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Subscribe to Sarah's Statehouse Sound-off
for legislative updates throughout Indiana's
Legislative Session!



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Advocacy
In Indiana

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Advocacy **In Indiana**

a guide for:



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THE BRANCHES OF

Executive

The executive branch administers the state government and enforces state laws. This branch of government consists of eight Constitutional offices which are elected by the citizens of Indiana. These offices are:

Governor: ERIC HOLCOMB
Lieutenant Governor: SUZANNE CROUCH
Secretary of State: DIEGO MORALES
State Treasurer: DANIEL ELLIOT
State Auditor: TERA KLUTZ
Attorney General: TODD ROKITA
Secretary of Education: DR. KATIE JENNER



This branch also consists of over 70 state agencies, boards, and commissions that report to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Judicial

The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court. It is the job of the judicial branch to uphold the laws of the state and our nation.



My representatives

Federal

President: _____

Senator: _____

Senator: _____

U.S. Representative: _____

State

Governor: _____

State Senator: _____

State Representative: _____

Local

Mayor: _____

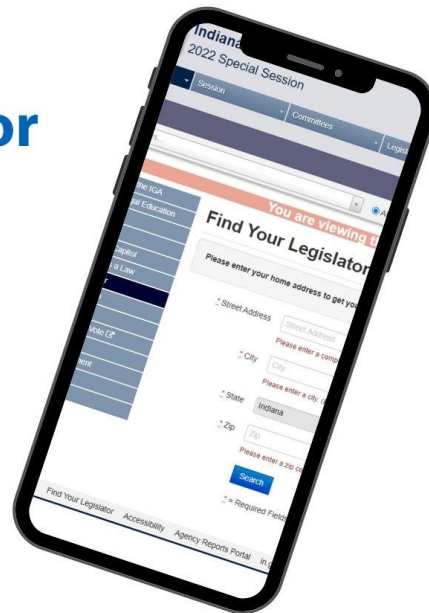
City Councilor: _____

Take Action!

Find Your Legislator

Visit

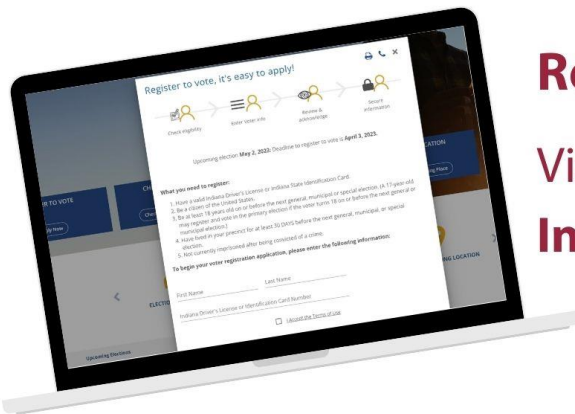
<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>



Register to Vote

Visit

IndianaVoters.com



INDIANA'S GOVERNMENT

Legislative

The legislative branch is "the voice of the people" and writes the laws that we must follow. The legislature has two chambers: the House of Representatives and the State Senate. Indiana's General Assembly is a part-time legislature, meaning its members are only in session for a few months a year. However, the members of the General Assembly and their staff work for constituents year-round.



HOUSE

Consists of 100 state representatives representing approximately 60,000 Hoosiers each are elected for two-year terms.

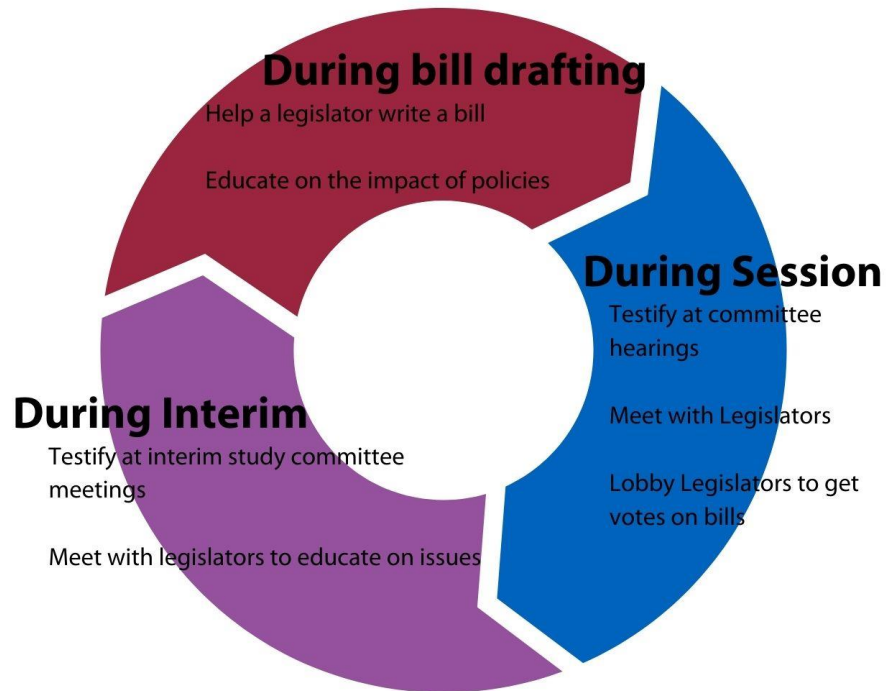
The Speaker of the House presides over the members when in session.

SENATE

Consists of 50 state senators representing approximately 120,000 Hoosiers each and elected for four-year terms.

The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate and may cast tie-breaking votes

Key times to influence legislation



Legislative timeline

Even Years: "short sessions"-

Take place from January to mid-March

Odd Years: "long" budget sessions-

Take place from January to April

Interim

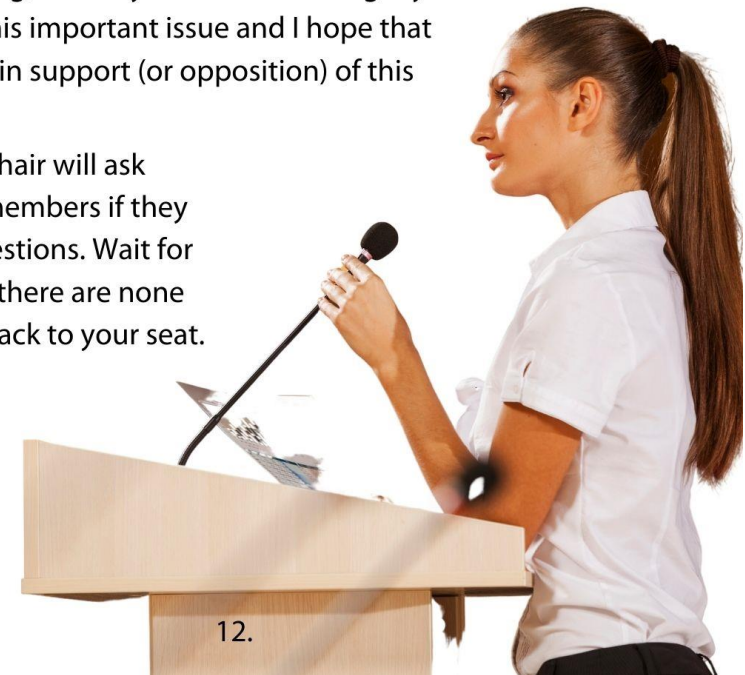
Study Committees take place from Mid-July to October

Bill ideas are formed and drafts are written between October and December



When Providing Testimony

- Address the committee chair and members and introduce yourself.
 - "Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill _____. My name is ____ and I am (job title) at (your employer)"
- Share why this is an important issue for you.
 - Personal story either about yourself or someone you know.
 - Add data or other information that helps make your case.
- Discuss why you feel this bill would help (or hurt) the issue and why you feel legislators should vote in support or opposition.
- Close by saying, "thank you for considering my opinion on this important issue and I hope that you will vote in support (or opposition) of this bill."
- Committee chair will ask committee members if they have any questions. Wait for questions- if there are none you can go back to your seat.





When Calling a Legislator

- Start your call by saying, "My name is _____, and I am from _____."
- End your call by saying "thank you."
 - Some offices may ask for your full name and mailing address so they can follow up with you on the issue.
- "Please let the Senator/Representative know that I support/oppose* (bill number and title).
 - For your information you may want to ask what the legislator's opinion is on the issue.
- "I would like to urge him/her to vote for/against this provision because.."
 - give one or two reasons
- If you would like to discuss a bill in greater detail with your legislator, ask the staff person taking your opinion to relay your name and telephone number to your policy maker or a legislative staff and ask that your call be returned.

11.



Strategies for Influencing Policy Change



- What is the problem?
- Why is the issue important?
- What are the facts?
- Do you have the time and capacity to take this on?



- Know who the decision makers are: the champions, the hard-core opponents, and everyone in between.
- Know what issues the legislators support or oppose.



- Are there other people concerned with the issue?
- How can you work together?
- What are potential solutions?



- What activities can you use to create change?
 - Education? Advocacy? Lobbying?
- How can you make your case?



- Create a timeline and make task assignments.
- Who will do what and when?

4.

Framing Your Message

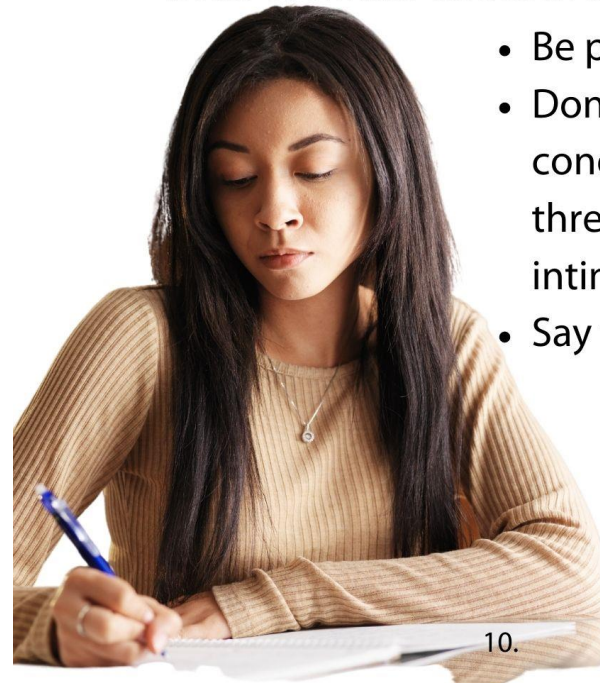
Tell your name and where you are from	<i>My name is... and I go to ... high school.</i>
Issue (Include any current related bills, if there are any)	<i>I am writing to you to share my concerns about...</i>
What do you want to see happen?	<i>I would like for you to...</i>
Facts or Statistics	<i>Did you know that...</i>
Personal Story	<i>This is important to me because...</i>
Re-state what you want to see happen.	<i>Once again, I ask for you to please...</i>
Thank them and provide follow-up information.	<i>Thank you for considering my thoughts. You can reach me at...</i>

5.



When Writing to a Legislator

- Use correct address and salutation
- Type or write your letter clearly
- Use your own words
- Keep message brief and focused
- Be specific about how the issue affects you
- Know your facts
- Find out how your legislator voted on this issue or similar issues in the past
- Be persistent
- Don't use a negative, condescending, threatening, or intimidating tone
- Say thank you



10.

Advocacy Tips

When Meeting With a Legislator

- Keep it short and simple.
- Have your facts straight.
- Be on time, polite, and patient.
- Be a resource.
- Before you leave, say “thank you” again.
- Continue the relationship with the legislator.
 - Send a thank you letter.
 - Follow up with updates.



9.

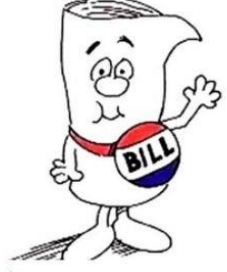
Questions to consider while preparing your message:

- **What is the issue?**
- **Are there any bills regarding this issue, if so, what is the bill number?**
 - Is/are the bill(s) effective?
- **What are some key facts regarding the issue?**
- **Who is your audience? (legislators? Media?)**
 - What values do they have?
- **What information and what format works best for this audience?**
 - Written or verbal?
 - Social media or print media?
- **What is your goal?**
 - Increase awareness?
 - Generate support?
 - Motivate action?
- **What do you want to see happen?**
- **How does this issue impact you personally?**
- **What would the opposite view be regarding the issue?**
 - How would you respond?



6.

How a Bill Becomes a Law



A bill idea is suggested to a legislator who then authors or sponsors the bill.

At the legislator's discretion, the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency provides research and drafting assistance and prepares the bill in proper technical form.

After a bill is drafted and filed, it is then read by title for the first time to the legislative body. The Senate Pro Temp or the Speaker of the House refers the bill to a committee for review.

Committee chairmen schedule bill hearings that are open for public comment. Legislators debate, suggest amendments and vote on the bill. Because of the high volume of bills and time constraints, not every bill receives a hearing.

After committee approval, the bill goes again before members of the entire chamber. During what is known as the bill's Second Reading, the legislation may be amended by a majority vote of lawmakers

On the Third Reading, the bill is eligible for passage in its house of origin. The bill cannot be amended unless two-thirds of the legislators agree to changes. The bill passes when approved by a majority of members.

The bill goes through the same process as before but now in the second chamber. If the bill is amended, the first chamber must approve the changes before the bill is sent to the governor.

If the chamber of origin disagrees with amendments, the bill goes to a four-member bipartisan conference committee. If an agreement is reached, both chambers must approve the bill before sending it to the governor.

Upon receiving a bill, the governor may sign it, veto it, or let it become law without his signature. Vetoed bills may still become law if the veto is overridden by a majority vote in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Idea developed

Bill drafted

Bill introduced & referred to committee

Committee Action

Second reading

Third reading

Second chamber

Conference Committee

Governor

LAW!