

Preamble

We've come a long way in a short time.

With a focus and a commitment to serve Hoosier taxpayers, and not special interests, Indiana's Party of Purpose has enacted improvements that have made government smaller and more efficient, improved our state's economy, and ensured Indiana's Comeback continues to move full steam ahead.

After years of government spending and debt, Republican leadership balanced the budget without raising taxes. At the same time, services have improved across the state. A leaner state government has actually improved quality. Our Bureau of Motor Vehicles is now a model for efficiency, moving customers through in 10 minutes or less. Major Moves has improved infrastructure by providing a decade worth of funding for projects around the state that had been promised and delayed for decades. Property taxes in Indiana are among the lowest in the nation, having been cut by 30 percent and capped permanently by the voters and by our State Constitution.

Along the way, we have lived by a number of simple principles, but atop that list is the fact that Hoosiers know what's best for Hoosiers. We don't ask for, or want, the federal government to interfere with or dictate how we should live our lives. The improvements we have made, together, have come from within, from Hoosiers.

We owe a debt of gratitude to **Governor Mitch Daniels** and **Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman**, our dynamic Hoosier duo, who have worked and led to make Indiana a better place to live, work and invest, alongside **House Speaker Brian Bosma**, **Senate President Pro Tempore David Long** and our majorities in the House and Senate.

Now, after eight years of constant progress, the time has come to pass the Hoosier torch from one great Republican governor in Mitch Daniels to the next great Republican governor in **Mike Pence**.

Though our leadership will change, we continue to be the Party of Purpose in Indiana, committed to leadership which provides innovative, common sense solutions to real world problems of everyday people and offers the promise of upward mobility for all of our fellow citizens.

The 2012 election provides an opportunity to continue Indiana's Comeback and begin an American Comeback by showing that Indiana is the state that works. We are in dire need of a national renewal. Within these pages you will read how Indiana's Comeback has made life better for all Hoosiers and given real hope to millions because lower taxes, leaner government and freedom of choice in education lead to an improved state and nation.

Our goals this year are to deliver Indiana's Electoral votes to **Mitt Romney** for president; electing **Mike Pence** governor and **Sue Ellspermann** lieutenant governor; maintain and grow our majorities in the State House and Senate; keep Indiana's U.S. Senate seat in Republican hands by electing **Richard Mourdock**; increase our majority in Indiana's U.S. House delegation by re-electing **Marlin Stutzman, Todd Rokita, Larry Bucshon** and **Todd Young** and electing **Joel Phelps, Jackie Walorski, Susan Brooks, Luke Messer** and **Carlos May**; and re-electing **Tony Bennett** as Superintendent of Public Instruction and **Greg Zoeller** as Attorney General.

In accordance with the Rules of the Indiana Republican State Committee, The Indiana Republican Party updates its platform on a biennial basis. In the past two years, the core beliefs and values which bind our Party have not changed. Indeed, The Indiana Republican Party maintains an unwavering commitment to the principles of freedom rooted in the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Indiana.

Core Beliefs and Principles of Indiana's Party of Purpose

The liberties of every American citizen, as guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights, must be protected from erosion by governments at every level. We believe freedom is God's gift to the human race and that we should not only work to preserve individual freedom in our own nation, but that we also have a responsibility to encourage such freedoms for all people everywhere.

We are committed to:

Protecting and defending our U.S. and Indiana Constitutions, the right to bear arms and the sanctity of life. Our constitutions are more than mere paper. They contain foundational principles for government's vital but limited relationship with the citizens it serves. We understand and support the Second Amendment to the U. S. Constitution that gives the "people" the right to "keep and bear Arms," which protects gun ownership by all lawful citizens. Also, while recognizing the various opinions among members of our Party, we support current Indiana law which states, "Childbirth is preferred, encouraged, and supported over abortion" (IC 16-34-1-1).

Fiscal Responsibility by living within our means. This means keeping taxes low and government spending under control.

Federalism that recognizes the importance of state and local government and the limits on federal power. The Tenth Amendment of our U.S. Constitution specifies that those powers not enumerated to the federal government are reserved to the states and to the people. Indiana in the past eight years is a perfect example of how effective state government can be at serving its people with smart solutions without the need for federal hand-holding.

One Nation Under God. The First Amendment of our U.S. Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion. We support faith-based initiatives both at the national and state levels that seek to enrich our lives through their message and charity.

Strong Family Structures. We believe that strong families are the foundation of virtue and that such families bring forth citizens capable of self-government as well as properly motivated public servants so essential for a successful republic.

The Individual Responsibility of citizens. Government serves a purpose to provide for the defense, safety and education of its citizens. However, in most instances, it is incumbent upon the individual to responsibly lead their lives and make the decisions that best suit them without interference from government.

Personal Liberty and Freedom from intrusive government interference and regulation. The personal liberty and freedom of each individual is paramount.

Free and Fair Elections, devoid of abuse and fraud. With more and more investigations and indictments of fraud being leveled against our political opponents, including an act which touched the race for the highest office in the land, it is of great importance that Indiana continues to lead the charge for electoral integrity through our Voter Identification law and other safeguard measures.

Volunteerism. Indiana Republicans will encourage a culture of volunteerism in which we all serve our fellow Hoosiers, and each other, through regular acts of kindness. Whether it be contributing to a charity, offering time to a non-profit organization or joining a neighborhood association, volunteering is good for our Party, our state and our country.

Limited Government is Good Government

We are committed to a limited government which is responsive to the needs of its citizens and works to enhance the lives of everyone through an emphasis on economic growth, development and the upward mobility of all.

As Indiana has proven in recent years, limited government truly is good government. It forces society to look at and address the real obstacles we face in a sober and meaningful way just as we have done on the issues of spending, taxes, development, infrastructure and many others.

For instance, lower taxes are not simply a mantra of fiscal conservatism, but a mechanism for keeping government smaller and more effective. The fewer taxes collected by the State, the more judicious we must be in the services provided. Ridding our system of fraud, waste and abuse is a byproduct, as well.

We have also shown that government cannot fix all problems within our society. We must look to citizens and cooperative work, specifically through public-private partnerships, to lift the burden from taxpayers.

Jobs and Economic Growth

We are committed to creating an environment where jobs and our economy can grow.

The proper role of government in this equation is to get out of the way and let Hoosier entrepreneurs and job creators build, grow and expand their private enterprises in our state.

Indiana has proven adept at attracting businesses from around the country — and world — with our attractive and nationally recognized business climate that combines low taxes, access to transportation and logistical operations, education reform and worker freedom.

Working to continue our march up the lists of the best places to do business will require a laser focus on decreasing regulations and keeping taxes low for individuals and Hoosier employers all while enhancing the skills of our workers.

In addition, the 2010 Census showed that Indiana's position as a beacon for job growth has resulted in the fastest population growth among the northern states over the past 10 years.

Freedom of Individual Choice

The freedom of individual choice is a necessary component of job creation. Businesses from around the country told us this lack of worker protection served as an impediment to Indiana adding jobs and growing our economy. Thanks to the valiant efforts of our Republican-led House and Senate and the Governor's administration, we passed Right-to-Work in 2012 to ensure that all workers have the freedom of individual choice.

Removing Burdensome Regulations

We are decreasing regulations while the federal government is increasing regulations. This is a recipe for Hoosier success, but national disaster. Our business model has been recognized nationally for its laser focus on expanding the private sector and growing jobs and should be replicated at the federal level. Among these is clearing the permitting backlog at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Attracting International Business and Promoting Free Trade

Part of Indiana's success has been our work with allies and partners overseas. Frequent trade missions have helped Indiana attract businesses and jobs to our state and expand our already robust network of exports. As Republicans, we support free and fair international trade and expanded opportunities for Hoosiers to sell their goods and products in foreign markets. Working with these countries means committing ourselves to the principles of free trade to ensure Hoosier companies are not treated unfairly when they work to export their products outside the country.

The Importance of Agriculture

One vital component to Indiana's economy, particularly in rural Indiana, is agriculture. We support the efforts of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, under the direction of our Lieutenant Governor, to increase prosperity of our Hoosier farmers while being good stewards of our natural resources.

Diversifying Our Economy

Indiana's economy has had a primary concentration in manufacturing, a distinction that has served both as a blessing during boom times and a source of challenge during economic downturns. In order to provide for a sustainable future, diversifying our economy is an important endeavor.

Already, Indiana is on the cutting edge of the life sciences, medical device manufacturing, logistics and tech industries. We also draw top talent to our universities and entrepreneurial companies which have sprouted up thanks to our attractive and nationally recognized business environment.

Continued diversification is among our economic goals.

Living Within Our Means

We are committed to government at every level living within its means. That is, balancing our budgets without gimmicks and, most importantly, without raising taxes. While this may require difficult funding decisions to be made, it is the prudent course that The Indiana Republican Party be the Party of fiscal responsibility.

Living within our means is more than a phrase. It's the way we approach every fiscal decision made.

In the past seven years, we have paid down our debt by 40 percent while the other forty-nine states increased theirs by an equal percentage. We turned a \$700 million budget deficit into a budget surplus with more than \$1.5 billion in reserves, enough to trigger an automatic taxpayer refund. We received our first ever AAA credit rating. We reduced the size and scope of government and now have the lowest number of state employees since the mid-1970s. We reduced the quantity while improving the quality.

Bloated government is overbearing and inefficient in meeting the needs of citizens. It is our duty to provide services for the general welfare, but to do so in a way that does not encroach on the freedom and liberty of Hoosiers. State government should continue to invest wisely by carefully shepherding taxpayer resources toward functions that have the highest return to the taxpayer.

Moving forward, The Indiana Republican Party will continue to honestly balance budgets, keep taxes low and competitive, and ensure citizens have confidence that their state government will pay its bills on time.

Focus On the Taxpayer

Focusing on Hoosier taxpayers by promoting policies that encourage growth and investment in our state's economy and keeps taxes low is among our highest priorities.

State government should only request of its citizens the dollars it needs to provide necessary services. No more.

That's why Indiana's Party of Purpose fought for, and prevailed in, passage of the lowest property taxes in the nation, the elimination of the inheritance tax, a reduction in the corporate income tax rate, and an automatic tax refund for all Hoosier taxpayers when state reserves reach a responsible level.

We believe the estate tax should be eliminated on the federal level as well because it places undue burden on Hoosier farmers and families.

In addition, there is a necessity to simplify our onerous tax code at the national level so that rates are fairer and flatter for all taxpayers.

An Educated Workforce

We are committed to Hoosier students and families and not to bending to the will of special interests.

That is the cornerstone of our successful package of education improvements passed during the 2011 General Assembly: opportunity scholarships for thousands of Hoosier school children, teacher merit pay and accountability; and the expansion of charter schools.

The Indiana Republican Party will continue to focus specifically on improving K-12 education through choice and opportunity, making higher education affordable and protecting the freedom of Hoosier families.

We believe education is the keystone for the future prosperity of our families and our state. Republicans support high quality learning opportunities for all children across our state. We firmly support continued freedom from government intrusion for private, nonsectarian, parochial schools and at-home schooling.

The Role of Parents

While the efforts of government in the education arena cannot be taken for granted, we believe it is even more vital for parents to take an active role in the education of their children. We cannot and do not desire to legislate good parenting, but we urge parents to engage deeply in the life and education of their children.

Making Higher Education Affordable and Attainable

On the issue of higher education, student loan debt has exploded in recent years, with the cost of higher education on the rise. We will work to ensure Indiana's public universities are, like the state government and Hoosier families, living within their financial means.

Education is the foundation for a successful life and a vibrant economy. Without it, Indiana will fall behind. We must make pursuing a post-secondary degree as feasible as possible for students and families to position our state as a major player in an increasingly competitive global economy.

Supporting Adults In Career Transition

We must also support adults who need additional training to find high paying jobs. As our business climate has become more competitive and attracted the attention of potential new investors, our immediate need for a more skilled adult workforce has become more apparent. State government should maximize existing resources to enhance the skills of our adult workforce.

The Arts

Indiana Republicans appreciate the arts as an integral part of our culture whether it is for education, economic development or entertainment.

Hoosier Resources, Not Foreign Oil

As a coal-producing state, Indiana has thousands of energy sector workers and some of the lowest energy costs in the Nation. In addition, Indiana is making strides toward the next generation of energy. We are becoming leaders in biofuels, wind energy and clean coal technology. We reject the idea that a nationally mandated cap-and-trade scheme is needed; indeed, such a move would have a disastrous impact on Indiana's economy.

Hoosier Resources

We believe more fuel should be produced in the Midwest and support the continued development of alternative fuels. We believe Indiana can and should be a leader in biofuel production.

Energy Security

Our dependence on foreign sources of energy poses a grave threat to our national security and economic stability. Left unchecked, our security and economy are in the hands, and whims, of foreign, and perhaps hostile, governments.

Clean Coal Technology

Indiana Republicans recognize that the Indiana coal industry is a significant asset to Indiana's economy. We are committed to working with the energy and coal industry in Indiana to utilize and develop clean coal technology. We continue to promote the use of Indiana coal as a key ingredient to the future economic success of Indiana.

A Clean Environment

Indiana Republicans support a safe, healthy and clean environment. The quality of our Hoosier environment is dependent upon vigilant partnerships by government, business and individuals alike. We support coordinated, science-based, consistent efforts to reduce, regulate and remediate pollutants to protect human health, the environment and our overall quality of life. As we do this, we will not lose sight of the need to promote free enterprise and jobs.

Repeal & Replace ObamaCare With Free Market Solutions

We are committed to repealing and replacing ObamaCare with free market solutions such as the Healthy Indiana Plan.

ObamaCare is a perfect example of the overbearing nature of government at the national level. Rather than approach the need for health care reform from a free-market perspective, the Obama Administration sought, and successfully passed, an all encompassing plan that hyperegulates one-fifth of our nation's economy.

We fully support the efforts of our Attorney General, Greg Zoeller, who added Indiana to the list of over two-dozen states questioning the constitutionality of ObamaCare before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In Indiana, we have approached health care from a different angle, through our free-market Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP). HIP is a perfect example of the superiority of state-based solutions to federal one size fits all "solutions" like ObamaCare.

We must support Republicans who will fight in Congress to repeal and replace ObamaCare. The Indiana Republican Party believes that health care costs can be controlled through more, not less, consumer choice and that by doing so health insurance will be available to Americans who do not have a viable alternative today.

Security of Our Fellow Hoosiers

We are committed to one of the primary roles of government: protecting its citizens. Whether through our troops overseas, the men and women who work to prevent terrorist attacks at home or state and local law enforcement, security is one of the most important functions of government.

Protecting Hoosiers

Among our most solemn duties is protecting our fellow Hoosiers. Our police, firefighters, National Guard and other first responders are always on the scene in the event of natural disasters such as tornados and floods. In addition, they are always at the ready to ensure general public safety by putting their own lives in danger. We commend all Hoosiers working to protect their fellow citizens.

Protecting Hoosier Veterans

Over 550,000 veterans who have proudly served and protect our Nation at home and abroad currently reside in Indiana. We support both those serving in uniform today, and those who have returned home from their duties. We are especially grateful to the Hoosier members of the Indiana National Guard and Reserves who have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years. Their service, as well as those who came before them, will not be forgotten by those they have protected.

When returning home, our veterans should be welcomed with open arms by a grateful citizenry and a government committed to protecting them and thanking them for their service. State government should specifically focus on enhancing new career choices for our returning veterans.

Protecting Hoosier Children

Just a few years ago, Indiana's child welfare system was one of the worst in the Nation. Today, it is one of the best. We are proud of the efforts of Indiana Republicans to improve the system, but the work of protecting children is an ongoing effort requiring constant improvement.

We believe that society has a moral responsibility to protect all children from dangerous predators who rob our youth of their innocence. We believe that protecting our children means punishing those who have committed these despicable crimes, as well as finding ways to prevent future attacks. We commend prosecutors throughout Indiana for their efforts to protect Hoosier children.

Protecting Hoosier Seniors

Hoosier seniors are vibrant and engaged members of our community, and as such, deserve the peace of mind of access to essential programs and services to ensure their financial and personal security against financial and other predatory attacks.

The Next Generation: Big Change Requires Big Majorities

We are committed to expanding our pool of volunteers, donors, candidates and activists through aggressive recruitment efforts and the engagement of new communities around the state. It is our job, the members of today's Indiana Republican Party, to ensure that tomorrow's Indiana Republican Party is stronger than ever.

We achieve that goal through the policies outlined throughout this Platform, in addition to outreach efforts across the state. We embrace, encourage and will work to ensure the opportunity for full participation of **ALL** citizens in government, in The Indiana Republican Party and in the pursuit of economic success.

Indiana is poised to send two women to the U.S. House of Representatives this November in addition to electing three more women to the Indiana House of Representatives to join the growing ranks of female Republican elected officials across the state.

We applaud and encourage the efforts of the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series and the Indiana Leadership Forum which work to educate and develop the future leaders of the Republican Party in our state.

Republican Mayors

In 2011, we flipped a Democrat majority of mayors into a Republican majority. Now, 1 million more Hoosiers have a Republican mayor than did in 2003. Our mayors have been, and will continue to be, vital to continuing Indiana's Comeback. We applaud today's Republican mayors who are on the front line of public service in their communities.

Amendment

The following amendment to The Indiana Republican Party Platform was approved at the State Convention on June 9, 2012:

Transparency and Accountability

The Indiana Republican Party shall seek transparency, accountability and fairness in all levels of government, including a comprehensive audit of the Federal Reserve.

About the Drafting Process

The Indiana Republican Party 2012 Platform was drafted after soliciting testimony from a geographically diverse range of Hoosiers at hearings in South Bend, New Albany and Indianapolis. In addition, Hoosier Republicans were encouraged to send their thoughts and suggestions to an email address created specifically for platform testimony.

Following the three hearings, the Executive Secretary of the Platform Committee produced an initial draft of the Platform which was then presented to the full Platform Committee. A meeting was conducted on April 30, 2012, for discussion and debate regarding the Platform. At that time it was also ratified by the Platform Committee before being submitted to the Executive Committee for final edits on May 14, 2012.

Members of the Platform Committee

Anne Hathaway, Co-Chair (Indianapolis)
Kevin Mahan, Co-Chair (Hartford City)
Melissa Acton (Brownstown)
Asheesh Agarwal (Zionsville)
Chris Atkins (McCordsville)
Kyle Babcock (Warsaw)
Tresa Baker (Marion)
Dee Dee Benkie, Executive Committee (Versailles)
Jessie Beyrer, Co-Recording Secretary (Franklin)
Kevin Boehnlein (Georgetown)
Jim Bopp, Executive Committee (Terre Haute)
Brian Bosma (Indianapolis)
Judy Buck (Kokomo)
Greg Carter (Commiskey)
Claudia Cummings (Indianapolis)
Deborah Daniels (Indianapolis)
Peter Deputy, Executive Committee (South Bend)
Susana Duarte (Indianapolis)
Angela Faulkner (Granger)
Deborah Fleming (South Bend)
Randy Gentry (Terre Haute)
Brenda Gerber (Fort Wayne)
John Hammond (Indianapolis)
Don Hayes (Jasper)
Eric Holcomb, Executive Committee (Indianapolis)
Mark Holwager (Commiskey)
Rebecca Holwerda (Schererville)
Sandi Huddleston, Executive Committee (Franklin)
Kyle Hupfer (Pendleton)
Joe Knepper (Fort Wayne)
Barbara Krisher (Fort Wayne)
Gwen Langley (Indianapolis)
David Long (Fort Wayne)
Danny Lopez (Indianapolis)
Barb McClellan, Executive Committee (Westfield)
Jud McMillin (Brookville)
Michael McQuillen (Indianapolis)
Marina Nicholson, Co-Recording Secretary (Indianapolis)
Mike O'Brien (Avon)
Ted Ogle (Columbus)
Jennifer Ping (Indianapolis)
Melissa Proffitt-Reese (Indianapolis)
Melissa Raines (Indianapolis)
Pete Seat, Executive Secretary (Schererville)

Phillip Stoller (Bluffton)
Tom Wheeler (Zionsville)
Pam Yoho (Bloomfield)