



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Greg Steuerwald

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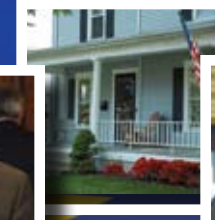
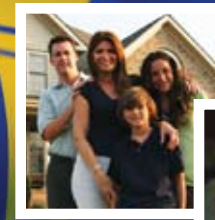
2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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2009

Legislative Wrap-Up



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE GREG STEUERWALD
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What important issues are facing our community today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail me your thoughts to h40@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h40, 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 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 fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at rapidly growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- 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.



The Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police named Rep. Steuerwald its 2009 Legislator of the Year.



Rep. Steuerwald makes a point during debate in the House of Representatives.

Legislator of the Year

I was honored earlier this year to be named Legislator of the Year by the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police. To receive this award from the state association of police chiefs is a high honor. I am grateful to Brownsburg Police Chief Steve Carroll for nominating me.

More help for Hoosier taxpayers

I worked to include in the budget several provisions to help Hoosiers with property tax issues. When counties are late sending their property tax statements, forcing payments to be made in another calendar year, taxpayers may now be credited with their state tax deduction for the property tax in the year the tax was paid. Also, if counties fall behind in sending their bills, they must now send provisional bills to help taxpayers avoid property tax "sticker shock" when the bills arrive. And I worked to include more fairness in the assessment system. If a taxpayer's assessment increases by more than 5 percent, the county assessor now has the burden of justifying that increase. Previously, the taxpayer had the task of proving the assessment was out of line.

Improving student discipline

School corporations must now develop an evidence-based plan for improving behavior and discipline in school. Discipline is critical to establishing a learning environment that allows students to be successful.

Helping young drivers

This new law limits distractions for our newest, most inexperienced drivers by banning drivers under 18 from using a cell phone or texting, except for emergency calls, while driving. It also sets limits on when they may carry passengers.

Self-directed care

People participating in the Medicaid waiver and CHOICE home care programs now have the option for self-directed care. They can receive assistance in moving from a nursing facility to a residential setting in their community. This law will benefit many Hoosiers who do not need around-the-clock care, but still need care on a limited basis.



Greg Steuerwald

State Representative • House District 40

Important Contact Information for Representative Greg Steuerwald

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