



Connecting with Comptroller Elise Nieshalla

2026 Legislative Session Wins

The Comptroller's Office administers **Hoosier START** – the State's deferred compensation plan – and we are pleased to share that our efforts to **increase the match amount in a budget-neutral manner** for state employees was successful. This provision, as part of **Senate Bill 14**, received unanimous support in both chambers with an effective date of January 2027. The state match, originally set 26 years ago at \$15 per paycheck, may now increase up to \$28 per paycheck with Budget Committee approval – an amount that reflects the present-day value of the original match.

This improvement will help encourage long-term retirement savings at a time when Social Security is projected to face automatic benefit reductions in the 2030s. Agencies are now working together on implementation timelines and communications. Our office will share updates with employees later this year as details are finalized.

Another win includes **new flexibility for local units of government in the use of state-collected excise tax revenues** that our office distributes to counties, cities and towns, which equated to over \$593 million in 2025.

Indiana Champions National Debt Reform Effort

Comptroller Nieshalla, as chair of the National Debt Crisis Task Force of State Financial Officers Foundation, encouraged Indiana legislators to pass a resolution on the seriousness of the national debt, modeled after U.S. Senate Resolution 600 that our Governor, then-Senator, Mike Braun authored and passed with unanimous support in 2024. The Indiana Senate passed that resolution (SR 51) last session with overwhelming bipartisan support, and this session, the House unanimously passed a similar resolution (HR 28).

Our office recently **convened**, along with Governor Braun, legislative leaders and national partners to highlight Indiana's leadership in urging federal action on the \$38 trillion national debt through their resolutions. In addition, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has adopted Indiana's resolution as a national model, and legislatures in 10 other states are working toward passage, with more expected to follow. This growing momentum marks an important step in building a movement from the states to restore the country's fiscal solvency.



FY 2025 State Financial Report Released – It's Good to be a Hoosier

The 2025 **State of Indiana's Financial Report** highlights another strong fiscal year of stewarding taxpayer dollars. Commonsense leadership sustained healthy reserves, a balanced budget, well-funded pensions, a AAA credit rating, and the rank of 4th lowest debt per capita among states.

State general revenues grew 6.8% to \$26.4 billion, even with the scheduled incremental decrease in the State's income tax rate. Indiana ended the year with a \$676 million surplus (evidence of our balanced budget) which folds into \$2.5 billion in reserves that stand ready in case of a major crisis to cover up to 40 days of operations. This healthy reserve amount contributes largely toward Indiana earning a AAA credit rating. As one of just 13 states to have earned the highest rating from all three major credit rating agencies, Hoosiers can count on the stable financial foundation of the State of Indiana.

New this year, the **Indiana Transparency Portal**, managed by the State Comptroller's Office in partnership with the Management Performance Hub (MPH) and the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT), will expand to provide information on how federal funds are spent in Indiana to further strengthen ease of public access to this important financial data.

Engagement with Local Leaders

We appreciate the quality time we have to meet with local officials individually and at gatherings. At the Association of Indiana Counties Conference, we discussed shared priorities and efforts to streamline financial processes. At the Accelerate Indiana Municipalities Legislative Dinner, we further engaged with mayors, clerk-treasurers and council members who put to work the tax revenues we distribute to them in service to their cities and towns.

These relationships are essential, and our office remains committed to clear communication, timely distributions and strong collaboration with local governments.



Media Highlights

