



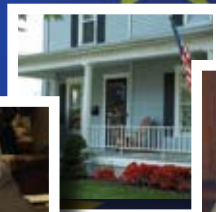
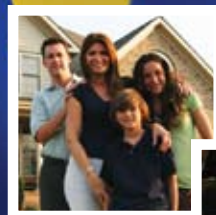
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

P. Eric Turner

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 P. ERIC TURNER
200 W. WASHINGTON ST.
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

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

Please feel free to e-mail me your thoughts to h32@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h32, 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 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 Ball State University, Indiana University, Purdue University and IU and Purdue regional campuses.
 - 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. Turner works on correspondence during a break.



Rep. Turner listens to debate in the House.

Helping young drivers

I was a co-sponsor of a new law that 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.

Help for senior citizens

I supported legislation that addresses issues facing our senior citizens. The state's new Silver Alert system will alert law-enforcement and the public when an endangered adult is missing, similar to the Amber Alert system for children. When an endangered adult, such as an Alzheimer's patient, wanders from a residence, law-enforcement agencies have the authority to alert local media. Another new law will relieve stress on our oldest Hoosiers who may worry about procedural obstacles when attempting to be excused from jury duty. Hoosiers at least 75 years old may be exempted from jury duty at their request.

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. 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.



P. Eric Turner

State Representative • House District 32

Important Contact Information for Representative P. Eric Turner

Statehouse Office:
1-800-382-9841
317-232-9815

E-mail Address:
h32@iga.in.gov

Web site:
www.in.gov/h32

Mailing Address:
200 W.
Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN
46204