

# OPEN THE FUN!



## A Kid's Guide to Indiana State Government



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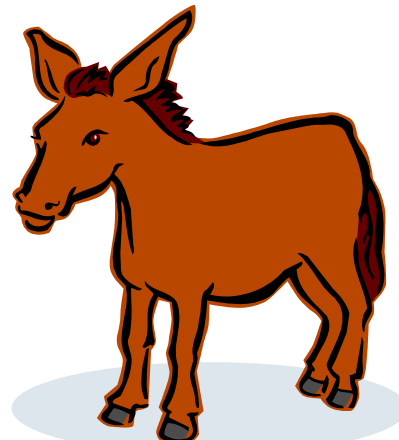
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# “What is a normal day like for you?”

During session, my days are packed with meetings, committee hearings, more meetings, session and more meetings.

My days begin as early as 7 a.m. and sometimes earlier! I usually have a breakfast meeting with other legislators, lobbyists or constituents from back home concerned about legislation.



As a committee member, I must spend time studying proposed legislation. In committee meetings, we also listen to the public testify on different bills.

Session is very time-consuming. There have been days when we are in session for more than 12 hours listening to debate on bills and casting our votes.

I also make an effort to meet with constituents who are visiting the Statehouse during session. Many school groups visit when learning about Indiana History in class.



There are times when my day does not end until the next day!

Also, just because we are not in session 365 days a year doesn't mean we stop working for you. As a matter-of-fact, when I'm back home, I spend a lot of time attending meetings and community events.

It's critical for lawmakers to spend time with the people they represent.

# “How much do you get paid, and what are your working hours?”

The Indiana General Assembly is a “citizen legislature”— which means that our state representatives and state senators have full-time jobs in addition to serving in the legislature.

My annual salary changes every year based on the salaries of trial court judges.

The Indiana Constitution allows state lawmakers to receive a “per diem,” or daily allowance. During session, I receive \$152 a day and I receive \$60.80 a day for legislative business conducted during the interim, or out of session.



Lawmakers are provided a per diem to help them cover the day-to-day expenses they incur in fulfilling their legislative duties. For example, I use my per diem to pay for food, hotel rooms, and other related expenses while I am away from home and in session.

As to working hours, there is no set schedule. Although Indiana

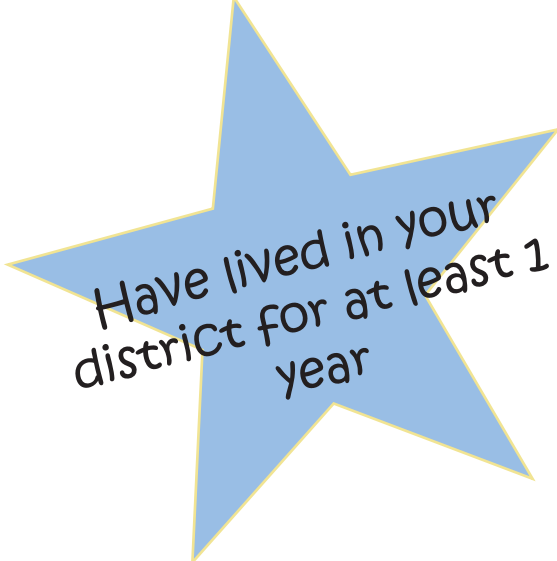
has a “part-time legislature,” I am on the job year-round.



# “Can I be a State Legislator?”

Not yet, but definitely in a few years! There are certain requirements you must meet in order to become a state legislator.

To be a state legislator, you must:



Have lived in your district for at least 1 year




Be a citizen of the United States



Be at least 25 years old to run for the Indiana Senate



Be at least 21 years old to run for the Indiana House



Have lived in Indiana for 2 years

# “What do Indiana Legislators do for a living?”

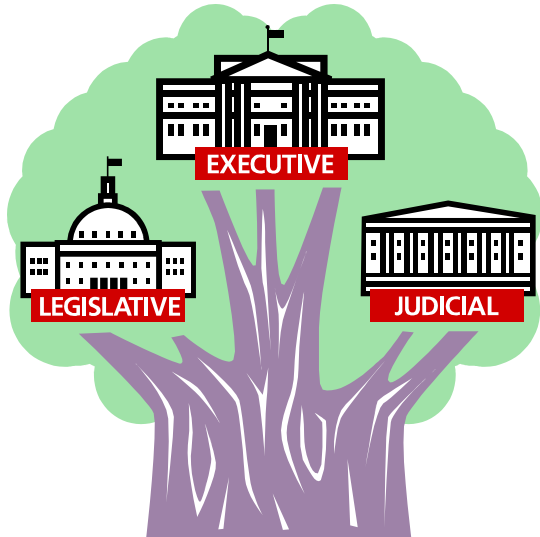
Indiana has what is called a part-time citizen legislature. Indiana lawmakers live, work and raise a family in the district they represent. The state legislature is in session only two to four months a year, which allows lawmakers to spend a great deal of their time at home, in the community they represent.



Here's some of the past and present jobs of Indiana State Senators and Representatives:

- Utilities Services
- Media
- Auctioneer
- Construction
- Insurance
- Not-for-Profit
- Government
- K-12 Education
- Firefighter
- Accountant
- Public Safety
- Banking
- Industry
- Medical
- Higher Education
- Farmer
- Consultant
- Real Estate
- Attorney
- Small Business

# Indiana State Government Facts



## The Branches of Government

### Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch consists of the Supreme Court, the Appellate Court and Indiana Trial Court. It is the job of the Judicial Branch to uphold the laws of the state and our nation.



Chief Justice  
Randall T. Shepard

### Executive Branch

The Executive Branch administers the state government and enforces state laws. This branch consists of 7 Constitutional offices elected by the citizens of Indiana. These offices are: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Attorney General, and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

This branch also consists of over 70 state agencies, as well as, boards and commissions that report to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.



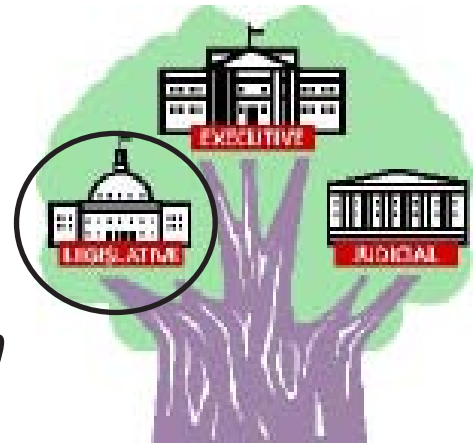
Governor  
Mitch Daniels

### Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch is the “voice of the people” and writes the laws that we must follow. The legislature has two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Indiana’s General Assembly is a part-time legislature, which means that its members are only in session for a few months each year. However, the members of the General Assembly and their staff work year-round.

# The General Assembly



## House of Representatives

In the Indiana House of Representatives, the Speaker of the House presides over the members while they are in session. The House consists of 100 members, making it twice as big as the Senate. Each representative represents approximately 60,000 Hoosiers and is elected to two-year terms.



House Speaker  
Brian Bosma

## Senate

In the Indiana Senate, the Lieutenant Governor presides over the members and may cast tie-breaking votes. The Senate President Pro Tempore is the second highest-ranking member of the Senate and the highest-ranking senator. The Senate consists of 50 members, half as many as the House. Each senator represents approximately 120,000 Hoosiers and is elected to four-year terms.



Lt. Governor  
Becky Skillman



Senate President Pro Tempore  
David Long

# “How does a bill become a law?”

It all begins with an idea from people in the community...



The people in the community call their local legislator to tell him or her about their idea.

Then the LONG process begins...



## 1. Bill Introduction

The first step in creating the laws we live by is for a legislator to write the bill. After the bill is drafted, it is then introduced by the author in either the House or the Senate. The author of the bill tries to get as many other legislators as possible to support the bill in hopes of making it a law.



## 2. First Reading

The bill is presented to the House or the Senate and assigned to a committee.



## 3. Committee Reading

After a bill has been assigned to a committee, the committee will talk about the good and bad aspects of the bill. The public can attend the committee meetings and offer input on the proposal. After this is done, the committee will decide if the bill is one that should become a law. At this time, they can make changes to the bill. From there, the committee votes to pass the bill on to the full House or Senate for more study.



## 4. Second Reading

The author or any legislator can try to amend, or change, the bill. A majority is required to approve an amendment.



## 5. Third Reading

At this stage, the full House or Senate will vote to approve or defeat the bill. Again, a majority (51 votes in the House and 26 in the Senate) is needed to approve the

If a bill makes it here, it's a law!



## 8. The Governor

The governor has several options when he receives a bill. He can sign the bill into law, veto (reject) it, or do nothing. If he does nothing, the bill will become law without his signature in 7 days. Legislators can override vetoes with a majority vote.



## 7. Conference Committees

After the bill has been considered by the other chamber, three things can happen:

(A) If no changes have been made, it is sent to the governor.

(B) If the bill is amended in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house, it must return to the house it began in so the changes can be approved or turned down. If the changes are agreed upon, the bill goes to the governor. However, if the majority of the original house disagrees, the bill is sent to a conference committee for more discussion. A conference committee is made up of two representatives and two senators. These four legislators study the bill and come up with an agreement, which is then voted on by both houses. If both houses approve the amended bill, it is sent to the governor.

(C) The bill can be killed.



## 6. The Other Chamber

If the bill is approved in the house of origin, it moves to the 2<sup>nd</sup> house, or chamber, where it goes through the same process again. All approved House bills move to the Senate and all approved Senate bills move to the House. At this time, the bill may be approved, amended or defeated.



# Indiana, the “Crossroads of America”

## State Flag

The star above the torch stands for Indiana, which was the 19th state to join the Union. The state colors are blue and gold.



The rays symbolize far-reaching influence.

The torch represents liberty and enlightenment.

## State Capital

The capital of Indiana is Indianapolis. The Statehouse is located there. Corydon was the first Indiana capital from 1813 to 1825.

## State Seal



## Population

Indiana population is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation. According to the latest statistics, Indiana has 6,423,113 Hoosiers living here!

## State Bird



Cardinal

The State Seal depicts a pioneer scene portraying “how the early people of Indiana overcame the wilderness.” The seal has been in use since 1801, but it was not officially adopted until 1963.

## State Flower



Peony

# Government Glossary



This vocabulary list will help you understand the “ins and outs” of Indiana State Government!

**AMENDMENT:** A change to a bill the House or Senate is considering.

**BILL:** The actual proposal legislators introduce.

**CHAMBER:** One of the two legislative bodies in our state; either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

**COMMITTEE:** A group of lawmakers chosen to study bills about a specific subject.

**DEMOCRAT:** One of the two main political parties in Indiana. This party’s symbol is the donkey.

**DISTRICT:** The area a lawmaker represents.

**INTERIM:** The time between sessions of the General Assembly.

**LEGISLATURE:** Also referred to as the General Assembly. This is made up of the House and the Senate.

**QUORUM:** The minimum number of members required to be present for the House or Senate to conduct business.

**RECESS:** A break in the daily legislative business. (Yes! We get recess, too!)

**REPUBLICAN:** One of the two main political parties. The symbol of this party is the elephant.

**VETO:** When the governor refuses to let a bill become a law.

# STATE GOVERNMENT PUZZLES



## Crossword



### Down

2. Branch in which the Secretary of State works.
4. The state motto is the “\_\_\_\_\_ of America.”
7. What the governor can do to a bill he doesn’t like.
9. When the legislature meets.
11. A bill that successfully makes it through the legislative process.
12. The state colors are blue and \_\_\_\_\_.
14. A break in the daily legislative business.

### Across

1. Indiana has \_\_\_\_\_ branches of government.
3. The original capital was located in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. This person is the chief executive of Indiana.
6. This assembly has 100 members.
8. He or she presides over the House.
10. The first phase in creating a law is to write a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Statehouse Scramble

Unscramble these words

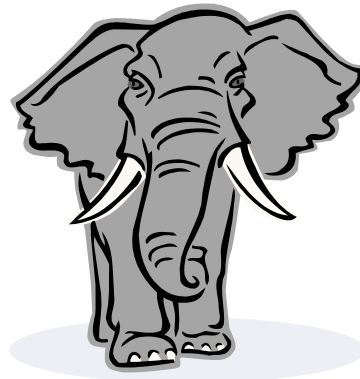
(Hint: Indiana Government)

1. tove \_\_\_\_\_
2. wal \_\_\_\_\_
3. natese \_\_\_\_\_
4. slilb \_\_\_\_\_
5. mtemtecoi \_\_\_\_\_

# STATE GOVERNMENT PUZZLES

(Solutions)

## Crossword



## Statehouse Scramble

Unscramble these words

(Hint: Indiana Government)

1. tove VOTE or VETO
2. wal LAW
3. natese SENATE
4. slilb BILLS
5. mtemtecoi COMMITTEE

