

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON
 Illinois Council on Women and Girls
 4th Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 Tues, November 4, 2025

A present majority of filled non-ex-officio positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 13 members present				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	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	
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
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)				
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Mayor Nancy Rotering	X		
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Gaylon Alcaraz			X
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Nikita Richards Calahan		X	
Pub. Mem. (Gov.)	Melissa Flores	X		
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)				
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Theresa Forthofer		X	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Ines Kutlesa		X	
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (House Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (House Speaker)				
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	
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)				

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Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Min.)	Vacant			
Pub. Mem. (Sen. Pres.)				
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			
Rep. of Gov.'s Office Mem.				
Rep. of Gov.'s Office	Isabella Hurtado			X
Guest (non-member)				
Delicia Washington			X	
Smirti Chivukula		X		
Hailey Wilson			X	
Sophie Winkeler			X	
Dianey Granados			X	
Camila Bravo		X		
Helena Teferra			X	
Brianna Russell		X		
Jessica Gonzales			X	
Mariyah Tucker			X	

Office of the Lieutenant Governor Staff Present

- Nikki Giancola-Shanks, Policy Director
- Natashee Scott, Chief of Staff
- Rob Baren, Senior Advisor to the Lt. Governor
- Eva Shonuga, Staff Attorney
- Alex Sprinkle, ISPP Scholar
- Mahi Patel, Dunn Fellow
- Maria Peterson, Policy Analyst

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Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of the Agenda for 11/4/25
- III. Approval of the Minutes from 9/16/25
- IV. Chairperson's Remarks
- V. New Business
 - a. Policy Presentation from the Girls Committee
 - b. Committee Updates
- VI. Member Updates
- VII. Public Comments
- VIII. Adjournment

Summary

The Illinois Council on Women and Girls met for its fourth 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, the Lieutenant Governor entertained a motion to approve the public agenda, which was moved by Mayor Nancy Rotering, seconded by Kaethe Morris Hoffer, and approved. Lieutenant Governor Stratton then entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Q3 meeting on September 16, 2025, which was moved by Kaethe Morris Hoffer, seconded by Mayor Nancy Rotering, and approved.

The Lt. Governor spoke about the success of Illinois's first Menopause Awareness Week in October, which saw almost 800 participants in both in-person and virtual informational events across Illinois. Lt. Governor Stratton then welcomed new member Melissa Flores to the Council. The Lt. Governor then asked Nikita Richards Calahan to give an update on the progress of the 2025-2026 Girls Lead program, which opened its application in November. Moving onto new business, Lt. Governor Stratton welcomed the members of the Girls Committee to present the policy projects that they have worked throughout 2025. The girls presented on three different issue areas: women's healthcare research, safety on public transportation, and career access resources for high school girls. The girls then answered questions from the Council members about their policy recommendations.

The Council then heard updates from the subcommittees of Leadership and Inclusion, Gender-Based Violence, Academic and Economic Opportunity, and the Girls Committee, as well as any member updates. The Lt. Governor let the Council members know that Maria would send the 2026 Council dates via email after they had been approved. Lieutenant Governor Stratton entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was moved by Mayor Nancy Rotering, seconded by Melissa Flores, and approved.