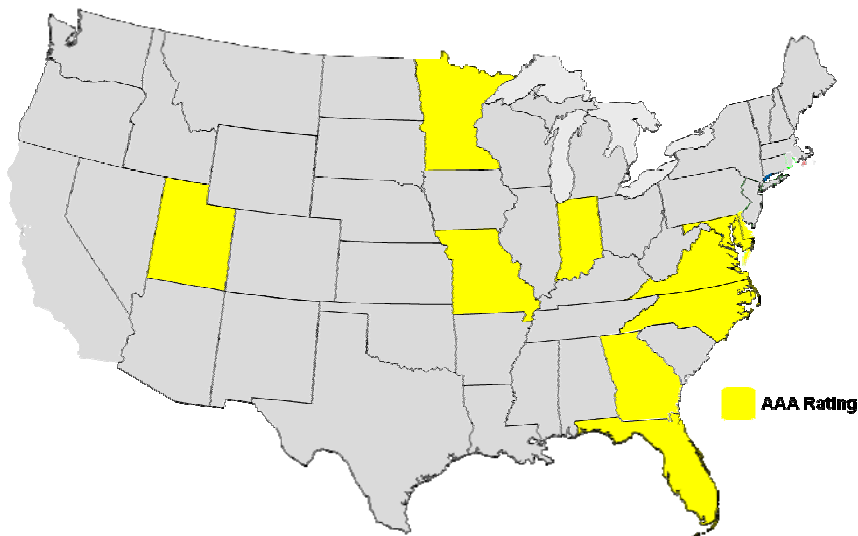




State's credit rating raised to AAA by Standard & Poor's

July 21, 2008—For the first time in the state's history, Indiana's credit rating has been raised to AAA, the highest rating assigned by the independent credit rating agency Standard & Poor's Ratings Service (S&P).

The upgrade from AA+, the state's rating since January 2006, "reflects the state's continued strong management that has led to the property tax reform that has realigned state and local spending and is not expected to impact the state's long-term financial performance. As well, the state's commitment to attract diverse jobs through its economic development efforts has translated into a shift away from traditional manufacturing employment," said the credit agency.



"The experts have certified what Hoosiers know, that Indiana has turned around fiscally and is turning around economically. But our own history and the current tumbles of other states show that continued careful management is key, because it's too easy for these gains to slip away," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

The rating increase means, for example, that 228 of the state's school corporations can borrow money at a lower interest rate.

The report said the administration has made significant financial management changes and strengthened budgeting practices. S&P cited four areas in issuing the AAA credit rating: stable and diversifying economic base despite continued manufacturing concentration; a conservative biennial budget that will add to the fund balance by the end of the biennium; property tax reform that has clarified the state's financial responsibilities, and low overall debt levels.

Only nine other states have a AAA S& P rating: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri and Utah. (See map)

Between 2002 and 2004, Indiana's rating was lowered twice. Beginning in June 2005, it has been raised three times.

To view past updates, click [here](#).
To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Governor directs additional funds to state's Education Rainy Day Fund

July 18, 2008—Governor Mitch Daniels has directed that \$83.4 million be transferred from the state's general fund to the state Education Rainy Day Fund. The school reserve fund had \$316.6 million, and with the transfer, the Education Rainy Day Fund, created by HEA 1001, now has \$400 million. This amount exceeds the target set by the Indiana General Assembly during the 2008 legislative session and has occurred 2 1/2 years early.

Daniels said the state could make the transfer now because of the state's stable fiscal condition.

"We are determined that in difficult times, Indiana will remain in solid shape and will protect vital services, starting with education," said Daniels. "So in view of our solid condition, I have instructed the budget office to add about \$84 million to the rainy day reserves for education. This goes beyond what the legislature had requested in the property tax bill of earlier this year and it takes the action 2 1/2 years sooner than was required."

Bureau of Motor Vehicles wins customer service award

July 20, 2008—The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles recently received the 2008 Customer Service Excellence Award from the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. The award goes to a state agency that most improves quality, convenience, and accessibility.

"I just don't know of a place anywhere in this government, or frankly in any state, which has effected so dramatic a turnaround," said Governor Daniels.

The BMV has achieved many successes over the past three years. The average wait went from 28 minutes in 2006 to just under nine minutes now. In addition, customer satisfaction has reached 97 percent.

"Let's not be satisfied," Ron Stiver, commissioner of the BMV, said. "We're going to continue to improve, we're going to continue getting better at what we do."

**What's Happening
In My County**

visit the [IN.gov map feature](#) >



EMERGENCY.IN.GOV

Reminder: Hoosiers living in the 40 counties approved for FEMA individual assistance must apply by August 11. Visit www.emergency.in.gov for more information.



July 17, 2008 – Governor Daniels gave brief remarks and took a tour of the INShape Indiana Black and Minority Health Fair at the Indiana Black Expo Summer Celebration. More than \$1,000 of free medical screenings were available to individuals.

Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? [Click here](#) for more!

Governor Daniels spends the weekend on the road

July 19, 2008— Governor Daniels racked up some mileage on his motorcycle this weekend. He traveled through the northern part of the state on Saturday before making his way down to Putnam County on Sunday afternoon.

The governor spent time in the northern part of the state Saturday, making stops in Miami, Fulton and Marshall Counties.

The governor began the day in Peru, where he rode his motorcycle with members of the Indiana Patriot Guard in the Circus City Festival Parade. After the parade, he visited with local residents before heading north to Fulton County.

While in Fulton County, the governor made a stop at a farmers' market in Rochester. He also visited with Rochester residents and had lunch at the Flagpole Drive-In.

Governor Daniels ended his day in the late afternoon with a visit to the Culver Lake Fest on Lake Maxinkuckee. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the annual Marshall County event.

On Sunday, the governor made a stop at the Putnam County 4-H Fair in Greencastle. This year marked the 54th anniversary of the annual fair, and the theme for 4-H members was "Showing American Spirit." While at the fair, the governor enjoyed lunch and visited with fairgoers.

Want to listen to the governor's most recent media availability? Click [here](#) to listen!



July 19, 2008 – Governor Daniels joined the Indiana Patriot Guard on his motorcycle at the Peru Circus Parade.



July 19, 2008 – Governor Daniels stopped to buy some home-grown Hoosier produce at a Farmer's Market in Rochester.



July 19, 2008 – Governor Daniels shared a laugh with a young Hoosier at the 25th Annual Culver Lake Fest.

A Look Ahead...

...This week Governor Daniels will visit Edwardsport, Rensselaer, North Judson, Munster, Valparaiso, Wabash, Rochester, Urbana, Farmland, Richmond, Cicero and Frankfort.