

INDIANA REPUBLICAN PARTY

2018 PLATFORM



EVANSVILLE, INDIANA





Preamble

Dating back to our first Republican president, **Abraham Lincoln**, who spent his formative years in Indiana, to Hoosier statesmen like **Benjamin Harrison, Dick Lugar, Dan Quayle, Dan Coats, Mitch Daniels and Mike Pence**, the Indiana Republican Party has long been a party of great leaders. We have a proud history, a record of success and an even brighter future ahead of us.

Then, and now, we are Indiana's only Party of Purpose. We are One Party Working for Indiana. We are Inspiring Hoosier Leaders. We are all those things because we **are** a **statewide** party filled with proven leaders delivering proven results at every level of government. No other state in the nation can boast the roster of talent that we have been blessed with over the years. And today, the list gets better.

We are led at the state level by transformational leaders such as Governor **Eric Holcomb** and Lt. Governor **Suzanne Crouch**, who work together every day to take our state to the Next Level. They are joined by Secretary of State **Connie Lawson**, Treasurer **Kelly Mitchell**, Auditor **Tera Klutz**, Attorney General **Curtis Hill**, Superintendent of Public Instruction **Dr. Jennifer McCormick**, Speaker **Brian Bosma** and Senate President **David Long**, a powerhouse team that is always working hard for Hoosiers.

In our nation's capital, Indiana is reinforcing its title as the "Mother of Vice Presidents." For the sixth time in U.S. history, the Hoosier State can proudly proclaim that the Vice President of the United States is one of our own and we could not be prouder of the job **Mike Pence** is doing to Make America Great Again.

We are also fortunate to be represented at the federal level by solid Republican leaders such as Senator **Todd Young** and our members of the House of Representatives – **Jackie Walorski, Jim Banks, Todd Rokita, Susan Brooks, Luke Messer, Larry Bucshon** and **Trey Hollingsworth**. They have stood alongside President **Donald Trump** and Vice President **Mike Pence** to enact historic reforms that will strengthen our economy and provide more certainty for millions of Americans.

And this year, we aim to continue Indiana's unprecedented momentum by re-electing Connie Lawson and Kelly Mitchell, and electing Tera Klutz. We are also committed to the re-election of Reps. Walorski, Banks, Brooks, Bucshon and Hollingsworth; and the election of **Mark Leyva, Jim Baird, Greg Pence** and **Wayne "Gunny" Harmon**. We also believe, as Senator Young has articulated, that this year Indiana will provide the firewall to protect our Republican majority in the U.S. Senate. That's why we are equally committed to the election of **Mike Braun** to become Indiana's next U.S. Senator.

All of these leaders, at every level, along with our Republican supermajorities in the Indiana House and Senate, our mayors and our local leaders, are proving why Hoosiers continue to put their trust in the Party of Purpose.

To strengthen that trust and renew that bond for another two years, we present this platform, a set of ideas and goals, to the people of Indiana as a roadmap for what our Party believes in and stands for – both past and present. The words set forth in this document bind us together as a Party and give us a sense of direction as we face challenges, confront obstacles and do our part to make life better for our fellow Hoosiers.



Core Beliefs

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

Indiana Republicans stand together under a set of core beliefs that center around the enduring values of preserving individual freedom, promoting democracy, championing market-based economics, and encouraging a sense of mutual responsibility among all Hoosiers to uplift those around us.

We believe in limited government. We believe that government is intended to protect its people without intruding into their lives. The purpose of government is to protect our liberty, our safety and our freedom to become whatever God has intended us to become. Limited government is good government.

We believe in a responsible government. We believe we should live within our means. We support balanced budgets, low taxes and keeping government spending under control. We believe government regulations should be reasonable, effective and restrained.

We believe in federalism. We believe the federal government was formed by the states, and that the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution appropriately provides that those powers not enumerated to the federal government are reserved to the states and to the people.

We believe in free and fair elections. We believe strongly in the right to vote without undue burdens from the government and support continued efforts to protect the integrity of our elections, including Indiana's Voter ID Law.

We believe in open and transparent government. We support transparency, accountability and fairness in all levels of government, and believe that government is simply a steward of the resources which have been bestowed upon it by the people.

We believe in individual liberty and freedom. We believe personal liberty and the freedom of each individual is a foundational right in our society, and that we should be free from intrusive government interference and poor, ineffective or unnecessary regulation.

**We believe
in the First
Amendment.
We believe
the First
Amendment
of our U.S.
Constitution
guarantees
the freedom of
religion, not
from religion,
and it protects
political and
religious speech.**

We believe in the Second Amendment. We believe in the right to “keep and bear Arms” and that the Second Amendment protects private gun ownership by all lawful citizens. We also believe in Section 32 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, which states “the people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State.”

We believe in personal responsibility. We believe that individuals are responsible for their own actions and should be free to make responsible decisions free from government interference.

We believe in equal opportunity. We believe in giving all Hoosiers, in every corner of Indiana, an equal opportunity for success through educational choice, workforce training and enhanced public health.

We believe in the sanctity of life. We believe in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, and that the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee that no one can “be deprived of life, liberty or property” deliberately echoes the proclamation made in the Declaration of Independence that “all” are “endowed by their Creator” with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed.

We believe in strong families. We believe that strong families, based on marriage between a man and a woman, are the foundation of society. We also recognize that some families are much more diverse and we support the blended families, grandparents, guardians, single parents and loving adults who successfully raise and nurture children to reach their full potential every day.

We believe in legal immigration. 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 a diversity of cultures, thought and perspectives make our nation strong. Therefore, we encourage lawful immigration policies that attract new and diverse populations willing to contribute to the continued growth of our nation. 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. To that end, while we have been blessed with a deep bench of aspiring public servants and active volunteers over the past decade, we need to reach out to Hoosiers who might not yet identify with the Republican Party, including the once-disengaged members of the coalition that elected President Trump, to remain strong. That includes a commitment to cultivating our Republican mayors, reaching out to Millennials and women, and embracing ethnicity in our civic culture.



Growing Our Party

Indiana Republican Mayors

Much of our strength as a statewide party comes from the support of our local community leaders, namely our mayors. Our Republican mayors are the foundation for conservative leadership and economic growth. We believe a strong Indiana is one that elects Republicans at all levels of government – and prepares those individuals for future roles in public service.

Millennials

Millennials, who will surpass Baby Boomers as America's largest generation in the year after this Platform is adopted, are increasing their involvement in the civic process around the state – which we believe is a positive development. As more Millennials become involved in the political process by casting their votes and running for elected office, it is imperative that the Republican Party at all levels of government recognizes the strong asset that Millennials are and encourages their involvement in order to ensure strong, seasoned leadership for the future of our Party. We urge all Republicans to work to better educate youth about the principles and priorities of the Republican Party and commend the work of the College Republicans, Young Republicans and Teenage Republicans for helping to spread the word.

Women

We believe that the Republican Party provides women the greatest freedom and framework for prosperity for themselves and our families, and we are proud of our long history of electing Republican women to positions at the local, state and federal level for decades. We commend the strong Republican women who have risen to the call of public service – such as Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of State Connie Lawson, Treasurer Kelly Mitchell, Auditor Tera Klutz, Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jennifer McCormick, Congresswoman Jackie Walorski and Congresswoman Susan Brooks – and applaud their efforts to involve more women as candidates and activists. Additionally, we commend President Trump and Vice President Pence for appointing a number of Hoosier women to serve in our nation's capital and we support efforts at the local, state and national level, such as the nationally-recognized Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series and the Indiana Federation of Republican Women, to engage women in Party leadership and in elected office.

Embrace Ethnicity

We recognize the importance of engagement with groups that may not have traditionally identified as Republicans. We respect and honor individuals and families of various cultural and ethnic backgrounds and celebrate the diversity of ideas and perspectives brought to our Party. We are excited to welcome all backgrounds and cultures into our Party – as this provides us with a stronger shared voice and ensures we continue to stand for all Hoosiers.



Cultivate a Strong & Diverse Economy

Governor Holcomb, Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch and our entire Republican team recognize the importance of economic growth to the vitality of our state. While our roots are in manufacturing and agriculture, Indiana Republican leadership is committed to ensuring that not only does our economy grow, but that it also diversifies in order to meet the needs and demands of today and the future. Indiana has already seen incredible growth in our information technology, health and life sciences, advanced manufacturing and aviation/aerospace sectors, and we are working hard every day to expand the footprint of these enterprises to bring more high-wage, high-growth jobs to our state.

In 2017 alone, we saw a record number of job commitments – 30,158 – in a single year and Governor Holcomb has set a goal of 35,000 new job commitments for 2018. We have realized this success because of our focus on fostering an environment where business can thrive, jobs can grow and ideas can go from paper to public. As a result, we continue to be nationally recognized for our pro-business environment, an accolade that matters because it provides jobs and opportunities to Hoosiers. Survey after survey has placed us as best in the Midwest, if not among the top states in the nation, on a number of key indicators. For instance, we have been ranked #2 in the nation for software job growth, #2 in the nation for our economic outlook, #1 in the nation for government efficiency and we have the top business climate in the Midwest, among other rankings.

We are proud of these accomplishments and are committed to strengthening our position – all for the benefit of Hoosiers.

International Trade & Investment

Indiana is no longer fly-over country. We are on the map, as evidenced not only by our national rankings but also by our international positioning.

A large part of Indiana’s success in recent years has been our work with allies and partners overseas – work that has only accelerated under Governor Eric Holcomb. To date, he has visited the United Kingdom, Hungary, France, Japan, India, Canada, Israel, Austria, Slovakia, Germany and Switzerland to encourage additional investment in Indiana and in the Hoosier workforce. These frequent trade missions have helped Indiana build long-term relationships around the world, attract and expand businesses, bring jobs to our state, and expand our already robust network of exports. As Governor Holcomb says, “We’re taking Indiana to the world, and bringing the world to Indiana.”

The Importance of Agriculture

Agriculture is one of Indiana’s primary industries. Thousands of Hoosier jobs are connected to agriculture, and Indiana Republicans are committed to ensuring that Indiana agriculture and agri-business continues to grow. Indiana is a leader in the agriculture industry, and as agriculture becomes more high-tech, this vital industry must be protected and encouraged here in Indiana.

Promoting Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Small businesses are essential to Indiana’s economy. We applaud our entrepreneurs and oppose any governmental intrusion that impedes their success.

We support our Republican leaders in continuing to foster and promote a tax and regulatory environment that encourages the growth of our existing small businesses and the creation of new ones. Indiana – with our continued efforts – will be home to one of the strongest entrepreneurial ecosystems in the nation.

Supported Initiatives of Indiana Republican Leadership

The current goals and priorities of the Indiana Republican Party are rooted in Governor Eric Holcomb’s five pillars:

- Cultivate a strong & diverse economy
- Maintain & build the state’s infrastructure
- Develop a 21st Century skilled & ready workforce
- Attack the drug epidemic
- Deliver great government service

These pillars, along with civility, the foundation on which the five pillars rise up from, are what drive our work at the Indiana Statehouse. We are dedicated, first and foremost, to “people, people, people,” as the governor says, and that requires laser-focus on these pillars to ensure that Indiana does indeed go to the Next Level.

Develop a 21st Century Skilled & Ready Workforce

Maintain and Build the State's Infrastructure

Being the "Crossroads of America" isn't just a motto; it's a mission. Whether traveling east to west or north to south, we are committed to delivering to Hoosiers world-class infrastructure that enhances our role as a logistics hub and makes daily commuting easier.

But infrastructure means more than roads. It's also about bridges, ports and high-speed internet delivery. We are committed to maintaining and repairing Indiana's existing infrastructure and building the infrastructure that will take us to the Next Level. As Indiana grows and diversifies its economy, our infrastructure advantage must grow as well. We applaud Governor Holcomb and our Republican-led General Assembly for finding responsible, long-term solutions to funding infrastructure so that our state can continue to grow for years to come.

To that end, Indiana Republicans support continued prioritization and investment into infrastructure because we believe having good and well-maintained infrastructure is key to driving economic development throughout Indiana.

Along with diversifying our state's economy, we must also prepare Hoosiers to fill the high-wage, high-growth jobs coming our way. Recognizing that two million Hoosiers need additional skills-based training, and that 1 million job openings will occur as a result of the Baby Boomer generation retiring and new job creation by 2025, our Republican team at the Statehouse is already better aligning our workforce programs to meet the needs of job creators today and into the future, while also ensuring that available programs are easy-to-use for both employees and employers.

Education

We believe education is the bedrock of our democracy and our economy. An informed citizenry can make better decisions, and a skilled workforce can grow the economy and lift up more people. Therefore, the Indiana Republican Party will continue to focus on providing high-quality learning opportunities for all children by improving accountability, setting and supporting high state-based standards and ensuring that post-secondary, technical and vocational education opportunities are accessible and affordable.

We also believe that parents – the primary educators of children – must play an active role in their child's educational journey. Additionally, Indiana Republicans also believe it is important that our state has the best and brightest teachers to educate our children, and that schools have the financial resources they need as they prepare the next generation of Hoosier leaders.

Early Childhood Education

Every child deserves to start kindergarten ready to learn and to begin a lifetime of learning. We believe that today's children are the leaders of tomorrow, and we are committed to providing a quality education to every Hoosier child – regardless of economic status. We commend Governor Holcomb and our Republican-led General Assembly for expanding Indiana's On My Way pre-K program for low-income children in Indiana to put them on the first step toward success.

School Choice

We support the right of every parent to decide if their children will attend public, private, charter, parochial or home schools, and we want to ensure school choice is available for all students, particularly for those with disabilities and special needs.

Skills-Based and Vocational Training

We support Governor Holcomb's efforts to better align the needs of job creators to the skills of Hoosier workers. This includes the Next Level Jobs initiative that is providing free training to working-age Hoosiers through the Workforce Ready Grant, and the Employer Training Grant that provides employers with a reimbursement of up to \$2,500 for each new employee that is trained, hired and retained for 6 months. These innovative solutions to a long-term challenge are what helps Indiana stand out from the competition.

Retaining and Attracting Talent

Young Hoosiers are the next generation of leaders, parents, entrepreneurs and workers. We believe elected officials and post-secondary institutions should make it their priority to not only attract individuals to Indiana, but to retain our wealth of homegrown talent.

We are committed to policies that enhance our talent pipeline by ensuring our young adults have access to post-secondary training, which is aligned with current and emerging job opportunities in Indiana. Further, we believe efforts should be made to help encourage young talented STEM graduates to make Indiana home, further fueling innovation and entrepreneurship.

We are also committed to assisting established Hoosier professionals who are looking to learn new skills to better compete in today's fast-paced and ever-changing economy, and to our Regional Cities Initiative that is enhancing quality of place and quality of life across the state.



Attack the Drug Epidemic

We believe that tackling our state's drug epidemic requires a comprehensive mix of prevention, enforcement, and treatment. This epidemic, predominantly a result of opioid addiction, is ravaging communities and tearing apart families.

With understood urgency, Governor Holcomb and our Republican-led legislature have put in place numerous policies that are already having a measurable impact on attacking the epidemic and limiting its devastating effects.

From expanding the number of opioid treatment centers to ensuring nearly every Hoosier is within an hour's drive of help, to charging drug dealers with the highest possible felony when their actions lead to the death of a fellow Hoosier, to requiring health care professionals to check the state's prescription database before prescribing potentially addictive medications – we are focused on addressing this problem before it is too late.

Deliver Great Government Service at Great Taxpayer Value

Government closest to people is the best government. And a government that efficiently and effectively responds to the needs of people is an even better government. Indiana Republicans, since the dawn of the new crew under Mitch Daniels, to the leadership of Mike Pence, and now with Eric Holcomb at the helm, have focused on delivering great government service at a great taxpayer value. Whenever a Hoosier interacts with their state or local government, we want it to be a positive experience from start to finish.

Fiscal Responsibility & Accountability

We are the fiscal envy of the nation because we believe in responsibility at every level. The Indiana Republican Party has long stood for leaner government, and we encourage our federal government to address the nation's biggest problems the Indiana Way, by implementing common-sense solutions.

Among our accomplishments, thanks to the responsible Republican leadership that continues today under Governor Holcomb and our Republican-led General Assembly, Indiana maintains a AAA bond rating, keeps an honestly-balanced budget, holds the line on spending, maintains responsible reserves, and has added no new debt. When other states want to know how to get the job done, they look to Indiana.

Balanced Budgets

We believe that budgets should be balanced and should reduce spending. We fully support the effort to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Indiana Constitution and urge Hoosiers to vote in the affirmative this year.

Accountability to Hoosier Taxpayers

We believe that government should request of its citizens only the dollars it needs to provide appropriate services and no more. The Indiana Republican Party is committed to keeping taxes low, promoting policies that encourage growth and investment in our state's economy and paying as we go rather than accumulating debt.

Security

Good government service is more than just fiscal responsibility; it's also about assisting those who protect us and the most vulnerable in our society. Therefore, we believe one of the primary roles of government is to protect its citizens. Whether through our troops overseas, the men and women who work to prevent terrorist attacks at home, or state and local law enforcement – security is one of the most important functions of government. We are proud to support those who serve our communities, especially those who wear the uniform to keep us safe.

Protecting & Honoring Hoosier Veterans and Military

Indiana is proud to be home to hundreds of thousands of veterans, members of the military, and one of the largest National Guards in the country. Our veterans should be honored and shown appreciation by a grateful citizenry and a government committed to protecting them and thanking them for their service. State and local government must continue to focus on enhancing career choices and providing effective opportunities in gratitude for the sacrifices each veteran has made for our state and our country.

Protecting Hoosiers

Among our most solemn duties is protecting our fellow Hoosiers. Our police, firefighters and other first responders are always on the scene in the event of natural disasters such as tornadoes and floods. In addition, they are always ready to ensure general public safety while putting their own lives in danger. In light of growing terrorist threats abroad and here at home, we commend all Hoosiers working to protect their fellow citizens.

Protecting Hoosier Children

We believe that society has a moral responsibility to protect all children, born and unborn, and have put particular emphasis on working to reduce Indiana's infant mortality rate, with the goal of having the lowest rate in the Midwest by 2024.

Protecting Hoosier Seniors

Senior citizens have been promised the stability of Medicare and Social Security in their retirement. While we remain committed to improving government programs for future sustainability, these solutions should not come at the expense of seniors who have planned for them in their retirement. We also commend the efforts of those working to protect Hoosier seniors from fraud and scams.

Special Needs

As Republicans, we believe that every life is precious and that individuals with disabilities and special needs are valuable members of our society. We support the state's service to individuals with disabilities through numerous existing programs and services – such as health care, case management, community and facility habilitation, and respite – and we encourage the state to continue to support and improve these services to meet the needs of these precious Hoosiers.



Energy Independence

As a coal-producing state, Indiana has thousands of energy-sector workers and hundreds of years of coal beneath our soil. Indiana can and should be a leader in coal production. We are committed to working with the energy and coal industry in Indiana to utilize and to develop clean coal technology. In addition, Indiana is making strides toward the next generation of energy. We support a broad “all of the above” energy portfolio and believe free markets should be encouraged to find effective and efficient energy solutions, not government mandates.

Energy and National Security

Our dependence on foreign sources of energy poses a grave threat to our national security and economic stability. We believe more fuel and energy sources should be produced in America and the Midwest. We support the prudent development of alternative fuels and energy.

A Clean Environment

We support a safe, healthy and clean 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 responsibly reduce, regulate and remediate pollutants to protect human health and the environment, as long as it is balanced with our priority goals of growing the economy, increasing jobs and protecting our overall quality of life.

Free-Enterprise Solutions

We support free-enterprise solutions as a way to address issues facing our state and our nation. One-size-fits-all federally mandated programs are less efficient and effective than solutions implemented locally with the input of our free markets and free-enterprise system.

Health Care

We believe health care decisions should be made by patients, in consultation with their personal physician – not government bureaucrats. We support our Congressional delegation’s continued efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act while ensuring health care is accessible, affordable and optional. We also support protecting innovative, state-based health care solutions such as the Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0, and restoring and expanding state control over programs such as this.





The Drafting Process

The Indiana Republican Party's 2018 Platform was drafted with guidance from over 800 Hoosiers who attended platform hearings and submitted their thoughts via email. The Executive Committee, which is comprised of the Indiana Republican State Committee Officers, the Platform Committee Co-Chairs, our National Committeeman and National Committeewoman, and the Platform Committee Executive Secretary, produced an initial draft that reflected the feedback received at hearings in Greenwood, South Bend, and Jeffersonville; written testimony submitted electronically; long-held core beliefs of the Indiana Republican Party; and the priorities of the Holcomb-Crouch Administration. An edited draft was then presented to the full Platform Committee and a meeting was held on May 17, 2018, for discussion, debate and further refinement. The document was subsequently adopted by the Executive Committee on May 30, 2018.

Executive Committee

Kyle Hupfer, Indiana Republican Party Chairman (*Madison*)
Leah McGrath, Indiana Republican Party Co-Chair (*Hamilton*)
Representative Holli Sullivan, Indiana Republican Party Secretary (*Vanderburgh*)
Chuck Williams, Indiana Republican Party Treasurer (*Porter*)
John Hammond, National Committeeman (*Marion*)
Anne Hathaway, National Committeewoman (*Marion*)
Senator Mike Crider, Platform Committee Co-Chair (*Hancock*)
Beth Boyce, Platform Committee Co-Chair (*Johnson*)
Pete Seat, Executive Secretary (*Boone*)
Danielle Zagone, Recording Secretary (*Marion*)

Platform Committee

Kyle Babcock (*Kosciusko*)
Abby Bauer (*Hamilton*)
Michael Chartier (*Marion*)
Jackie Cissell (*Marion*)
Deb Fleming (*St. Joseph*)
Brenda Goff (*Posey*)
Mayor Bob Hall (*Clark*)
Jennifer Hallowell (*Marion*)
Suzanne Heinzmann (*Hamilton*)
Cathie Humbarger (*Allen*)
Mayor Shannon Kohl (*Morgan*)
Reagan Kurk (*Floyd*)
Mike McDaniel (*Marion*)
Amy McQueen (*Shelby*)
Representative Peggy Mayfield (*Morgan*)
Jamey Noel (*Clark*)
Sabra Northam (*Marion*)
Mike O'Brien (*Hendricks*)
Courtney Papa (*Elkhart*)
Tony Samuel (*Marion*)
Jamal Smith (*Marion*)
Alfonso Vidal (*Warrick*)
Don Villwock (*Knox*)
Wendy Zent (*Steuben*)



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