



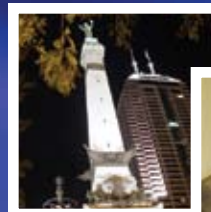
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Jerry Torr

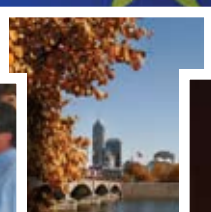
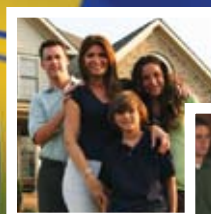
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2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE JERRY TORR
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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 h39@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h39, or return this card with your comments below.

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

While I wish that the General Assembly could have done more for our local public schools, I believe we achieved the best result available given the decline in state revenue that we've seen due to the current economic climate.

The budget is a bipartisan compromise, receiving support from Democrats and Republicans alike. Sound fiscal principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It should maintain 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. Daniels, along with Senate and House Republicans, outlined the above standards early in the process and did not waver. In the current economic climate we felt that it was more important than ever to pass a balanced budget. We were able to increase funding for education and keep a healthy reserve in the state's account, all without a general tax increase.

Statewide education will receive 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 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 will receive increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe the new state budget, based on solid, common-sense principles and, given our current revenue challenges, is a relative success for taxpayers.



Rep. Torr and Rep. Lehe talk about the upcoming session.



Rep. Torr working with Rep. Lawson.

Growing high-tech jobs

I supported tax incentives to help knowledge-based information technology companies invest in equipment and real estate. This should make it easier for companies to invest in Indiana and in themselves, leading to more high-paying jobs across the state.

Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund

I could not support what I believe to be one of the largest tax increases on Hoosier businesses in state history. HEA 1379 raises taxes on 75,000 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 Trust Fund. 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 Democrats, which unanimously supported the bill, have consistently said job creation is their top priority. I fear this new tax increase on those that provide jobs will only serve to put more Hoosiers out of work.

Property Tax Mortgage Deductions

I supported legislation to make filing a mortgage deduction automatic. 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.

Job Creation and Economic Expansion

I hope we can continue to add to the great strides the legislature has made in partnership with Gov. Mitch Daniels to bring new jobs and business investment to Indiana. One proposal I will continue to pursue is to make Indiana a right-to-work state. "Right to work" simply means no employee can be compelled to join a labor union or pay union fees as a condition of employment. I believe there is evidence Right to Work helps create jobs. In July, according to figures from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, right-to-work states had an average unemployment rate of 7.1 percent; unemployment in states without right-to-work laws was 8 percent. I believe it is clear that a right-to-work program in Indiana would help create job growth for Hoosiers.

Bi-Partisan Redistricting

In the 2009 session, I offered my proposal to create a bi-partisan commission to draw future legislative districts. New legislative districts are drawn by the legislature following every decennial census, and over the last few decades the legislature has drawn very partisan districts that have resulted in only a handful of competitive races across the state. My proposal would ensure that the interests of voters, rather than political parties, would be the major consideration for creating new legislative districts.



Jerry Torr

State Representative • House District 39

Important Contact Information for Representative Jerry Torr

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