

COUNTY OFFICIAL COMPENSATION TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Monday July 21, 2025

11:00am

Willard Ice Building/Webex

101 West Jefferson Street

Springfield, Illinois 62706

The County Official Compensation Task Force met on Monday, July 21, 2025

Name	Present
Alejandro Benitez	Yes
Brandy Bryant	No
Andrea Chasteen	No
Kendal Eastin	Yes
Chet Esther	Yes
Seth Floyd	Yes
Brad Halbbrook	Yes
David Harris	Yes
Stephanie Helmuth	Yes

Name	Present
Holly Kim	Yes
Seth Lewis	No
David Michael	Yes
Rachael Parker	No
Erika Ramsey	Yes
Meg Sybert	Yes
Maurice West	No
Sherry Williams	Yes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- At 10:00am, the meeting was called to order by David Harris, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue and Chair of the Task Force.
- A roll call was conducted to confirm attendance.
- 12 members were present, constituting a quorum.
- It was noted Judith Phillips resigned due to personal reasons; a new appointment from the Governor's office is expected.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2025 meeting was made by Chet Esther.
- Minutes were 2nd by Kindal Easton.
- Minutes were approved as written.

3. Review of Previous Meetings Actions

- Significant progress was made with the recommendations at the initial meeting.

- In the 7/21/25 meeting, the Task Force proposed a framework to increase local government officials' salaries. Cory discussed the spreadsheets he created to calculate the cost of the Task Force's salary increase proposal.
 - The spreadsheets detailed the cost impact, by county, if local officials' salaries were increased to equate to 80%, 70% or 60% of the State's Attorney's salary in each county.
 - The spreadsheets also calculated the state's share (2/3) and the county's share (1/3) for the 80%, 70% and 60% scenarios.
 - The spreadsheets identified the year the stipends were enacted and the value of each stipend if adjusted for inflation.
 - Current salary information paid by county is missing for Coroners, Circuit Clerks, and Assessors.
 - Coroner Summers will assist the Task Force by sending the current salary for each Illinois County Coroner.
 - Seth Floyd will send information regarding salaries for circuit clerks.
 - Alejandro Benitez will send information regarding salaries for assessors.

4. Open Meetings Act Requirements, Certificates and Training

- Ethics and Open Meetings Act certificates are still needed from some members.
- Ethics training, involving review of two PDF's should be completed by Wednesday July 23, 2025 and sent to Jennifer Kieffer.
- OMA training has a 30-day compliance period, due by the end of the month.
- Mileage reimbursements have been processed for those who submitted forms after the first meeting. Anyone who didn't submit forms but wants reimbursement should email Paula.

5. New Business

- Erika Ramsey sent a general letter with information regarding Vermilion County elected official salaries. No discussion was needed.
- Chair Harris asked for recommendations to improve future virtual meetings.

6. Public Comment

There was a question about appointing someone new to the Task Force.

- The Task Force is a statutory body, and membership changes require legislative action.
- Legislation and Next Steps
 - The next meeting is scheduled for September, date to be determined.
 - The Task Force will try to reach an agreement in the September meeting as to the way forward.
 - The goal is to have draft legislation ready by October for review by Task Force members and their associations.

- Chair Harris intends to have Revenue's legal team put together a draft once the Task Force agrees on a direction.
 - The draft legislation would be available for review by all Task Force members.
- There was discussion about combining county assessment officials and other assessment groups.

7. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
- Information about September meeting will be sent out after Labor Day.
- The Task Force meeting adjourned at 10:46am.

Minutes prepared by: Paula OBrien **Date:** July 21, 2025