

SPECIAL OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Called by: Paul Arena, Chairman

Members: John Butitta, Valerie Hanserd,
Joe Hoffman, Michael Thompson
Ray Thompson, Christina Valdez

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026

TIME: 5:30 PM

LOCATION: WINNEBAGO COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
400 WEST STATE STREET
ROOM 815
ROCKFORD, IL 61101

AGENDA:

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2026

D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Operations and Administrative Committee with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first-come, first-served basis, with sign-up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters that are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee, or the County Board. Personnel matters, pending or threatened litigation, may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgment by the chair, please stand and state your name. Thank you.

E. Resolution Submitting to The Electors of The County of Winnebago, Illinois by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Voting Qualifications

F. Resolution Submitting to The Electors of The County of Winnebago, Illinois by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Property Tax Relief

G. Other Matters

H. Future Agenda Items

I. Adjournment

Winnebago County Board
Operations and Administrative Committee Meeting
County Administration Building
404 Elm Street, Room 303
Rockford, IL 61101

Thursday, July 16, 2026
5:30 PM

Present:

Paul Arena, **Chairperson**
Valerie Hanserd, **Vice Chairperson**
John Butitta
Michael Thompson
Ray Thompson (arrived at 5:38 pm)
Christina Valdez

Absent:

Joe Hoffman

Others Present:

Patrick Thompson, County Administrator
Steve Schultz, Chief Financial Officer
Hope Edwards, Director, Purchasing (Staff Liaison)
Lafakeria Reuter, State's Attorney's Office
Debbie Crozier, Director, Human Resources
Jennifer Muraski, Coroner, Winnebago County
Todd Marshall, WCHD
Jim Keeler, WCHD
Dan Magers, Chief Information Officer
Shawn Franks, Director, Facilities
Ashlynn Fernandez, WCSO
Carol Hartline, Attorney, Williams McCarthy LLP
Jeff Orduno, Urban Equities
Justin Fern, Urban Equities
Brad Roos, Executive Director, Sustain Rockford
Jeff Bailey, Former Alderman
Matthew Gabel, County Board Member
John Sweeney, County Board Member
Jim Webster, County Board Member

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of Minutes –June 22, 2026
- D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Operations and Administrative Committee with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first-come basis with sign-up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters which are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee, or the County Board. Personnel matters or pending or threatened litigation may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgment by the chair, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. Resolution to Appoint Precinct Election Judges
- F. Resolution Awarding Purchase of Ferromagnetic Detection Systems for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Using CIP 2026 Funds
Cost: \$35,630

- G. Resolution Awarding Purchase of One Jail Transport Vehicle for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Using CIP 2026 Funds
Cost: \$82,685
- H. Resolution Awarding Exterior Precast and Caulking Repairs to the Public Safety Building Using Owner Direct Funds
Cost: \$232,545
- I. Resolution Awarding Email Security Filtering Annual Licensing
- J. Resolution Authorizing The County Of Winnebago, Illinois And Ringland-Johnson Construction To Execute A Change Order To The PSB Project To Modernize The 5th PSB Elevator Using Contingency And PSB Owner Direct Funding
- K. Resolution Submitting to The Electors of The County of Winnebago, Illinois by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Restoring Local Zoning Authority of Commercial Solar Energy Facilities, Data Centers, and Agricultural Land Use
- L. Resolution Submitting to The Electors of The County of Winnebago, Illinois by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Property Tax Relief
- M. Resolution Submitting to The Electors of The County of Winnebago, Illinois by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Amending the Redistricting Process For State Legislative Maps
- N. Other Matters
- O. Future Agenda Items
- P. Adjournment

Chairperson Arena called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Roll Call

Chairperson Paul Arena, yes; Mr. John Butitta, yes; Ms. Valerie Hanserd, yes; Dr. Michael Thompson, yes; Ms. Christina Valdez, yes.

A quorum is present.

Chairperson Paul Arena advised that Item M., Resolution Submitting to the Electors of the County of Winnebago, Illinois, by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Amending the Redistricting Process for State Legislative Maps, is being removed from the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2026

Chairperson Arena called for a motion to approve the minutes of June 22, 2026.

Motion: Dr. Thompson. Second: Ms. Valdez.

Chairperson Arena called for any discussion.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the minutes.

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Chairperson Arena read the Public Comment Section. Brad Roos, Executive Director of Sustain Rockford, spoke about a proposed referendum on zoning changes at the state level to enable public control over the siting of large-scale solar, wind, and data centers. Mr. Roos is available for any questions specific to the issue.

Mr. Ray Thompson arrived at 5:38 PM.

Resolution to Appoint Precinct Election Judges

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Mr. Patrick Thompson shared information about the resolution.
Chairperson Arena called for any questions.
Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.
The motion to approve the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Awarding Purchase of Ferromagnetic Detection Systems for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Using CIP 2026 Funds

Cost: \$35,630

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Dr. Thompson.
Mr. Patrick Thompson shared information about the resolution.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Arena called for any other questions.
Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.
The motion to approve the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Awarding Purchase of One Jail Transport Vehicle for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Using CIP 2026 Funds

Cost: \$82,685

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Dr. Thompson.
Mr. Patrick Thompson shared information about the resolution.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Arena called for any other comments or questions.
Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.
The motion to approve the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Awarding Exterior Precast and Caulking Repairs to the Public Safety Building Using Owner Direct Funds

Cost: \$232,545

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Ms. Hanserd.
Mr. Patrick Thompson shared information about the resolution and called for any questions.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Arena called for any other comments or questions.
Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.
The motion to approve the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Awarding Email Security Filtering Annual Licensing

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Dr. Thompson.
Mr. Patrick Thompson shared information about the resolution and advised that Dan Magers was present to answer any questions.
Chairperson Arena called for any questions.
Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.
The motion to approve the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Authorizing The County Of Winnebago, Illinois And Ringland-Johnson Construction To Execute A Change Order To The PSB Project To Modernize The 5th PSB Elevator Using Contingency And PSB Owner Direct Funding

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Ms. Valdez.
Mr. Patrick Thompson shared information about the resolution and advised that Shawn Franks and Hope Edwards were present to answer questions.

- A discussion followed.

Motion: Ms. Valdez made a motion to amend the resolution in the fifth WHEREAS to read: *with a not to exceed cost of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00)*. Also, in the paragraph below the fifth WHEREAS, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, *with a not to exceed cost of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00)*.

Second: Ms. Hanserd and Mr. Thompson.

Chairperson Arena called for any discussion or questions regarding the amendment to the resolution.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the amendment to the resolution.

The motion to approve the amendment to the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Chairperson Arena called for any discussion concerning the resolution as amended.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution as amended.

The motion to approve the resolution as amended was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Submitting to The Electors of The County of Winnebago, Illinois by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Restoring Local Zoning Authority of Commercial Solar Energy Facilities, Data Centers, and Agricultural Land Use

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Dr. Thompson.

Chairperson Arena shared information about the resolution and called for comments.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Arena called for any other comments or questions.

- A discussion followed.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution.

The motion to approve the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Submitting to The Electors of The County of Winnebago, Illinois by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Property Tax Relief

Motion: Chairperson Arena. Second: Ms. Valdez and Dr. Thompson.

Chairperson Arena discussed the resolution and called for questions or comments.

Motion: Ms. Valdez moved that the resolution be laid over.

Second: Mr. Butitta and Ms. Hanserd.

Chairperson Arena called for a vote to approve the resolution being laid over.

The motion to lay over the resolution was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Resolution Submitting to The Electors of The County of Winnebago, Illinois by Referendum an Advisory Public Question Concerning Amending the Redistricting Process For State Legislative Maps

Chairperson Arena explained that Item M. was removed from the agenda and laid over.

Other Matters

No other matters reported.

Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items reported.

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Arena called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Dr. Thompson. Second: Ms. Valdez.

A unanimous voice vote passed the motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile
Executive Assistant

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS**

2026 CR _____

SUBMITTED BY: OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

SPONSORED BY: PAUL ARENA

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF
WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS BY REFERENDUM AN ADVISORY PUBLIC QUESTION
CONCERNING VOTING QUALIFICATIONS**

WHEREAS, Article 28 of the Illinois Election Code governs the initiation and submission of public questions to the electors of the State and its political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, advisory questions of public policy may be submitted pursuant to Section 28-5 of the Illinois Election Code; and

WHEREAS, the County of Winnebago, Illinois is a political subdivision of the State of Illinois, and the Winnebago County Board is the governing body of Winnebago County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the integrity of our elections, and specifically ensuring that only legal voters vote in our elections, is a major concern for the residents of Winnebago County; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Board finds that voters should have an opportunity to express their opinion on whether the Illinois General Assembly should pass legislation that would require all voters to show a valid form of government-issued photo identification to prove United States citizenship before being allowed to vote; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/28-2(c), the County Board may place a referendum question on a ballot to be submitted to the public so long as a resolution authorizing placing the question on the ballot is adopted no fewer than seventy-nine (79) days before a regularly scheduled election where the referendum question is to appear, which is by August 17, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Board desires to submit the following advisory public question concerning voting qualifications, to the electors of the County of Winnebago, Illinois at the next regularly scheduled General Election to be held on November 3, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. That the foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby incorporated as findings of fact as if said recitals were fully set forth herein.

Section 2. Submission of Advisory Public Question. Pursuant to Article 28 of the Illinois Election Code, the Winnebago County Board hereby directs that the following advisory public question be placed on the ballot in the County of Winnebago to be voted on by all qualified electors at the next regularly scheduled General Election to be held on November 3, 2026:

**SHOULD THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASS LEGISLATION
THAT WOULD REQUIRE VOTERS TO SHOW A VALID FORM
OF GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION TO PROVE
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE?**

YES	NO
-----	----

Section 3. County-Wide Submission. The advisory public question is authorized and shall be submitted to all qualified electors of the County of Winnebago, Illinois, and shall appear on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled General Election to be held on November 3, 2026, in substantially the form set forth in Section 2 of this Resolution, and in accordance with all applicable provisions of Illinois law.

Section 4. Certification and Filing. The County Clerk of the County of Winnebago and all other proper officers and employees of Winnebago County are authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to certify and submit this advisory public question to the appropriate election authority or authorities in accordance with the Illinois Election Code no later than August 27, 2026, including providing a certified copy of this Resolution and the form of the public question to be placed on the ballot of the next regularly scheduled General Election to be held on November 3, 2026.

Section 5. Severability. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Resolution is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted,
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

AGREE

Paul Arena, Chair

Valerie Hanserd, Vice Chair

John Butitta

Joe Hoffman

Michael Thompson

Ray Thompson

Christina Valdez

DISAGREE

Paul Arena, Chair

Valerie Hanserd, Vice Chair

John Butitta

Joe Hoffman

Michael Thompson

Ray Thompson

Christina Valdez

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois this ____ day of _____, 2026.

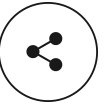
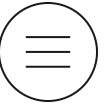
Joseph V. Chiarelli, Chairman of the
County Board of the County of
Winnebago, Illinois

ATTEST:

Lori Gummow, Clerk of the
County Board of the
County of Winnebago, Illinois

VoteRiders

Illinois



I am a...



Illinois does not require ID to vote. You must verify your identity when you register to vote.

Most Illinois voters don't need ID to vote.

- ✓ **Voter Registration** You must verify your identity to complete your registration.
- ✓ **Vote by Mail** Most voters do not need to provide ID.
- ✓ **Voting in Person** Most voters do not need to show ID.

1. Voter Registration 2. Same-Day Registration 3. Vote

① Voter Registration

How do I check if I'm registered to vote in Illinois?

You can check your voter registration [using this form](#). If you cannot find your information or if something is incorrect, contact [your local elections office](#).

Illinois Voter Eligibility Requirements

You must register before you can vote in Illinois.

You are eligible to vote in Illinois if you meet all of the following requirements:

You are a citizen of the United States.

You are a resident of Illinois.

You are at least 18 years of age on Election Day.

Illinois Voter Registration ID Requirements

To register to vote:

You must provide your driver's license number or state ID card number if you have one.

If you do not have either of these IDs, you can use the last 4 digits of your Social Security number (SSN).

If you do not have a Social Security number, then leave that space blank on your registration form.

If you don't provide any of these numbers or the state can't match the number you provide to official records, you will have to show an accepted form of ID the first time you vote.

You can use one of the following:

Unexpired photo ID (driver's license, state ID card, passport, etc.)

Current utility bill, bank statement, or government document

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I register and vote on the same day in Illinois?

Can I register to vote in Illinois if I have been convicted of a crime?

Can I register to vote in Illinois if I attend college in Illinois?

→ Step 2: Same-Day Registration

Protect the Freedom to Vote



Contact Us

Email

[Contact VoteRiders](#)
info@voteriders.org

Free Voter ID Helpline

[Contact our Helpline](#)
Call or Text 866-432-8683

Partner With Us

Partner Toolkit

[Learn about our free resources & assistance](#)

Order Voter ID Info Cards

[Free for nonpartisan nonprofit organizations](#)

Subscribe

Your email



**RESOLUTION
OF THE
COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS**

2026 CR _____

SUBMITTED BY: OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

SPONSORED BY: PAUL ARENA

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF
WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS BY REFERENDUM AN ADVISORY PUBLIC QUESTION
CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

WHEREAS, Article 28 of the Illinois Election Code governs the initiation and submission of public questions to the electors of the State and its political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, advisory questions of public policy may be submitted pursuant to Section 28-5 of the Illinois Election Code; and

WHEREAS, the County of Winnebago, Illinois is a political subdivision of the State of Illinois, and the Winnebago County Board is the governing body of Winnebago County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, property taxes are a major concern for homeowners, families, seniors, small businesses, and local taxpayers throughout Winnebago County and the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Board finds that electors should have an opportunity to express their opinion on whether the Illinois General Assembly should pass legislation to cap and lower local property taxes and provide state funding to local governments that agree to reduce property tax levies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/28-2(c), the County Board may place a referendum question on a ballot to be submitted to the public so long as a resolution authorizing placing the question on the ballot is adopted no fewer than seventy-nine (79) days before a regularly scheduled election where the referendum question is to appear, which is by August 17, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Board desires to submit the following advisory public question concerning property tax relief, to the electors of the County of Winnebago, Illinois at the next regularly scheduled General Election to be held on November 3, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. That the foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby incorporated as findings of fact as if said recitals were fully set forth herein.

Section 2. Submission of Advisory Public Question. Pursuant to Article 28 of the Illinois Election Code, the Winnebago County Board hereby directs that the following advisory public question be placed on the ballot in the County of Winnebago to be voted on by all qualified electors at the next regularly scheduled General Election to be held on November 3, 2026:

**SHOULD THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASS
LEGISLATION TO CAP AND LOWER LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES
AND PROVIDE STATE FUNDING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
THAT AGREE TO REDUCE PROPERTY TAX LEVIES?**

YES	NO
-----	----

Section 3. County-Wide Submission. The advisory public question is authorized and shall be submitted to all qualified electors of the County of Winnebago, Illinois, and shall appear on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled General Election to be held on November 3, 2026, in substantially the form set forth in Section 2 of this Resolution, and in accordance with all applicable provisions of Illinois law.

Section 4. Certification and Filing. The County Clerk of the County of Winnebago and all other proper officers and employees of Winnebago County are authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to certify and submit this advisory public question to the appropriate election authority or authorities in accordance with the Illinois Election Code no later than August 27, 2026, including providing a certified copy of this Resolution and the form of the public question to be placed on the ballot of the next regularly scheduled General Election to be held on November 3, 2026.

Section 5. Severability. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Resolution is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted,
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

AGREE

Paul Arena, Chair

Valerie Hanserd, Vice Chair

John Butitta

Joe Hoffman

Michael Thompson

Ray Thompson

Christina Valdez

DISAGREE

Paul Arena, Chair

Valerie Hanserd, Vice Chair

John Butitta

Joe Hoffman

Michael Thompson

Ray Thompson

Christina Valdez

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Joseph V. Chiarelli, Chairman of the
County Board of the County of
Winnebago, Illinois

ATTEST:

Lori Gummow, Clerk of the
County Board of the
County of Winnebago, Illinois