

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls  
 3rd Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 Tuesday, September 16, 2025

| A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 13 members present |                               |         |       |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------|--------|
| Position                                                                                                 | Name                          | Present | Phone | Absent |
| <b>Ex-Officio Mem.</b>                                                                                   |                               |         |       |        |
| Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)                                                                          | Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton | X       |       |        |
| Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)                                                           | Karina Lopez                  |         |       | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)                                                                              | Jennifer Hebel                | X       |       |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)                                                                       | Dr. Chris Smith               |         |       | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services)                                                         | Marla Courts                  |         | X     |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services)                                                         | Dorian Manion                 |         | X     |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Public Health                                                                       | Ashley Thoele                 |         |       | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)                                                                              | Director Jane Flanagan        |         | X     |        |
| Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)                                                                          | Jaclyn Matthews               |         |       | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)                                                                         | Rachel Bolinger               | X       |       |        |
| Ex-Officio (Community College Board)                                                                     | Natasha Allan                 |         |       | X      |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Gov.)</b>                                                                                  |                               |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                                                                         | Gaylon Alcaraz                |         |       | X      |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                                                                         | Mayor Nancy Rotering          | X       |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                                                                         | Nikita Richards Calahan       |         | X     |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                                                                         | Vacant                        |         |       |        |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Min.)</b>                                                                            |                               |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                                                                                   | Theresa Forthofer             |         |       | X      |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                                                                                   | Ines Kutlesa                  | X       |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                                                                                   | Vacant                        |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                                                                                   | Vacant                        |         |       |        |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)</b>                                                                         |                               |         |       |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                                                                                | Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin     |         | X     |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                                                                                | Kaethe Morris Hoffer          |         | X     |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                                                                                | Maaria Mozaffar               |         |       | X      |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                                                                                | Wendy Pollack                 |         | X     |        |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)</b>                                                                             |                               |         |       |        |

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)             | Vacant             |   |   |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)             | Vacant             |   |   |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)             | Vacant             |   |   |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)             | Vacant             |   |   |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)</b>     |                    |   |   |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Sylvia Collins     |   | X |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Rochelle Crump     |   |   | X |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Amina Jaffer       |   | X |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Vacant             |   |   |   |
| <b>Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.</b> |                    |   |   |   |
| Rep. of Gov.'s Office             | Isabella Hurtado   |   |   | X |
| <b>Guest (non-member)</b>         |                    |   |   |   |
| Guest                             | Smirti Chivukula   | X |   |   |
| Guest                             | Melissa Flores     | X |   |   |
| Guest                             | Camila Bravo       | X |   |   |
| Guest                             | Hailey Wilson      |   | X |   |
| Guest                             | Helena Teferra     |   | X |   |
| Guest                             | NaKendra Fulton    |   | X |   |
| Guest                             | Delicia Washington |   | X |   |
| Guest                             | Jessica Gonzalez   |   | X |   |
| Guest                             | Dianey Granados    |   | X |   |

**Office of the Lieutenant Governor Staff Present**

- Nikki Giancola-Shanks, Policy Director
- Natashee Scott, Chief of Staff
- Eva Shonuga, Staff Attorney
- Maria Peterson, Policy Analyst
- Alex Sprinkle, ISPP Scholar
- Mahi Patel, Dunn Fellow
- Kevin Beck, Director of External Affairs

**Agenda**

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- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of the Agenda for 6/25/25
- III. Approval of the Minutes from 3/11/25
- IV. Chairperson's Remarks
- V. New Business
  - a. Approval of Bylaws
  - b. Overview of Spring Legislative Session 2025
  - c. Presentation on Menopause Awareness Week
  - d. Committee Updates
- VI. Member Updates
- VII. Public Comments
- VIII. Adjournment

**Summary**

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls met for its third quarterly meeting of 2025 in both the Chicago and Springfield office, as well as virtually. Lieutenant Governor Stratton directed Maria Peterson to conduct a roll call to establish quorum. As quorum was established, per the bylaws of the council, there was a roll call vote to approve the agenda for the Q3 meeting:

Motion: Nikita Richards Calahan

Seconded: Jaclyn Matthews

| A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 13 members present |                               |     |     |         |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Position                                                                                                 | Name                          | Yay | Nay | Present | Absent |
| Ex-Officio Mem.                                                                                          |                               |     |     |         |        |
| Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)                                                                          | Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton | X   |     |         |        |
| Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)                                                           | Karina Lopez                  |     |     |         | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)                                                                              | Jennifer Hebel                | X   |     |         |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)                                                                       | Dr. Chris Smith               |     |     |         | X      |

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 Tuesday, September 16, 2025

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|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services) | Marla Courts              | X |  |  |   |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services) | Dorian Manion             | X |  |  |   |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Public Health               | Ashley Thoele             |   |  |  | X |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)                      | Director Jane Flanagan    | X |  |  |   |
| Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)                  | Jaclyn Matthews           |   |  |  | X |
| Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)                 | Rachel Bolinger           | X |  |  |   |
| Ex-Officio (Community College Board)             | Natasha Allan             |   |  |  | X |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Gov.)</b>                          |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                 | Gaylon Alcaraz            |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                 | Mayor Nancy Rotering      | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                 | Nikita Richards Calahan   | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                 | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Min.)</b>                    |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                           | Theresa Forthofer         |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                           | Ines Kutlesa              | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                           | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                           | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)</b>                 |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                        | Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                        | Kaethe Morris Hoffer      | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                        | Maaria Mozaffar           |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                        | Wendy Pollack             | X |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)</b>                     |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)                            | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)                            | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)                            | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)                            | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)</b>                    |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)                           | Sylvia Collins            | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)                           | Rochelle Crump            |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)                           | Amina Jaffer              | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)                           | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.</b>                |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Rep. of Gov.'s Office                            | Isabella Hurtado          |   |  |  | x |

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 Tuesday, September 16, 2025

A vote was then taken to approve the minutes from the Q2 meeting on September 16, 2025.

Motion: Nancy Rotering

Seconded: Sylvia Collins

| A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 13 members present |                               |     |     |         |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Position                                                                                                 | Name                          | Yay | Nay | Present | Absent |
| <b>Ex-Officio Mem.</b>                                                                                   |                               |     |     |         |        |
| Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)                                                                          | Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton | X   |     |         |        |
| Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)                                                           | Karina Lopez                  |     |     |         | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)                                                                              | Jennifer Hebel                | X   |     |         |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)                                                                       | Dr. Chris Smith               |     |     |         | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services)                                                         | Marla Courts                  | X   |     |         |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services)                                                         | Dorian Manion                 | X   |     |         |        |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Public Health)                                                                      | Ashley Thoele                 |     |     |         | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)                                                                              | Director Jane Flanagan        | X   |     |         |        |
| Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)                                                                          | Jaclyn Matthews               |     |     |         | X      |
| Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)                                                                         | Rachel Bolinger               | X   |     |         |        |
| Ex-Officio (Community College Board)                                                                     | Natasha Allan                 |     |     |         | X      |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Gov.)</b>                                                                                  |                               |     |     |         |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                                                                         | Gaylon Alcaraz                |     |     |         | X      |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                                                                         | Mayor Nancy Rotering          | X   |     |         |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                                                                         | Nikita Richards               | X   |     |         |        |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                                                                         | Vacant                        |     |     |         |        |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Min.)</b>                                                                            |                               |     |     |         |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                                                                                   | Theresa Forthofer             |     |     |         | X      |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                                                                                   | Ines Kutlesa                  | X   |     |         |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                                                                                   | Vacant                        |     |     |         |        |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                                                                                   | Vacant                        |     |     |         |        |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)</b>                                                                         |                               |     |     |         |        |

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| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)         | Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)         | Kaethe Morris Hoffer      | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)         | Maaria Mozaffar           |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)         | Wendy Pollack             | X |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)</b>      |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)             | Vacant                    |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)             | Vacant                    |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)             | Vacant                    |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)             | Vacant                    |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)</b>     |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Sylvia Collins            | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Rochelle Crump            |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Amina Jaffer              | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)            | Vacant                    |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.</b> |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Rep. of Gov.'s Office             | Isabella Hurtado          |   |  |  | x |

With the agenda and Q1 minutes approved, the Lt. Governor welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly meeting of the Illinois Council on Women and Girls and welcomed Mahi Patel, the office's new Dunn fellow, to the Council. The Council then moved to New Business, beginning with a vote on new bylaws. These bylaws remove the requirement to do a roll call for each agenda item, instead making a voice vote sufficient. The Lt. Governor entertained a motion.

Motion: Ines Kutlesa

Seconded: Jennifer Hebel

| <b>A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 13 members present</b> |                               |            |            |                |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Position</b>                                                                                                 | <b>Name</b>                   | <b>Yay</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Ex-Officio Mem.</b>                                                                                          |                               |            |            |                |               |
| Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)                                                                                 | Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton | X          |            |                |               |
| Ex-Officio (Refugee & Immigrant Services, DHS)                                                                  | Karina Lopez                  |            |            |                | X             |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. on Aging)                                                                                     | Jennifer Hebel                | X          |            |                |               |

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|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Human Rights)               | Dr. Chris Smith           |   |  |  | X |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Children & Family Services) | Marla Courts              | X |  |  |   |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Healthcare & Fam. Services) | Dorian Manion             | X |  |  |   |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Public Health)              | Ashley Thoele             |   |  |  | X |
| Ex-Officio (Dept. of Labor)                      | Director Jane Flanagan    | X |  |  |   |
| Ex-Officio (State Board of Ed.)                  | Jaclyn Matthews           |   |  |  | X |
| Ex-Officio (Board of Higher Ed.)                 | Rachel Bolinger           | X |  |  |   |
| Ex-Officio (Community College Board)             | Natasha Allan             |   |  |  | X |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Gov.)</b>                          |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                 | Gaylon Alcaraz            |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                 | Mayor Nancy Rotering      | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                 | Nikita Richards Calahan   | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Gov.)                                 | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Min.)</b>                    |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                           | Theresa Forthofer         |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                           | Ines Kutlesa              | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                           | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Min.)                           | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)</b>                 |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                        | Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                        | Kaethe Morris Hoffer      | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                        | Maaria Mozaffar           |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)                        | Wendy Pollack             | X |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)</b>                     |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)                            | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)                            | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)                            | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)                            | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)</b>                    |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)                           | Sylvia Collins            | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)                           | Rochelle Crump            |   |  |  | X |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)                           | Amina Jaffer              | X |  |  |   |
| Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)                           | <b>Vacant</b>             |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.</b>                |                           |   |  |  |   |
| Rep. of Gov.'s Office                            | Isabella Hurtado          |   |  |  | x |

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Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Nikki Giancola-Shanks and Maria Peterson from the Lt. Governor's office then gave a presentation on passed bills in the 2025 Spring Legislative Session that affect the Council, as well as a presentation on the upcoming events of Menopause Awareness Week. The Council then heard updates from the Girls Committee, Gender-Based Violence, Leadership and Inclusion, and Health and Healthcare subcommittees, and reminded everyone that the Academic and Economic Opportunity subcommittee is looking for new members. As the Lt. Governor needed to depart from the meeting, she appointed Nikki Giancola-Shanks as her designee to adjourn. Nikki then opened the floor for public comment. Nikki entertained a motion to adjourn, reminding members of the next meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 4-5:30 pm. It was moved by Mayor Nancy Rotering and seconded by Sylvia Collins. Per the newly passed bylaws in the meeting, the council took a voice vote, and the meeting adjourned.