

STATE OF ILLINOIS
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Speaker Avelar: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in the prayer today by Dr. Sabeel Ahmed, executive director of GainPeace, a project of the Islamic Circle of North America, based in Chicago, Illinois. He is the guest of Representative Blair-Sherlock. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Dr. Sabeel Ahmed: "I start in the name of God, the most beneficent and the most merciful. Let's all pray together that, O God, guide and help our republic officials and touch their hearts and minds and grant them the ability, the ease, the courage to always make decisions that will benefit not just a few or one culture or one country, help them benefit all of humanity. O God, the creator and the Lord of the law, help us to always live by the beautiful guidance, as you mentioned in the Quran, Chapter 5:32, that 'Saving one life is like saving the life of all of humanity.' So, God, help us to always side with the oppressed. The oppressed can be our immigrants, African Americans, Indian, Pakistani, Native Americans, or the oppressed can be Palestinians. That, O God, you know that people, when they place each other first, they put down other people. So, give us the ability, the courage, and the wisdom that it should not be the Blacks first, the white first, or America or Pakistan first, it should always be humanity first. And lastly, O God, we know that the society is broken. There are social ills all around us, and there is increasing Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism and anti-Latino bias... and increasing. So, O God, help us to live as brothers and sisters

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in this wonderful humanity. Help us to realize that we are one family, the family of Adam and Eve. Help us to worship you, to cherish you. Keep on guiding us, and make us those individuals who always work for the best of humanity. Aameen. Thank you."

Speaker Avelar: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Leader González."

González et - al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Avelar: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Gabel's recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."

Gabel: "Speaker, let... let the record show that Representatives Ammons, Tarver, Moylan, Jones, and Mayfield are excused today."

Speaker Avelar: "Leader Windhorst is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would you please excuse Representatives Grant, Niemerg, Sanalidro, Sosnowski, Stephens, Tipsword, and Reick today?"

Speaker Avelar: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 104 Members answering the roll call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Blair-Sherlock, Chairperson from the Committee on State Government Administration reports following on October 15, 2025: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill

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2333. Representative Evans, Chairperson from the Committee on Labor & Commerce reports following action taken on October 16, 2025: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 507."

Speaker Avelar: "Representative Ford, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ford: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Avelar: "Please... please proceed."

Ford: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen, Members of the General Assembly, and staff, it brings me great joy to tell everyone that we had a staffer that had a birthday this week, and I failed to wish him a happy birthday. But join me in wishing Brian De Pasqua a happy birthday. He's a great staffer, and he makes all of Illinois better. And I think the fact that he's so young, I think he's still celebrating his birthday, so it's okay to say happy birthday, Brian. Thank you."

Speaker Avelar: "Happy birthday, Brian. Representative Halbrock, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Halbrook: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, this past Monday, the former Speaker of the Illinois House, convicted of multiple counts, reported to federal prison to begin serving a seven-and-a-half-year sentence. Many people ask me, 'Why did this take so long? Why wasn't he convicted of more crimes? Why is this system so corrupt?' All these are fair questions, and they lead me to ask deeper ones. Each one

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of us in this chamber have been entrusted with the confidence of the people we represent. Tens of thousands of Illinoisans place their trust in us, and that trust carries both political and moral weight. The decisions we make here are not merely political decisions, they are ethical ones. In truth, there are ethics involved in everything we do. The Oxford Dictionary defines ethics as 'The moral principles that govern a person's behavior or the conducting of an activity.' The question, then, is simple, what moral principles govern us? We often speak of having a moral compass or a true north, but that assumes there is a standard above us, something or rather someone to whom we are accountable. From the very beginning of our nation that truth was recognized. The Declaration of Independence declares that all men are created and... are equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. And the preamble of our own Illinois Constitution begins, 'We, the people of the state of Illinois - grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He has permitted us to enjoy.' Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I am a Christian, and I know that not everyone in this chamber shares that confession. But all of us, regardless of creed and background, must acknowledge the necessity of a moral standard higher than ourselves. Popularity does not make something right. Feeling strongly about something does not make it just. Our nation was built by men and women who believe there is a God above government. That law and liberty ultimately flow from the creator, not the creature. The votes we cast and the laws we enact are never morally neutral. Every policy, every statute carries ethical consequences for the

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people we serve. If we are to restore trust in government, we must recover this conviction. There is a law above us. There is a lawgiver. Ethics reform is not just about compliance, it's about conscience. May we legislate with integrity under God and for the people of Illinois. Thank you."

Speaker Avelar: "Leader Williams, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Williams, A.: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Williams, A.: "Thank you. If you were in Springfield in the late '90s or early 2000s, you probably knew someone named Dan Ryan, affectionately known by many as 'Tomato.' Sadly, Tomato passed away last week. I wanted to share a few words today about this very special guy. Tomato was an extraordinary person. Why? Because he was one of the nicest, kindest, happiest, most positive person... people I have ever met, and everyone who knew him agreed. His obituary was right on in describing him as having the softest heart, the funniest stories. As I was thinking about what remarks I would make today, I asked some friends how they would describe him, and the same theme emerged: such a good guy, always happy, a heart of gold, honest, loyal, always a smile on his face, everyone's best friend, could talk to anyone, genuine, lit up a room, full of love, full of life, never knew a stranger. You get the picture. When I was a young staffer, I had a great group of friends I palled around with, many of whom had been working in around the Capitol for many years. Tomato was one of them. I don't remember exactly how I met Tomato, but we were instantly friends. We'd go out together with our group, have

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dinner and drinks at one of the Springfield hot spots some of you may remember, Sebastian's basement, Ross Isaac's, Two Brothers, and they'd tell old school stories about what Springfield was like back in the day. For me, it was always a wonderful time and made the time away from home a little bit easier. After a night out, Tomato and his friends would invariably end up sitting around a kitchen table late into the night, playing music, arguing about nonsense, telling stories, telling more stories, and laughing. Often, something crazy would happen in those nights, and then boom, another story would be developed and be told again and again. One night, we decided we wanted to do something special for Tomato because it was never about him. So, we planned a surprise birthday party at a Springfield restaurant. We made this cutout, featuring Tomato as a much younger man, got balloons, party favors, the whole thing. And for once, we made it all about him. He hated the attention, but he loved it. When his mother passed away, in true Tomato fashion, he invited all of us to celebrate her life at the pub he owned in Carlinville called Ryan's Pub. We rented a limo, all trekked out there for the night, and had a great time. We didn't know Mrs. Ryan, but we all loved Tomato, so we were there for him. And what a celebration it was. Tomato loved being a father and was so proud of his two boys, Josh... Josh and Jordan Ryan. Jordan, you may know, he was on staff and is now a lobbyist. He's with us today in the gallery. You may know him, if you don't know him as Jordan, as TK, which of course stands for 'Tomato's Kid.' He is listed in my phone to this day as TK. Jordan possesses many of the same traits as his father, kind,

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positive, generous, honest, heart of gold. I guess it's true what they say, the apple doesn't fall far from the Tomato. I've often heard that when someone leaves us, the best way to honor them is to try and emulate a positive characteristic they had. I hope we can all honor this amazing person by being a little nicer, a little kinder to people. It shouldn't be that hard. Tomato did it all day, every day. I do have one regret. I never told Tomato how much I thought of him, what a truly good person he was, how he touched the lives of so many with his sincere smile. I hope he knew. I hope he's up there somewhere, sitting around the kitchen table, having some drinks, telling some stories with the friends who passed before him. Tomato, we love you. Rest easy, friend. You earned it. Thank you."

Speaker Avelar: "Leader McCombie."

McCombie: "Thank you, Representative. That was a lovely tribute. On behalf of the House Republican Caucus, Jordan, we would just like to give our condolences to you and your family for the loss of your dad."

Speaker Avelar: "OK, now, the body should hold a moment of silence. Under the Order of Resolutions, we have House Joint Resolution 1, offered by Leader Hoffman."

Hoffman: "Thank you, Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of House. House Joint Resolution #1 honors Lieutenant Gregory Jonas, who joined Alorton Police Department in 1976, where he worked for eight years. In 1995, Lieutenant Jonas joined the Centerville Police Department and was promoted to lieutenant in 2004. On June 2, 2009, Lieutenant Jonas was patrolling an apartment complex in the 4700 block of Tudor Avenue and was

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tragically shot and killed. Authorities apprehended the suspect, who was then charged with murder and sentenced to 53 years in prison without parole. Lieutenant Jonas is survived by his wife, two sons, four daughters, his mother, and he has 10 grandchildren. House... this would designate Bond Avenue in Centreville from South 43rd Street to South 47th Street as 'Lt. Gregory Jonas Memorial Avenue.' I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Avelar: "Leader Hoffman moves for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 1. All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 104 'ayes,' 0 'nays,' 0 voting 'present.' And this resolution, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby adopted. Representative Rosenthal, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Rosenthal: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Rosenthal: "It's my honor to introduce my page for the day, Sawyer Schmock, who's the... who's two today, and she's the 2-year-old daughter of my chief of staff, Rachel. So, I wish for everybody to welcome her to the chamber."

Speaker Avelar: "Welcome to Springfield. Representative Weaver, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Weaver: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Weaver: "Today, I have the sincere pleasure of welcoming my page for the day. My friend, Jude Phillips, he's a fifth grader at Grundy Elementary. Jude loves Legos. He loves playing soccer. One interesting fact, he told me he knows all the world's

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flags. So, I asked him what the flag was for the Caribbean nation, Saint... OK, he told me this country, Saint (unintelligible), something, and that colors are.."

Jude Phillips: "Blue, yellow, and green."

Weaver: "Blue, yellow, and green. He knows every single country, even this one random Caribbean country. He told me also that he wants to grow up and be a lawyer, but I think that that's just temporary because earlier we took a picture in front of the Governor's Office and I... I think that it looks pretty good on him. So, we'll see if that's in the cards. Everybody, please thank... please welcome... thank... help me in welcoming Jude today."

Speaker Avelar: "Welcome to Springfield. Representative Ortíz, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ortíz: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Ortíz: "Thank you. Madam Speaker. I rise today to speak about the state of our community. Last weekend, I was knocking on doors like I always do, to listen, to see what people are going through, and I met a man who drives for Uber. He lives in Gage Park in Chicago with his wife and two kids. He's in his 50s. The kind of man who works quietly, who helps his neighbors. The kind of man who believes that if you do things right, you'll be left in peace. It's a little bit old school. But a few nights ago in Waukegan, he was surrounded by masked ICE agents, three guns pointed at his face, screaming at him. They ordered him to show his papers, his Social Security card... card, as if he... his life needed proof. He told me, 'I wasn't scared for me. I was scared my kids would never see me again.'

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And I just can't stop thinking about this moment. How small he must have felt. How powerless. How many times has that story played out in silence across this state and our country? That could have been my own father, my brother, your father, your brother. Could have been me or one of my Black or Brown colleagues. That should make all of us angry because that man wasn't doing anything wrong. He was working, providing for his family, living the dream we claim to honor in this chamber. And for those wondering, yes, he was a U.S. citizen. Somewhere along the line, we let mass cowards with big guns and small hands terrorize our neighborhoods and abduct people in the dead of night. While their groupies record it like it's a music video, we allow them to drag parents from their homes, to make zip-tied children watch in terror, and fire chemical agents outside of schools and senior centers, kill, and then lie about it. In my neighborhood, that fear is the air we breathe. Parents are too afraid to drive their kids to school. Teenagers are missing class to work because their mom can't risk leaving the house. Houses that go quiet when they hear the whistles outside. The empty chair at dinner because dad didn't come home. This is what it feels like when machinery of government turns on its own people, Black, Brown, Asian, young or old, immigrant or U.S. citizen. They don't care. They're coming after all of us. And if that doesn't make you furious, you already gave up. This is how a democracy erodes, with people normalizing the power grab. Oh, they're not coming for us, though. Really? You're going to wait until they start loading people into trains and we never see them again? 'Cause I'm not. We've seen this before in other eras,

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in other countries, when people traded courage for comfort. We may not solve it all right now, but we can draw a line, a moral line. We will not let tyranny take root in our soil. And unless your loyalty is to the man in the Epstein files, this is not radical, it's the right side of history. Thank you."

Speaker Avelar: "Leader Stuart, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Stuart: "Thank you. Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Stuart: "Thank you. Just real briefly. To the body, I would like to take a minute to introduce.. I have a friend, a page with me today, Chloe LeBlanc. Chloe LeBlanc is a senior at SIU Edwardsville. I think it's important noting, she is from O'Fallon, Missouri. So, we lured her over to the right side of the river down in our area. She is studying political science with a minor in Spanish. Very interested, and we might see her back in this chamber on staff at some point 'cause she's very interested in working on staff and getting involved in policy and helping to make the world better, along with the rest of us. So, please welcome Chloe to the chamber."

Speaker Avelar: "Welcome to Springfield. Leader McCombie, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

McCombie: "Concerning the previous speaker, with all due respect, that was insane. We were asked to be holding political points by the majority party until after introductions. No deal. You guys want to start talking about victims? We will start talking every single day about the victims that are killed, raped, taken. Every day we will bring it up."

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Speaker Avelar: "Representative du Buclet, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

du Buclet: "Thank you, Ms. Chairman. I presented resolution... House Resolution 496, a resolution from us celebrating the extraordinary legacy of Barbara Flynn Currie. As we all know, Barbara's name is synonymous with integrity, intellect, and impact. She's the first woman to serve as the House majority leader. Barbara led not just with authority, but with grace and conviction. Tonight IWIL, the Illinois Women's Institute... Training Institute will be honoring her. Representative Leader Curry is a founding member and a long-serving leader of IWIL. We pause to say thank you. And as an IWIL alumni myself, I stand here with so many others who have benefitted from program. Her leadership and mentorship continue to echo through every woman who has walked through IWILTA's doors. Barbara Flynn Currie changed the face of leadership in Illinois. And because of her courage, her intellect, and her unwavering sense of purpose, a generation of women, myself included, have found the strength and inspiration to serve. So, it's my distinct privilege, on behalf of the Illinois House of Representatives, to present House Resolution 496 in honor of Barbara Flynn Currie, as she receives the lifetime award tonight at the IWIL fundraiser gala. And congratulations, Barbara, and thank you for everything you've done for our state, our Legislature, and countless women you continue to inspire. Thank you."

Speaker Avelar: "Representative Severin, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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Severin: "Ladies and... thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Severin: "I'd like to have the body's attention, please. Today, I want to highlight House Resolution 511, honoring my good friend and Southern Illinois broadcasting legend, Mr. Tom Miller. On Monday, Tom announced his retirement from WJPF News Radio after nearly... nearly 50 years on the air. For decades, Tom has been the familiar voice that so many of us have woken up to, delivering the news, interviews, and the stories that shape our communities. He began his career back in 1976, the year I graduated high school, as a music DJ, and before long he found his calling in journalism and public service through radio. As host of the WJPF Morning News Watch, Tom became more than a broadcaster. He became a trusted voice for Southern Illinois. He served a program... he served as program director for WJPF and WCIL-AM, operations manager for River Radio and its six stations. And under his leadership, WJPF earned awards from the Illinois Broadcasters Association for the Station of the Year and Best Public Service Program. Tom's outstanding work has also been recognized beyond the studio. He received the Leaders Among Us Award from the Southern Illinoisan and the Seven Seals Award from the Illinois National Guard for his support of local service members. Despite his success, Tom has always been known for his humility. Over the years, he interviewed politicians, sports figures, rock 'n' roll legends, community leaders, and countless everyday people with a story to tell. But Tom never made the story about himself. He always made it about the

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news. He loves informing people. So, Tom, I'm going to miss our chats. I'm going to miss the curveballs you threw me. Sometimes I hit it out of the park. Sometimes I whiffed. Thank you for being a strong, trustworthy, and steady voice for Southern Illinois for all these years. Good luck in your retirement, and God bless you, my friend. Thank you."

Speaker Avelar: "Representative Barbara Hernandez, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hernandez, B.: "A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Hernandez, B.: "Thank you, Mrs. Speaker. I just want to wish a happy birthday to my district director, Derek Helm, and also our intern, Lytzy, in our office. But also, I want to welcome your family that is here. We have your aunt and uncle, I believe in the gallery, so I want to wish them... oh, they're over here on our left-hand side. They're here, and they came from, I believe, your... Ecuador. So, it's a privilege to have them here, and I just want to welcome them."

Speaker Avelar: "Representative Cassidy, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Cassidy: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Cassidy: "I just want to wish my chief of staff, Taylor Ortiz, a very happy birthday. She's back up in the district, hopefully having a relatively calm and easy day. So, just join me in wishing her a happy birthday, please."

Speaker Avelar: "Happy birthday. Representative Scherer, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Scherer: "Point of personal privilege, please."

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Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Scherer: "I just had a question for the body. I realize it's a rhetorical question, but nonetheless. In reference to what Representative Ortiz said, I can't let it go. Because I have so many people at home say this to me, how on earth does this happen in America? It's against the law. These are legal citizens at work doing their job. They're doing nothing wrong, and they're being ripped away from their families. How does this happen in America? Some people still aren't hearing me, I guess. It's the teacher in me, I can't help it. How does this happen in America when it is against the law and it continues to happen? So, I'm going to just say it one more time. How does this happen in America? Thank you."

Speaker Avelar: "Mr. Clerk, Rules Report."

Clerk Hollman: "Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on October 16, 2025: approved for consideration, referred to Second Reading was Senate Bill 1937. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports following committee action taken on April (sic-October) 16, 2025: approved for consideration, referred to the Order of Concurrence is House Bill 1607."

Speaker Avelar: "Mr. Clerk, Rules Report."

Clerk Hollman: "Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on October 16, 2025: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1607."

Speaker Avelar: "Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

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Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 499... 499, offered by Representative Chung. House Resolution 500, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Resolution 501, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Resolution 502, offered by Representative Elik. House Resolution 503, offered by Representative Cassidy. House Resolution 509, offered by Representative Will Davis. House Resolution 510, offered by Representative Spain. House Resolution 511, offered by Representative Severin. House Resolution 512, offered by Leader McCombie. And House Resolution 513, offered by Representative Evans."

Speaker Avelar: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinions of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Clerk, read the Adjournment Resolution."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Joint Resolution #45, offered by Representative Gabel.

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the Senate adjourns on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 28, 2025 or until the call of the President; and when the House of Representatives adjourns on Thursday, October 16, 2025, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 28, 2025 or until the call of the Speaker."

Speaker Avelar: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of the Adjournment Resolution. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the

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'ayes' have it. And the Adjournment Resolution is adopted. And now, allowing for perfunctory time for the clerk, Leader Gabel moves that the House stand adjourned until Tuesday, October 28, at the hour of 1 p.m. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 4164, offered by Representative Stuart, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 4165, offered by Representative Cabello, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. First Reading of these House bills. Introduction of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 618, offered by Speaker Welch, a Bill for an Act concerning liquor. Senate Bill 642, offered by Speaker Welch, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. First Reading of these Senate Bills. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."