

**A PARTY OF PURPOSE – MOVING INDIANA FORWARD**  
2006 Indiana Republican State Platform

➤ **Preamble**

Indiana Republicans recognize and support the strong leadership provided by our elected officials such as: Senator Richard Lugar, Governor Mitch Daniels, and members of our Congressional delegation and the Indiana General Assembly, to move our state forward. Our system of government operates best when its leaders fulfill their promises and make the tough decisions in the best interests of the people.

As the party of purpose, Indiana Republicans will continue to offer Hoosiers real ideas to provide new economic opportunities, fiscal responsibility, and improved government service to the people of this state. We will confront our challenges on the field of ideas, and relentlessly pursue the worthy goal of a better Indiana.

*Governor Mitch Daniels promised to aim high and lead a great Indiana comeback and he is keeping his promise!*

**Strong leadership focused on getting results for Hoosiers by Governor Daniels, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and Republican majorities in the Indiana House and Senate is making a difference for Indiana. While putting Indiana back on the path of fiscal responsibility, these leaders have still been responsible for increasing funding for education, Medicaid, and child protective services. Republican successes include:**

***Jobs and economic growth:***

> Created the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) > Made it easier for small businesses to qualify for tax incentives that promote job growth and investment > Modernized Indiana's tax code to promote investment in research and development as well as 21st century technology > Created state/regional partnerships to encourage economic growth in Northwest Indiana, expanded the Indiana Convention Center, and have started construction on a new football stadium just south of the convention center > Helped local officials make sites ready for development more quickly > Promoted investment in clean coal and the production and distribution of bio-based fuels

***Improving customer service and efficiency in state government:***

> Moved Child Protective Services and the Bureau of Child Support into a new Department of Child Services to better protect children > Hiring up to 600 additional child protection caseworkers > Improving Indiana's collection of child support payments > Created Indiana's first Department of Agriculture and Office of Rural Affairs to promote economic growth in these vital areas > Consolidated redundant government offices in areas of technology and state finances

***Indiana's fiscal crisis:***

> Passed the state's first honestly balanced budget in ten years > Cut the growth of state spending and are controlling the growth of Medicaid > Created the Office of Management and Budget and Department of Government Efficiency which has already found more than a quarter billion dollars in savings > Inventoried and is selling unnecessary state assets such as 2,000 vehicles and 6 airplanes > The Daniels Administration's one-time tax amnesty plan brought \$255 million into the state coffers – almost four times the amount projected by the General Assembly

***Improving education and helping Hoosier students succeed:***

> Gave children a head start on their education by moving Indiana's kindergarten cutoff date to August 1 > Raised the dropout age to 18 > Removed the barriers to funding charter schools, and are working to attract more federal charter school funding > Simplified the school funding formula and is ensuring that the state's education dollars are fairly distributed > Controlled school construction costs and reduced school borrowing by \$86 million > The current Indiana state budget will put at least 200 more teachers in the classroom > Thanks to Indiana's successful tax amnesty program, the state has already paid back half the debt owed to local schools caused by Democrat budget gimmicks

***Raised the ethics bar and set a new standard of conduct in state government:***

> Created the state's first Inspector General to root out fraud, corruption, and theft in state government > Approved whistleblower protections to encourage state employees to report wrongdoing > Strengthened state ethics and bribery laws > Created a lobbyist registry and will require executive branch state employees to wait one year before becoming lobbyists > Shined a light on campaign finance by requiring statewide candidates to disclose the source of their campaign donations more often

***Helping Hoosiers with other problems:***

> Created Rx for Indiana, which has already helped nearly 125,000 Hoosiers gain access to low-cost or free prescription drugs > Fought the scourge of methamphetamine by passing laws to restrict access to the ingredients used to make this drug and helping people overcome their addiction > Provided for the financial security of those who fall in the line of duty to our country and state > Phased in the taxes of those Hoosiers who saw their property tax bill more than double during the last reassessment > Protected Hoosiers' property rights by further restricting the use of eminent domain > Created the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives to enlist those groups to deliver services to Hoosiers

***Speaker Brian Bosma may have said it best when he wrote:***

*In November 2004, Republicans inherited a state that faced unprecedented challenges. Indiana faced a \$600 million budget hole, owed \$721 million to local cities, schools and universities, and had spent every dime of its reserves. Our state had lost more jobs than any state in the nation, and ranked 46th in the nation in new job creation. Past Indiana leaders had failed to plan for the realities of the 21st century job market, and Hoosiers were feeling that failure across the state.*

*State government seemed to be plagued by mismanagement with numerous employees caught in self-dealing and theft. In short, it was time for drastic action: Indiana had to turn in a new direction.*

*With Republican majorities in the House and Senate, and a new Republican governor, we ended the 2005 session with the first honestly balanced budget in a decade, a new inspector general designed to root out corruption and fraud, and a plan to put Indiana's economy back on the right track. We increased graduation requirements for our high school students, added 400 new child caseworkers to protect the most vulnerable and expanded the work of the Government Efficiency Commission to make government more accountable and efficient.*

*The 2006 legislative session brought even more Republican success. For the first time in 35 years, the average homeowner will see no increase in this year's property tax bill. With the passage of the Governor Daniels' unique and dynamic Major Moves roads initiative, Indiana addressed its long-standing road funding deficit and becomes the first state in the nation to fully fund its 10-year road construction plan. We will have money in the bank (earning interest) to build every road project to make Indiana more accessible to employers and families desiring to locate here. Not only will Major Moves return Indiana to its status as the "Crossroads of America," it is projected to create tens of thousands of new jobs, especially in northern and southern Indiana where they are so desperately needed. We adopted the strongest telecommunications reform legislation in the nation, with changes designed to streamline our laws and create another 20,000 jobs, potentially lower every Hoosier's cable bill, and make high-speed communications more available throughout the state. We adopted one of the strictest child predator laws in the nation, requiring those convicted of this reprehensible crime to receive lifetime parole and global satellite location bracelets so they can be tracked for life wherever they may go.*

In summary, Governor Daniels and legislative Republicans saw the challenges facing our state, promised change, and kept their word in making the changes necessary to bring our state into the 21st century.

Indiana Republicans congratulate Governor Mitch Daniels, Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, all State Elected Officials, and Republican majorities in the Indiana General Assembly on a great start toward returning Indiana government to one that meets the needs of its people, holds the line on taxes and regulation, and keeps its promises. We also commend Indiana Treasurer Tim Berry who has earned a record investment income in excess of \$1.3 billion since he took office, while, at the same time, returning 13% of his budget appropriation back to the state general fund.

It is a good start - but the best is yet to come!

### ***A President we can trust***

President George W. Bush promised tax cuts, an improved economy, a better education for our children, and a strong national defense. Even with the economic recession left over from his predecessor, and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 – he kept his word. Educational scores are improving. The economy is in good condition. The unemployment rate is lower than the average for several decades past, and the war on terror is being fought in the homelands of the terrorists and not on American soil. The important task of homeland security is improving with no terrorist attack on the homeland since 9/11/01. Indiana Republicans support our president and urge all Americans to stay the course until the War on Terror is won.

### ***Hoosiers in Congress***

Senator Richard G. Lugar continues to provide international leadership that brings pride to all Hoosiers. He has six times been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in deactivation of more than 6,800 nuclear warheads in the former Soviet Union, and Time Magazine has labeled him as one of the Ten Best U.S. Senators in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. His leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is crucial. We are steadfast in our support for his re-election. Indiana Republicans also express their pride in Congressmen Chris Chocola, Mark Souder, Steve Buyer, Dan Burton, Mike Pence, John Hostettler and Mike Sodrel for their leadership and we enthusiastically urge their re-election.

### ***Military Personnel and Veterans***

Indiana Republicans support with pride the men and women serving in the United States military services, especially those serving in harm's way. We support their mission and pray for their success and safe return. We are particularly grateful to the members of the Indiana National Guard and Reserves, who stand ready - on short notice - to meet the wartime needs of our nation. We commend the families who stand behind these loved ones as they protect the freedoms we hold so dear and we have a special place in our hearts for the families of military personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We support and respect all veterans of conflicts past and present and pledge not to forget them in their time of need. We are strongly supportive of two new Indiana laws; one to protect funerals of

servicemen and the other which establishes a trust fund to provide needed grants to families of Indiana residents who are members of the Indiana National Guard or armed forces reserve who have been called to active duty since September 11, 2001. We commend Governor Daniels for his visits with Hoosier members of the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.



➤ **CORE REPUBLICAN BELIEFS**

The liberties of every American citizen, as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, must be protected from erosion by governments at every level. We agree with President Bush that freedom is God’s gift to the human race and that we should not only work to preserve individual freedom in our own nation, but that we also have a responsibility to encourage such freedoms – to men and women of all races and circumstance – wherever they may reside.

Taxes should be as low as possible, governmental spending should be kept under control, and regulatory requirements should be reasonable and restrained. Limited government is good government.

Indiana Republicans believe that the United States is, and should be, “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for ALL.” We believe that our strength is in our diversity. We encourage lawful immigration policies that attract new and diverse populations to our nation, but we also realize that our borders must be adequately protected. We embrace, encourage, and will work to ensure the opportunity for full participation of all of our citizens in government, in the Republican Party, and in the pursuit of economic success, regardless of gender, race, creed, religion, national origin, age, economic status or physical challenge. We recognize the historic and current contributions that Americans of all ethnic origins and cultures have made to the fabric of this great nation. We welcome our newest citizens and encourage their full participation in the Republican Party, because we agree with the sentiments expressed by President Theodore Roosevelt: *"This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in."*

We understand and support the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution that gives the “people” the right to “keep and bear Arms,” and we believe that the First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. We do not support court ordered mandates that remove prayer from the public forum.

While recognizing the diversity of opinion among members of our party, we support current Indiana law that says, “Childbirth is preferred, encouraged, and supported over abortion” (IC 16-34-1-1). We support the millennia old concept of marriage as a union between a woman and a man, and we agree with the Republican leaders in the Indiana Senate and the Indiana House of

Representatives that any proposal to change that concept should be decided by the people, and not by the courts. We believe that strong families are the foundation of virtue and that such families bring forth citizens capable of self-government as well as properly motivated public servants so essential for successful democracy. We also believe that support for, and the promotion of, responsible parenting will pay huge future rewards.

We understand that individual responsibility is a prerequisite for the preservation of freedom. Every individual must be responsible for his or her actions and every individual must have the opportunity to succeed. We are supportive of “faith based initiatives” in preparing our youth for productive lives.

### ***Free and Fair Elections***

Indiana Republicans commend Secretary of State Todd Rokita in his efforts that have put Indiana in the national forefront for guaranteeing free and fair elections. We strongly support his dedication to eliminate the potential for voter fraud and his defense against frivolous attacks on Indiana’s voter identification law.

### ***Environment and Natural Resources***

Indiana Republicans support a safe, healthy and clean Hoosier environment. The quality of our Hoosier environment is dependent upon vigilant partnerships by government, business and individuals alike. We support coordinated, science-based, consistent efforts to reduce, regulate and remediate pollutants to protect human health, the environment, and our overall quality of life.

### ***Arts***

Indiana Republicans appreciate the arts as an integral part of our culture, whether it is for economic development, education, or entertainment. We believe that the arts should be supported by expanding opportunities through strong public-private partnerships.

### ***Charity***

We salute the Indiana volunteer community and their charitable efforts to assist in hurricane relief along the Gulf of Mexico as well as relief for victims of tornadoes in our own state. The State of Indiana sent over 500 state employees and volunteers and 2,500 National Guard Troops to help our neighbors in Mississippi as part of Operation Hoosier Relief in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Not only do such efforts reduce the burden on government, it fulfills the teachings of our Maker.



## **➤ IMPROVING INDIANA’S ECONOMY**

Indiana Republicans agree with Governor Daniels’ statement in his 2006 State of the State Address: “It cannot be said too often. Governments do not ‘run’

economies. They do not create jobs or wealth. At their worst, they destroy jobs, or drive them to other, friendlier locations. At their best, they establish an environment in which free men and women, pursuing their dreams and best ideas, create wealth for each other.” We support efforts to create a pro-growth environment in Indiana that is attractive to new businesses and maximum job opportunities. Evidence of successful leadership in bringing jobs back to Indiana is reflected in the fact that nearly 85,000 more Hoosiers are employed in Indiana in March 2006 compared to when Governor Daniels took office. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation closed more deals in 2005 than in 2003 and 2004 combined, and in 2006, the IEDC has closed nearly double the number of deals as 2005.

### ***Accelerate Growth***

Plans to create an Indiana environment for economic growth must be well thought out and properly executed. Such plans must be long term, innovative, and provide a degree of certainty that will encourage job creating investments in our state. We must also foster the talent necessary to attract such investments. Governor Daniels has such a plan, called “Accelerating Growth,” with 37 specific initiatives to attract new employers, stimulate innovation, and improve our talent base. Indiana Republicans believe that Governor Daniels is on the right track and endorse his plan for “Accelerating Growth” in Indiana.

### ***Major Moves***

Indiana Republicans believe that Governor Daniels’ Major Moves plan represents innovative thinking that is rare in government. Indiana is on the leading edge of developments in transportation and the only state in the nation with a fully funded ten-year transportation plan. Major Moves will complete more than 200 vital projects, improve the economy, and create tens of thousands of jobs for Hoosiers. Major Moves will build and repair roads and highways that will once again earn Indiana the designation of “Crossroads of America.”

### ***Energy***

Indiana Republicans are committed to pursuing clean and efficient sources of energy that will produce jobs and meet the needs of individual Hoosiers. We advocate the maximum use of sources of energy that are available in Indiana, and renewable to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of oil. We commend Governor Mitch Daniels, and the coordinated effort by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, in attracting the largest biodiesel plant near Claypool, Indiana in Kosciusko County. The plant will utilize Indiana soybeans.

We commend the Indiana General Assembly for passing legislation to provide incentives for the production and use of Indiana grain-based fuels, to promote the utilization of alternative fuels, and to establish a retail tax credit of 10 cents per gallon of E85 (a blend of 85% ethanol and just 15% petroleum) sold by merchants.

Indiana ranks fourth and fifth, respectively, in U.S. production of corn and soybeans and with the facilities under construction, the state will produce an additional 400 million gallons of ethanol annually and 95 million gallons of biodiesel. Indiana Republicans support the Governor's goal for Indiana to reach a combined production level of one billion gallons of ethanol and biodiesel annually – creating jobs, improving our economy and our environment, and reducing dependence on foreign oil. We are well on our way as evidenced by the facts that two years ago Indiana had one ethanol plant and it now has six, and that two years ago Indiana had zero biodiesel plants and now three plants are under construction.

We also commend Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman for her leadership in recruiting new biodiesel and ethanol production plants, as well as her leadership in encouraging other clean and renewable sources of energy.

### ***Energy Independence at the National Level***

Senator Dick Lugar has been leading the way for energy security for more than a decade with a strong effort toward less energy dependence in 1996, when the average price of gasoline was less than \$1 per gallon. He recognized that America's dependence on foreign oil is a threat to our national security and understood that a fuel source created by agricultural products, and agricultural waste, could inject new resources into American farms.

Lugar worked to pass the Biomass Research and Development Act. This law requires the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Energy to coordinate research efforts to promote advancements in biomass energy production. In 2005, Lugar co-authored the National Security and Bioenergy Investment Act. This measure increases funding for the program and modifies the original Biomass Research and Development Act to push ethanol and other biomass derived products into commercial form more quickly.

Lugar also leads the national campaign for E-85 motor fuel and Flexible Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) in the Senate and in Indiana. FFVs can operate on regular gasoline and E-85, which is motor fuel with 85 percent ethanol content. In addition to Senator Lugar's support of E-85, he launched FUEL FREEDOM, a statewide effort to educate Hoosier motorists about the importance of increasing America's energy security and enlist their help in supporting a solution.

Indiana Republicans are proud of the national and international leadership provided by Senator Lugar in moving the United States toward energy independence, as well as his leadership in foreign affairs and national security.

### ***Indiana Coal***

Indiana Republicans recognize that the Indiana coal industry is a significant asset to Indiana's economy. Indiana Republicans also recognize the challenges that the continued use of Indiana coal presents to improving our environment. We are committed to working with the energy industry and the coal industry in Indiana to utilize and develop clean coal technology, such as coal gasification. We continue to promote the use of Indiana coal.

### ***Rural Indiana Economy***

Indiana Republicans strongly support Governor Daniels in his efforts to leave no community behind and to promote growth in all parts of the state. Many communities face significant challenges with infrastructure and telecommunications needs, both of which were addressed by Republicans in the 2006 General Assembly with Major Moves and the telecommunications bill. In past decades, the dramatic job loss in some small towns affected local economies and drained resources, but recent developments – such as the new biodiesel and ethanol plants and the creation of the Department of Agriculture – are reversing that trend.

Indiana has made great strides in rural development efforts since Becky Skillman was elected Lieutenant Governor. While most states are looking at how to survive without federal funding, Indiana is flourishing with the support of the newly formed Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and the legislature-approved rural development funding. Indiana Republicans are committed to making Indiana economically healthy in all regions of the state – rural and urban.



## **➤ EDUCATION**

### ***Kindergarten Through Grade 12***

Indiana Republicans believe the worlds of education and the workplace are converging in historic ways. We believe public education is a necessary foundation for future prosperity of our state and our families. Republicans support high-quality learning opportunities for all children across our state – regardless of race, socio-economic status or geography. When possible, our party supports local home-rule decisions by parents, teachers, administrators and school boards. In setting state policies, we seek input from these same, important stakeholders. We firmly support continued freedom from government intrusion for private, non-sectarian schools, religious schools, and home schools.

We believe a comprehensive vision for K-12 education should reflect the following values:

- Parents are a child's first and primary teachers. Positive parental involvement and decision-making in a child's education should be maximized and maintained.

- Local control and decision-making that encourages parental and community involvement.
- The importance to children, their parents, the community, and the state of increasing rates of high school graduation, of narrowing gaps in achievement across demographic boundaries, and of preparing students to succeed in the increasingly-demanding workplace.
- Highly qualified teachers and administrators with policies that attract and retain them.
- Rigorous academic standards and an efficient, cost-effective statewide testing system to measure academic achievement of individual students from year to year.
- A secure learning environment that keeps children safe and promotes character and citizenship.
- Voluntary, high-quality full-day kindergarten as soon as feasible on state and local levels – offered to every child, at every school, every day.
- Early literacy and reading programs that produce academic success beginning in the primary grade levels.
- A rigorous high school curriculum that will prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace or for post-secondary education.
- Ensure the creation of high quality charter schools and remove statutory and regulatory barriers for effective charter school operations as well as expanding the number of school corporations that pursue the establishment of charter schools.
- A fair funding formula for public schools, so that no Indiana child is left behind.
- School finance laws that provide flexibility to local school districts and allow districts, based on local circumstances, to focus maximum resources on educational programs, including shared purchases and services.

### ***Higher Education***

Indiana Republicans recognize that our state's institutions of higher education play a critical role in the economic vitality of our state. We support efforts to encourage research and development at our universities and move those innovations quickly into the commercial marketplace. Our universities are globally recognized for their work in preparing young people for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and developing the tools that better our lives. We support efforts to develop a strategic plan that will encompass all of our institutions of higher learning; a plan that maximizes their contributions to our economy, communities, and the students they serve.



## ➤ **PERSONAL SAFETY**

Indiana Republicans believe that anyone using a weapon in the commission of a crime should be severely punished. We also support gun safety awareness programs. We continue to be concerned about the number of young people caught up in the criminal justice system because of drugs, gangs and violence. We believe that early intervention, mentoring, and restorative justice can help young people stay within the law. We also believe that teaching of traditional values can help young people in their decisions regarding the avoidance of criminal activity.

### ***Protecting Hoosier Children***

The growing threat of sexual predators continues to be a challenge in the efforts to protect Hoosier children. We urge strict enforcement of Zachary's Law and other deterrents to deal harshly with those who would abuse our children. Indiana has made several important strides toward protecting our children, such as new legislation to strengthen Indiana's kidnapping laws and require that any convicted child sexual offender wear a Global Positioning System monitoring device and be placed on lifetime parole. We are deeply concerned about pedophiles preying upon our children and urge the most stringent penalties. We support the Republican proposal in the State Senate that will:

Enhance penalties and create felonies for harboring sex offenders, for child solicitation, child exploitation, and possession of child pornography. The plan will clarify the definition of "Conspiracy to Commit Child Molestation, require Child Protective Services to forward cases to prosecutors when the victim is under 12 and the offender is over 14, and require offenders for possession of Child Pornography to register as sex offenders.

We believe that society has a moral responsibility to protect all children from dangerous sexual predators who rob our youth of their innocence. We believe that protecting our children means punishing those who have committed these despicable crimes, but also finding ways to prevent future attacks. We commend Republican prosecutors throughout Indiana for their current and future efforts to protect Hoosier children.

### ***Protecting Hoosiers from Methamphetamine***

Indiana now has one of the strongest laws in the nation to eliminate the production of methamphetamine – a criminal activity that was causing great harm in towns small and large and to families all throughout our state. Meth production has been cut in half, the backlog at the evidence lab is down by two-thirds, the nation's first meth treatment prison wards are up and operating and other states are copying Indiana in our continuing battle to protect Hoosier families.

### ***Protecting Hoosiers from Domestic Violence***

We commend the Indiana General Assembly on the passage of a new law that increases the penalty for domestic battery from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony.

### ***Honoring Indiana's First Responders***

Indiana Republicans also commend our governor and Republican legislators for rewarding the Indiana State Police troopers with a well-deserved pay raise. We also support the creation of the state's first regional fire academies – so firefighters in every part of the state have access to the same high-quality training that previously only large cities could provide.



### **➤ LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Indiana Republicans agree with Governor Daniels when he said, “We must find ways to encourage and provide incentives to local government to pursue efficiencies, innovation, collaboration, and even consolidation - when it is in the clear interests of Hoosier citizens and taxpayers.” We believe that local government fiscal flexibility would greatly benefit Hoosiers and we are supportive of HEA 1362 that establishes a uniform procedure for the reorganization of local governments.



### **➤ HEALTH CARE**

Improving the health of Hoosiers will not only benefit our citizens, but encourage economic growth by lowering the state's high healthcare costs. Indiana Republicans realize escalating healthcare costs affect lives and the economic prosperity of our state. We endorse market-based solutions that increase consumer choice, decrease costs, and removes barriers between Hoosiers and the miracles of modern medicine.

We also recognize that improving personal health requires personal responsibility. Governor Daniels' INShape Indiana provides the tools Hoosiers need to improve their health and the health of their families. Indiana has been one of the least healthy states in America. We weigh, drink, and smoke too much, and exercise too little. Thanks to INShape Indiana thousands of Hoosiers are making some astounding success in a very short amount of time and having some fun along the way. Indiana Republicans urge Hoosier to participate by logging on

[www.INShape.In.gov](http://www.INShape.In.gov).

Rx for Indiana is another initiative by Governor Daniels and nearly 60 health care, community, business, and consumer groups to improve access to prescription medicines for eligible Indiana residents. Interested Hoosiers can access information at [www.rxforindiana.org](http://www.rxforindiana.org) or toll free at (877) 793-0765.

Medicare Part D prescription drug cost relief for senior citizens was a promise fulfilled by President George Bush. Since January 1, 2006, seniors have been saving hundreds of dollars each and every month on their prescription drug purchases.

Indiana Republicans commend President Bush and Governor Daniels for their leadership in helping Hoosiers have better access to their healthcare needs.



### ➤ TAXES

Indiana Republicans continue to strongly support efforts to reduce taxes and spending at all levels of government. We recognize the fact that people spend their money better than government, and lower taxes actually produce higher government revenue. This fact is undisputed as evidenced by increased revenue into the federal treasury following tax cuts by Presidents John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush.

At the state level, we stand firmly behind Governor Daniels and his belief that government should not take one dime more than it needs from its citizens. Indiana Republicans are providing the leadership to make sure that state spending is within its means. We also applaud Republican members of the Indiana General Assembly for enacting an immediate \$200 million in property tax relief for Hoosiers.

Indiana Republicans echo the call from our state and local officials who believe the state is overly reliant on property taxes to fund local government, and we support efforts from legislative leaders to encourage and achieve greater government efficiency while - at the same time - providing new and fair income alternatives to local government.



### ➤ IN HONOR OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANTS

#### ***Robert D. Garton – Senator, 1970-2006***

The William M. Bulger Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award is the highest award a legislator can receive – and it was awarded to Bob Garton. It is conferred on state legislative leaders who have worked to preserve and build public trust in the institution of the state legislature and whose careers embody the highest principles of leadership, integrity, compassion, vision and courage. **That's our Bob Garton – President Pro**

**Tem of the Indiana State Senate.** He is one of only 37 legislative leaders in the nation who serve on the Board of Directors of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation - a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing legislative leaders and key democratic parliamentary leaders across the globe. He has won many “outstanding legislator” awards. He has been active in assisting Hoosiers with disabilities and special needs and has won awards from those organizations.

First elected in 1970, Bob has been a leader in holding the line on taxes, promoting increased economic opportunities, protecting property rights, ensuring public safety, and in assisting Hoosiers in need. He was elected President Pro Tem of the Indiana State Senate in 1980 following a time of turmoil, but he immediately calmed the waters – providing strong leadership while encouraging input from all members of his caucus, and fair dealings with the opposition. He is a gentleman’s gentleman, a good listener – considerate and kind. His conduct in public service fosters pride in the Republican Party and provides an example for future public servants to emulate.

Bob received his B.S. degree from Iowa State University and his M.S. from Cornell, and he served as an officer in the United States Marines. As 2006 comes to a close, Bob will end his representation of Bartholomew and Johnson counties. He will join wife Barbara, his son, daughter, and grandchildren in enjoying his family and this state that he loves so very much and has served so very well.

***Connie Nass – Indiana State Auditor, 1999-2006***

Connie Nass was inaugurated in 1999 as the fifty-third Auditor of State of Indiana after serving as Mayor of Huntingburg, Indiana, with two terms on the Huntingburg City Council. She has excelled as the Chief Financial Officer for Indiana State Government. She has served as president of the National Association of State Comptrollers and on the executive board of The National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers & Treasurers. In 2002 she was inducted into the Association of Governmental Accountants' "Speakers Hall of Fame." In December 2005 Connie received the Indiana Torchbearer Award in Finance presented by the Governor's Commission for Women. Connie also received an Honorary Doctoral Degree of Humanities from Oakland City University in May 2005.

At the end of 2006, Connie Nass will be leaving her duties in Indianapolis and returning to her husband, children and grandchildren in Huntingburg, Indiana after a job well done. Indiana Republicans commend Connie Nass for her service. She is an outstanding public servant and a good friend to people all across the State of Indiana.

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## ➤ FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

The Indiana Republican Party is indeed a party with a purpose. It was the goal of better government that brought Republicans to service in 2004 after a period of stagnation and misdirection in our state. Hard work, innovative thinking, and strong Republican leadership in the executive and legislative branches of state government have helped our state turn the corner toward more and better jobs, fiscal responsibility with an honestly balanced budget, more attention to ethics in government, a financially responsible 10-year plan to build and repair Indiana's infrastructure, and a realistic concern about the needs, health and well-being of Indiana residents in every area of the state. A better Indiana is our purpose. An improved place to work, play and educate our children in freedom and safety is our goal.



### 2006 REPUBLICAN PLATFORM COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

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Mike McDaniel of Indianapolis, Chair  
Sue Scholer of West Lafayette, Chair  
Gordon K. Durnil of Indianapolis, Executive Secretary  
Jakki Fredericks of Pendleton, Recording Secretary

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#### ABOUT THE DRAFTING PROCESS

The 2006 Indiana Republican Platform Committee held public hearings in Evansville, South Bend, and Indianapolis, giving Hoosiers across the state the opportunity to address the platform committee in person. The committee also invited thousands of individuals to testify by e-mail and via the state committee web site. The platform committee, composed of Republicans representing each of Indiana's congressional districts, met in general session – before and after the public hearings – providing each member the opportunity for input into the content of this platform. This platform thus reflects a broad consensus among Indiana Republicans on the party's core values and principles.

The Indiana Republican Party  
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