



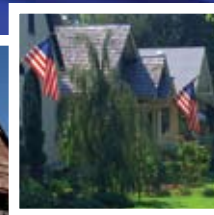
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Don Lehe**

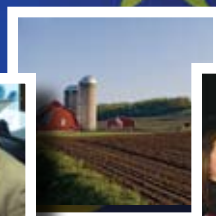
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# 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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# 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DON LEHE  
200 W. WASHINGTON ST.  
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 [h15@iga.in.gov](mailto:h15@iga.in.gov), post your comments on my Web site at [www.in.gov/h15](http://www.in.gov/h15), 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.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with 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 West Lafayette, 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. Lehe speaks before the House on a resolution celebrating the City of Monticello's 100th anniversary.



Rep. Lehe talks with legislative pages on the House floor. To find out how you can serve as a page, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/HousePage>

## 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.

## 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.

## Energy Efficiency at the Pump

School corporations and universities may now participate in Indiana's E85 Fuel Station Grant Program. This encourages the expansion of the state's biofuel industry, producing homegrown energy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil. It also helps the environment through the use of cleaner-burning fuel.

## 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.



**Don Lehe**

State Representative • House District 15

Contact Information for Representative Don Lehe

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