



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**L. Jack Lutz**

200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

# 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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# 2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE L. JACK LUTZ  
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 [h35@iga.in.gov](mailto:h35@iga.in.gov), post your comments on my Web site at [www.in.gov/h35](http://www.in.gov/h35), 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.

The budget is a bipartisan compromise, receiving support from Democrats and Republicans alike. Sound fiscal principles and practical solutions remained an important influence.

*The budget contains the state's fiscal roadmap for the next two years. Some highlights of the budget:*

- No general tax increases.
- Maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- 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.

My colleagues and I outlined those 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 funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at growing public schools.
  - 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 budget is the best we can do for Indiana right now, given the economic turmoil we are presently in; that's why I voted for it.



Rep. Lutz reviewing legislation.



Rep. Lutz speaks at the podium.

## Honoring Our Veterans

This legislation 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.

## Helping Military Families

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.

## Property Tax Mortgage Deductions

I supported legislation so taxpayers will never forget to file for a mortgage deduction. When buying a home, the closing agent will process a form when recording the deed that will serve as the application

for the mortgage deduction. This makes the deduction process automatic for the taxpayer.

## Qualified Immunity for Teachers

House Enrolled Act 1462 grants teachers qualified immunity for reasonable acts of discipline. This legislation removes a worry that prevented teachers from disciplining misbehaving students, allowing them to maintain a safer environment for learning.

The legislation also:

- Adds possession of child pornography to the list of felonies for which teachers may lose their licenses.
- Requires a school corporation, a charter school, and accredited nonpublic schools to conduct an expanded criminal history background check before employing a potential employee in any position within the school corporation.



# L. Jack Lutz

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