



Indiana Public Defender Council

INDIANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COUNCIL BOARD RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020





COMMUNICATING WITH THE LEGISLATURE





ABOUT ME

- Undergraduate Degree from Indiana University
- Current JD Candidate at IU McKinney School of Law
 - Certified Legal Intern at MCPD – 2019
- Six Legislative Sessions
 - Indiana House – 2015
 - 1816 Inc. – 2016
 - Indiana Senate – 2017 through 2020

OVERVIEW

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



- 50 Members (10 Democrats, 40 Republicans)
- 130,000 constituents per district
- 2 Senators per Legislative Assistant

- 100 Members (33 Democrat, 67 Republican)
- 65,000 constituents per district
- 3 Representatives per Legislative Assistant



SENATE



WHAT INFLUENCES ELECTED OFFICIALS?

- Personal relationships
- The message and media
- Partisanship
- Personal interests and passions
- Staff
- Constituents



LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS

- Legislators' Gatekeepers
 - Schedules
 - Communications
 - Legislative priorities
- Different levels of involvement
 - Leadership LA versus New Member LA



COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES



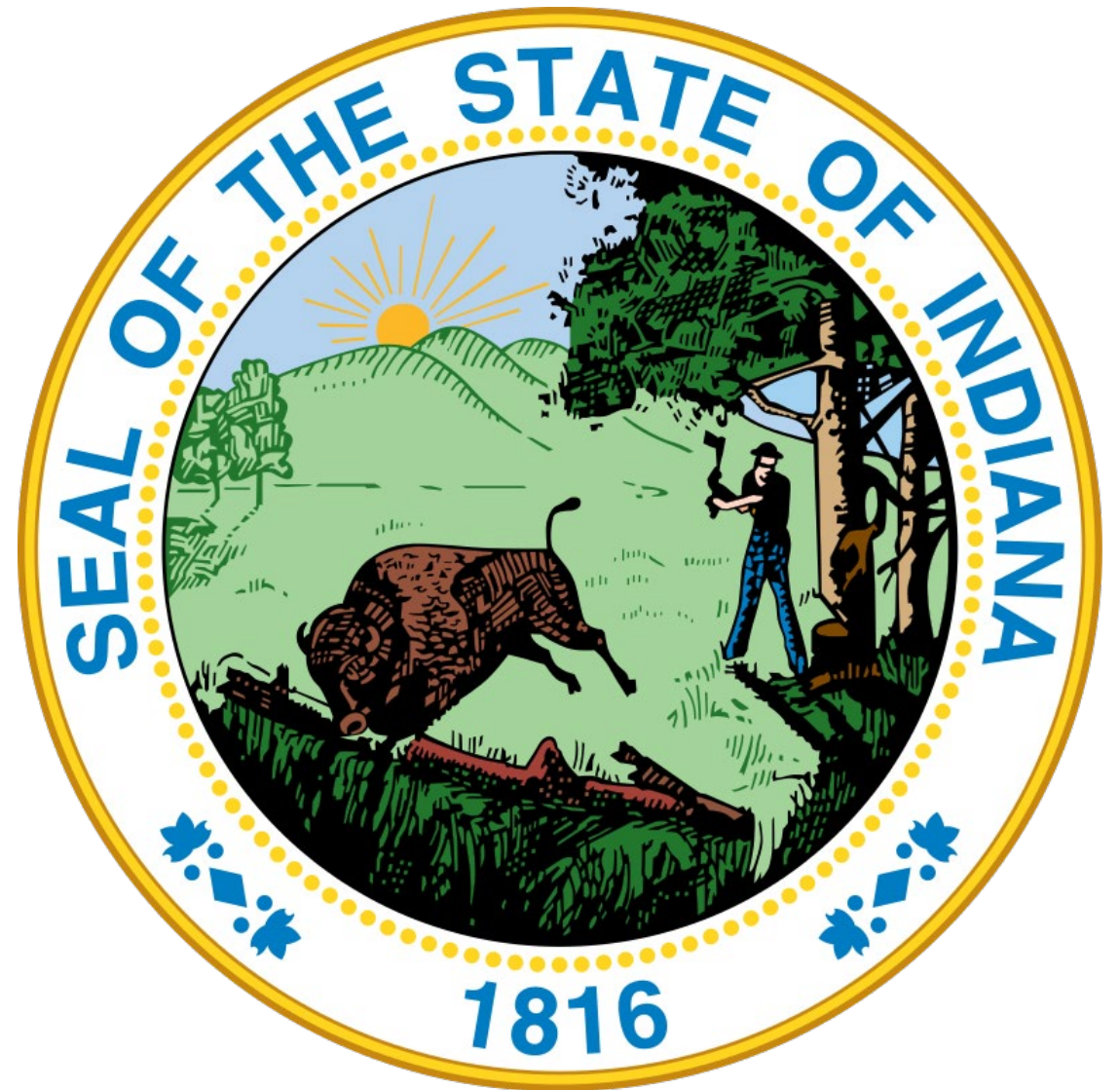
INEFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

- Form letters
- Social media posts
- Chance encounters



ADVOCACY DURING SESSION

- Every communication counts
 - Phone calls
 - Emails
 - Letters
 - Even form letters
- Chaotic pace leads to slower response times from offices, but the lack of response should not be interpreted as being ignored.



ADVOCATING AMID COVID-19

- COVID-19's impact on the Legislature:
 - Virtual committees and testimony
 - Zoom meetings
 - Social distancing in Chamber Floors
 - Legislators voting from Government Center
 - Limits on number of bills that can be requested
 - More to come?

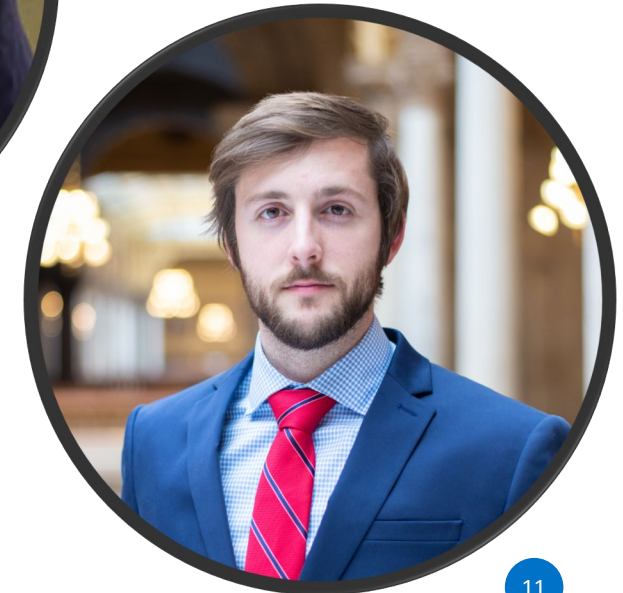


LET US HELP

The IPDC Legislative Team can help in numerous ways:

- Facilitate meetings with Legislators and stakeholders
- Connect board members with interested Legislators
- Facilitate testimony on agenda priorities

We ask that you keep us in the loop if you meet with any Legislators on IPDC agenda items. Clarity will allow us to function most efficiently during these virtual times.





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