

Note: On November 14, 2025, Josh Hinkle made a motion via Zoom to approve these minutes as a consent item vote. It was seconded by Kate Howard and received 12-0 approval. No vote was submitted by Andy Lehren.

Between September 14, 2024 and October 6, 2025, the Board of Directors of Investigative Reporters and Editors held votes by email to decide whether the organization should sign on to statements in support of journalists who were being targeted by the government for their efforts to gather and distribute the news. These votes were cast in an expedited manner to keep up with a flurry of attacks on the press that has intensified in recent months. Here is a list of those votes:

Cincinnati journalists facing charges

Vote closed on 9/14/25

Statement led by Freedom of the Press Foundation and a coalition of organizations

Executive committee vote: 5-0

Board vote: 12-0 (no vote from Soni)

Details: Journalists Madeline Fening and Lucas Griffith, both of whom were arrested while covering a protest on July 17 for Cincinnati-based CityBeat, were set to be tried Sept. 30 and Oct. 2. The statement called for a prosecutor to drop the case.

Demanding release of journalist Mario Guevara

Vote closed on 9/18/25

Statement led by the Committee to Protect Journalists and a coalition of organizations

Executive committee vote: 5-0

Board vote: 13-0

Details: Mario Guevara was arrested June 14 in metro Atlanta while covering a protest, then transferred to the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The statement demanded his release.

Pentagon pledge

Vote closed on 9/23/25

Statement led by Investigative Reporters & Editors

Executive committee vote: None

Board vote: 12-0 (no vote from Soni, though she expressed support after vote closed)

Details: IRE and its Board of Directors joined numerous newsrooms and journalism organizations in condemning the Pentagon's new requirement for reporters to sign a pledge limiting their ability to report without government approval in exchange for a press credential.

Changes to journalist visas

Vote closed on 9/29/25

Statement led by Reporters Without Borders and a coalition of organizations

Executive committee vote: None

Board vote: 9-0

Details: In August, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed a new rule that would drastically restrict the amount of time foreign journalists can live and work in the country. The statement called for DHS to drop the proposed changes.

Attacks on independent journalists in Illinois

Vote closed on 10/6/25

Statement led by Freedom of the Press Foundation and a coalition of organizations

Executive committee vote: None

Board vote: 12-0 (no vote from Howard)

Details: Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) led a letter demanding answers today, signed by over 20 local and national press freedom and civil liberties groups that came together to demand protection and justice for independent journalists risking their safety to inform the public.