

To: Members of the Illinois Finance Authority
From: Chris Meister, Executive Director
Date: February 10, 2026
Subject: Message from the Executive Director

This Month's Agenda

Welcome to the February 10, 2026, meeting of the members of the Illinois Finance Authority.

New Business Items for consideration and approval this month include a bond resolution on behalf of *Springfield Sustainable Energy Partners LLC*, inducement resolutions on behalf of *Gotion Illinois New Energy Inc.* and *Heritage Woods Northwest LLC*, and a resolution authorizing amendments to bonds previously issued on behalf of the *University of St. Francis*.

With the recent staffing updates, also on the agenda today is a resolution appointing multiple Assistant Secretaries of the Authority to ensure the various administrative functions of the position remain intact. Last on this month's agenda is a resolution directing certain officers and employees to execute certain documents and ensure operational and management continuity during my absence. I will be out of the country for personal reasons between March 16th and March 30th and anticipate limited accessibility. This resolution, if approved, will ensure continued document execution in my absence, as the Authority staff was able to successfully do during my absence for personal reasons in late June 2025.

New Member Appointment

Please join me in welcoming Tiffany Mathis Posey as our newest Authority Member after being appointed by Governor Pritzker on January 26, 2026. Member Mathis Posey serves as CEO and Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois, bringing over two decades of experience in fiscal stewardship, fundraising, grant compliance, capital planning, and public-private partnerships to her role. In addition, Mathis Posey previously served as Director of Fund Development and Central Unit Director at the Boys and Girls Clubs. Before that, she served as Facilitator of Youth Services at the Phoenix Center, a Springfield nonprofit dedicated to supporting LGBTQIA youth.

Mathis Posey currently serves as Vice Chair of the City of Springfield Civil Service Commission, as Member of the Illinois Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs Board of Directors, and as Vice President of Downtown Springfield Inc. Additionally, she previously served as Commissioner and Vice Chair of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, and she sat on boards for both the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and Springfield Public Schools District 186. Mathis Posey earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ashford University. We are excited to have Mathis Posey as an Authority Member and we look forward to working with her.

Illinois Finance Authority PACE Program

“This is not a state funding program,” Brad Fletcher of the Illinois Finance Authority told the Aurora City Council’s Committee of the Whole on Jan. 20. **‘This is attracting private capital with the best mousetrap that we can design for the property owners in our communities.’”** *Aurora City Council Oks loan program for sustainable building upgrades*, Chicago Tribune, January 28, 2026, R. Christian Smith

I am pleased to recognize that, on January 27, the City of Aurora established the Illinois Finance Authority PACE Program. Aurora is the second largest municipality in the state by population and situated in four counties. Adding the City of Aurora as a participant in the Illinois Finance Authority PACE Program is no small accomplishment. Congratulations and thank you to Brad Fletcher for leading this effort.

This action by the City of Aurora represents a significant step towards the development of a uniform statewide Commercial-Property Assessed Clean Energy (“C-PACE”) market to attract private capital. We hope that other municipalities and counties in Illinois join the lead of the City of Aurora and 22 other local governments in establishing the nonpartisan, nonpolitical Illinois Finance Authority PACE Program. See: [Commercial PACE Bonds | Illinois Finance Authority](#).

Ethics Officer

On February 2, 2026, Deputy General Counsel Mark Meyer was formally appointed as the Authority’s Ethics Officer, a role formerly held by Matt Stonecipher. Mark and Secretary Erin O’Leary will be contacting you regarding the upcoming economic disclosures that will be due in May. Mark is available to answer any ethics questions you have.

Legislative Updates

The Spring General Assembly Session has begun. We thank the sponsors of the Authority’s legislative proposals: House Assistant Majority Leader Ann Williams, Senate Majority Caucus Appropriations Leader Elgie Sims, and Senator Patrick Joyce. The Authority has proposed technical changes and clarifications to the Authority Act relating to its operations, to first-time farmer bonds, and to the Fire Truck and Ambulance direct loan program with the Office of the Fire Marshal. We thank the Governor’s Office for its support of the Authority’s legislative proposals. Links to the bill numbers are below:

- Agricultural Borrower Bill: [SB3019](#) & [HB5419](#)
- Fire Truck Loans Bill: [SB3018](#) & [HB5412](#)
- IFA Ethics Bill: [SB3247](#) & [HB5407](#)

We will also monitor the Senate consent process for Members Beres, Caldwell, House, Juracek, Landek, Mathis Posey, and Ryan, who are awaiting Senate confirmation.

Audit Update

Following the Board’s acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit and mandatory annual report last month, it was filed with all required entities. See: [FY25-IFA-Fin-Full.pdf](#).

The Federal Single Audit and the two-year Compliance Audit are nearing completion. Once these are completed and published by the Office of the Auditor General, it is anticipated that the Audit Committee will meet to consider recommending the acceptance of both audits to the full Board.

Climate Bank Grants Team

I would like to express my gratitude to our Grants Team for their successful navigation of the first round of invoices and reporting for the Authority's federal funds. Over the last several months, the team has developed workflows and processes for managing reports and invoices. The result is that all our grantees submitted their reports on time, and our team processed them efficiently and effectively. Program Manager Claire Brinley will provide more details during the presentation of the Climate Bank Standing Report.

Authority Annual Internship Program

I am pleased to announce that we anticipate relaunching our Annual Internship Program again this year after a successful inaugural year. Last year, our program was launched in mid-May and received dozens of applications, of which four students were selected for the summer. This year, we anticipate launching the program by mid-March, which should give students more time to prepare and submit their applications. We will provide more details, including the listing, once the opportunity is made public.