

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2025

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Lang called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, November 13, 2025 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices in Galena, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – Peggy Bastian, Lynn Gallagher, Logan Noe, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, John Lang. Present: 6. Present electronically –Michael Dittmar. Present electronically: 1. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve minutes of the October 9, 2025, 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

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals were reviewed. LaDon Trost recently attended a meeting with the Secretary of State's Office to discuss the UTV/ATV issue. It is his opinion this goal is unattainable based on their opposition.

There was discussion on whether to recommend opposition to downstate funding of the Chicago Area Transit Deficit since the bill has already been passed. It was decided to take no action at this time.

A motion to recommend sending a letter of support for SB1830 which defines real property was made by John Lang and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

VI. New Business

Review actions and legislation that came out of the veto override session:

Legislative Articles

Chairperson Lang reviewed the articles he presented to the committee. Discussion included SB2111, which addresses bicycle exemptions, transportation matters, taxes on home deliveries, and taxes on all services. The proposed legislation would also increase the cannabis tax. Chairperson Lang also reviewed SB25, the Energy Bill.

Committee Scope and Charter

Logan Noe raised questions regarding the scope of the Legislative Committee, asking whether its responsibilities should be limited to county-specific legislation or whether the committee should continue monitoring all state-level bills.

HB1085 – Mental Health Coverage

The committee discussed HB1085, noting that its expanded mental health coverage requirements may lead to increased insurance premiums. Jo Daviess County currently provides some mental health coverage, and members agreed the bill should be closely monitored.

Immigration Legislation

Members reviewed immigration-related legislation affecting ICE agents, who may become subject to civil lawsuits. Enforcement mechanisms remain unclear.

Decoupling Bill 178

An overview of Decoupling Bill 178 was provided. While some states permit full depreciation to be claimed in a single year, Illinois has rejected this provision, potentially complicating tax filings.

SB1950 – Medical Aid in Dying

The committee reviewed SB1950, noting its provisions related to establishing medical aid-in-dying options for terminally ill patients.

Farm Bureau News

Members discussed recent Farm Bureau News publications and expressed appreciation for the unbiased reporting contained in the articles.

Pension and Social Security Issues

The committee reviewed issues related to Illinois teachers' TRS pensions, including possible state efforts to shift funding responsibilities to local school districts, which could increase local tax burdens. Members also discussed broader concerns regarding the long-term stability of the Social Security system.

Articles of interest and possible future legislative issues:

Candy Tax Article

Chairperson Lang reviewed the article regarding the Illinois candy tax, noting that candy products containing flour are taxed differently under current regulations.

Committee Scope and Meeting Structure

The committee held discussion regarding the focus of Legislative Committee meetings. Members expressed interest in concentrating more on county-specific issues.

Michael Dittmar observed that although the information presented is valuable, the agenda contained few actionable items.

Several members suggested shifting discussions away from issues primarily affecting Chicago and toward matters directly relevant to Jo Daviess County.

A suggestion was made to circulate articles of interest to members continuously, potentially reducing the need for monthly meetings.

Committee Continuation

LaDon Trost stated he would not support discontinuing the Legislative Committee, noting his appreciation for the research and information Chairperson Lang provides on state legislation.

Chairperson Lang stated that it is important to remain informed on all pending legislation. He noted that Chicago is often the primary focus of statewide policymaking, and those decisions ultimately affect Jo Daviess County as well.

John Schultz agreed, emphasizing the importance of Jo Daviess County advocating for relevant bills and noting his own past efforts to lobby through letters and in-person communication.

Lobbying Resources

LaDon Trost commented on the potential benefits of hiring a lobbyist for the county but acknowledged that such an expense would likely be cost-prohibitive.

A motion to approve the Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule for FY2026 with the addition of a meeting on February 5, 2026, was made by John Schultz 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

None.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

Lynn Gallagher reminded members that the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Community meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the County Boardroom and Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 2:00 PM at Calvary Church of Stockton, 315 W. Maple Ave, Stockton, IL.

LaDon Trost plans to invite Senator Chesney and Representative Tony McCombie to participate in a Legislative Committee meeting in either December or January.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:04 PM by John Schultz and seconded by Logan Noe. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting

The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM.