



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Tom Dermody**  
200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

# 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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# 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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

Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts to me at [h20@iga.in.gov](mailto:h20@iga.in.gov), post your comments on my Web site at [www.in.gov/h20](http://www.in.gov/h20), 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.

*Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. 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.

House and Senate Republicans outlined these standards early in the process and did not waver. 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, and bonding was authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Purdue University North Central, Indiana University South Bend and Purdue University Calumet.
- 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. Dermody discusses legislation on the House floor with Rep. Matt Bell.



Rep. Dermody meets with a school group for a tour of the Statehouse during the legislative session.

### Cell Phone Trafficking in Prisons

I co-sponsored this critical public safety measure that increases the penalty for trafficking cell phones into prisons. Today, cell phones are often used to harass victims, run drug operations and support gang activity. Making this crime a Class C felony will hopefully deter this act in the future.

### Police Powers for the Department of Correction

I co-authored this law which allows the Department of Correction to establish correctional police officers at all state prison facilities. Prior to this law being enacted, correctional officials had no authority to arrest a person committing a crime in a correctional facility. The new law will give officers the necessary legal authority to respond when a crime in the facility occurs.

### Taxing Jobs Out of Existence: I Voted "No"

I could not support one of the largest tax increases on Hoosier businesses in state history. HEA 1379 raises taxes on Hoosier businesses, large and small, by an estimated \$650 million over the next two years with the goal of shoring up the state's insolvent Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. However, this

huge tax increase could cause employers to lay off employees—not to mention that estimates show this plan will not fix the fund's insolvency. The House majority, which unanimously supported the bill, has consistently said job creation is its top priority. I fear this new tax increase on those that provide jobs will only serve to put more Hoosiers out of work.

### 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.

### 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.



# Tom Dermody

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