabilities Board, term ending 6/30/2029; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-158 appointing Jeff Kurtz to the Windsor Park Fire Protection District, term ending 4/30/2029; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-159 appointing Marcia Fisher to the Locust Grove Cemetery Association, term ending 6/30/2032; Board Member Wilson seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-160 appointing Lora Brooks to the East Lawn Memorial Burial Park, term ending 6/30/2030; Board Member Schoell seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Arres offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2026-161 appointing Andy Graham (R) to the Public Aid Appeals Committee, term ending

11/30/2026, No. 2026-162 appointing Danielle Chynoweth (D) to the Public Aids Appeals Committee, term ending 11/30/2027, and No. 2026-163 appointing Leah Taylor (D) to the Public Aid Appeals Committee, term ending 11/30/2027; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-173 appointing John Bergee as the Chair of the Board of Review, term ending 5/31/2027; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Figueroa-Dixon offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-164 approving the appointment of election judges for the 2026-2028 term; Board Member Arres seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

County Executive Summers noted the Available Budget Report – June 2026 was available in the Agenda Packet.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-14 increasing statutory Recorder GIS fee for Champaign County, Illinois; Board Member Settles seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Arres offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-172 honoring retiring County Board member Samantha Carter; Board Member Settles seconded. Board Chair Locke read the entire text of the resolution. Board Member Farney requested a roll call vote. The motion carried by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, and Locke – 14

Nays: Farney, Lokshin, Sexton, Sullard, and Cagle – 5

Board Member Wilson offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-174 calling for the resignation of the Champaign County Clerk; Board Member Sexton seconded. Board Member Arres offered a motion to table the resolution until the July 2027 regular meeting of the County Board; Board Chair Locke seconded. The motion to table the resolution carried by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Country Executive Summers noted the American Rescue Plan Act update (ARPA) memo in the Agenda Packet.

Volo Internet and Technology Solutions Chief Executive Officer Peter Folk presented an update on the ARPA-funded Rural Broadband project.

County Executive Summers noted the Reallocation of ARPA Funds memo in the Agenda Packet.

Point of Order

Board Member Farney raised a point of order objection to the tabling of Resolution No. 2026-174 to July 2027, arguing the action improper as it delays the consideration to a new board—a new board will be established December 1, 2026, following the November 3, 2026, General Election. County Executive Summers stated that he would request the State's Attorney's opinion on the propriety of tabling the resolution for an entire year, into the term of a new board. Board Chair Locke offered a motion to immediately remove from the table and reconsider Resolution No. 2026-174; Board Member Rodriguez seconded. Board member Farney requested a roll-call vote. The motion to remove from the table and reconsider the resolution failed by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Esry, Farney, Hanauer-Friedman, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Wilson, Cagle, and Locke – 9

Nays: Cowart, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Lokshin, Schoell, Settles, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, and Arres – 10

COMMUNICATION

Board Member Figueroa-Dixon thanked the Board for approving her appointment and thanked her supporters, especially Samantha Carter, and stated that she looks forward to working with all board members.

Board Member Peugh spoke about the July 26, 2026, Love and Peace Barbecue at Douglass Park in Champaign.

Board Chair Locke welcomed Board Member Figueroa-Dixon and spoke about a recent tour of a new family shelter.

Board Member Farney invited the public to attend the SJO5K race on July 25, 2026, in St. Joseph. He requested the County Sheriff's attendance to discuss the County's use of Flock license plate cameras and requested the County Auditor investigate the County Clerk's use of temporary election employees for potential abuses. He emphatically stated his anti-Trump, anti-MAGA political stance and spoke about the tabled Resolution No. 2026-174.

CLOSED SESSION

Board Member Schoell moved that the Board enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) for the setting of price for sale or lease of property by Champaign County and that the following individuals remained present: Director Jett and Recording Clerk Angie Patton; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote and the board entered Executive Session at 9:07:

Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin,

Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont,
Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 19
Nays: none

The Board returned from Closed Session by unanimous roll-call vote at 9:13:
Yeas: Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin,
Peugh, Rodriguez, Schoell, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont,
Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, and Locke – 19
Nays: none

ADJOURNMENT

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 9:13 PM.



Aaron Ammons, Champaign County Clerk
and ex-Officio Clerk of the Champaign County Board
Champaign County, Illinois