

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

10:30 AM

Assembly Room, 10th Floor or register for remote attendance at:

<https://bit.ly/4qWCYd8>

Law & Judicial Committee

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call of Members

Present 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

**Electronic Attendance: Member Danforth, due to employment reasons*

Other Attendees

In Person:

Eric Rinehart, Lake County State's Attorney

Daniel Shanes, 19th Judicial Circuit Court

Greg Ticsay, Public Defender

Lisa Wolf, 19th Judicial Circuit Court

Karl Walldorf, 19th Judicial Circuit Court

James Edwards, 19th Judicial Circuit Court

Darcy Adcock, Human Resources

Kelly Christie, State's Attorney's Office

Jo Gravitter, State's Attorney's Office

Steve Spagnolo, State's Attorney's Office

Lauren Callinan, State's Attorney's Office

Jennifer Brennan, Communications

Kevin Quinn, Communications

Patrice Sutton, County Administrator's Office

Lacey Simpson, County Administrator's Office

RuthAnne Hall, County Administrator's Office

Theresa Glatzhofer, County Board Office

Electronically:

Carissa Casbon, Board Member

Paul Frank, Board Member

Jolanda Dinkins, County Board Office

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

Claudia Gilhooley, 19th Judicial Circuit Court

Melanie Nelson, State's Attorney's Office

Carl Kirar, Facilities and Construction Services

Jim Chamernik, Sheriff's Office

Abby Krakow, Communications

Kevin Quinn, Communications

Brea Barnes, Finance

Michael Wheeler, Finance

Vernesha Lawrence, Finance

Adam Krueger, Finance

4. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

5. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

6. Chair's Remarks

Vice Chair Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

8. New Business

CONSENT AGENDA (Items 8.1 - 8.3)

MINUTES

8.1 [26-0095](#)

Committee action approving the Law and Judicial Committee minutes from January 6, 2026.

Attachments: [L&J 1.6.26 Final Minutes](#)

As part of a single motion for the entire Consent Agenda, a motion was made by Member Altenberg, seconded by Member Pedersen, that these minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

REPORTS

8.2 [26-0077](#)

Report from Jennifer Banek, Coroner, for the month of October 2025.

Attachments: [L&JrepOCT25](#)

As part of a single motion for the entire Consent Agenda, a motion was made by Member Altenberg, seconded by Member Pedersen, that this report be approved and recommended to the County Board agenda. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

8.3 [26-0078](#)

Report from Jennifer Banek, Coroner, for the month of November 2025.

Attachments: [L&JrepNOV25](#)

As part of a single motion for the entire Consent Agenda, a motion was made by Member Altenberg, seconded by Member Pedersen, that this report be approved and recommended to the County Board agenda. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

REGULAR AGENDA

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

8.4 [26-0113](#)

Joint resolution authorizing an emergency appropriation with offsetting revenue in the amount of \$14,000 to support the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court's Disability Accessibility Improvement Program.

Attachments: [Courts Disability Grant 14000 EA](#)
[2026 Disability Access Grant Agreement - Lake County Signed.pdf](#)

Lisa Wolf, Director of Finance, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court, explained that this item is to authorize an emergency appropriation to support the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court's Disability Accessibility Improvement Program. Discussion ensued. Karl Walldorf, Executive Director, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court, assisted in answering questions from the Committee.

A motion was made by Member Altenberg, seconded by Member Pedersen, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

8.5 [26-0114](#)

Joint resolution authorizing an emergency appropriation with offsetting revenue in the amount of \$12,000 to support a trauma-informed mural project at the Hulse Detention Center.

Attachments: [Courts IAC Grant 12000 EA](#)
[Grant Agreement - 2026-0047678 Creative Projects 2026 - Organization A](#)

Lisa Wolf, Director of Finance, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court, and James Edwards,

Director of Juvenile Court Services, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court, explained that this item is to authorize an emergency appropriation to support a trauma-informed mural project at the Hulse Detention Center. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Member Pedersen, seconded by Member Altenberg, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

8.6 [26-0042](#)

Joint resolution authorizing two new Principal Public Defenders to staff a newly consolidated Domestic Violence courtroom, at an estimated cost of approximately \$135,000 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026.

Attachments: [CFDV Memo v3](#)
[HR Memo Princ Public Def Positions](#)

Greg Ticsay, Public Defender, explained that this item is to authorize two new Principal Public Defenders to staff a newly consolidated Domestic Violence courtroom. Discussion ensued. Daniel Shanes, Chief Judge, and Eric Rinehart, State's Attorney, assisted in answering questions from the Committee.

A motion was made by Member Altenberg, seconded by Member Pedersen, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

8.7 [26-0080](#)

Joint resolution authorizing the acceptance and execution of a Healing Illinois grant awarded to the Lake County State's Attorney's Office through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) as a subgrantee of the Lake County YWCA, to fund a gun violence prevention mural to promote community building and engagement in Lake County and an emergency appropriation of \$12,000 in grant funds.

Attachments: [Budget Summary Healing Illinois \\$12k.pdf](#)

Jo Gravitter, Chief Deputy, Administrative Services, State's Attorney's Office (SAO), explained that this item is to accept and execute a Healing Illinois grant awarded to the Lake County SAO to fund a gun violence prevention mural to promote community building and engagement in Lake County. Discussion ensued. Steve Spagnolo, Director, Government Relations and External Affairs, SAO, assisted in answering questions from

the Committee.

A motion was made by Member Altenberg, seconded by Member Pedersen, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

8.8 [26-0098](#)

Joint resolution authorizing the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 for a continued participation fee of \$55,000.

Jo Gravitter, Chief Deputy, Administrative Services, State's Attorney's Office (SAO), explained that this item is to authorize the SAO Appellate Prosecutor Program for Fiscal Year 2026.

A motion was made by Member Altenberg, seconded by Member Pedersen, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Danforth, Member Pedersen, Vice Chair Roberts and Ex-Officio Member Hart

Absent: 3 - Chair Ross Cunningham, Member Knizhnik and Member Kyle

9. County Administrator's Report

There was no County Administrator's Report.

10. Executive Session

The Committee did not enter into Executive Session.

11. Member Remarks and Requests

Member Altenberg noted that today is Holocaust Remembrance Day and expressed that hate needs to be eradicated.

12. Adjournment

Vice Chair Roberts declared the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Next Meeting: February 3, 2026

Meeting minutes prepared by Theresa Glatzhofer.

Minutes were approved on March 3, 2026, by the Law and Judicial Committee.