



The Torch

The official newsletter for State of Indiana employees

February 2026



Governor Mike Braun delivers 2026 State of the State address on January 27.

Gov. Mike Braun delivers 2026 State of the State address

Governor Mike Braun delivered his 2026 State of the State address on January 27, focusing on affordability, economic growth, and continued investments in Hoosier workers and families. He highlighted Indiana's strong GDP growth, rising wages, and new job

commitments across the state. The Governor also emphasized efforts to improve affordability.

Read the Governor's full remarks: <https://events.in.gov/event/gov-mike-brauns-2026-state-of-the-state-address>

Greetings from the Governor



Watch Governor Braun's latest [video message](#) to State of Indiana employees.

Individual Income tax filings now open

Article by the Indiana Dept. of Revenue

The Indiana Department of Revenue (DOR), along with the IRS, started accepting filings for 2025 Individual Income tax returns on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026. Unless you are filing an extension, the deadline to file state and federal income tax returns and pay any due taxes is Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

The Torch is published monthly by the Indiana State Personnel Department and is available online at on.in.gov/TheTorch.

Want more content?

Check out the State of Indiana on LinkedIn and Facebook and @WorkForIndiana on X and Instagram.

Have a story?

Submit your story ideas to: spdcommunications@spd.in.gov

Virtual workshops to help you meet your goals



Article by the Indiana State Personnel Department

The Indiana State Personnel Department (INSPD) offers virtual workshops for all State of Indiana employees to engage with resources, skills, and strategies presented by INSPD subject-matter experts.

To review the Learning Objectives and a brief overview of these workshops, visit the workshops link. To register for a virtual workshop, please visit the class registration page in SuccessFactors Learning or select the class you wish to attend below. Registration will open a couple weeks before the workshop date.

Please direct any questions to the INSPD Learning and Development team at SPDtraining@spd.in.gov.

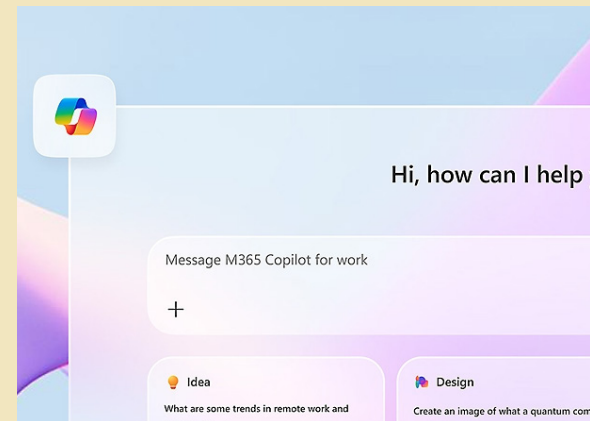
- Tuesday, March 24, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
[Fostering & Pursuing Continuous Employee Development*](#)
- Tuesday, March 24, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
[Engaging in Effective Feedback as an Employee](#)
- Wednesday, March 25, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
[Measuring Progress and Utilizing Feedback as an Employee*](#)
- Wednesday, March 25, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
[Conducting Effective Evaluations as an Employee*](#)

*Please make sure to complete the [Performance & Goals: Foundations of Effective Evaluation](#) prerequisite before registering.

Access your W-2 in Employee Self Service

Tax season is here, and your W-2 is ready when you are. Employees can view and download their W-2 directly through [Employee Self-Service in PeopleSoft](#). Just select the **Payroll** tile and navigate to **W-2/W-2c Forms** to access your information anytime.

AI is coming to State Government this month



Article by the Indiana Office of Technology

The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) is excited to announce it will begin an enterprise-wide rollout of Microsoft Copilot AI Chat beginning on February 13, 2026.

Copilot Chat will be available to users at no additional cost and is a great tool for increasing productivity, accuracy, and efficiency. All users will be assigned a SuccessFactors AI Training Module, to be completed within 30 days. Users will have access to Copilot Chat within 48 hours of completing the module. Be on the lookout for additional details from IOT coming soon.

Prioritize your health - Schedule your preventive screenings today

Article by the Indiana State Personnel Department

Getting regular preventive care checkups can help you stay well, catch problems early, and may even save your life. Most preventive care is covered at 100% with in-network providers.

Earn Wellness Rewards

Eligible employees and spouses can earn [Wellness Rewards](#) for completing preventive care screenings. To earn the reward, each activity must be visible in your [Mobile Health Consumer Rewards Center](#) by December 31, 2026. Service or activity must be completed in 2026. It can take up to four weeks for Anthem claims or submissions like your Annual Physical Results form to be processed.



Don't wait, schedule these preventive screenings today:

- [Annual Physical](#): Earn \$200 in Wellness Rewards
- [Eye Exam](#): Earn \$50 in Wellness Rewards
- [Dental Exam & Cleaning](#): Earn \$50 in Wellness Rewards
- [Cancer Screening](#): Earn \$50 in Wellness Rewards per eligible screening
- [Vaccines](#): Earn \$25 per eligible vaccine (max. \$100)

[View the full list of wellness rewards activities.](#)

Health Assessment Battle results

The 2026 [Wellness Rewards Program](#) started with an opportunity to earn \$50 in wellness rewards with the Health Assessment Battle! The Health Assessment Battle ended on Jan. 31.

Winning agencies

- Mastodon: **Dept. of Child Services with 33.88% completion**
- Bison: **Bureau of Motor Vehicles with 44.92% completion**
- Cardinal: **State Board of Accounts with 69.03% completion**
- Firefly: **Indiana Finance Authority with 78.26% completion**

Note: Winners should see their \$25 Health Assessment Battle reward in the Mobile Health Consumer portal by Friday, Feb. 27.

[Visit the Health Assessment Battle webpage for full details.](#)

Sign up for individual health coaching through Anthem

Health coaches can help you make healthy changes in exercise, diet, sleep, mindfulness, work-life balance, tobacco cessation, weight management, or other areas you want to focus on. You set the priorities, and the health coach provides information and suggests small changes to get you where you want to be.

You can meet one-on-one with a health coach in person, by phone, or through a virtual visit. Your health coach will work with you

to create a personalized plan. Sessions last 20 to 30 minutes and are scheduled every two to four weeks.

Call your Anthem Family Advocate at 877-814-9709 to schedule an appointment or check with your HR to see if on-site coaching is offered at your worksite.

Eligible employees and spouses can earn up to \$100 in [wellness rewards](#) for



completing individual health coaching sessions! You can earn \$20 for each completed session, up to \$100 or five sessions annually.