

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2025
September 2, 2025

The Union County Commissioners met in regular session this 2nd day of September, 2025, with the following members present:

Steve Robinson, President
David A. Lawrence, Vice President
Tom McCarthy, Commissioner
Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board

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*Commissioner Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

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*Mike Williamson, Marysville Journal Tribune was in attendance.

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Elected Officials/Department Head Meeting

The Commissioners held their monthly staff meeting this date with the following elected officials and department heads in attendance: Lance Emberling, Lead Investigator/Coroner's Office; John Rosevear, Assistant County Coroner; Ginger Yonak, Director/Human Resources; Brad Gilbert, Director/EMA; Brandon Clay, Director/Board of Elections; Michelle Forrider, Deputy Director/Board of Elections; Sheriff Mike Justice; Magistrate Adam Reinhart/Probate and Juvenile Court; Inge Witt Administrator/Economic Development; Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner/Union County Health Department; Adam Negley, Executive Director/Mental Health and Recovery Board; Brent Nickel, District Administrator/Soil and Water Conservation District; Engineer Jeff Stauch; Karen Eylon, Director/Union County Tourism; and Thayne Gray, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

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Elected Officials/Department Head Updates:

- Brent Nickles stated this is construction season and many waterways are being installed. The wildlife habitat program is open for signups.
- Jason Orcena stated the Health Department is finishing the Community Health Assessment, and an email will be sent when it is complete. Early next month, there will be a tire collection event and drive-thru flu shot clinic. Information with the details will be released soon.
- Karen Eylon stated that the occupancy and average daily rates for hotels in the county are still outpacing surrounding areas. This is still due to Honda, but this is great for Union County. They received notice that Union County will not be hosted the 2026 BMX Nationals Event. There is a dedication ceremony for the Union County National Guard Armory Historical Marker on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Eylon invited the Commissioners to attend.
- Lance Emberling thanked Brad Gilbert and EMA for allowing the Coroner's Office to use their building on Northwest Parkway for an incident that happened on Sunday. Unfortunately, there have been three overdose deaths in the county this month.
- Mike Justice stated the Sheriff's Office was at the Richwood Fair and Darby Dash in Milford Cetner. There were very good turnouts from the public for both events.

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- Brandon Clay stated the Board of Elections is working on coding ballots this week. Sample ballots for voters will be released on the website this month. There are multiple local issues on the ballots. Early voting for military and overseas voters will open soon, and early voting for everyone else will start on October 7. The deadline for voter registration is October 6.
- Jeff Stauch stated some of the contract projects are still pending. The Claibourne Road Bridge will close next week for construction to start. Chip seal for the county is complete.
- Brad Gilbert stated he has shared an informative presentation about EMA around the county. September is National Preparedness Month, and EMA has started work on the strategic plan for 2026 – 2029. On August 29, 1950, the first EMA Director was hired in Union County.
- Inge Witt stated the 10 exchange students from Yorii left on Friday. They loved their time here.
- Ginger Yonak stated there is a new walking challenge on Anthem. The Health and Wellness fair is Tuesday, September 16, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. October 16 is the annual CORSA supervisory training, and it will be held at London Avenue. The annual Employee Recognition Event will be on December 11.
- Adam Reinhart had no report.
- Adam Negley stated there was a community Overdose Awareness Coalition event held last month, and September is Recovery Month. Local businesses will have purple chairs on their storefronts that were provided by the Coalition. They will also be at FestiFair to raise awareness for this cause. Mental Health will be partnering with WINGS to provide Peer Recovery Supporter training in October. This training is 40 hours.
- Thayne Gray stated the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event will be held on October 3 at Partner's Park. He encouraged everyone to attend.
- Commissioner Lawrence had no report.
- Commissioner McCarthy had no report.
- Commissioner Robinson stated he attended the Richwood Independent Fair Livestock Sale on Monday. He went to Der Dutchman last week with the chaperones for the Japanese exchange students. Everyone enjoyed the buffet.

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*Commissioner Robinson adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

The preceding minutes were read and approved September 17, 2025.

Steve Robinson
Commissioner

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