

MINUTES
MASSAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting
August 14, 2026

Meeting convened at 10:30 A.M. with Jimmy Burnham, Jeff Brugger, and Jayson Farmer present.

Chairman Farmer called the meeting to order and State’s Attorney Stratemeyer discussed the ordinance and explained that this would only be to add a question to the ballot if passed by the commissioners.

Public Comment:
Denise Meyer asked why the commissioners were taking this action after this was previously on the ballot and voted to be made an elected position. She states she wants to be able to vote on who holds the office of Supervisor of Assessments.

Chairman Farmer stated they have received hundreds of requests from county residents to add this question back to the ballot. He also explained that the assessor is a unique position with set requirements and discussed the issues that arose with the last elected assessor that was removed from office.

Sam Stratemeyer stated he thinks the referendum is taking voting rights away and the thinks this is a defining moment for the board of commissioners and the process is already being carried out by a signed petition before the electoral board on Monday.

Chairman Farmer stated that the current assessor that was recently appointed is doing a good job running the office.

Lana Ohmes asked why the meeting was called for today since the electoral board is meeting Monday regarding this question due to a petition that was filed and objected to. State’s Attorney Josh Stratemeyer stated that the deadline for the commissioners to vote on an ordinance is Monday, August 17, 2026. She states the timing of this meeting seems underhanded because of the Monday Electoral Board meeting. State’s Attorney Stratemeyer explained that these were two separate processes and the electoral board meeting and ruling would still be carried out.

On a motion by Mr. Burnham, 2nd by Mr. Farmer, the commissioners voted to adopt an ordinance to have a referendum placed on the ballot at the following general election requiring the county Supervisor of Assessments position to be appointed rather than elected pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/3-52.

Jayson Farmer	AYE
Jeff Brugger	AYE
Jimmy Burnham	AYE

On a motion by Mr. Brugger, 2nd by Mr. Burnham, the commissioners voted to enter closed session at 10:58 A.M. to discuss pending litigation.

Jayson Farmer	AYE
Jeff Brugger	AYE
Jimmy Burnham	AYE

On a motion by Mr. Farmer, 2nd by Mr. Burnham, the commissioners voted to exit closed session at 11:42 A.M.

Jayson Farmer	AYE
Jeff Brugger	AYE
Jimmy Burnham	AYE

Treasurer Sarah Bremer attended the meeting to discuss the tax sale process and potential changes. She explained the process to the commissioners. There was a case in MN where someone affected by a tax sale was awarded the equity of \$50,000. Because of this, there is a new bill in IL that eliminates the tax buyer’s ability to make a profit other than the interest they can charge. The county can opt to not hold a tax sale. She is going to email more information to the commissioners so they can consider this.

On a motion by Mr. Farmer, 2nd by Mr. Brugger, meeting adjourned at 12:13 P.M.

On a motion by Mr. Brugger, 2nd by Mr. Farmer, the commissioners adjourned.