Your Indiana State Government

from

Your State Representative

Woody Burton

Table of Contents

Page 2	"What is a Normal Day Like For You?"
Page 3	"How Much do You Get Paid and What are Your Working Hours?
Page 4	"What do Indiana Legislators do for a Living?"
Page 5	What are the Requirements to be a State Legislator?
Page 6	Facts About Your State Government\
Page 7-8	Government Glossary
Page 9	How a Bill Becomes a Law
Page 10	Indiana Facts and Trivia
Page 11	Our State Flag
Page 12	Your State Government Crossword Puzzle
Page 13	State or Federal?
Page 14	Statehouse Scramble
Page 15-18	Answers to the Puzzles

"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 sooner. I will have a breakfast meeting with other legislators, with lobbyists, or with constituent groups concerned about legislation.

As a committee member, I must spend time studying the legislation under consideration, and then I spend time in the meetings listening to testimony on the legislation.

Session itself is 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.

There are times when my day doesn't end until the next day!

Also, just because we're 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 state 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 for serving as a state representative is $11,600. I receive half of that on January 15 and the other half on February 15.

The Indiana Constitution allows state lawmakers to receive a per diem, or daily allowance. During session, I receive $109 a day and I receive $25 a day for legislative business conducted during the interim, or out-of-session timeframe. 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 during session to pay for food, phone calls, driving to meetings and other related expenses.

As to working hours, there is no set schedule. I receive phone calls at 7 o'clock Saturday morning and at 10 o'clock Wednesday night. Although Indiana does have a "part-time legislature," I am on the job year-round.

What do Indiana Legislators do for a Living?

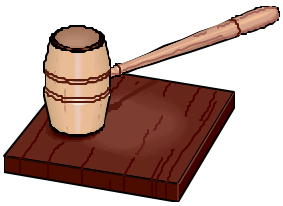
Indiana has what is called a part-time citizen legislature. Indiana lawmakers live, work and raise a family in the district they represent. The state legislature is in session only two to four months a year, which allows lawmakers to spend a great deal of their time at home -- in the community they represent.

Here's a breakdown of the full-time jobs of Indiana's 100 State Representatives:

- 12 attorneys
- 19 involved in business
- 5 realtors
- 7 teachers
- 1 nurse
- 1 insurance agent
- 1 involved in local government
- 12 retirees
- 13 self-employed/family business
- 3 farmers
- 2 funeral directors
- 2 physicians
- 1 police officer
- 2 bankers
- 18 other various occupations
- 1 homemaker

Here's a breakdown of the full-time jobs of Indiana's 50 state senators:

- 8 attorneys
- 7 small business owners
- 6 corporate managers
- 5 educators
- 1 nurse
- 4 self-employed consultants
- 1 homemaker/biochemist
- 2 veterinarians
- 5 retirees
- 2 contractors
- 3 farmers
- 1 funeral director
- 1 builder
- 1 self-employed
- 1 pharmacist
- 1 foundation director
- 1 secretary/treasurer



What are the requirements to be a state legislator?

To be a state legislator, you must --

- ★ be a citizen of the United States
- ★ have lived in Indiana for the two years prior to the election you are running in
- ★ be at least a one-year resident of the district you are running to represent
- ★ be at least 25 years old to run for the Indiana Senate
- ★ be at least 21 years old to run for the Indiana House

Facts About Your State Government

THE STATE CAPITOL

- Corydon was Indiana's state capitol before it was moved to Indianapolis in 1825. The original capitol cost $3,000 to build and is now a State Historical Site.
- The current state capitol was completed in 1888 and cost the state $1,980,969.
- The Statehouse dome is 105 feet high to the stained glass dome. It is another 130 feet to the top of the Statehouse.
- In the Statehouse rotunda, large statues represent the hallmarks of civilization: the statues represent Law, Oratory, Justice, Agriculture, Art, Commerce, Liberty and History.
- The state started renovating the Statehouse in 1986 to coincide with its centennial. It was decided that the interior of the capitol should look as it had in 1888. The Statehouse renovation was completed in 1988 at a cost of $10,937,292.

THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Executive: The executive branch administers the state government and enforces state laws. This branch of government consists of 8 Constitutional offices which are elected by the citizens of Indiana. These offices are: Governor (Frank O'Bannon), Lieutenant Governor (Joe Kernan), Secretary of State (Sue Anne Gilroy), State Treasurer (Tim Berry), State Auditor (Connie Nass), Attorney General (Steve Carter), Clerk of the Courts (Brian Bishop) and Superintendent of Public Instruction (Suellen Reed). This branch also consists of over 70 state agencies, boards and commissions that report to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Legislative: 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 State Senate. Indiana's General Assembly is a part-time legislature, meaning, its members are only in session for a few months each year. However, the members of the General Assembly and their staff work for constituents year-round.

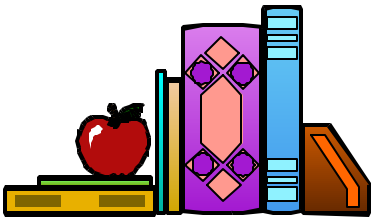
Judicial: The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court. It is the job of the judicial branch to uphold the laws of the state and our nation.

HOUSE

- With 100 state representatives, this is the larger of the two legislative bodies.
- Each state representative represents approximately 60,000 Hoosiers and is elected to two-year terms.
- The Speaker of the House presides over the members when in session.

SENATE

- With 50 state senators, the Senate is the smaller of the two legislative bodies.
- Each state senator represents approximately 120,000 Hoosiers, and is elected to four-year terms.
- The Lieutenant Governor presides over the Senate and may cast tie-breaking votes.



Government Glossary

This vocabulary list should help you understand the ins and outs of Indiana government.

★**Amendment** -- A change to one of the bills the House or Senate is considering.

★**Author** -- The representative or senator who introduces a bill.

★**Bill** -- The actual proposal legislators introduce.

★**Chamber** -- One of the two legislative bodies in our state; either the Senate or the House

★**Committee** -- A group of lawmakers chosen to study bills about a specific subject. For example, the House Education Committee looks at all bills addressing Indiana schools.

★**Democrat** -- One of the two main political parties in Indiana. This party's symbol is the donkey.

★**Districts** -- The area a lawmaker represents. Indiana has 100 House districts and 50 Senate districts.

★**Governor** -- The chief executive of Indiana.

★**House of Representatives** -- Also known as the House. One of the two bodies of the General Assembly. The House has 100 members.

★**Interim** -- The time between sessions of the General Assembly.

★**Laws** -- The rules we live by.

★**Legislature** -- Also referred to as the General Assembly. This is made up of the House and the Senate.

★**Lieutenant Governor** -- The second-in-command to the governor. Also the first-in-command of the Indiana Senate.

★**President Pro Tempore** -- The second-in-line of the Senate. (The first-in-line is the Lieutenant Governor.) This person presides over 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.

★**Representative** -- One of the 100 members elected to a two-year term in the House of Representatives.

★**Republican** -- One of the two main political parties. The symbol of this party is the elephant.

★**Senate** -- Refers to one of the two bodies making up the state legislature. There are 50 members of the Senate.

★**Senator** -- One of the 50 members elected to a four-year term in the Senate.

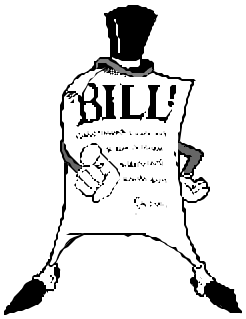
★**Session** -- The two-year term for each General Assembly. In odd-numbered years, session (known as a long session) must end by April 29. In even-numbered years, the short session must end by March 14.

★**Speaker** -- He or she presides over the House. The Speaker is always from the party in control of the House.

★**Sponsor** -- This is the person in the House who signs on to Senate bills and the senator who signs on to House bills to make sure they get through the other chamber.

★**Veto** -- When the governor refuses to allow a bill to become a law.

★**Vote** -- How bills are approved.



"How does a bill become a law?"

1. Bill Introduction
The first step in creating the laws we live by is for a representative or senator 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 representatives and senators 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 what's good and bad about the bill. The public can attend a committee meeting and offer input on the proposal. After hearing public testimony and talking about the bill, the committee will decide if it's one that should become law. At this time, they can make any necessary 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
Once a bill has been approved by a committee, legislators receive a copy of it at least two days before second reading. The author or any legislator can try to amend, or change the bill. A majority (half plus one) 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, which is 51 votes in the House and 26 votes in the Senate, is needed to approve a bill.

6. The Other Chamber
If the bill is approved in the house of origin, it moves to the second 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.

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's sent to the governor.
(B)If the bill is amended in the second 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's sent to the governor.
(C)The bill can be killed.

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 seven days. Legislators can override vetoes with a majority vote.

IF A BILL MAKES IT HERE, IT'S A LAW!

Indiana Facts and Trivia

Population

The state ranks 14th in the nation in terms of population. According to the latest statistics, Indiana's population is 5,942,901.

State Flower

The state flower, adopted in 1957, is the peony.

State Bird

Adopted by the 1933 Indiana General Assembly, the state bird is the cardinal.

State Song

Written by Paul Dresser and adopted in 1913, the state song is "On the Banks of the Wabash."

"Oh, the moonlight's fair tonight along the Wabash,
From the fields there comes the breath of new mown hay.
Thro' the sycamores the candle lights are gleaming,
On the banks of the Wabash, far away."

State River

The Wabash River is the official state river, under action taken by the 1996 Indiana General Assembly.

State Seal

Officially adopted by the 1963 Indiana General Assembly, the state seal depicts a pioneer scene: a woodsman is felling a tree, a buffalo is fleeing from the sound of the axe and the sun is gleaming over a distant hill.

The seal has been in use since 1801, even though it wasn't officially adopted until 1963.

The significance of the state seal is that it portrays “how the early people of Indiana overcame the wilderness.”

Our State Flag

The rays symbolize far-reaching influence.

The torch represents liberty and enlightenment.

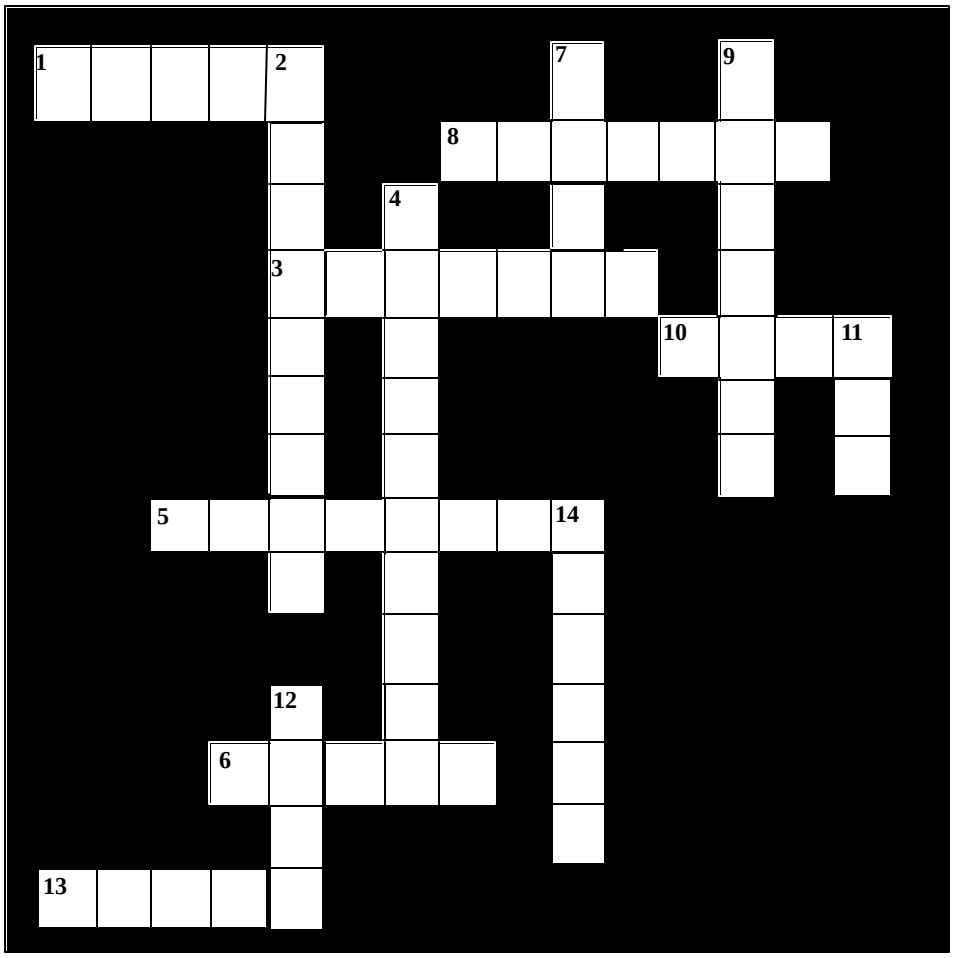
★ The 13 stars in the outer circle around the torch signify the 13 original states.

★ The 5 stars in the inner arc by the torch symbolize the next 5 states admitted to the union.

★ The star above the torch stands for Indiana, which was the 19th state to join the union.

Your State Government

See how well you know your state government by completing the crossword puzzle!



Across

1. Indiana has ____ branches of government.

3. Hoosier city in which the original state capitol was located.

5. This person is the chief executive of Indiana.

6. All bills dealing with fiscal issues must originate in the _____.

8. Presiding member of the House.

10. The first phase in creating a law is to write a __.

13. To change a bill is to _____ it.

Down

2. Branch in which the State Treasurer 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.

State or Federal?

For each of the following, write "T" if the statement is True
or
"F" if the statement is False.

_____ 1. State lawmakers work and live in Washington, D.C.

_____ 2. State lawmakers are called "Congressmen."

_____ 3. You should call your state representative or senator if you have a federal problem.

_____ 4. State representatives or senators are full-time lawmakers and don't have other jobs.

_____ 5. The governor is a federal official.

_____ 6. The federal and state governments can both make laws that we live by.

_____ 7. I can vote for my state and federal officials when I turn 18.

STATEHOUSE SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the following words.
(Hint: Each word has something to do with Indiana government.)

1. tove _____
2. slaw _____
3. natese _____
4. slilb _____
5. mtemtecoi _____
6. groveron _____
7. shueo _____
8. iiaannd _____
9. ranepubcli _____
10. dratemoc _____

Answers

Answers to
"State or Federal?"

1. ***False.*** State lawmakers live in Indianapolis during the legislative session, but live and work in the district they represent. Federal lawmakers work and live in Washington, D.C.

2. ***False***. Federal representatives are called Congressmen, state representatives are called Representative and state and federal senators are called Senator.

3. ***False.*** You should call your state representative or senator if you have a state-related problem and your U.S. Senator or Congressman if you have a federal problem.

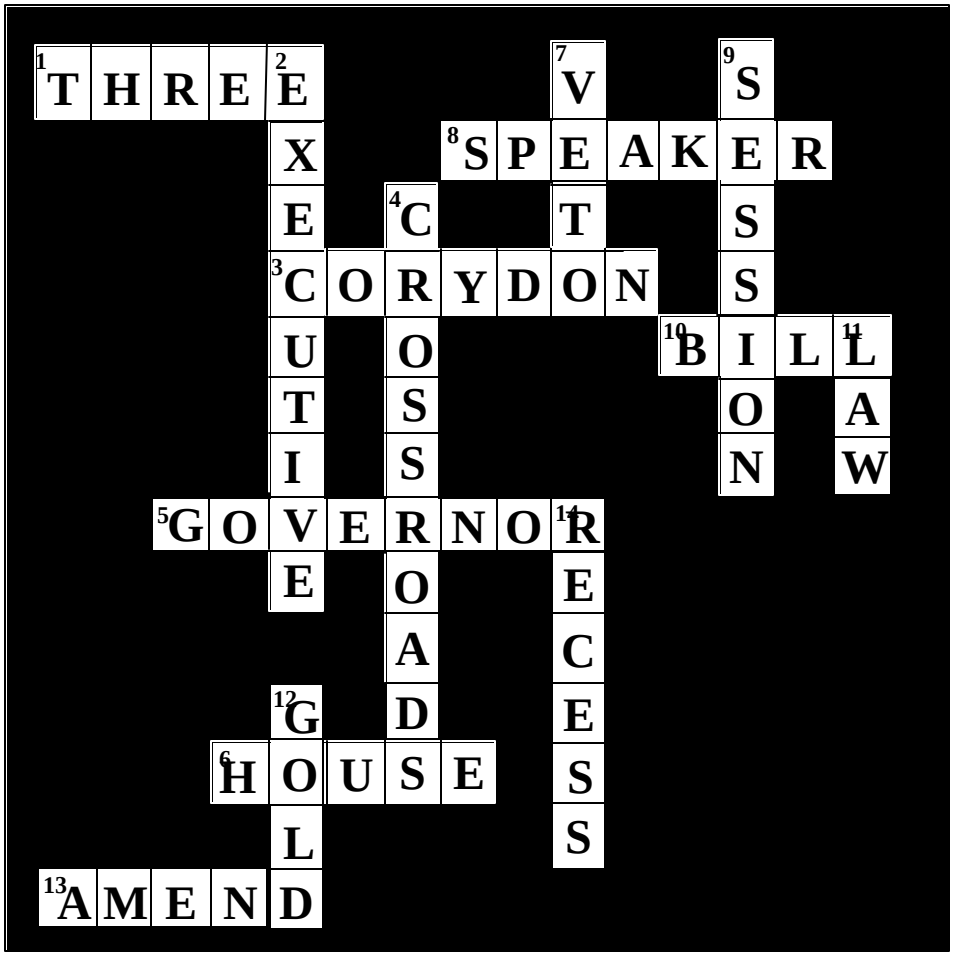
4. ***False.*** State representatives and senators are citizen legislators, which means that they keep a full-time job while serving as a lawmaker. Federal officials are full-time lawmakers who usually don't have other jobs, because the demands of serving in the federal government are so great.

5. ***False.*** The governor is a state official.

6. ***True.*** Both the federal and state governments make laws that we live by.

7. ***True.*** When you turn 18, you have the right to vote in primaries and general elections for local, state and federal officials.

Answers to
Your State Government



Answers to ...

1. vote or veto
2. laws
3. senate
4. bills
5. committee
6. governor
7. house
8. indiana
9. republican
10. democrat

Produced by
the Republican Communication Division,
Indiana House of Representatives, 2002