



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION**

Protecting Our Communities,
HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE



JUN 2025

The inside stories for you! **SHERIFFS, LAW ENFORCEMENT & MEMBERS NEWS & UPDATES**



**Special
Olympics**
Illinois



**LAW ENFORCEMENT
TORCH RUN®**
**FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS
ILLINOIS**

2025 marks the 22nd Anniversary of the Dunkin' partnership with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. This partnership has been a huge success over the years. Each May, Illinois LETR officers team up to collect donations and rally support for Special Olympics Illinois athletes at Dunkin' locations across the state. The event raised \$1.2 million this year!

#CopOnARooftop - Check out a few of your local Sheriff Offices participating below.

MORE INFO ABOUT LETR



Special Olympics Illinois: Summer Games will be held on JUNE 20-22, 2025 in Bloomington-Normal

Law Enforcement Torch Run will be concluding their Final Leg at the north end of Hancock Stadium before the Opening Ceremony begins. Torch Run Central will serve as a resource center during this year's events and will coordinate all law enforcement activities including awarding medals. The tent is located in Olympic

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ISA Celebrating National Flag Week | June 8 – 14, 2025



National Flag Week starts on June 8 every year. It is a day for all Americans to celebrate and honor the flag, its designers, and its makers. The flag represents all the 50 states of the country that together form the United States of America and its citizens. It is a week for citizens to pause and recognize the greatness of their nation and its people. The American flag has a proud and glorious history, and many brave soldiers have died defending it. Some also observe this week as a way to honor veterans and servicemen.

NATIONAL FLAG WEEK: **Why Are Flags Backwards on** **Police & Military Uniforms?**

When first seeing the “backwards” flag it can be extremely confusing. But the best way to think of it is how



you would see the flag from a certain point of view.
The idea behind it is to always be moving forward and not retreating.

The American flag appears backward on military and law enforcement uniforms because when worn on the right shoulder (the side facing the viewer), it is oriented so that the stars (the union) face forward, mimicking how a flag would fly on a pole while moving forward. This placement is intended to represent the flag flying in the wind as the wearer advances.



Here's a more detailed explanation:

Historical Significance:

The tradition of wearing the flag this way dates back to when flags were carried by flag bearers in battle. The stars would always be at the front, leading the way.

Placement:

The flag is positioned on the right shoulder, with the canton (the stars) angled towards the front. This placement makes it appear as if the flag is "flying" forward as the wearer moves.

Symbolism:

The reversed flag on uniforms symbolizes the constant advancement and progress of the nation and its defenders.

Not a Mistake:

It's important to understand that the "backward" appearance is not a mistake or sign of disrespect. It is a deliberate design choice.





ISA Executive Director Jim Kaitschuk breaks down the 2025 Legislative Session, all the bills that the Illinois Sheriffs' Association was tracking and how those affect Law Enforcement Agencies, Officers, and Law-Abiding Citizens!

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned the 2025 Spring Legislative Session until the call of the presiding officers. As has been typical of recent sessions, the legislature concluded its work in the early hours of the morning on June 1.

Several bills were finalized in the final week of session, including the FY 26 operating and capital budgets: the FY 25 supplemental and omnibus packages on revenue, Medicaid, pensions, and reform measures concerning pharmacy benefit managers and prior authorization for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

The General Assembly did not pass legislation concerning transit reforms and the impending transit fiscal cliff, cannabis, hemp regulations, energy, election reforms, the 340B program, Adequate and Equitable Public University Funding, a Tier 2 pension overhaul, community college baccalaureate degree authorization, a measure to ban cell phones in schools, or the authorization of medical aid in dying.

Those items could be considered in the Fall Veto session or during next year's spring session.

In total, 432 bills passed both chambers this year, including 228 House bills and 202 Senate bills.

**Bill List ISA
Tracked in
2025**

**Bill List ISA
Opposed**

**Bill List ISA
Supported**

**Bill List ISA
Tracked - that
Passed**



FY26 BUDGET:

The FY25 budget package provides for \$55.1 billion in spending and includes a combination of cuts and \$788 million in revenue enhancements.

The Governor referred to this achievement as his 7th straight balanced state budget.

**LINK TO FY26 FULL
BUDGET**

On the revenue and corporate tax side, the package includes:

- Increase in the tobacco and vape tax to 44 cents to help fund the Medicaid program.
- A sports wagering tax of \$0.25 per wager for the first \$20 million wagers and \$0.50 for each wager in excess of \$20 million.
- Tax amnesty program.
- Extends the Hotel Operators' Occupation Tax to short-term rentals.
- A state "throwback rule" impacting corporations that operate in multiple states (switches Illinois from the Joyce rule to the Finnigan Rule to enable the state to collect more corporate tax income).
- Telecommunications tax increase to fund 9-8-8 services, a statewide suicide prevention and mental health crisis line.
- Ensures businesses outside of Illinois selling \$100,000+ worth of physical goods to Illinois residents must collect Illinois sales tax, even without an in-state presence.
- Expands the Illinois Retail Act to include servicemen under occupation and use taxes, creating equal tax treatment.
- Eliminates the 200-transaction threshold for economic nexus, aligning with other states for more efficient enforcement.
- Implements a 15% tax rate when insufficient sales records are provided, encouraging proper documentation.
- Allows service providers to file returns for retailers and servicemen maintaining business in Illinois.
- Delayed final payment from the sales tax on motor fuel to the Road Fund.
- Some highlights include:
- \$307 million increase to the Evidence-Based Funding formula for public education.
- \$748 million in Smart Start Early Childhood Block grants.
- \$771.6 million in MAP grants to support 162,700 students.
- \$0.75 rate increase for home healthcare workers through the CCP program, and a \$0.80 rate increase for direct service providers working with those in the disability community.
- \$500 million in funding for historic site readiness initiatives (Surplus to Success and DCEO Site Readiness Initiative).
- \$120 million for safety-net-hospitals.
- \$25 million for a new Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) program called the Prescription Drug Affordability Fund.
- \$46 million more to maintain gun violence reduction programs previously covered by COVID-era federal funds and \$7.5 million more for the Not-for-Profit Security grant program.
- \$100 million in state employee health care cost savings through negotiations.
- A new BRIDGE Fund that the Governor may use to address unanticipated delays in or failures of revenues when supplemental funds are required – an apparent response to anticipated federal funding issues.

Medical Aid in Dying:

During the final days of the 2025 Spring Legislative Session, Representative Gabel filed HFA # 2 to **SB 1950** (Holmes/Gabel) to create the End-of-Life Options for



Terminally Ill Patients Act. The bill allows terminally ill, mentally capable adults with fewer than six months to live to request life-ending medication (which requires physician approval but is self-administered). The bill establishes eligibility requirements and requires assessments by physicians, who must ensure the patient's mental capacity. If a physician questions mental capacity, they must refer the patient to a

licensed mental health professional for further evaluation. The bill also requires physicians to inform patients of all end-of-life options. Coercing or forging a request for a life-ending prescription would be a felony, and participation is voluntary for healthcare professionals. Individuals can withdraw their request at any time. Critics argue the process may lead to coercion and abuse and worry that healthcare quality will suffer due to economic considerations. The measure passed the House 63-42-2 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.



Gun Legislation: The House approved, by a vote of 69 - 40, **SB 8** (Ellman/Hirschauer), creating the Safe Gun Storage Act. The bill expands what it means to safely store weapons (to keep them away from children under 18 years of age and “at-risk” persons) and increases reporting requirements for gun owners whose weapons are lost or stolen. The bill now heads to the Governor’s desk.

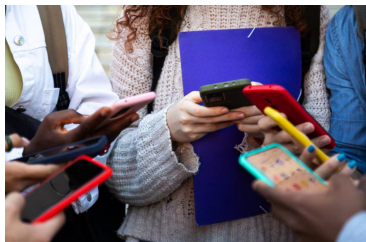
HFA # 1 to **HB 850** (Morgan/Morrison) reforms the clear and present danger statutes. The bill requires the Illinois State Police to suspend rather than revoke FOID cards when an individual has been determined to pose a clear and present danger. By January 2026, the FOID Card Review Board must create an expedited review process, with liability protections for officials involved in these decisions. The bill also amends the Illinois State Police Law to require analysis and reporting on cases involving stolen firearms or those with obliterated serial numbers used in crimes. Requires circuit court clerks to include firearm serial

Cannabis:

HFA # 1 to **SB 90** (Porfirio/Ford) is a cannabis omnibus. As amended, the bill merges adult use and medical dispensaries to provide greater access for medical cannabis patients. It establishes hardship waivers for craft growers and infusers to have their license and renewal fees partially or fully waived. The legislation allows medical patients to certify their qualifying conditions by telehealth. DCEO is granted the opportunity to provide loans or other financial assistance to social equity licensees and applicants. The bill also reduces regulatory burdens on the cannabis businesses and allows the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Financial and Professional Regulators to establish market protections to combat unfair business practices. Dispensaries are required to develop and implement patient prioritizing plans to ensure patients' confidentiality and services to medical patients. The sponsor testified that the proposal could generate an additional \$15 million in revenue. Note, the bill does not contain any provisions to regulate the

numbers in disposition information provided to police. The bill also addresses potential conflicts with Senate Bill 8 (see above) regarding sentencing hearing provisions, which removes ACLU and the Cook County Public Defenders' opposition to SB 8. HB 850, as amended, passed the House 74-40. The Senate concurred with the House amendment by a vote of 36-17, and the measure now heads to the Governor's desk.

intoxicating hemp industry. HFA # 1 passed the House Executive Committee 8-4. HFA # 2, which would delete the language pertaining to DoA and IDFPR regarding unfair business practices, was referred to the House floor. SB 90 was not considered on the House floor prior to adjournment.



(Daniel de la Hoz / Getty Images)

Classroom Cell Phone Ban:

The Illinois House adjourned without considering **SB 2427** (Castro/Mussman), which requires school boards to adopt a policy (by the 2026-2027 school year) to prohibit student use of wireless communication devices during instructional time. This includes cell phones, computers, and smartwatches, but excludes school-issued or required educational devices. The policy must allow exceptions for medical reasons, IEPs, 504 plans, English learners, educational purposes approved by school personnel, and emergencies. Policies must be reviewed every three years and posted on the school board's website. The bill was a priority of Governor Pritzker.

Statewide Public Defender:

The Illinois Senate approved, by a vote of 36-19, **HB 3363** (Vella/Peters) as amended, which creates the Funded Advocacy & Independent Representation (FAIR) Act. The legislation establishes a statewide public defender office to collect data, establish caseload standards, and provide resources to smaller jurisdictions that struggle with attorney recruitment and retention. The House concurred with the Senate amendment by a vote of 77-36 and the bill now heads the Governor's desk.

SB 1519 (Villa/Ford) prohibits students from receiving a fine or fee as a disciplinary consequence for behavior during school. In addition, school districts with school resource officers are to have a memorandum of understanding with their local law enforcement agency, establishing that SROs are properly trained and do not use fines or tickets for disciplinary infractions. Passed the House 69-44.

SB 2156 (Ventura/Gordon-Booth) represents a property tax omnibus negotiated by the property tax working group. This legislation amends the

SB 1784 (Sims/Gordon-Booth) aims to streamline expungement and record sealing statewide. The bill establishes an automatic process for sealing certain records, excluding serious criminal offenses ineligible for sealing or expungement under current state law. The bill passed the House 81-28 and heads back to the Senate for concurrence.

The Senate Executive Committee unanimously approved **SB 1855** (Belt), which outlines requirements for counties, townships, and municipalities regarding law enforcement services. It establishes a mandatory reimbursement framework for when local governments transfer law enforcement responsibilities to outside agencies. SFA # 2 was filed to clarify that the legislation applies only to counties with populations of **1,000,000 people** or less. SFA # 2 passed out of the Senate Executive Committee unanimously. SB 1855 is now pending before the full Senate.

Property Tax Code with multiple changes affecting refunds, billing, tax deeds, senior exemptions, subdivisions, energy assistance, assessors, tax certificates, and affordable housing. It also amends the Fox Waterway Agency Act to allow property tax imposition with referendum approval. Makes other changes. The measure passed the House by a vote of 114-1 and is pending in the Senate on concurrence.



2025 - 2026 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



**Sheriffs Summer
Training Conference**
September 20-23, 2025
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

**Sheriffs Winter
Training Conference**
February 7-10, 2026
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel,
Springfield

**Chief Deputy &
Jail Administrators Conference**
April 22-24, 2026
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

[Visit our Website](#)

We would not be able to put our training and conferences on without our Preferred Vendors! The Illinois Sheriffs' Association would like to thank your vendors listed below!

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Protect Yourself: Scam Awareness Updates from the ISA

Unfortunately, scams have become increasingly sophisticated and widespread. At the ISA, we understand how important it is for our members to stay informed and vigilant in the face of these growing threats.

To support your safety and financial well-being, we're launching a new initiative: we'll spotlight common scams currently affecting individuals and businesses. These posts will explain how the scam works, warning signs to watch out for, and practical steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Cryptocurrency scams | aarp.com

Cryptocurrency is hot, with the price of one Bitcoin reaching \$100,000 for the first time in December 2024. That may be good for savvy investors, but the hype could lure novices into cryptocurrency scams - with huge potential losses.



In 2023, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3.gov) received nearly 9,000 cryptocurrency complaints from people age 50-59. Their total losses: more than \$900 million. People age 60 and older registered nearly 17,000 complaints and reported losses of \$1.6 billion. (The numbers are probably far higher, because scams are notoriously underreported.) Scammers use dating

apps, messaging apps, social media and other communications to build relationships and trust with their targets, then share their "expertise" on investments, frequently promising large returns and little risk. In 2023, this "confidence-enabled cryptocurrency investment fraud" was the most prominent type of crypto scam, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reports.

Criminals often show victims fake profit reports, which encourages them to invest more. But when investors try to withdraw funds, they're frequently charged outrageous fees. The bogus companies then typically vanish before investors receive their money.

How to stay safe: If you're interested in crypto but lack expertise, talk with a financial advisor. And watch for impostor sites that mimic actual companies. In California, one victim transferred over \$127,000 to two crypto exchanges, one of which was Celestia.bet. The true network, however, is Celestia.org.

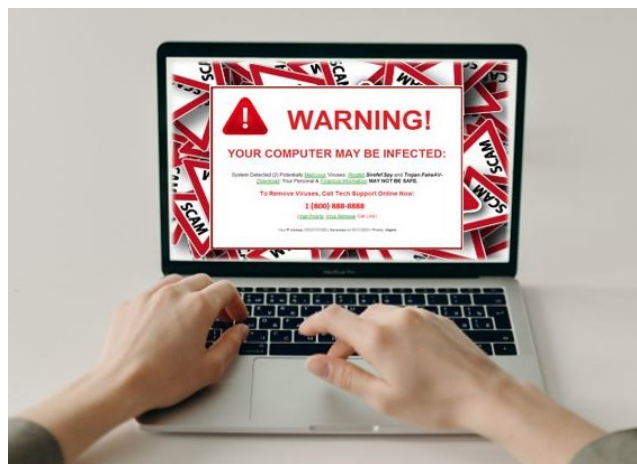
To confirm that a company is legit, make sure it's registered with the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and the National Futures Association. Also avoid companies with no physical address or customer service line, the CFTC suggests.

Also beware of requests to pay for something or address an urgent financial matter with crypto; they may ask you to use a crypto ATM. "Crypto is the payment method in a lot of different scams," Velasquez says, because it's hard to trace and payments usually can't be reversed.

Tech Support Scams | aarp.com

Consumers age 60 and older are five times more likely than their younger counterparts to lose money to tech support scams, which cost older Americans more \$175 million in 2023, the FTC reported to Congress in October 2024.

The fraud frequently starts with a pop-up message — often with a logo from companies like Microsoft or Apple — saying your computer has a virus. You click a link or call a supposed support number, and they request remote access to your computer. The criminals can now access all of the information on your machine and also install malware.



The scammers may also try to sell you useless software, maintenance or warranty programs. In March 2024, the FTC reached a \$26 million settlement with two tech-support companies who used fake Microsoft pop-ups to lure consumers into buying software. Or they may install malware to harvest login credentials to your online accounts, including financial accounts.

How to stay safe: Legitimate tech companies won't call, email, or text about problems with your computer, and their pop-ups will never ask you to make a call or click a link.

If a tech support person calls you unexpectedly, it's almost surely a scam, the FTC states. Hang up, even if the number looks real. Never click on a pop-up, never give remote access to someone who calls you out of the blue, and never share your password. If the pop-up won't go away, restart your computer, suggests scam expert Steve Weisman, founder of Spamicide.com. If you do share your password, change it immediately, he adds. And if you give someone remote access to your computer, update your security software and run a scan, or have a trusted person or big box tech store scan it for you.

2025 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series - June | Henry County

Protecting Our Communities,
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Sheriff Joshua C. Verscheure



GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF - Henry County



Elected as
Sheriff 2022
26 Years in
Law Enforcement



Population
Henry County
48,448



Average
Household
Income
\$69,912



1.

What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

Growing up, I worked for with my father towing cars in from accident scenes, arrests, etc. I was always fascinated with the Sheriff's Deputies and thought that they had the coolest job in the world!

2.

Describe your role as Sheriff in your Office and throughout your County:

In addition to overseeing the operations within the Sheriffs Office (Patrol, Jail, Communications), I work with the other offices within the county and the Henry County Board on a daily basis.

3.

What is your favorite part about being Henry County Sheriff?

I would still say serving the people. Henry County has always been home to me and serving and protecting Henry County has always been an honor throughout my 26 year career.



4.

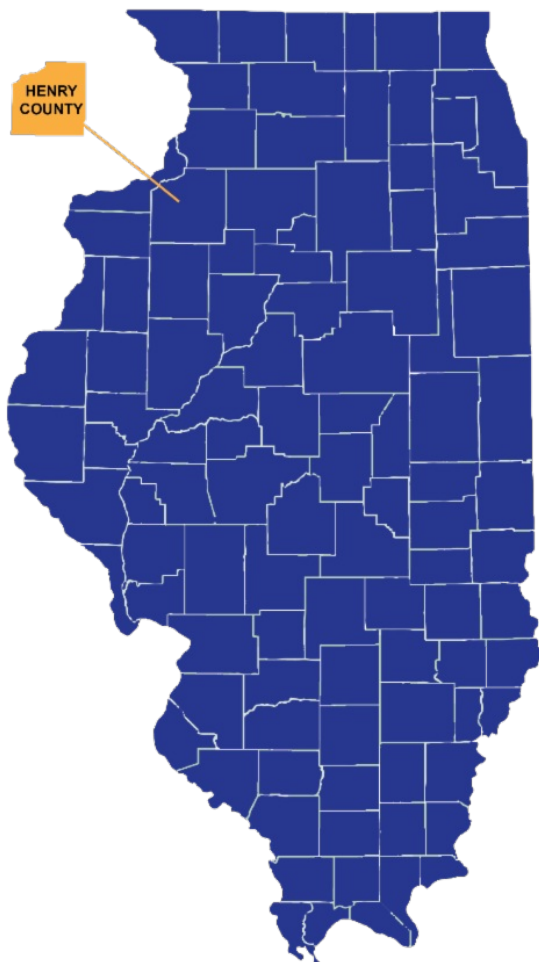
Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:

Being involved in the community is vital to the success of the Sheriff's Office. Having good relationships helps both sides to understand each other and how we can work together.

5.

What's the best thing to happen to you because of your community or career in peace keeping service?

Just being able to make a positive difference. Whether it is seeing someone who got their life together after an arrest or making things a little easier for someone during the worst times in their lives.



6.

Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

My dad was probably my biggest influence ever. I try to model myself around how he treated people and how he lived his life. He truly was my role model.

7.

What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

Drugs and mental health. I don't think that is unique to us. It is a problem everywhere. I do feel that we're making progress in these areas.



8.

How do you think someone meeting you for the first time would describe you?

Friendly and helpful.

9.

What advice would you give young people?

Get into a line of work that makes you happy. If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life!



SHERIFF VERSCHURE FUN FACTS:



IF YOU WEREN'T DOING
WHAT YOU DO NOW,
WHAT WOULD BE
YOUR DREAM JOB?

Professional baseball
player!



WHAT DO YOU DO
WHEN YOU AREN'T
WORKING OR
VOLUNTEERING?

Go to baseball games
and concerts



WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE
BE SURPRISED TO KNOW
ABOUT YOU?

I love
horror movies



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Henry County Sheriff's Office

NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY:



LEE COUNTY: Quick-
thinking 911
dispatcher helps save
newborn's life

WREX.com

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KANKAKEE COUNTY:
Illinois Sheriff slams
state's far-left
sanctuary policies:
'What is the holdup?'

Foxnews.com

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**WILLIAMSON
COUNTY:** Sheriff
recognizes good

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Samaritans for water rescue at Crab Orchard Lake

Katie White | kbsi23.com

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Co.
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DID YOU KNOW?

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association oversees the application approval process for the Illinois Retired Law Enforcement License Plates.

By purchasing a set of these plates, you will help support the Illinois Sheriffs' Association Scholarship and Training Fund - in the issuance of grants to the Illinois Sheriff's Association for scholarships obtained in a competitive process to attend the Illinois Teen Institute or an accredited college or university, for programs designed to benefit the elderly and teens, and for law enforcement training.



Just go to the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State Website at the URL listed below. You will download the "Affirmation" form from the link. **If you qualify... Download the form, fill it out, but please don't sign on the bottom line - that is for ISA's authorization signature.**

ISA Address: 3050 Montvale Dr, Suite D, Springfield IL 62704 Ph: 217-753-2372 Fax: 217-753-2405

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Scholarship Feature



501(c)3 raising money for Illinois Law Enforcement Families & members of the Illinois Military.

The 2025-2026 Peacekeepers Scholarship winners will be announced in the next few weeks on our website and Facebook page - Stay Tuned!



Your ISA membership supports public safety across the state of Illinois. Individuals and businesses may join ISA. Your tax deductible dues support Illinois's 102 elected sheriffs and their staff as they strive to improve citizen and community safety.

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