

To: Members of the Illinois Finance Authority
From: Ximena Granda, Interim Executive Director
Date: June 9, 2026
Subject: Message from the Interim Executive Director

This Month's Agenda

New Business Items for consideration and approval this month include bond resolutions on behalf of *Heritage Woods Northwest LLC*, *Bradley University*, and first-time farmer *Dalton M. Spivey*. Also on the agenda is a resolution of intent requesting a supplemental allocation of calendar year 2026 private activity bond volume cap. Authority staff anticipates demand for private activity bond volume cap in excess of the amount the Governor's Office of Management and Budget initially allocated to the Authority earlier this year.

Today is our last meeting of Fiscal Year 2026, which ends on June 30, 2026. We expect our next meeting to be held on **Tuesday, July 14, 2026**, at 9:30 am. Accordingly, there are the following several administrative resolutions on today's agenda:

- Consideration of the Authority's non-appropriated Fiscal Year 2027 budget, which begins on July 1, 2026, with details found in Exhibit A to Resolution 2026-0610-06.
- The proposed regular meeting schedule for Fiscal Year 2027, which contains two changes from our typical schedule for the September and October meetings.

New Staff

We welcome Veronica Chavarria Romero, our new Assistant Accounting Manager, who is joining us on June 15. We will provide more information and an introduction at next month's meeting.

We are also excited to announce that we have five new interns joining us this summer! Lizbeth Bautista, a law student at UIC Law; Ryan Rastegar, an MPP/MBA student at the Harris School of Public Policy; Aidan Illg, an incoming law student at Florida State University College of Law; and Akhil Malladi, an undergraduate student at UC San Diego are all part of the Authority's Annual Internship Program launched last year. Rebecca Vitenzon, an MPP student at the Harris School of Public Policy, joins us as part of our continued partnership with The University of Chicago's Institute of Politics. Most of the new cohort started on June 1, 2026, and will be with the Authority through August and September. We are already impressed with the contributions they are making and are looking forward to working with them for the next few months.

The goal of these programs is to provide opportunities for interns to receive mentorship, work on real-world projects and challenges, and build out their networks. We expect to continue offering these programs in the years to come.

Board Member Appointment

Please join me in welcoming Robert Steere as our newest Authority Member after being appointed by Governor Pritzker on June 2, 2026. Robert Steere has more than 40 years of distinguished experience in public service, law, government administration and international

development. Steere most recently served as General Counsel with the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, retiring from the role in 2021. During his career, Steere has provided guidance on legal matters including governance, bond financing, taxation, budgeting, legislation, regulatory compliance, and ethics.

Previously, Steere served as Tunisia Program Director and Azerbaijan Country Director with the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative. His extensive international experience also includes service as Senior Program Manager with the National Democratic Institute in Iraq, Legal Advisor to Management Systems International in Iraq, Legislative Drafting Specialist with the National Center for State Courts in Kosovo, and Head of Administration with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo.

Earlier in his career, Steere served as Inspector General with the State of Illinois in the Office of the Treasurer, and as General Counsel with State of Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Department of Revenue, the Bureau of the Budget, and the Office of the Governor James R. Thompson. Steere earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University and his Juris Doctor from University of Michigan Law School.