

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2025

March 3, 2026

The Union County Commissioners met in regular session this 3rd day of March 2026, with the following members present:

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

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*Commissioner McCarthy called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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*Mike Williamson, Marysville Journal Tribune; and Joe Case, Marysville Matters were 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: Adam Negley, Executive Director/Mental Health and Recovery Board; Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner/Union County Health Department; John Rosevear, Deputy Coroner; Sheriff Mike Justice; Karen Riffle, Recorder; Jessica Cain, Office Administrator/Engineer's Office; Ally Pasanen, Development Projects Coordinator/Economic Development; David Phillips, Prosecutor; Brandon Clay, Director/ Board of Elections; Brad Gilbert, Director/EMA; Judge Don Fraser/Common Pleas Court; Wendy Golden, Court Administrator/Common Pleas Court; Judge Rick Rodger/Probate and Juvenile Court; Andrew Smarra, Treasurer; and Thayne Gray, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

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Elected Officials/Department Head Updates:

- Adam Negley stated they are finalizing replacing the services Maryhaven has been providing. They hope to have this done this spring.
- Jason Orcena stated next Thursday is the District Advisory Council meeting. One Commissioner, or alternate, must be in attendance for there to be a quorum.
- John Rosevear stated the office is currently in the hiring process of a death investigator.
- Sheriff Justice stated they hired a deputy, and he started yesterday. He comes from Marion and has local ties to the community. He had a meeting with representatives from local fire and police departments to discuss the recent fires on new construction homes. They are all possibly linked.
- Karen Riffle stated the Recorder's Office is staying busy.
- Jessica Cain stated the annual township meeting was on Saturday. She thanked everyone who attended. The Engineer's Office is preparing for construction season.
- Ally Pasanen stated the new tourism director will be in attendance next month. Her name is Crystal Cassidy.
- David Phillips stated there was a United States Supreme Court out of Michigan regarding equity on the sale of tax foreclosures. If the ruling is that the county must pay the equity on the sales, this

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will impact all tax foreclosure sales moving forward. The county website is required to be ADA compliant by April 26, 2026. He is working with Wade Branstiter to find a vendor to make this change. Commissioner McCarthy asked when this ruling came out, and Mr. Phillips stated in 2024.

- Brandon Clay stated the Board of Elections is working on the May election ballots. Sample ballots will be available on their website soon. He encouraged everyone to check the sample ballots and see what and who you can vote for. Early voting starts on April 6.
- Brad Gilbert stated Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 16 through March 20. On March 18, there will be a statewide tornado drill with tornado sirens. He thanked Pam Millhoan at the Sheriff's Office for her assistance in getting the new tornado siren activation project completed. He reminded everyone that this weekend is daylight savings time.
- Judge Fraser stated he attended the Engineer's meeting on Saturday. The issue of growth in the county filters down to the Common Pleas Court. There was an increase of 125 cases from 2024 to 2025. There are also between 55 and 60 cases on the specialized court dockets every week.
- Andy Smarra stated the first half tax collection date is now passed. House Bill 186 will implement changes to property taxes, and those will be seen on the second half tax bills.
- Judge Rodger stated his office will be revising the ADA compliance forms. The annual report of Probate and Juvenile Court will be out later this month or early April. They had about 1200 cases last year.
- Bill Narducci had no report.
- Thayne Gray had no report.
- Janell Alexander had no report.
- Commissioner Robinson asked how to make forms ADA compliant, and Mr. Phillips stated Adobe has a built-in system for this.
- Commissioner McCarthy asked what the sanction is if this is not done, and Mr. Phillips stated individuals could sue the county.
- Commissioner McCarthy stated he and Commissioner Lawrence have picked up Union County America 250 pins from CCAO. He was part of a large group discussion regarding data centers. A representative from Microsoft was part of this discussion. They have come out with their five community commitments and will not seek an abatement to come to Union County.
- Judge Fraser asked if there were any efforts to get the property evaluations increased on data centers, and Commissioner McCarthy stated they are looking at the median values of all data centers. It is hard to put value on something that is new, but they also do not want Union County to be on the low-end range of these values. He will update everyone with any new information.

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*Commissioner McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.

The preceding minutes were read and approved March 25, 2026.

 Digitally signed by Steve Robinson
DN: cn=Steve Robinson,
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Steve Robinson
Commissioner

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David A. Lawrence
Commissioner

 Digitally signed by Tom McCarthy
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Commissioners,
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c=US
Date: 2026.03.25 12:51:06 -04'00'
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Tom McCarthy
Commissioner

 Digitally signed by Mallory Lehman
DN: cn=Mallory Lehman, o=Commissioners,
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Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board