



## **OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois 61802-4581

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**Steve Summers, County Executive**

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Dear Board Members,

As required by state law, 55 ILCS 5/2-5009 (f), the County Executive shall *make an annual report to the board on the affairs of the county, on such date and at such times as the board shall designate, and keep the board fully advised as to the financial condition of the county and its future financial needs.*

Below is a summary of a few key items and attached is the Financial Forecast, as it gives a detailed and robust picture of the County's future financial needs.

- **Audit** – the FY23 audit was submitted in January of 2025, more than 3 months overdue from the extension date. Due to the severity of the situation, the Board has transferred the responsibility of the audit from the Auditor's Office to the County Executive's Office.
- **Bridge Replacement** – The Executive's Office continues to reach out the state and federal representatives to find funding and assistance with replacing the overpass bridge between Urbana and St Joe.
- **ARPA Spending** – The end of 2026 is the deadline to spend all the ARPA money, and we have a contingency plan for any allocations that are not spent as currently planned. The savings from the jail project have been shifted to the Facilities capital plan which will provide some temporary but needed relief to the General Fund.
- **Grant Coordinator** – this position has proved to be invaluable and there is an increase in grants received by the County, including a firearms safe storage grant that has given away 500 gun safes and 1,650 gun locks.
- **HR Division** – The Executive's Office has been able to structure a HR division without increasing the personnel budget by shifting job duties and reallocating vacant positions. This is an excellent step forward for the County in our goal to be a destination employer.
- **Relocation to Scott M. Bennett Administrative Center** – Offices have begun moving into the new building and everyone should be moved in by July, except the Auditor's Office, who has elected to remain at Brookens. The first County Board meeting at the Bennett Center is expected to be the July Board meeting. The dedication ceremony will be Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm at the Bennett Center.

- Public Safety Sales Tax – The referendum question to raise the tax did not pass in November 2024 and the County has a very concerning financial forecast. It is projected that we will spend through the General Fund balance by 2030. Please review the Financial Forecast for further detail.

These are just a few of the current items the County is addressing. As always, my door is open to all Board members for more detailed conversations and I encourage all Board members to engage with all the Board Committees, as that is where the work of the County is truly done.

Sincerely,



Steve Summers

Champaign County Executive