

Democratic Caucus COW
Tuesday January 13, 2026

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 17:51 (try to show up on time folks, some of us do)

Members present: Locke, Lokshin, Vanichtheeranont, Thorsland, Wiggs, Rodriguez, Settles, Rodgers, Fava, Sullard, Arres, Fortado.

Motion by Locke to approve agenda, second by Rodgers

Motion by Rodgers to approve minutes, second by Wiggs

Public participation. Julia has a detailed discussion about the Redeploy program and state interactions. Would like it to move from Cunningham Childres home to the SA office. Drug court already does this. Wants to address the creation of positions in the Executives office, why, what is the driver?

Communications. Lokshin explains the need to move caucus in February and March due to early voting.

Discussion of agenda.

Locke handles finance this week. Several items but nothing unusual. We have a Budget study session Jan 27th. It is at 6pm.

Policy. Vanichtheeranont, New coroner position on agenda, in part because we may have a candidate. The coroner will be at the COW for explanation. Michelle adds detail tot the Redeploy conversation from public input as the spots in the Executive office are in this part of the agenda. There is some discussion among the principles. Locke asks for more details for the caucus members.

Justice. Sheriff office Safety assessment team on the agenda and a deputy helps with some details for the caucus. Arres has questions about how things are reported. Sullard askes if the U of I is also part of the proposal, no is the answer.

Adjourn at 18:25.

As part of everyone's resolution to shed the holiday excess and get prepared for this no doubt event filled year of horror, there were no snacks.