



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD

LABOR COMMITTEE

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – 4:30 p.m.

Jennifer Putman Meeting Room

Bennett Administrative Center

102 E Main Street, Urbana, IL 61801

OPEN MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on September 1, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Esry, John Farney (Vice Chair), and Emily Rodriguez (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephanie Fortado and Daniel Wiggs

COUNTY STAFF: Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Travis Woodcock (Budget Director), Andrew Bequette (Assistant State's Attorney), Dustin Heuerman (Sheriff), Shannon Barrett (Chief Deputy Sheriff), Liz Pollock (Public Defender), and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. December 22, 2025 – Regular Meeting

B. January 29, 2026 – Joint Labor & Litigation Meeting

OMNIBUS MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve the minutes of December 22, 2025 and January 29, 2026; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Input

None

VI. FAIR ACT – Funded Advocacy & Independent Representation Act

Ms. Pollock explained that the FAIR Act creates the Office of State Public Defender. The new office will now have hiring/firing power for all public defenders in Illinois, and she will no longer report to the Chief Judge. They discussed how this would affect the County and what changes they will need to discuss/make. This act goes into effect on January 1, 2027.

Ms. Jett entered the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

VII. Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)2 to Consider Collective Negotiating Matters Between the County and its Employees or their Representatives

MOTION by Mr. Farney to enter into closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) 2 to consider collective negotiating matters between Champaign County and its employees or their representatives. He further moved that the following individuals remain present; County Executive, Director of Administration, Budget Director, Assistant State's Attorneys, Sheriff, Chief Deputy Sheriff and recording secretary; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

The committee entered into closed session at 4:40 p.m.

The committee resumed open session at 4:50 p.m.

VIII. Other Business

- A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes
 - 1. December 22, 2025
 - 2. January 29, 2026

OMNIBUS MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve the closed session minutes of December 22, 2025 and January 29, 2026; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.