



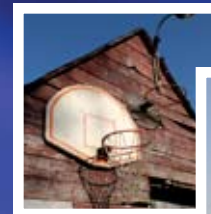
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Wes Culver

200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

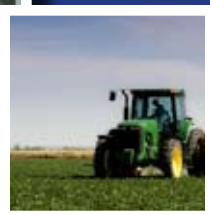
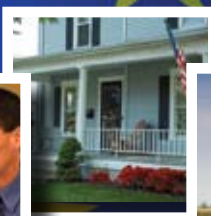
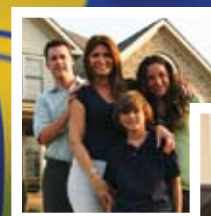
2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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Legislative Wrap-Up



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE WES CULVER
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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

What important issues are facing our community today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts to me at h49@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h49, or return this card with your comments below.

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.
- State agency budgets were cut an average of 7 percent over 2008 levels, further limiting government spending in Indiana.
- While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. In addition, the "education trigger" would allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at growing public schools.
 - The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support including increased funding for the Elkhart Ivy Tech campus (see photo to the right).
 - The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011. I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



Rep. Culver reviews a bill alongside a legislative aide.



Rep. Culver stands with other legislators and officials at a recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new, \$20 million Ivy Tech campus in Elkhart.

Increased Protection for Hoosier Children

I supported a budget provision that gives about \$135,000 annually to create an ombudsman for the Department of Child Services, which can be the last line of defense for abused and neglected children. Lawmakers and community activists called for the position after the deaths of several children whose cases had come to the attention of state caseworkers, and they considered funding for the program a win for children.

Stopping Identity Theft in its Tracks

I supported this measure to give Hoosiers more identity theft protection through the state's Identity Theft Unit, which will investigate complaints and assist victims. Identity theft was the top consumer complaint to the Federal Trade Commission in 2008.

Easing Mortgage Foreclosures

With a difficult economy, it can be easy for families to fall behind with their mortgage payments. A bill I supported will give families the opportunity to meet with their lender before a foreclosure proceeding is initiated.

Military Family Relief Fund

Access to the Military Family Relief Fund was expanded to include all active-duty personnel and not just those in the National Guard or reserves. The fund now may provide education and employment assistance. This law should give military families peace of mind during a stressful time, when family members are serving overseas.

Honoring our Hoosier Heroes

I co-sponsored an important measure which honors Hoosier heroes who have sacrificed so much for us. Senate Enrolled Act 39 grants all Hoosier Purple Heart recipients free tuition to state colleges and universities. Previous law provided tuition to those who received the Purple Heart after Sept. 10, 2001, and the children of all Purple Heart recipients.



Wes Culver

State Representative • House District 49

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