

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Lang called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2026 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – Peggy Bastian, Michael Dittmar, Lynn Gallagher, John Lang, Logan Noe, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Present: 7. Present electronically: 0. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026, Legislative Committee meeting was made by John Schultz and seconded by Logan Noe. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

The FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals were reviewed.

VI. New Business

Lang updated the committee on the Illinois Legislation previously supported by the County Board.

Lynn Gallagher discussed the report she submitted regarding the following Illinois legislative bills: HB5029/SB3254 – Increase CIL funding by \$10M; HB4586/SB3406 – Increase home modification funding; HB4758 – Accessible job applications; HB3815 – 700-Hour Demonstration Program; HB1568/SB2471 – Eliminate income and asset limits for HBWD; HB4848/SB3340 – Protective Medical Equipment Freedom Act (Kiki's Law); and HB4613 – Plain Language Ballot Requirement. The report included a list of pros and cons for each bill. Lynn Gallagher asked board members to individually indicate their support or opposition to the bills by submitting a witness slip on their own behalf.

Mike Dittmar discussed the report he submitted regarding the following Illinois legislative bills: SB2706 - Property Tax/Energy Systems; SB2746 - Property Tax/Senior Freeze; SB3299 - Registered Voters; SB3378 - Publication Notices; SB3672 - Bitcoin Invest; SB3621 - Loc Gov Officer's Salary; SB3794 - Residential Energy Backup Systems; SB3829 Local Government Business Anti-poaching Act. Mike Dittmar asked board members to individually indicate their support or opposition to the bills by submitting a witness slip on their own behalf.

Discussion was held to support SB3109 which raises certain county purchasing thresholds in smaller counties (under 2,000,000 population). It increases the limit for purchases requiring formal procurement to over \$40,000 (up from \$30,000) and raises the cap for certain technology-related purchases that can be made without competitive bidding to \$45,000. **A motion to recommend sending a letter of support for SB3109 — County CD-Spending Thresholds was made by Michael Dittmar and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Discussion was held to oppose SB3552, which allows voters to petition for a referendum to dissolve a unit of local government and transfer its responsibilities to another unit. **A motion to recommend sending a letter of opposition to SB3552 — Citizens Empowerment Act was made by Michael Dittmar and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Discussion was held to oppose SB3621 which standardizes and increases compensation for certain county officials by tying their salaries to the State's Attorney's pay and adding state support and stipends. **A motion to recommend sending a letter of opposition to SB3621 — Loc Gov Officer's Salary was made by Michael Dittmar and seconded by Lynn Gallagher. The motion carried by voice vote.**

John Lang discussed the report he submitted regarding the Illinois Association of County Board Members' position regarding proposed Illinois legislation. The item was for discussion only, and no action was taken. He also discussed the report he submitted regarding the following Illinois legislative bills: SB2715 - Open meetings; SB3065 - Property Tax Notices; SB3218 - FOIA law enforcement records; SB3577 - Wind turbine stewardship; SB3940 - Property Tax Sales; SB3946 - Tax District Filing; SB3726 - Granny Houses; SB3070 - Foreign Language Alternative. John Lang asked board members to individually indicate their support or opposition to the bills by submitting a witness slip on their own behalf.

Discussion was held to support SB2750 which amends the Illinois Property Tax Code to create a property tax exemption for a home owned and occupied by the surviving spouse of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. **A motion to recommend sending a letter of support for SB2750 — Prop TX-Police Spouse was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Discussion was held to support SB3088 which provides that, before submitting a request to a school district for use of a school building as a polling place, the county board or board of election commissioners shall evaluate all other suitable alternatives before choosing a school as a polling place. **A motion to recommend sending a letter of support for SB3088 - Elec CD-Polling Places was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Logan Noe. The motion carried by voice vote.**

VII. Legislative issues Committee Members or County Officials want the committee to be aware of and take action on at another meeting

Minimum Wage Senate Bill: Senate Bill on Raising Minimum Wage – Dittmar discussed a Senate bill regarding raising the minimum wage. He will review the bill in more detail and email it to the

committee for further discussion at the next Legislative meeting in April.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

Diane Gallagher, a citizen of East Dubuque and County Board Member, commented that she enjoyed listening to the discussion of the bills. She suggested that the committee create a spreadsheet with defined parameters, using criteria and standards similar to those used by the Zoning Board, to assist in tracking how members vote.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

John Lang advised the committee to watch for forwarded emails discussing the House bills selected by the Association of County Officials. Lang asked board members to take time to review those bills and determine whether there are any additional bills that they would like to support or oppose.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:47 PM by Michael Dittmar and seconded by John Schultz. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next Legislative committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.