



2023

GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

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INTRODUCTION TO STATE GOVERNMENT

The United States was designed to be a country where excessive political power could never accumulate in one place. To do this, our founders implemented a system known as “federalism” where powers are distributed among several levels of government.

First, there is the federal government in Washington. It is America's national government. Next are the state governments, followed by local governments at the city, town, and county levels.

While the federal government often receives the most media focus, the most meaningful impact is made at the state and local level. The Indiana Family Institute wants to help all Hoosiers better understand our state’s government so that it can truly belong to the people, not the politicians.

Indiana has three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. This is identical to the structure of the federal government.

Headed by the Governor, Indiana’s executive branch ensures that laws passed by the legislature are carried out. State Police patrol Indiana and prosecutor’s offices bring alleged law breakers before the courts. Dozens of regulatory agencies such as the Department of Child Services and the Department of health handle all sorts of government functions.

Indiana’s legislative branch is called the General Assembly, and is similar to the U.S. Congress. It meets in the Statehouse in Indianapolis. The General Assembly has two houses, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. These are also known as the two chambers.

Members of the General Assembly are known as representatives or senators. They can also be collectively referred to as legislators. The House has 100 representatives who each represent about 65,000 citizens and serve two-year terms.

The Senate is smaller, with 50 senators serving four-year terms. They each represent about 130,000 Hoosiers.

Indiana is divided into House and Senate districts, and each resident has one state representative and one state senator. The people in each legislator’s district are known as their constituents.

INTRODUCTION TO STATE GOVERNMENT

The General Assembly passes new laws for Indiana. A newly proposed bill will be read before whichever chamber it originated in for the “First Reading” and will then be assigned to the appropriate committee. Committees are small groups of legislators who specialize in specific areas of expertise. If a proposed bill passes the committee, it goes before the full chamber again for Second and Third Readings where any member can offer amendments (or changes) to the bill.

Bills that gain a majority of votes in the originating chamber must then go through the same process in the other chamber. A bill can be dropped at any step in this process for a variety of reasons.

Successful bills go to the governor for approval. The governor can reject a bill, which is called a veto. However, the General Assembly can easily override a veto and allow a bill to become law anyway.

Indiana also has a judicial branch with several levels. The first level is the trial courts, followed by the Court of Appeals, and lastly the Indiana Supreme Court. State courts handle most crimes and violations of state laws. In addition to the state judiciary, there is also a federal judiciary with courts of its own. Some of the matters decided there have great impact within Indiana.

Separately, there are local entities such as the governments of cities, counties, and townships. Local school boards are also important elected bodies.

The Indiana Family Institute works for all citizens to keep all these lawmakers and other elected officials accountable, and to promote the commonsense values held by Indiana residents!

ELECTED OFFICES IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Governor

The Governor of Indiana is the highest ranking official in the state. Compared to governors of other states, Indiana's Governor is much weaker and the state legislature much stronger. Nevertheless, the influence of the Governor and his agenda is still the most impactful of any single individual in the state. The Governor is elected by the people every four years.

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is elected on the same ticket as the Governor every four years and assumes the governorship should it become vacant. The last time this occurred was in 2003 following the death of Governor Frank O'Bannon, who was succeeded by Lieutenant Governor Joe Kernan. The Lieutenant Governor also serves as President of the Senate. This role becomes very important if there is a tie vote among the 50 state senators. This is the only case where they may vote.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is Indiana's chief election officer and has several other responsibilities related to business and finances. The Secretary of State is tasked with making sure campaigns are run lawfully and results are certified in a proper manner. The Secretary of State is elected every four years.

Attorney General

The Attorney General is Indiana's head lawyer, representing the state in all matters where the state has a legal interest. The Attorney General also advises elected officials on constitutional and legal matters.

State Treasurer

The Treasurer manages all state finances for Indiana. The position is elected every four years.

State Auditor

The Auditor ensures that state funds and revenue are managed and invested properly. The Auditor does not make decisions regarding finances as the treasurer does but makes sure all financial practices in state government are above board. The Auditor is elected every four years.

STATE AGENCIES

Indiana has nearly 100 state agencies. Most Hoosiers will never interact with many of these agencies as they exist mainly to perform narrow roles that keep state government running smoothly. However, in the case of the major agencies, Indiana residents could benefit from a greater familiarity. Nine such agencies are included in this guide.

Department of Child Services (DCS)

In 2019, over 16,000 Indiana children were in foster care. Adjusted for population, this is a higher rate than any neighboring states and is partly driven by the devastating opioid epidemic across Indiana.

The work of Indiana's Department of Child Services, an agency of over 4,400 people, is critical if the problems facing Indiana's children are to be alleviated. DCS investigates reports of child abuse and neglect. They can obtain court permission to remove a child from their parent's or guardian's custody, temporarily or permanently.

A child can end up under the guardianship of other relatives, such as their grandparents, or may end up in foster care. Children in the foster system are cared for by willing families on a temporary basis. It is best when children are adopted by a permanent family. Unfortunately, many children remain in foster care until they turn 18. At this age many state services end.

The stated policy of DCS is to avoid removal in the first place. They administer financial aid to families and help give access to programs for mental health, substance abuse, and parenting skills.

At the Indiana Family Institute, due to our concern for religious liberty, we are monitoring and combatting attempts to redefine child abuse. There have been cases of child service agencies in Indiana and elsewhere intervening when parents hold traditional views on LGBTQ issues. For example, many parents don't want their child to undergo so-called sex reassignment surgery and instead respond to the situation biblically and truthfully. This is not child abuse, but good parenting. Those who value parental rights must oppose the ideologically-driven redefinition of child abuse.

In response to rather poor measures of well being for Indiana's children, lawmakers have steadily increased the DCS budget over the past decade. It stands at \$1.3 million for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Ultimately we can never cure the problems facing Indiana's children with money alone. Families must be strong spiritually to best meet a child's needs. These conditions will only come about if strong churches and ministries form Indiana's foundation.

There is abundant room for DCS to help, but lasting solutions will come from people living out their faith. For the sake of vulnerable children, Hoosiers must follow Psalm 82:3, "Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute."

STATE AGENCIES

Working with DCS to Adopt or Foster a Child

James 1:27 tells us “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction.”

Adoptive or foster parents can bring Christ’s love into the darkness of our fallen world. Adoptive parents take a child into their care permanently, gaining all the rights of biological parents. Foster parents care for children, often multiple, temporarily while the child waits to be adopted or, if possible, returned to their original family.

Parents who adopt through the Indiana Adoption Program, a partner of the Department of Child Services (DCS), are using a public agency adoption. There are also private agency adoptions, international adoptions, and independent adoptions. Public agency adoptions are the most affordable, only costing an average of \$1,500 according to the North American Council on Adoptable Children. The other types of adoption can cost anywhere from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Working with a state agency isn’t always easy and bureaucratic red tape can feel unnecessarily punishing. As with any dealing with the government, persistence eventually pays off. Finding the right people who know how to navigate you through the process is essential.

Thankfully, many churches work to connect willing families with the children who need them. DCS has thousands of church and ministry partners throughout the state. They help parents through the adoption and fostering process, provide them with financial support, and supply ample donation items.

Psalm 139:13-14 reminds us that God created every child in His image. “You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Many children in our own Indiana communities are without parents to treat them wonderfully. Amidst the countless overwhelming problems in our culture, God often provides us ways to be part of His solution. For many families, adoption and fostering, or assisting families who do so, can be just that contribution.

STATE AGENCIES

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

The Department of Natural Resources cares for large portions of Indiana's land, preserving it for the benefit of Hoosiers and wildlife. DNR protects state landmarks from the 60-foot high Clifty Falls, to the Indiana Dunes by Lake Michigan, to the historic pioneer village at Spring Mill.

DNR land can be divided into several categories. The 24 state parks and 15 state forests offer numerous recreational activities such as hiking, camping, and boating. The 23 fish and wildlife areas protect the habitats of many animals and are also for the benefit of residents and are open for fishing and hunting within regulations.

Nearly 300 nature preserves are operated by DNR. These areas qualify for more stringent protection than state parks and forests as they often contain rare plants, animals, or natural features. Many sites of historical and cultural value are also under DNR's care.

DNR enforces regulations to keep Indiana land safe, including laws on hunting and land use by the public. Many activities like camping, boating, and hunting require permits. DNR has its own branch of law enforcement, in which members are known as Conservation Officers.

DNR keeps a watchful eye over plants and animals, monitoring for invasive species and other threats. Reliable methods of timber harvesting are also used by DNR to improve forest health.

DNR employs over 1,100 individuals. The DNR budget has remained fairly consistent, sitting at around \$174 million per year. The only exception is for the 2021-2022 fiscal year where a large boost in federal funding brought the total budget up to \$277 million.

Appreciation for the environment can at times take on a political bent which elevates nature over humanity, but this is far different from DNR's purpose. DNR makes sure beautiful lands are kept that way for years to come. This work is a blessing to Hoosiers, because spending time in nature can remind us of the immensity of God's powers.

The Bible tells us that the natural world itself testifies to the existence and greatness of God: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that [all people] are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

STATE AGENCIES

Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA)

Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration comes alongside families to help them live prosperous lives. It administers many of the welfare benefits given to Hoosiers.

Welfare comes from both federal and state programs. Federal programs are largely funded by the federal government, but states have flexibility on how to implement these programs to meet local needs. Federal programs managed by FSSA include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid.

SNAP benefits, commonly called food stamps, help low-income families purchase food and incentivize healthier choices. TANF provides money to states to fund their own welfare programs. Indiana's FSSA uses TANF funds to help families with children under 18. Recipients are eligible for direct financial aid and childcare services.

Medicaid helps qualifying individuals access health care. It is funded jointly by the federal government and states. States have a lot of freedom in setting eligibility requirements, such as what income levels qualify, but other requirements need federal approval. Indiana recently attempted to implement a work requirement, but the Biden administration is not allowing it.

Several of FSSA's state level programs help elderly or disabled Hoosiers. Others provide childcare, food security, job training, addiction treatment, and mental health treatment.

FSSA employs nearly 4,000 people, and its budget sits around \$60 million.

The Bible encourages assistance to those in need. Proverbs 19:17 says, "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord." But the Bible also speaks on personal responsibility. In 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11, Paul is writing about people he has heard "walk in idleness, not busy at work." He says, "If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat."

Public policy must account for both truths. Financial aid and services truly can help, but at times the best way to help is by promoting responsibility over dependency. Also, churches and individuals can often meet a need much better than the government.

The Indiana Family Institute is encouraged by FSSA's emphasis on getting recipients employed. We hope FSSA and Indiana consistently support policies which are generous to the needy while also being mindful of the blessings that come through personal responsibility.

STATE AGENCIES

Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) and Public Universities in Indiana

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) is a group of 14 people who help set standards for the state's seven public university systems. Prominent examples include Ball State, Indiana University, and Purdue University. They stand in contrast to private universities like Butler University and Notre Dame, which do not receive the same state funding.

CHE has wide oversight of public universities. It must approve any new degrees or programs proposed by universities. This gives CHE the ability to influence the criteria for degrees and certifications and to keep standards consistent statewide. These criteria affect hard sciences like medicine and engineering more than the ideological content of liberal arts education.

State lawmakers ultimately decide how much money public universities get when they create Indiana's budget every two years. CHE advises lawmakers on this funding based on their ability to review all programs offered by universities. CHE also helps connect Hoosiers to scholarships and other opportunities to advance their educational and career goals.

All members of this commission are appointed by the Governor. CHE employs about 45 people and has a budget of around \$400 million per year. Much of this is for the scholarship programs administered by CHE.

Under the most recent Indiana budget, public universities receive over \$2 billion a year. The portion of a given university's total budget that comes from the state varies. 17% of Indiana University's budget comes from the state, but for Vincennes University, that number is 68%. Regardless, all public universities rely heavily on the millions they receive from the state.

Indiana and other states should ask themselves whether the funding they provide to these public universities is the right decision anymore. It is true that higher education is critical for the job market, but it is also true that the ideologies being propagated by many public universities have become increasingly hostile to the patriotic and God-fearing values held by most Americans.

Professors have a right to their own beliefs, but they shouldn't be receiving billions of dollars in money from Hoosier taxpayers to spread radical ideologies. They are paid to teach, not preach. The Indiana General Assembly and CHE, with their powers over curriculum, could consider doing more to ensure that universities receiving state funding are more in line with state values, while still maintaining appropriate academic freedom.

Higher education can be a great source of job creation and knowledge. Many universities, however, are forgetting what has always made America great, our foundation on Godly principles. They instead teach students that America is not to be loved, that God is a myth, and that self-indulgence is the ultimate virtue. This is in sharp contrast to the only source of true wisdom, described in Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight" (Proverbs 9:10).

STATE AGENCIES

Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC)

The Indiana Department of Correction manages the state prison system and its inmates. As of January 2021, IDOC operated 18 adult prisons with a total inmate population of nearly 25,000. They also operate 3 juvenile prisons with a population of 259. Many other Indiana inmates are incarcerated at the local level.

IDOC allows prisoners to pursue a meaningful life while incarcerated. IDOC contracts with schools and colleges so inmates can advance their education, and can obtain literacy training, a high school equivalency diploma, a college degree, and vocational training.

Inmates can be employed while in prison. Jobs offer minimal pay and often relate to prison housekeeping tasks like laundry and cooking. Other jobs can be paired with vocational training like welding and furniture making. Interestingly, a conference table in the Indiana governor's office was made by Westville Correctional Facility inmates.

IDOC provides health care to inmates. There are programs for mental health and addiction struggles as well as ones focused on topics such as parenting, finances, and community service.

These benefits can be advantageous to society at large. Helping inmates better themselves can increase their chances to re-enter their communities successfully. Nearly 34% of Indiana inmates are repeat offenders. Focusing on rehabilitation while inmates are incarcerated can decrease recidivism and bring down crime.

IDOC employs over 5,300 individuals, more than any other Indiana state agency. Many employees are correctional officers, those tasked with guarding the inmates. The budget of IDOC has been steadily increasing for some time and is currently at \$359 million per year

Like all Americans, inmates retain their constitutional right to free exercise of religion. Prisoners can attend religious services and have the opportunity to be involved in faith-based programs. Multiple Christian ministries work with IDOC to offer spiritual services to inmates. Volunteers build relationships with inmates, listening to their experiences and sharing biblical truths.

The Indiana Family Institute appreciates the work IDOC does to keep our state safe and the desire they have to turn inmate's lives around for the better. We are thankful that rights to freely practice one's religion extend even into prison walls. The Bible says in Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." Turning to Christ does something that no degree, job, or character-building class can. It makes us a new creation with clean hearts. Embracing Jesus is the only guaranteed method of rehabilitation!

STATE AGENCIES

Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) oversees the primary and secondary public education system of grades K-12.

Indiana's legislature sets academic standards, but IDOE ensures they are met. Standards are geared towards preparing students for college, the workforce, and citizenship. They are achieved through a school's curriculum; the collective body of material students are taught. Curriculum can differ from school to school, but there are consistent aspects statewide.

The Indiana State Board of Education updates the curriculum every six years. While it is its own entity, IDOE plays a major role on the board. Indiana is one of only nine states which doesn't use national curriculum standards known as Common Core. Instead, our curriculum is created uniquely by Hoosier educators to best fit Indiana.

IDOE conducts annual tests called ILEARN to assess student's knowledge. These can be controversial, as some teachers feel like they must "teach to the test" instead of meeting the unique needs of each student. It can be argued, however, that if the tests are well-designed, "teaching to the test" is the point of the learning expected.

Indiana has an extensive school voucher system. Qualifying families can use the money they would be paying in taxes for public education to instead finance their child's education at a private or charter school. This enables families who are only able to afford public education to send their children to private and religious schools instead. The state invested \$173 million in the voucher program in 2020.

IDOE employs only about 200 people, but thousands of teachers are influenced by their efforts. The IDOE budget, which supports public education, has consistently increased over time and currently is about \$9 billion per year.

The Indiana Family Institute sees IDOE as a battle ground in the war for our children's minds. Many activists want to use agencies like IDOE, along with school boards and ultimately the classroom, to indoctrinate children with views that do not match Hoosier values. These include historically ignorant visions of America, unbiblical views on sex and gender, and a worldview built on struggle between people who don't look the same.

IFI encourages IDOE, along with schools and educators everywhere, to teach children the truth, not political ideologies. Students of faith must be welcomed, and children must be taught to love America and their fellow Americans, not to see them as members of opposing identity groups. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us how critical it is to lead children along the right path: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." It is essential for the future of this state and for the well-being of our children that Indiana gets this right!

STATE AGENCIES

Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD)

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development strives to keep Indiana's economy strong by helping Hoosiers find the right jobs.

DWD is where Hoosiers file unemployment claims. Those who qualify receive Unemployment Insurance, financial aid which comes from the federal and state government. It is funded through taxes on employers. These benefits are designed to help people get by when they have lost a job through no fault of their own. In Indiana, you can receive this aid for up to 26 weeks if you are actively searching for a job.

It is critical that policy is structured in such a way that unemployment benefits are not a disincentive from returning to work. During COVID-19, for example, there was a massive increase in unemployment, causing state and federal governments to increase benefits. Indiana rolled some of these back when the economy began to recover, but the Biden administration has left many expanded federal benefits in place for longer than is helpful. Many people are making enough from unemployment that they are not incentivized to go back to work. Jobs in the service industry are going unfilled, causing harm to businesses.

Prior to the pandemic, Indiana's unemployment rate was just over 3%. In April 2020, it jumped to 17%, an unprecedented number in recent history. It is now closer to pre-pandemic levels of about 4%.

DWD places a heavy focus on assisting job seekers, providing links to several job listing resources on its website, [in.gov/dwd/](https://www.in.gov/dwd/). DWD also makes basic education and job training more available by vetting and providing information on available programs. DWD operates in-person WorkOne Career Centers across the state for those seeking services.

DWD employs over 1,200 individuals. The DWD budget has sat around \$500 million for several years. Due to COVID-related needs, the budget was increased to \$1.1 billion for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The Indiana Family Institute believes hard work is critical to a meaningful life and a prosperous state. DWD must remember that working is essential and the need for meaningful employment must not be replaced by government aid. God has given everyone unique abilities which we must take advantage of to provide for ourselves and live responsibly. No matter what job has been made available to you and the amount of prestige it may or may not have in the world's eyes, the Bible tells us, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Colossians 3:23).

STATE AGENCIES

Indiana State Department of Health (IDOH)

The Indiana State Department of Health (IDOH) performs a variety of functions to improve the health and safety of Hoosiers.

IDOH's top priority has been identified as reducing infant mortality. In 2019, we were the 14th worst state with 6.5 deaths per 1,000 births, compared to a national average of 5.6 deaths. The good news is that this is a historic low for Indiana, which had been in the 7 to 9 range for the past two decades. IDOH's Labor of Love campaign educates and reaches out to current and expecting mothers on how to best care for their baby during and after pregnancy.

Indiana has been hard hit by the Opioid Epidemic. 4,000 Hoosiers have died in the last decade from addictions to illegal drugs like heroin and fentanyl as well as prescription painkillers like oxycodone and morphine. State and federal agencies, including IDOH, have coordinated to take on this epidemic. The state has increased the number of opioid treatment programs and made Narcan, an overdose-reversing medication, more easily accessible.

IDOH also has significant control over what vaccines are required for Hoosiers, particularly for children to attend school. Religious and medical exemptions are available.

IDOH has been heavily involved in the state's response to COVID-19. It advises the Governor on pandemic policy and informs the public on restrictions and safety guidelines. IDOH collects COVID data such as case and death rates.

Some see health officials at IDOH as exactly the people Indiana needed to listen to during the pandemic, but others are more critical. To some, the actions of federal and state health departments are a classic example of bureaucratic overreach. It was felt they made decisions that only elected officials or localities should make. In Indiana criticism fell on Governor Holcomb for allowing this. Others, however, viewed the responses of the Governor and IDOH as perfectly appropriate considering the urgency of the situation.

IDOH employs about 800 people. For the past 15 years, IDOH's budget has fluctuated in the range of \$284 million to \$366 million per year. In 2021, it increased to \$535 million to meet the challenges posed by COVID.

State employees should never supersede the right of elected officials to govern and the rights of individual Hoosiers to make decisions for themselves. Nevertheless, there is ample opportunity for IDOH to promote a healthier Indiana. Whether it be through saving an infant in the womb or a person trapped by drug addiction, IDOH can help align our state with 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body."

STATE AGENCIES

Indiana State Police (ISP)

The Indiana State Police work to keep law-abiding Hoosiers safe and criminal activity at bay. While ISP is the statewide police force, they regularly work with federal and local law enforcement as well.

ISP's state troopers regularly patrol and enforce road safety rules. In addition to routine traffic stops, ISP enforces compliance standards for commercial vehicles like semis.

ISP works to apprehend criminals and bring them to justice. It regularly conducts specialized investigations to root out unlawful activity in areas such as drug dealing, white collar corruption, crimes against children, and illegal internet activity. ISP acts on and triggers warnings concerning missing children and endangered adults, known as amber alerts and silver alerts.

ISP publicizes information on wanted suspects and often makes requests for information regarding unsolved crimes. Its website provides access to sex offender directories to inform Hoosiers of offenders living near their home. Criminal histories on a given individual can be requested from ISP.

ISP is also responsible for firearms licensing. While you don't need a license to own a gun in Indiana, you do need one to carry your firearm or to deal firearms.

ISP employs nearly 1,800 individuals. The ISP budget has steadily increased over time and sits at \$310 million for the current fiscal year.

ISP helps to fulfill the constitutional role of the executive branch to enforce law and order, and it also helps fulfill the biblical mandate of a righteous government described in Romans 13:3-4: "For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain."

In a time where culture is increasingly choosing false narratives over truth, particularly regarding police, Indiana must continue to support our law enforcement for a just and safe state!

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

How State Legislators Spend Their Time

Every workplace has a job description for employees, and the Indiana General Assembly is no different. Elected officials aren't in office to promote themselves, but to represent the people of Indiana and do what's best for the state.

Many citizens feel that lawmakers do not respond to their needs in an efficient or adequate manner. Many wonder how elected officials spend their time.

Interestingly, Indiana's state legislature is only part-time, in session for three to four months at the beginning of each year. For the rest of the year, lawmakers are in their home districts living among the people they represent. This is meant to give them a better pulse on what voters are facing in their daily lives. Ideally, they won't just represent their community, but they'll be part of their community. They won't just know about the issues; they'll experience them firsthand.

When not in session, state legislators attend events and speaking engagements, prepare bills for the next session, and monitor what's important to voters. The salary of a state legislature is limited, about \$29,000 per year, and they often have other jobs in their local communities.

When the General Assembly is in session, legislators work to have their bills passed into law. Most legislators usually file five to ten bills per session and then must work to shepherd them through the complicated legislative process. Very few will ever become law.

Legislators also influence many of their colleague's bills. They work on bills assigned to their own committees, offer amendments, and ultimately vote on bills that are brought before the full chamber.

The priorities of lawmakers vary greatly. A legislator's focus will be impacted by whether they're a Democrat or Republican and where they fall ideologically within the party. Their priorities will also depend on their constituents, as different communities face unique challenges. Ideally a legislator's priorities in the statehouse align with their promises on the campaign trail.

The Indiana Family Institute works to keep legislators committed to their number one job of standing for core Hoosier values. IFI will keep you informed when a legislator strays from their duties and begins looking out for themselves or for ideologies that don't represent our citizens.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Legislative Session

Indiana's elected officials are meant to be citizen lawmakers, people who live and work in their districts alongside the people they represent. To make sure this is the case, the Indiana General Assembly is a part-time legislature.

The legislative session occurs during the first few months of each year. The General Assembly rotates between short sessions, which occur during even numbered years, and long sessions, which occur during odd numbered years.

The short session begins in early January and must adjourn no later than March 15. The long session also begins in early January and doesn't have to close until April 30. Legislators use the long session to pass the state budget which will stay in effect for two years and funds all sorts of state agencies and public services. Budgets are usually the longest and most complicated bills. The 2021 Budget, for example, was 234 pages long and involved a total of \$37 billion.

Governors can also call a special session at any time they deem necessary. This could occur during a public emergency or if a necessary piece of legislation, like the budget, was not finished during the regular session.

An unusual situation occurred with the 2021 legislative session. Every ten years, state lawmakers use data from the US Census Bureau to redraw legislative districts within the state. Due to COVID-19, The Census Bureau was late on reporting its 2021 data, leading the Indiana General Assembly to extend its session all the way until November 15. Aside from planning to reconvene once the census data is received, it is acting as if adjourned in all other respects. Some fear state legislators will begin to use this ability to extend the session too often and that the General Assembly will turn into a full-time legislature.

For now, however, Indiana's state legislature retains its part-time nature, and House and Senate leaders have said they stand by this. Lawmakers typically cannot make a living purely from their job in the General Assembly but must stay engaged in their local communities.

The Indiana Family Institute is thankful that we live in a state where someone must first and foremost be a citizen before they can be a lawmaker, and we hope that the Indiana General Assembly will maintain its commitment to this.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Necessary Complexity of Bills

Indiana's citizens place great trust in our General Assembly to pass bills beneficial to our state and in line with our collective values. But if you've ever attempted to read one of these bills, you've likely become frustrated with the complicated language. The truth is that state legislators must write their bills according to complex legal standards, if the bills have a chance to successfully become law.

Legislators don't technically do this writing themselves. A group of expert attorneys at the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) performs complex research, aligns each bill's language with existing law, and properly drafts the wording. Our elected officials always determine the policy content and direction of their bills, but the LSA completes the actual writing process.

Indiana citizens can keep up to date with how bills are progressing by going to the Indiana General Assembly's website, iga.in.gov, and clicking on a tab called "legislation." This will lead to a list of all bills from a given session. You can click on any bill's name and see its summary, called the "digest." There are also options to view more information on any bill, such as to read it outright or see what success it's had in becoming law.

Even digests can be confusing and often don't clearly represent a bill's main priorities. If that's the case, an online search of the bill's number and name may turn up helpful resources or articles, especially for more prominent legislation.

In every legislative session, the Indiana Family Institute supports carefully chosen, common sense pieces of legislation that most Indiana citizens would support. Our goal is to help lawmakers remember that Hoosiers agree on most things and disagree on very few. Where there is consensus among most Hoosiers, we should expect proper legislative results.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Where Do Bills Come From?

During the 2021 Session, the Indiana General Assembly considered 1,012 bills. Only 231 of them became law. How do state lawmakers get their ideas for bills? Why do some bills become law while most don't?

In every legislative session, bills are introduced that cover a variety of issues. Many concern rather noncontroversial regulatory matters. Others are downright silly or immoral, such as banning hair style discrimination (House Bill 1501) or legalizing assisted suicide (House Bill 1074). Fortunately, neither of these bills gained much traction.

Thankfully, many practical and substantial pieces of legislation supported by the Indiana Family Institute get signed into law. Just two examples include House Bill 1577 which holds abortion providers more accountable and Senate Bill 202 which strengthens the rights of residents in assisted living facilities to be visited by loved ones.

How do our 100 state representatives and 50 state senators set their priorities?

They may get ideas from the larger political battles being debated nationally. It is common for states to take stands on one side or the other of these hot-button issues. Advocacy groups, which are organizations dedicated to promote certain political causes, also work alongside or put pressure on legislators. In other cases, legislators will work with the Governor to further his agenda.

Legislators also draw upon their own personal experiences and expertise. Law and business are common professions for elected officials, but there have also been firefighters, florists, and farmers elected to the General Assembly!

The best legislators align their priorities with the needs of their constituents. National issues will be on the minds of constituents, but they are usually more concerned with topics that hit closer to home like schools and roads. Such issues are common sense concerns that should clearly be taken seriously by legislators and written into law. If sensible bills don't make it into law, then lawmakers neglecting to write them or allowing them to die should be held accountable.

The Indiana Family Institute exists to keep legislators accountable and citizens informed. We are building the infrastructure and capabilities to make state government easier for Hoosiers to monitor and react to. After all, it's the voters who are supposed to be calling all the shots.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

How Bills Get Introduced

It is easy to wonder what our elected officials are doing once the election season is over and legislators are working out of the public eye. It does citizens no good when lawmakers simply talk a good talk. They must pass effective bills into law and eliminate unnecessary laws!

When a legislator has authored a bill they believe can succeed, they file it in either the House or Senate, whichever chamber they're a member of. A bill's author will play the largest role in crafting a bill and is heavily involved in advocating for it. A bill may have multiple authors who help contribute. A sub-level to the author is co-authors, who can help with the formation and passage of the bill, but to a lesser degree as authors.

Honest legislators should be working to fulfill their campaign promises. Citizens can keep tabs on state senators and representatives through the Indiana General Assembly website (iga.in.gov). Under the "information" tab, there is an option called "find your legislator." From there, entering an address verifies the local state senator and representative. Clicking on a legislator's name reveals all the bills they've been involved in and what roles they served. To help, the Indiana Family Institute separately produces scorecards for each legislator summarizing how they performed across key areas. These can be accessed at <http://www.hoosierfamily.org/legislative-scorecard>.

Once an author files a bill, the leadership of the House or Senate must call the bill for First Reading, where it is read before the full chamber. At First Reading, legislators are simply listening, but not proposing changes or holding a vote. If a bill does not even get called for First Reading, it simply dies. After First Reading, the appropriate leadership assigns the bill to a committee for consideration to move it along the legislative process.

Citizens can play a role in the broader conversation that affects which ideas are on legislator's minds. Citizens can also have a voice by speaking during committee hearings, although this is admittedly inconvenient and seldom done.

Many of these steps seem distant from people outside the political arena, and that is why the Indiana Family Institute watches this process for the benefit of Hoosiers. IFI supports critical legislation affecting Indiana values so that they don't get overlooked by lawmakers who might think we aren't paying attention.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A Bill in Committee

Committees are where most bills go to be forgotten. Over 1,000 bills were introduced in the most recent legislative session, and lawmakers would be overwhelmed if they each had to consider each one.

Legislative committees determine which of the bills merit consideration by the full House and Senate, and most are eliminated in this process. Citizens need to be communicating with their legislators to help ensure the most important bills make it through the sifting.

Bills that survive the First Reading are assigned to a committee. The House and Senate each have 22 committees that focus on specific areas of policy such as agriculture, education, or elections. A committee in one chamber has a corresponding committee in the other.

Committees consist of around 13 legislators who often serve on multiple committees. Assignments are based on each member's expertise and interests. Legislators will discuss possible amendments, or changes, to bills. Committees also consider input from members of the public and from the executive branch, who can all testify during committee hearings.

During a committee hearing, citizens typically can voice their opinions. Often, those that offer testimony are from organizations with an interest in the matter at hand, such as trade associations, businesses, and advocacy groups.

Individual citizens also testify on occasion, usually on controversial issues like taxes and abortion. This isn't common, so when someone takes the initiative to testify, legislators take notice.

When the General Assembly is in session you can go to the homepage of iga.in.gov to see a schedule of committee hearings and when each bill will be discussed.

Each bill's fate is ultimately up to the committee. Committee members can allow a bill to die, or they can send it back to the full House or Senate in original form or with alterations.

Despite its importance, the committee process receives little attention. The Indiana Family Institute identifies the most critical pieces of legislation and works within the process to keep important bills moving. We often testify before the legislature, and we work with officials year-round to ensure they are protecting the values and freedoms of Indiana families.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Second and Third Reading

When people think of a legislative body, they might imagine passionate speeches delivered by lawmakers on the chamber floor. However, it's not quite like that. Most floor speeches do not reach the same level of zeal as we see in the movies, though perhaps they should.

If a bill gets through its committee, it is moved forward for Second Reading by its author and is read before the full chamber. Members then begin their deliberations.

At this point, legislators review the work done to a bill when it was in committee. They can also offer amendments. Successful amendments need a simple majority of votes to be accepted, which means at least half of the legislators who are present.

Amendments can change bills in minor to significant ways. The changes made may make certain legislators feel more comfortable voting for a bill by removing a controversial element, or adding something other lawmakers want, or altering the date the measure would become effective.

At the conclusion of the Second Reading stage, the full chamber takes a vote. If a simple majority votes in favor, the bill proceeds. Otherwise, it dies. If a bill is still alive after Second Reading, it remains before the same chamber for Third Reading. Amendments can still be offered, but this rarely occurs and now a two-thirds majority to pass is required.

During Third Reading, members can take the floor and make their convictions known before their colleagues and the watchful public. It is time for final arguments. The chamber will then vote once more, and if a simple majority is in favor, the bill will be sent on to the other, non-originating chamber, where it undergoes a similar process.

Legislators prove their merits and integrity by the votes they cast. Are they supporting liberty and prosperity for Hoosiers, or surrendering to harmful ideologies? The Indiana Family Institute monitors legislators' adherence to their promises and the ethical standards that align with our citizens' values and needs. We all expect them to have integrity, saying the same thing behind closed doors as when they speak on the chamber floor.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A Bill Goes to the Second Chamber, Reconciliation

Indiana's state government is designed to provide a system of restraint and shared powers. This balance of authority doesn't merely exist between the three branches of government, but also within the legislative branch itself. Our state's legislature, the General Assembly, is bicameral. This means that it is composed of two houses, also called "chambers," the House of Representatives and the Senate.

A bill can originate from either chamber and must first pass through its originating chamber before it can be considered by the second house. This bicameral system increases the chances that the legislature will be appropriately restrained and that bills passed better reflect the will of voters.

Once a bill passes its house of origin and arrives in the second chamber, that chamber must first agree to even consider it. If the two chambers are controlled by opposite parties with diverging priorities, the more partisan bills may not be considered by the second house.

A bill's journey in the second chamber largely mirrors that in the first chamber. It must be assigned to a committee and then pass several stages of amendments and voting. Just like a bill needs an author or authors to guide it through the first chamber, it will need at least one sponsor to guide it through the second chamber.

If the second chamber alters a bill before passing it, the new version must either be approved as is by the originating chamber or sent to a reconciliation committee. When a reconciliation committee is needed, often two members of both the House and Senate come together to reach an agreed-upon new version of the bill. Once this is completed, the full House and Senate must approve the bill one final time before it can be sent to the Governor for consideration.

This process of checks and balances is complicated, but necessary for the health of our government. This is why the Indiana Family Institute carefully works to monitor and advocate for bills affecting our citizens' values, ensuring they are not lost in the complexity of the process!

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A Bill Before the Governor

President Harry S. Truman summed up the responsibility of leadership with the famous phrase, “The buck stops here.” For Indiana, the buck stops at the desk of the Governor. The governor is the one to blame when things go awry and the one to praise when everything is moving smoothly.

The Governor oversees agencies, fills vacancies on the state supreme court, and works with members of the General Assembly to implement an agenda. In most cases, the Governor must give the final approval for a bill to become law.

The governor has the authority to sign or veto bills sent for approval by the state legislature and can also do neither, in which case a bill automatically becomes law after seven days.

When the governor vetoes, or rejects, a bill, the state legislature can opt to override the veto. This requires a simple majority vote of both the House and Senate. If a veto override is successful, a bill becomes law despite the governor’s disapproval.

The federal government and 44 other states require a higher vote threshold to override a veto than Indiana does. This makes Indiana’s governor one of the weakest in the nation and our legislature more influential in terms of constitutional authority. Indiana’s founders made this decision out of a great concern for the balance of powers.

As with any elected official, the governor has many concerns to weigh when considering bills. He has his own conscience to follow and the promises he made to voters during the campaign. He will also likely consider the views of advocacy groups, some of whom may be donors or hold sway over voters. Additionally, the governor must not forget major businesses in his state, even businesses which may not always agree with his overall agenda.

The governor’s decision on a bill represents where Indiana stands to the rest of the nation. In recent years Indiana has been blessed with governors who don’t often fall in line with broader ideologies sweeping the country, but who have stood for the Indiana way. Nevertheless, there have been increasing pressures on our state’s governors to surrender to values that don’t align with what Indiana residents truly believe. The Indiana Family Institute exists to remind all elected officials that they don’t serve anyone but Hoosiers!

REGULATORY AGENCIES

The term bureaucrat is often applied to government workers who seem bent on slowing things down or getting in the way. However, our state's regulatory agencies are essential. The key is to make sure they stay within their bounds and remain subordinate to elected officials and existing laws.

Indiana has nearly 100 state agencies that exist within the executive branch, headed by the governor. A few examples include the Department of Child Services, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Indiana State Police. A few of the major agency heads are elected, like the attorney general and treasurer, but most are appointed by the governor. Employees within the agencies are simply hired, like any other workplace.

Writing and passing a new law is only the beginning of the battle. The executive branch is responsible to ensure all laws are enforced, and that is what the regulatory agencies are for. State agencies are often called regulatory agencies because they establish the regulations concerning how a law will be enacted and enforced.

Regulatory agencies operate within the bounds established by the law. A major concern with agencies is that they will overstep their bounds, something known as regulatory overreach. Regulatory agencies don't have the authority to write laws of their own, only to set operational regulations to properly implement the laws.

The operation of state government is designed so that elected lawmakers are the ones with the power, as they are the most accountable to voters and can be voted out of office every election. Citizens cannot vote an agency employee out of office, so these employees shouldn't be making significant or free-form decisions for citizens.

The Indiana Family Institute believes that regulatory agencies, in their proper role, should be tools for our state's good. IFI advocates for specific and moral legislation in the General Assembly and understands it is largely up to regulatory agencies to ensure that laws are enforced. Our state agencies must be accountable to the law, and the law must be reflective of Hoosier values!

ENFORCEMENT OF A BILL

Indiana University history professor Irving Katz often told his students, “A law that isn’t enforced isn’t a law, it’s a farce.” The state must make sure laws are properly implemented and put in any extra effort needed when this proves challenging.

News laws passed by the state legislature go into effect immediately or at a date specified in the bill, often July 1. Once a law is on the books, the fight is far from over. Indiana is home to many law enforcement agencies, regulatory agencies, and courts which exist to enforce order and justice. Our state has over 30,000 state employees and recently passed a \$37 billion dollar budget to fund the state government and its programs for the next two years.

It does no good to advocate for policies and have them passed into law if the state is not prepared to enforce them. That is why it is vital for Hoosiers to work with our law enforcement, by providing the funds and support they need.

The Indiana Family Institute has noticed that many laws that promote Hoosier prosperity and counter harmful trends are often difficult to enforce. For example, state lawmakers have passed a number of pro-life bills over the years. Abortion providers have maneuvered to get around these measures. Often local officials in the more liberal cities look away from violations and broken laws.

The Indiana Family Institute has regularly engaged in direct efforts to bring accountability when violations of the law arise. It takes commitment from state officials, engaged citizens, and dedicated groups like the Indiana Family Institute to make sure the laws we succeed in passing are more than just words on a page.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES TO A BILL

America is a nation designed so that excessive authority could never accumulate in one place. One of the main ways this is done is through our courts, which ensure that existing laws are constitutional and enforced. Indiana has a carefully crafted constitution that lays down the fundamental laws and the rights of citizens.

Disputes often arise regarding whether a new state or local law violates the Indiana or United States constitution. A dual system of courts, state and federal, exists to handle this.

If there is a concern about a law related to the state constitution, state courts will take up the matter. If the concern is with the US constitution, federal courts will handle it. This dual system of courts provides states with greater sovereignty and allows them to interpret their own laws instead of federal courts making decisions in every case.

Any affected party can challenge a law. This could be an individual or an organization with an interest in the matter. For example, the Indiana Family Institute once brought a suit against several cities regarding “anti-discrimination” ordinances which negatively impacted people of faith.

When moving through state courts, a case begins at the trial court level. A trial court may be called a town court, city court, circuit court, or superior court, but they are all quite similar. As needed, cases can be appealed further to the Court of Appeals, and lastly to the Indiana Supreme Court.

In federal courts, cases begin in a district court, then may be appealed to a court of appeals, and lastly to the US Supreme Court. It is possible for a case to be appealed to the US Supreme Court after a decision by a state’s supreme court, but this rarely happens.

While judges are far from infallible, the state and federal constitutions keep lawmakers in check and remind them of founding principles. They ensure that fundamental aspects of the law can not easily be changed by one lawmaker or even by one generation of lawmakers.

The Indiana Family Institute is thankful for our country’s remarkable legal structure and advocates for correct application of the law in our state!

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Our country has a dual system of courts, state and federal, to handle alleged criminal behavior and concerns over the constitutionality of laws. State courts are where the prosecution for most crimes take place and where concerns regarding state law are heard. Federal courts handle matters related to federal law and some federal crimes.

The federal judiciary has three levels. First are the district courts, of which there are 94. Second are the courts of appeal, of which there are 13. At the top of the hierarchy is the US Supreme Court, which sits nine justices. Judges and justices in the federal courts are nominated by the President of the United States and must be confirmed by the US Senate.

Indiana's state judiciary also has three levels. First are the trial courts. These may be called city courts, town courts, circuit courts, or superior courts, but they are all similar in function. Cases can be appealed from trial courts to the Indiana Court of Appeals, a 15-member body. When a case goes before the Court of Appeals it is heard by a random three-judge panel. At the head of the state judiciary is the Indiana Supreme Court, on which there are five justices.

Judges and justices on the Indiana Supreme Court and Indiana Court of Appeals get their post through merit selection and retention. When there is a vacancy, potential judges or justices are reviewed by the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission. The commission makes several nominations to the governor, who then chooses one to be the new judge or justice.

After being selected, the individual assumes their role. They must face a non-partisan retention vote in a subsequent statewide election. If they survive, they are up for retention again every ten years. In a retention vote, the Court of Appeals judges and Supreme Court justices do not face opponents. Instead, Hoosiers simply vote "yes" or "no" on whether they should remain in office.

The process works similarly for trial judges in Allen, Lake, Marion, and St. Joseph's counties as it does for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals members. For the hundreds of trial court judges in Indiana's other 88 counties, however, the process is different. These judges must win through regular, partisan elections where they face opponents.

Indiana's judicial elections are intended to give more control to the people, however they receive little attention. As retention elections don't include party affiliation, voters without prior knowledge have little to go off of. It is very rare for a judge or justice to lose a retention vote.

When judges or justices have lost an election, it is likely because of a controversial decision that caused others to mobilize against them. The Indiana Family Institute has at times done just that when we notice a judge acting contrary to Hoosier values. Judges and justices in Indiana and across the nation must always put their personal ideologies to the side, interpreting the law in an honest and fair manner.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Municipal, County, and Township Governments

Local government can refer to the government of any municipality, county, township. There are thousands of such governments throughout Indiana of all different sizes and purposes.

Municipal governments are those of cities, towns, villages, and such population centers. It can vary, but most municipalities have a mayor, legislative council, and numerous departments to provide services to residents. Some municipalities hire what's known as a city manager. City managers help run the more specialized and administrative aspects of local government under the direction of the elected leaders.

Indiana has 92 counties. Each county government has a board of three county commissioners and a county council. Commissioners deal with regulatory and administrative matters. This includes the upkeep of county properties like jails and courthouses, the maintenance of roads, economic development, and more. County councils deal more with fiscal matters. Counties also each have an assessor, auditor, clerk, coroner, recorder, sheriff, and treasurer.

Since Indianapolis takes up the large majority of Marion County, they have a consolidated city-county government. This saves money and is more efficient.

Each county in Indiana is further divided into townships. Every part of Indiana is under a township government, the only state where that is the case. There are a total of 1,008 townships throughout the state. Most townships have small, elected bodies of trustees or supervisors.

The responsibilities of most townships in Indiana are fire protection, poverty relief, and cemetery maintenance. There has been a lot of talk in the state government about reforming or even eliminating township governments. They cost Hoosiers nearly \$400 million a year, and many feel their few responsibilities could easily be turned over to municipal or county governments.

While the national level draws the most attention, there is only so much most people can do to affect the politicians in Washington, D.C. State government is much more reachable, but the most accessible governments of all are at the local level. Getting involved and paying attention in local elections can be a way for anyone to make a positive political impact in their community.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

School districts are a critical part of state government working to educate the over 1 million children in K-12 public education. Indiana has over 400 of these districts.

Each school district has a school board which is elected by the people of the district whether they have children attending the school or not. There are a small number of school districts in Indiana where members are appointed by municipal officials. School boards are focused on the big picture rather than day-to-day operations. They create a district's policies, make budget decisions, and play a large role in setting the curriculum.

School boards also select a superintendent to be at the head of the district. The superintendent and his or her staff decide who leads each individual school as principal. Just like the board, superintendents play a large role in setting a district's overall direction.

School board meetings are open to the public and include a time for public comment. In recent years, these meetings and the operations of school boards in general have become increasingly contentious. K-12 schools throughout Indiana and the nation are grappling with many controversial issues at the moment.

Should transgender students have access to the bathrooms, locker rooms, and sports teams of their claimed gender identity? Should schools endorse progressive understandings of gender and sexuality? Should ideas related to critical race theory be embraced?

School districts and individual schools within those districts have all answered these questions very differently. Some schools have kept the classroom as a place where truth wins out over political ideology. Other schools, however, some intentionally and some out of ignorance, are teaching children in a manner that many Hoosier parents rightfully find inappropriate.

School board elections are currently non-partisan, meaning "Democrat" or "Republican" labels aren't shown on the ballot. This has allowed many liberal individuals to secure spots on school boards unbeknownst to Hoosier voters. The Indiana Family Institute joins others around the state calling to make school board elections partisan, so we know who we're voting for. Our children deserve to be in schools which don't attempt to sneak in radical ideologies, but instead respect the pro-American and God-fearing values which so many families hold.

STATE VS. FEDERAL POWERS

In today's political landscape, national news dominates the headlines and often provides more discouragement than encouragement. However, it is important to remember that America began as a collection of sovereign states that demanded wide latitude to chart their own course and protect local interests. No matter who is in the White House or federal government, Indiana is an example to the nation through the values we uphold.

While there is overlap between federal and state powers, people running for the Indiana General Assembly should have different priorities than those running for the US Congress.

The federal government only has a few specified powers. It manages relations and commerce with foreign nations. It maintains the military and guards against security threats, foreign and domestic. Immigration policy is largely under federal jurisdiction, as well as economic activity between states.

State governments are largely responsible for everything else such as operating public schools from the pre-kindergarten to university level. States play a leading role in managing elections, even for national offices. Economic activity within a state is also largely within each state's jurisdiction, as is the prosecution of most crimes.

Federal and state governments have overlapping responsibilities as well. Both collect revenue through taxes and administer various healthcare and financial aid programs. Also, both have a role in transportation infrastructure.

Even in areas where the federal government has more jurisdiction, state lawmakers can often put their state on one side of the issue. For example, when it comes to immigration, the federal government has the power. They determine policy, operate the border, and control the status of undocumented immigrants. Nevertheless, state and local governments have increasingly enacted policies signaling a willingness or refusal to enforce federal immigration law.

One of the greatest blessings about living in the United States is the freedom it offers not only to individuals, but to states. Citizens can decide where it is best to pursue their American Dream. It is also often much easier to impact one's local and state governments than the government in Washington!

The Indiana Family Institute realizes that the way things are done in California or Washington, D.C. is not the Indiana way. We ask Hoosier lawmakers to take advantage of every power at their disposal to keep Indiana a state that leads the nation in the opportunity and the personal liberty it offers to citizens!



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LIKE TO
GET INVOLVED
PLEASE VISIT**

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