

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

# FALL

CONFERENCE

**NOV**  
**17-19**

**2025**



**MARRIOTT BLOOMINGTON NORMAL**

201 BROADWAY, NORMAL



## NOVEMBER 17-19 | LEARN - CONNECT - LEAD

Join county leaders from across Illinois for the 2025 IACO Fall Conference, November 17–19 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. This premier gathering brings together officials from every corner of county government for three days of education, networking, and collaboration. From timely sessions on security, wellness, and resilience to dynamic affiliate meetings and a vibrant exhibit hall, the Fall Conference is where knowledge is shared, connections are strengthened, and the future of county leadership is shaped.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025

7:30 AM

REGISTRATION OPEN

8:00 AM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 AM

EXHIBITS OPEN

9:00 - 10:00 AM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

- **Erin Cartwright Weinstein**, 2025 IACO President, *Lake County Circuit Court Clerk*

WELLNESS STRATEGIES TO BUILD RESILIENCE

- Featured Speaker: **Anjali Nandi**

This session explores practical wellness strategies and evidence-based approaches to managing stress, protecting against burnout, and fostering resilience in high-pressure environments. We will focus on strategies that are realistic and sustainable, and participants will leave with actionable steps they can integrate immediately into their daily work.

10:00 - 10:30 AM

REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:30 - 11:30 AM

IMRF PRESENTATION

- Featured Speaker: **Randy Stevens**, *IMRF*

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH

1:30 - 4:45 PM

THREATS, SECURITY, AND HOW YOU CAN RESPOND

- Facilitator: **Chris Marsh**, *Coroner, White County*
- Panelists: **Christopher Covelli**, *Deputy Chief, Court Security Division, Lake County*, and **Steve Lyddon**, *Protective Security Advisor, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)*

Public officials and their offices face a wide range of security challenges, from threatening mail and disruptive behavior to active shooter incidents and mass attacks. This session will provide a practical overview of the risks county leaders may encounter and the steps they can take to strengthen personal and physical security.

Speakers will also highlight resources for funding security measures, strategies for behavioral assessment, and considerations for both physical and cyber threats. Participants will leave with a clearer picture of today's threat landscape and actionable approaches for protecting themselves, their staff, and their communities.

3:00 PM

ILLINOIS CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

4:45 PM

RECEPTION

# TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 7:30 AM            | REGISTRATION OPEN   |
| 7:30 AM            | CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST   |
| 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM  | EXHIBITS OPEN   |
| 8:00 - 4:00 PM     | <b>AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION MEETINGS (SEE PAGES 5-8 FOR DETAILS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illinois Association of County Auditors (IACA)</li><li>• Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recorders (IACCR)</li><li>• Illinois Association of Court Clerks (IACC)</li><li>• Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association (ICMEA)</li><li>• Illinois County Assessment Officers Association (ICAOA)</li><li>• Illinois County Treasurers' Association (ICTA)</li></ul>                                |
| 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM | LUNCH   |
| 4:45 - 5:45 PM     | IACO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  |
| 6:00 - 9:00 PM     | <b>PRESIDENT’S BANQUET AND COUNTY OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION</b><br><br><i>Swing Into the President’s Banquet!</i><br><br>Step back into the Roaring 20s at the President’s Banquet! A live band will fill the night with swing music from across the decades, while dancers set the floor in motion and share a few steps to get everyone moving. Dress in your best 1920s themed style—think flapper dresses, feathers, fedoras, and pinstripes—for an unforgettable evening of music, dancing, and celebration. |
| EVENING            | HOSPITALITY SUITES OPEN   |

# WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| 8:00 AM | CLOSING BREAKFAST |
|---------|-------------------|

## REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2025 IACO Fall Conference includes course materials, meal functions on Monday, Tuesday, and/or Wednesday, networking receptions, and exceptional programming.

| CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE  | REGISTRATION FEE |
|--|------------------|
| Full Registration   Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, November 17-19, 2025 | \$300            |
| Monday-Only Registration   November 17, 2025                             | \$175            |
| Tuesday-Only Registration   November 18, 2025                            | \$175            |
| Retired County Official Registration   November 19, 2025                 | \$175            |
| Guest Registration   | \$175            |

Register Today! <https://bit.ly/2025IACOFallSponsorExhReg>

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



**Christopher Covelli** began his law enforcement career in 2004 with the Village of Lincolnshire before joining the Lake County Sheriff's Office in 2010, where he now serves as deputy chief of the Court Security Division overseeing more than 50 employees. Since 2015, he has also been the lead Public Information Officer (PIO) for both the Sheriff's office and the Lake County Major Crime Task Force, handling communications during hundreds of high-profile incidents, including mass shootings, homicides, hazardous situations, and other emergencies. Beyond his law enforcement role, Chris instructs media relations at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command, teaches for the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute, and consults nationally with Julie Parker Communications. He chairs the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police PIO Section and frequently speaks at conferences across North America.



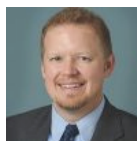
**Steve Lyddon** is the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Protective Security Advisor for Illinois south of I-80. CISA is the Nation's risk advisor, working with partners to defend against today's threats and collaborating to build more secure and resilient infrastructure for the future. Lyddon began his law enforcement career in 1991 with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and joined the Illinois State Police in 1994, serving in roles from Patrol and Narcotics Investigations to SWAT, the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center, and ultimately as Chief of Staff before retiring in 2019. A Navy veteran, Steve served on active duty at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay following 9/11. He holds a B.A. from Southern Illinois University and an M.A. in Homeland Security from American Military University, along with multiple cybersecurity certifications. A graduate and past Illinois Chapter president of the FBI National Academy, he is active with the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals and serves on the Board of the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation.



**Chris Marsh** is the Coroner of White County. He is currently in his fourth term as Coroner. Chris is also a deputy sheriff for the White County Sheriff's Office. He worked 20 years as court security for the 2nd Judicial Circuit Court of White County until leaving the courtroom to be a full-time pastor of Ditney Ridge Baptist Church. Chris still works part time as a deputy teaching a school program called "We Care" in the counties three school districts 5th grade classrooms. He is an Adjunct Instructor at Southeastern Illinois College teaching Introduction to Forensic Investigations. Chris has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia Southern University. Chris is the current Vice President of IACO and past President of the Illinois Coroners Medical Examiners Association as well as its current Chaplin.



**Dr. Anjali Nandi** is an organizational consultant, trainer, and author with deep expertise in criminal justice, behavioral health, and evidence-based practices. Anjali is known for transforming research into practical tools that support leadership development, program evaluation, skill building, and staff wellness across justice agencies, nonprofits, and community organizations. A national trainer and conference speaker, she has co-authored nine books and is committed to igniting curiosity, advancing innovation, and helping organizations thrive.



**Randy Stevens** Randy Stevens began his career with IMRF in the summer of 2013 as a Field Representative and now is the Team Lead for Employer Services. He enjoys working with members and employers to understand IMRF benefits.

**Register Today!** <https://bit.ly/2025IACOFallSponsorExhReg>

# ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AUDITORS (IACA)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

**9:00 - 9:30 AM**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND/OR WHAT DOES THE ILLINOIS AUDITOR GENERAL DO? (0.5 CPE)**

**9:30 - 11:30 AM**

**THE GREAT GASB UPDATE (2.0 CPE)**

Presented by: **Hope Wheeler & Team**, *Clifton Larson Allen*

- GASB 101, 102, and 103
- Other topics related to financial reporting

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

**1:00 - 2:00 PM**

**ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL AUDIT (1.0 CPE)**

Presented by: **Shaun Farmer**, Chief Internal Auditor, *Illinois Tollway Authority (Invited)*

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

**IACA BUSINESS MEETING**

**3:00 - 3:10 PM**

**BREAK**

**3:10 - 4:00 PM**

**AUDITOR OFFICE AUTOMATION (1.0 CPE)**

- Automated Audit Workpapers
- Data Analytics
- AI & Internal Auditing

**4:00 - 4:30 PM**

**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION - WHAT'S HAPPENING (0.5 CPE)**

**COTY**  
AWARD

Join with fellow IACO members at the President's Banquet as we gather to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions to county government of our **2025 County Official of the Year**

Submit your COTY nomination by **October 15** at [www.IACOonline.org](http://www.IACOonline.org)!



## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

9:10 - 10:15 AM

## JOINT SESSION WITH ILLINOIS COUNTY TREASURERS' ASSOCIATION

## TYLER VS. HENNEPIN COUNTY

- Presented by: **Matt Kreis**, General Counsel, *Center for Community Progress*

This presentation will discuss the implications of the 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Tyler vs. Hennepin County*, on delinquent property tax enforcement in Illinois. Attendees will gain an understanding of the need for changes to the Illinois Property Tax Code and will be provided with a potential framework and options for reform.

10:45 - 11:30 AM

## BUSINESS MEETING (AGENDA TO FOLLOW)

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

## LUNCH

1:30 - 2:30 PM

## LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION (AGENDA TO FOLLOW)

## INTRODUCTION OF VOJAS TAYLOR

2:45 - 3:45 PM

## AI – PROS AND CONS OF THIS TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR OFFICE: AI COOKBOOK

The Elections Group invites you to join their chefs as they cook up some exciting recipes with Artificial Intelligence. What do AI and cooking have common? In just a few minutes, with the right ingredients, you can whip up efficient solutions. They'll offer a testing of recipes like Revision Ravioli for editing, Pixel Pie for creating images and the ever popular Word Salad. The recipes are easily adapted for use in Elections, Recording, Tax and other fine dining establishments. But pay attention. If you're not careful with AI, you can wind up with a potful of burn.

3:45 - 4:30 PM

## RECORDERS STATUTE REVIEW – PREDICTABLE FEE, PFA HB1523 AND OTHER STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE RECORDERS OFFICE

4:45 PM

## IACO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

6:00 - 9:00 PM

## IACO PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

## ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COURT CLERKS (IACC)

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

9:00 AM

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presented by: **Seth Floyd**, IACC President

9:05 - 10:00 AM

## PART I: OK BOOMER, MEET GEN Z: BRIDGING THE WORKPLACE GENERATION GAP

- Presented by: **Cindy Braden**, Rotary Phone Royalty, **Angie Kanak**, The Mixtape Master, and **Aaron Burdick**, Participation Trophy Holder

10:00 - 10:10 AM

## BREAK

10:10 - 11:00 AM

## PART II: OK BOOMER, MEET GEN Z: BRIDGING THE WORKPLACE GENERATION GAP

- Presented by: **Cindy Braden**, Rotary Phone Royalty, **Angie Kanak**, The Mixtape Master, and **Aaron Burdick**, Participation Trophy Holder

# ILLINOIS CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS ASSOCIATION (ICMEA)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

**3:00 PM**

**ICMEA BOARD MEETING**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

**8:00 - 8:30 AM**

**OPENING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Davis Harris**, *Fayette County Coroner*, ICMEA President

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**

**GROWING TOGETHER IN THE DONATION PROCESS**

- Feature Speaker: **Domonique Gacek**, Supervisor, Clinical Services, *Gift of Hope Organ Tissue Donation*

**9:30 - 10:30 AM**

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)**

- Featured Speakers: **Edwin Marshall** and **Brian Bothast**

**10:30 - 11:30 AM**

**VITAL RECORDS**

- Featured Speaker: **Shawn Willman**

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

**1:00 - 4:00 PM**

**ELECTROCUTION, EXPLOSION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEATHS**

- Featured Speaker: **Dr. Scott Denton**, *Board Certified Forensic Pathologist*

**4:00 PM**

**ICMEA BUSINESS MEETING**

- Election of New Officers

# ILLINOIS COUNTY ASSESSMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (ICAOA)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

1. Call to Order Mark Armstrong (Kane)
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introduction of Members and Guests
4. Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2024 meeting Clint Hopfinger (Hamilton)
5. Treasurer's Report Shelly Renken (Livingston)
6. Area Reports Area Chairs
7. Standing Committee Reports Committee Chairs
8. Additional Reports Ad Hoc Leaders
9. IDOR Update Adrienne Bailey
10. Additional Business All
11. Meeting Announcements Mark Armstrong (Kane)

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

**1:00 - 4:00 PM**

12. Assessor Education Session Kindal Eastin (Clay)

Education Session is in Partnership with: *Illinois Property Assessment Institute, Bruce Harris & Associates, and Sidwell*

- **1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.: GIS 101: Terminology and Concepts** (**Alex Simpson**, *Bruce Harris & Associates* and **Travis Franz**, *Sidwell*)
- **1:30p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Free Data Sources** (**Mark Yacucci**, Associate Scientist, Scientific Data Preservation, *Illinois State Geological Survey*)
- **2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Migrating to ArcPro from Desktop** (**Alex Simpson**, *Bruce Harris & Associates* and **Travis Franz**, *Sidwell*)

**4:00 PM**

**ADJOURNMENT**

# ILLINOIS COUNTY TREASURERS' ASSOCIATION (ICTA)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**WELCOME MESSAGE**

**9:10 - 10:15 AM**

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: TYLER VS. HENNEPIN COUNTY IN ILLINOIS**

- Presented by: **Matthew Kreis**, *Center for Community Progress*

Matt Kreis is General Counsel at the Center for Community Progress. In addition to serving as in-house counsel for the organization, Matt is a leading voice in national issues touching housing and building code enforcement, property ownership, delinquent property tax enforcement, land reuse and land banking, and general municipal and real estate law. He has worked closely with communities across the country to develop more equitable and effective approaches to code enforcement and land banking, as well as to draft and advise key partners in the creation of state land bank laws and to improve delinquent property tax and code lien enforcement. Prior to joining Community Progress, Matt spent 10 years as an attorney at the City of Chicago's Department of Law, working closely with City departments and officials to enhance the tools needed to address vacant, deteriorated properties. Matt received his bachelor's degree from Augustana College and a Juris Doctor from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He is based in Chicago, Illinois.

This presentation will discuss the implications of the 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Tyler v. Hennepin County*, on delinquent property tax enforcement in Illinois. Attendees will gain an understanding of the need for changes to the Illinois Property Tax Code and will be provided with a potential framework and options for reform.

**10:15 - 10:30 AM**

**BREAK**

**10:30 - 11:30 AM**

**CASH AND CHECK HANDLING: MITIGATING RISK**

- Presented by: **Sabrina Turner**, *Fifth Third Bank*

**11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

**1:00 - 1:30 PM**

**TAX BILL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Meet in small groups with fellow Treasurers to discuss tax bill requirements and design.

**1:30 - 2:00 PM**

**JOSEPH E. MEYER AND ASSOCIATES UPDATES**

**2:00 - 2:15 PM**

**BREAK**

**2:15 - 3:00 PM**

**IDOR UPDATES AND SENIOR DEFERRAL DISCUSSION**

- Presented by: **Aaron Allen**, Illinois Department of Revenue

Aaron received a B.S. in Agribusiness, Farm, and Financial Management from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a M.B.A. from the University of Illinois at Springfield. He has worked for the Department of Revenue for 18 years in the Motor Fuel Division, Audit Division, as the Section Manager of the Alcohol and Tobacco Processing Section, and now as the Division Manager of the Local Tax Allocation Division since April 2018.

**3:00 PM**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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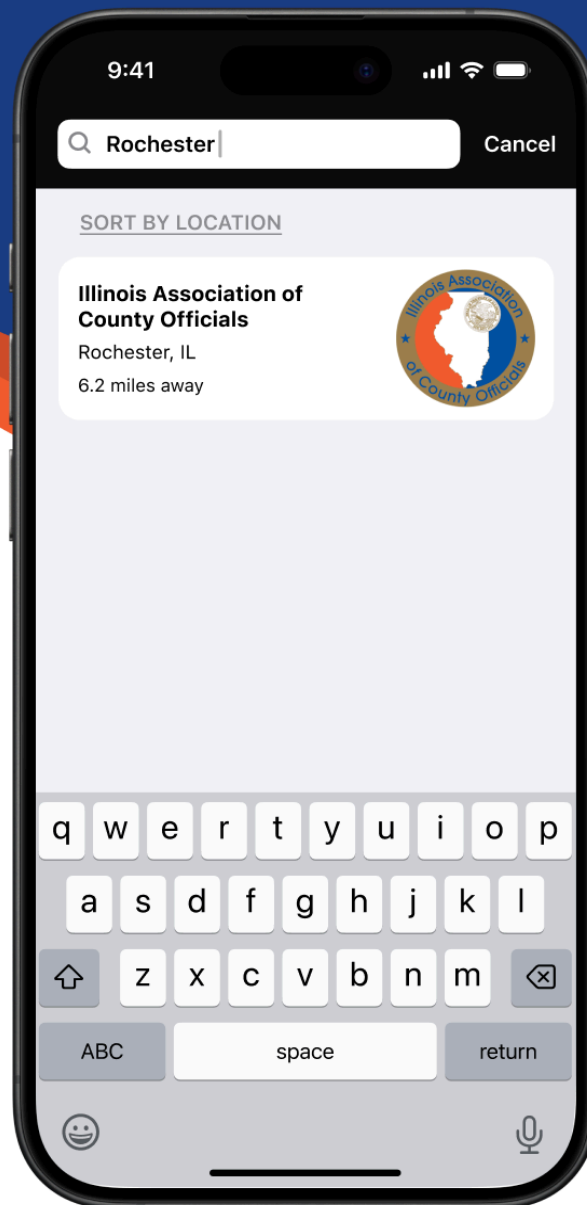
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*\* As of October 2, 2025*



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