Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board

Meeting of Thursday, August 27, 2026

Held In-Person & Remotely by Videoconference

MEETING MINUTES

The August 27, 2026 meeting of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board ("Board") was called to order by Mr. Diaz shortly after 3:15 p.m. CT with the presence of a quorum.

Board Members Present

Fernando Diaz, *Designee for the Illinois State Treasurer (In person)*

John Williams, *Designee for the Illinois State Comptroller*

Curt Clemons-Mosby, *Designee for the Director of the Illinois Governor's Office of Management and Budget*

Demetrius Jackson, *Board Member (In person)*

Erica Marquez Avitia, *Board Member (In person)*

Staci Mayall, *Board Member (In person)*

Lotika Pai*, Board Member (In person)*

Treasurer's Office Staff

Erica Tremble, *Assistant General Counsel (In person)*

Jacob Stuckey, *Chief Investment Officer (In person)*

Ismael Vega, *Director, Public Market Investments (In person)*

David Elliott, *Senior Investment Analyst, Public Market Investments*

Yolonda Williams*, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs*

Austin Stadelman, *Policy Advisor*

Matt Kisling, *Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs and Outreach*

Christine Cheng, *Executive Director of Secure Choice (In person)*

Deanna Verduin, *Deputy Director of Secure Choice*

Jaimee Niles*, Manager of Secure Choice (In person)*

Aaron Sweeney, *Secure Choice Outreach Specialist (In person)*

Approval of Board Minutes

Board members reviewed the May 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes, which were provided in advance of the meeting. There was no discussion, and no additional changes were proposed.

A motion was made by Ms. Marquez Avitia, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the May 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

Staff Updates

Ms. Cheng provided program updates stating that the program ended Q2 2026 with nearly 170,000 funded saver accounts. This figure remained steady from the previous quarter due to the conversion and the associated activity freezes that occurred during this time period. Assets were at $360M, representing a 13.7% increase from Q1. She also stated that there was only a slight increase in the number of registered employers from Q1 to Q2, again noting that the activity freeze associated with the conversion impacted that figure. Lastly, there was an increase of 1.3% in total employers submitting payroll in the last 90 days. Ms. Cheng then discussed the main area of activities during Q2. The conversion occurred June 13-14, 2026, and

on June 15, employers and savers were able to register on the new platform at myilsavings.com. Treasurer's Office staff worked with employers to navigate the new platform and assist with the account retrieval process. She noted that staff received employer feedback that the new platform is easy to use and heard employer interest in using payroll provider integrations. With the conversion, there are direct integrations with Gusto, Paychex, and QuickBooks Online. The second area of activity for Q2 was enforcement. The first batch of 2026 enforcement employers was referred to the Illinois Department of Revenue in January, and the second batch of enforcement began in late March. The resolution rate of 2026 Batch 2 enforcement employers is now nearly 58%. She noted that staff spends a great deal of time working with enforcement employers as they typically do not understand what action needs to be taken to come into compliance. Over the four years of enforcement action, the resolution rate across all employers is approximately 71.5%. Additionally, all historic pre-enforcement and enforcement communications and efforts have resulted in $18.7M in employee contributions from over 1,600 employers. Ms. Cheng added that with the increased need for employer support this year due to higher enforcement volume and the conversion, the Treasurer's Office added a new staff member, Aaron Sweeney, to the team.

Ms. Cheng reviewed FY26 year-to-date expenditures for the program, sharing that they are in line with expectations.

Mr. Stadelman provided a legislative update stating that the current priority is for the administrative code to reflect the recent program changes including "program manager" and "investment manager" definitions and how they apply to the program as well as updating the fee structure for the program. The goal is to have these changes implemented by early 2027.

Presentation – Conversion Summary, Vestwell

Matt Golden of Vestwell provided an overview of Vestwell as a company stating that they are celebrating ten years as a company and now have over 700 employees. In 2021, Vestwell

launched its first state auto IRA program, OregonSaves, and has continued to add other state programs over the years and now administers 14 state auto IRA programs. He stated that in the last three years, Vestwell has grown by 850% on both the workplace side, such as 401(k)s, and the state savings side, which includes state auto IRA programs, 529 programs, child savings accounts, and ABLE programs. Mr. Golden shared that Vestwell offers a unified platform that allows users to view all their accounts with a single login.

Courtney Eccles of Vestwell then provided a conversion update stating that it was a coordinated effort with all teams including Vestell, the Treasurer's Office, Ascensus, and BNY (as custodian both pre- and post-conversion). To ensure confidence in the program data, two mock data runs and a dress rehearsal were performed in advance of the conversion and as part of that process, data cleanup was also completed to remove records for certain employees who were never program participants. During the conversion, all employer records as well as the remaining employee records were converted seamlessly from Ascensus to Vestwell and BNY. She added that from an investment perspective, the custodian remained the same for the program, and all trades were received, processed, and booked on Friday, June 12, 2026. Lastly, Ms. Eccles discussed the marketing and rebranding of the program to My Illinois Savings. Vestwell developed the full program website, a conversion landing page, and program resources to align with the new branding as well incorporated the new program name in the conversion communications to both employers and savers. She then presented a marketing and data deliverables timeline from the conversion as well as key activities undertaken during conversion week.

Ms. Eccles then provided a post-conversion update stating that Vestwell worked to finalize all internal and external program reporting and ensure that information can be ingested from Vestwell's data reporting system (Sigma) into the Treasurer's Office's Salesforce instance. Additionally, she stated that Vestwell has focused on employer engagement, specifically engaging those employers who were actively submitting contributions in the 90-day period

prior to conversion but have not yet retrieved their accounts on the new portal. A webinar was offered for this employer group, and additional communications have been sent. Additionally, communications began for Wave 2026 employers, who will have a November 1, 2026, deadline. She also discussed efforts to ensure employers are aware of the payroll integration options, and shared that Vestwell also worked directly with regional payroll providers with SFTP integrations to transfer the previous employer integrations. Lastly, Ms. Eccles stated that the next steps in marketing and communications include the creation of a Spanish-language program website, development of targeted saver engagement communications, and development of an introductory webinar for Wave 2026 employers. Mr. Diaz inquired about the types of phone calls Client Services has received related to the conversion. Ms. Eccles stated that many calls were about confirming the program transition, asking how to log in to the new portal, as well as questions from employers regarding their employee rosters.

Mr. Diaz stated that the Treasurer's Office conducted an on-site due diligence visit with Vestwell in March 2026 and met with the Vestwell team in advance of the conversion. He added that the Treasurer's Office's ABLE program is also transitioning to Vestwell which is relevant to Mr. Golden's statement regarding single sign-on to view all accounts. Ms. Cheng added that the success of the conversion was due largely to the high level of collaboration among the teams, and she noted Vestwell's responsiveness throughout the process.

Discussion – Program Quarterly Report, Vestwell

Ms. Eccles provided a Q2 program update stating that the first notice to all Wave 2026 employers was sent on August 18, 2026, by mail. She provided the Wave 2026 communications schedule that includes three additional notices prior to the November 1, 2026, deadline, as well as two post-deadline communications. She also noted that Vestwell will provide payroll webinars twice a month. Additionally, targeted emails are sent to unintegrated employers who utilize a payroll provider with an available integration, and employers who have not added employees recently also receive emails to remind them to add new employees.

Ms. Eccles provided the quarterly update on employer accounts as well as the current figures stating that as of August 12, 2026, there were 27,770 registered employers, 77,110 exempted employers, and 8,262 employers submitting payroll in the last 90 days. Ms. Eccles then provided an update on saver accounts stating that as of August 20, 2026, there were over 175,000 funded saver accounts. She noted that that saver growth was minimal between April and the end of June due to the pause in employers being able to add employees in the portal ahead of the conversion. She also noted steady growth in assets, average account balance, and average monthly contribution amount.

Ms. Eccles then provided an update on product enhancements including an API payroll integration update that will allow employees with an Illinois work address to be automatically added in the portal via the integration. Additionally, two portal updates will be released shortly. The first allows for bulk termination of employees in the employer portal, and the second is a financial wellness tool that will appear in the saver portal. She also stated that more automated reporting is being built in Sigma, including reporting on Client Services metrics. Lastly, Ms. Eccles noted that Vestwell is working closely with the state programs and stakeholders to provide feedback on the new guidance released for the federal Saver's Match.

Ms. Eccles also provided a marketing and communications update highlighting an outbound call campaign conducted by Client Services to contact employers who had run payroll 90 days prior to conversion but had not registered on the new portal. She added that Client Services will conduct a second round of outbound calls next month.

Lastly, Ms. Eccles provided call center statistics for June and July. She highlighted that the average speed to answer was under one minute for employers in both June and July, and for savers it was one minute and two seconds in June and under one minute in July. Additionally, she noted the types of calls received by Client Services. Employer calls mostly centered on

program rules and details, support with submitting contributions, and onboarding support. For savers, the highest number of calls was for withdrawal support, which was anticipated during the conversion as savers were being reminded through conversion communications that they have an account; however, she noted that the expectation is for the withdrawal totals to be lower in the future. Ms. Eccles then confirmed that callers can communicate in the language they desire as Vestwell offers full translation services, as well as Spanish-speaking representatives.

Discussion – Investment Quarterly Report, Marquette Associates

Mr. Diaz introduced the Treasurer's Office's new Chief Investment Officer, Jacob Stuckey, who joined the office in June. Mr. Diaz also noted that the partnership with Marquette Associates has evolved, as Marquette Associates now serves as the Investment Manager for My Illinois Savings, having previously served as the program's investment consultant.

Next, Dave Smith of Marquette Associates provided a brief overview of the company stating that Marquette Associates is a Chicago-based firm celebrating 40 years in business. They serve over 430 clients representing $460B in total assets. He also noted that the firm's relationship with the Treasurer's Office dates back to 2010. Mr. Smith added that while the program has transitioned to a new program manager, the portfolio has remained the same and is designed to guide participants who may or may not have experience in the markets. He then answered a question regarding how My Illinois Savings differs from the other programs in the Treasurer's Office stating that in other programs, such as the 529 College Savings Plan, investors are saving for a specific outcome with a defined timeline, and there needs to be active engagement for someone to join the plan. With My Illinois Savings and the behavioral nudges built into program design, like the use of automatic enrollment, investments are meant to be simple and easy to understand, and the general theme is low cost and passive management to help investors save for their retirement outcome.

Mr. Smith then provided a Q2 market update, initially noting positive returns across all asset classes. Inflation remains above the Federal Reserve's target rate of 2%, and Mr. Smith noted that the Federal Reserve is still trying to determine if the elevated rate is an impact of geopolitical conflict and tariffs or if it is more so driven by demand that is outpacing supply. He noted that if inflation remains high, there may be a rate increase. He then discussed hiring and unemployment as another key metric, and shared that the unemployment rate has remained steady. Jobs did increase over the summer, but then an unexpected cooling occurred in July. The cooling labor market may mean that the Federal Reserve will not be as inclined to raise interest rates. Additionally, lower-than-forecasted wage growth may also decrease the Federal Reserve's need to increase interest rates. Mr. Smith stated that the U.S. economy saw growth in Q1 and Q2 with key drivers being strong consumer spending and strong business spending, but he noted that both types of spending could slow down especially if there is an increase in interest rates. He shared that there is a 66% chance that interest rates will stay the same and a 34% chance that interest rates will increase.

Mr. Smith then reviewed fixed income performance, a critical component for participants near retirement, noting the varied returns over the trailing five years and emphasizing the importance of diversification and healthy equity allocations in the BlackRock target date funds. U.S. equity performance is one of the key drivers for early-stage participants with stocks outperforming over the trailing ten years, but expectations are that there will perhaps be a pullback since these high returns are generally unsustainable.

Related to non-U.S. equity, Mr. Smith stated that global equity funds have performed well in the trailing one year, particularly emerging markets that were driven in large part by three semiconductor manufacturers (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, SK Hynik, and Samsung).

He concluded by emphasizing that the overall story for the program is positive with low fees and a thoughtfully constructed portfolio that allows participants to grow assets with a limited amount of behavioral risk.

Mr. Vega then reviewed program performance noting benefits of diversification as seen in the trailing one-year period. Additionally, he stated that for the near-term Target Date Funds, there were positive returns both quarter-to-date and for the trailing one-year period. He noted that the BlackRock target date funds continue to perform well and remain cost-effective.

Public Comment

An in-person attendee asked Vestwell about how feedback they have received during the post-conversion webinars has impacted communications. Ms. Eccles stated that Vestwell has conducted one webinar for employers who were previously part of the program but had not yet registered on the new portal. She stated that the questions they received were consistent with questions they typically receive from employers including which employees to add, is their business covered by the state law, and other questions regarding the program requirements. Vestwell has attempted to preemptively address these types of questions in direct employer communications and on the website.

Old and New Business

Mr. Diaz stated that the next scheduled board meeting is Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mr. Diaz adjourned the meeting.