Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita and Indiana Investment Watch help you make financial resolutions you'll want to keep.

2007 CA$HOLUTION$

Control Your Spending

You can't save money if you're always spending it. Instead of buying that new gadget, put the money aside for your investment and savings accounts. Rule of thumb – save at least 10 % of your income.

Create a Budget and Live By It

Handling your personal finances without a budget is like Peyton Manning playing without a playbook. A budget is a great way to get a grip on your finances and will keep you in line with your long term spending goals.

Be Credit Card Smart

Using your credit card a lot? If your balance is $1,000 and you pay the minimum of $35 a month with an 18 percent interest rate, it'll take you three years (*and an extra $315.54*) to pay off the card. If you are unable to pay the balance in full, pay more than the minimum and pay on time to save yourself from late charges and higher interest rates.

Pay Yourself First

Retirement's not going to pay for itself. Take advantage of your company's 401(k) program or set up an IRA. Employers typically offer some sort of matching on 401(k) contributions, and that's like free money!

Investigate Before You Invest

Before you invest your money, make sure the investment and the person selling it are legit! All corporations should be registered with the Indiana Secretary of State's office. Visit www.IndianaInvestmentWatch.com to check the licensing status of your broker/dealer and make sure the security is registered.

INDIANA INVESTMENT WATCH

From the office of
Secretary of State Todd Rokita