

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2025

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Committee Chairperson John Lang called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 9, 2025, in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices in Galena, Illinois. Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – Peggy Bastian, Lynn Gallagher, Logan Noe, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, John Lang. Present: 6. Absent – Michael Dittmar. Absent: 1. A quorum was established.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve minutes of the July 10, 2025, Legislative Committee meeting was made by John Schultz and seconded by Peggy Bastian. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no Citizens' Comments.

V. Unfinished Business

The members discussed the specific goals and plans directly related to the Legislative Committee; one of the main goals discussed was UTV legislation. Noe asked for an explanation of how the goals were added to the list; specifically, he questioned the purpose of the goals if the agenda did not correlate with any of them. He feels it is advantageous if these meetings are held with the intent of recalling what has happened at the State level. Trost clarified that this Committee is the only voice the County has in regard to what the State is doing. There was more discussion.

VI. New Business

Lang gave a brief overview of the extensive number of bills passed in the spring session, and how quickly almost 6,000 pages of legislation were approved.

Lang commented on the upcoming veto session starting next week, and again, the last week of October.

There was an article of opinion included in the packet related to the transit deficit. The issue that Lang explained was the large deficit the Chicago Transit Authority has. It should not be a burden on the entire state. A motion to recommend writing a letter in opposition to the bill regarding the transit deficit was made by John Schultz and seconded by LaDon Trost. (Since the item was not specifically listed on the agenda, there was no official action that could be taken at the meeting.) Gallagher commented that she didn't feel comfortable voting for something when the article was based solely off of an opinion which was extremely conservative. She requested that there be more unbiased information presented before voting for something of this nature. Gallagher explained that the verbiage is very telling, like an opinion piece or blog. Noe agreed, and he too, felt that there needed to be something available that was more research-based. There was some discussion and Noe elaborated to the Committee that he and Gallagher are on the same page as the other members

and are also in opposition to the bill, but that they just feel it best to cite credible, accurate sources when drafting a letter.

There was a brief discussion on the cost of producing more energy in Illinois. The state has a very large energy deficit, which means that more energy is used than created, which is a large issue.

Data center regulations were briefly discussed.

Because of the tense relationship between Governor Pritzker and President Trump, there has been a loss of Federal funding in Illinois. Lang moved onto item VI.D. since that was correlated to Federal funding.

Trump will be reducing Federal funding to the state by 84%, directly related to migrant issues. Gallagher commented that Trump shouldn't punish the entire state over his dissatisfaction with Pritzker. There was much discussion.

A synopsis of SB1830 was pulled up for the members to read. SB1830 clarifies an issue brought up at a recent County Board meeting by member Daisha Boehm, regarding the taxation of storage buildings. A motion to recommend drafting a letter to Senator Andrew Chesney and Representative Tony McCombie in support of SB1830 was made by LaDon Trost and seconded by John Schultz. (Since the item was not specifically listed for action on the agenda, there was no official action that could be taken at the meeting.)

There was brief discussion regarding the dire need for change in the way pensions are funded in Illinois. Member Schultz shared a handout illustrating an example of retirement contributions and payouts under the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). The example showed approximately \$53,000 contributed over 17 years, compared to about \$384,000 received in benefits over 16 years, with future payments projected to exceed \$800,000. The point was made to highlight the long-term cost of retirement benefits relative to employee contributions.

There were additional supporting articles included in the meeting packet that were related to discussions held earlier in the meeting.

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

There was no discussion.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

Regarding concerns, Trost indicated that most topics discussed at the Legislative Committee meetings are simply informational. Some counties hire lobbyists. However, that is a cost the county cannot afford.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:31 PM by John Schultz and seconded by Peggy Bastian. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting is Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.