
INDIANA REPUBLICAN PARTY

2022 PLATFORM

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



Preamble

Dating back to our first Republican president, **Abraham Lincoln**, who spent his formative years in Indiana, to Hoosier statesmen like **Benjamin Harrison, Dick Lugar, Dan Quayle, Dan Coats, Mitch Daniels, and Mike Pence**, the Indiana Republican Party has long been a party of great leaders. We have a proud history, a record of success, and an even brighter future ahead of us.

This brighter future stands in stark contrast to the current state of our country under total Democrat control.

It is clear that Washington, D.C., could learn from the Indiana way.

To that end, we present this platform, a set of ideals and goals, to the people of Indiana as a declaration of what our Party has believed in and stood for in the past, believes in and stands for now, and will believe in and stand for in the future. The words set forth in this document bind us together as a Party and give us a sense of direction as we face challenges, confront obstacles, and do our part to make life better for our fellow Hoosiers.

Core Beliefs

The liberties of every American citizen, as guaranteed by the U.S. and Indiana Constitutions and the Bill of Rights, must be protected from erosion by government at every level. We believe freedom is God's gift to the human race, and we should not only work to preserve individual freedom in our own nation, but we also have a responsibility to encourage such freedoms to men and women of all races and circumstances wherever they may reside.

Indiana Republicans stand together under a set of core beliefs that center around the enduring values of preserving individual freedom, promoting democracy, championing market-based economics, and encouraging a sense of mutual responsibility among all Hoosiers to uplift those around us

We believe in limited government.

We believe that government is intended to protect its people without intruding into their lives. The purpose of government is to protect our liberty, our safety, and our freedom to become whatever God has intended us to become. Limited government is good government.

We believe in a responsible government.

We believe we should live within our means. We support balanced budgets, low taxes, and keeping government spending under control. We believe government regulations should be reasonable, effective, and restrained.

We believe in federalism.

We believe the federal government was formed by the states, and that the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution appropriately provides that those powers not enumerated to the federal government are reserved to the states and to the people.

We believe in free, fair, and transparent elections.

We believe strongly in the right to vote without undue burdens from the government and that the safety and security of our elections is paramount. We applaud past efforts by Republican secretaries of state, legislatures, and governors to ensure Indiana is at the cutting edge of election integrity efforts nationwide — including Indiana's Voter ID law and requirement of voter-verifiable paper audit trails — among other reasonable security measures. We will continue to fight to maintain Indiana's place as a national leader in election integrity, and we encourage states across the nation to follow our lead.

We believe in open and transparent government.

We support transparency, accountability, and fairness in all levels of government, and believe that government is simply a steward of the resources which have been bestowed upon it by the people.

We believe in individual liberty and freedom.

We believe personal liberty and the freedom of each individual is a foundational right in our society, and that we should be free from intrusive government interference and poor, ineffective, or unnecessary regulation.

We believe in the First Amendment.

We believe the First Amendment of our U.S. Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion, not from religion, and it protects political and religious speech.

We believe in the Second Amendment.

We believe in the right to “keep and bear Arms” and that the Second Amendment protects private gun ownership by all lawful citizens. We also believe in Section 32 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, which states “the people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State.” Finally, we applaud the passage of “Constitutional carry” by the Indiana General Assembly in 2022 which reaffirms these Second Amendment protections.

We believe in personal responsibility.

We believe that individuals are responsible for their own actions and should be free to make responsible decisions free from government interference.

We believe in equal opportunity.

We believe in giving all Hoosiers, in every corner of Indiana, an equal opportunity for success through educational choice, workforce training, and enhanced public health.

We believe in the sanctity of life.

We believe in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, and that the U.S. Constitution guarantees that no one can “be deprived of life, liberty or property” deliberately echoes the proclamation made in the Declaration of Independence that “all” are “endowed by their Creator” with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. Our Republican-led legislature has consistently protected life, limited only by the Roe v. Wade decision. We support the overturning of Roe v. Wade, where Indiana will be in a position to fully implement our longstanding values on life.

We believe in strong families.

We believe that strong families, based on marriage between a man and a woman, are the foundation of society. We also recognize that some families are much more diverse, and we support the blended families, grandparents, guardians, single parents, and loving adults who successfully raise and nurture children to reach their full potential every day.

We believe in legal immigration and the rule of law.

Indiana Republicans believe that the United States is, and should be, “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for ALL” that always welcomes immigrants. Our country was partially built upon the perseverance of immigrants in pursuit of the American Dream of freedom, justice, and happiness — a pursuit that continues to strengthen the fibers of our nation to this day. We believe that a diversity of cultures, thought, and perspectives makes our country strong. Furthermore, our enforcement of the rule of law has contributed to the proper development of our country into the strongest nation in the world. Therefore, we encourage lawful immigration policies that are responsive to the continued growth of our nation. We believe that the federal government has the duty to protect and secure our sovereign and highly dangerous borders and all ports of entry, and that it should complete the construction of a wall to protect our southern border. For the United States to live up to its ideals, we must achieve a welcoming environment and the proper protection of our sovereignty.

A Party for All

We embrace, encourage, and will work to ensure the opportunity for full participation of all our citizens in government, in the Republican Party, and in the pursuit of economic success. To that end, while we have been blessed with a deep bench of aspiring public servants and active volunteers over the past decade, we need to continue reaching out to all Hoosiers who might not yet identify with the Republican Party. That includes a commitment to cultivating our Republican mayors, reaching out to young Hoosiers, women, and working Hoosiers, and embracing diversity in our civic culture. Moreover, we commit to being a Party for all with support from a broad base of Republicans that when working together can advance our shared goals and priorities.

We expect civility and respect among fellow Republicans and all Hoosiers, celebrating that we are the Party of inclusivity, not exclusivity. With that, we acknowledge fundamental beliefs and priorities within the platform will vary from Hoosier Republican to Hoosier Republican.

Indiana Republican Mayors

Much of our strength as a statewide party comes from the support of our local community leaders, namely our mayors. These Republican mayors — an all-time record of them — are the foundation for conservative leadership and economic growth in cities across our state. We believe a strong Indiana is one that elects Republicans at all levels of government and prepares those individuals for future roles in public service.

Young Hoosiers

Young Hoosiers are increasing their involvement in the civic process around the state, which we believe is a positive development. As they become more involved in the political process by casting their votes and running for elected office, it is imperative that the Republican Party at all levels of government recognize the strong asset that these young Hoosiers are, and encourage their involvement to ensure strong, seasoned leadership for the future of our Party. We urge all Republicans to work to better educate future generations about the principles and priorities of the Republican Party and commend the work of the College Republicans, Young Republicans, and Teenage Republicans for helping spread the word.

Women

We believe that the Republican Party provides women the greatest freedom and framework for prosperity for themselves and our families and we are proud of our long history of electing Republican women to positions at the local, state, and federal level for decades. We commend the strong Republican women who have risen to the call of public service and applaud their efforts to involve more women as candidates and activists alongside them. We support efforts at the local, state, and national level, such as the nationally recognized Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series and the Indiana Federation of Republican Women, to engage women in Party leadership and in elected office.

Diverse Communities

We recognize the importance of engagement with communities that may not have traditionally identified as Republicans. We respect and honor individuals and families of various cultural and ethnic backgrounds and celebrate the broad range of ideas and perspectives brought to our Party. We welcome all backgrounds and cultures into our Party as this provides us with a stronger shared voice and ensures we continue to stand for all Hoosiers. We celebrate the success of our Indiana Republican Diversity Leadership Series — the first of its kind and a model in the United States — that has successfully engaged a variety of communities across the state and that has highlighted the existence of strong Republican principles within those communities.

Working Hoosiers

President Donald Trump made important inroads with working Hoosiers — craftsmen, tradespeople, and factory workers — which we believe has strengthened our Party. As hardworking Hoosiers continue to reject progressiveness, wokeness, and the desires of the coastal elites, we will continue to welcome these working Hoosiers into our Party and will continue our longstanding support of policies that put American workers first. We are proud to stand with the working men and women who power our economy.

Republican Policy Initiatives

The Indiana Republican Party is focused on delivering results for all Hoosiers. Under the leadership of Governor Eric Holcomb and Republicans in the legislature, our Republican congressional delegation, and Republican leaders in counties, cities, towns, and townships, Indiana has earned a reputation as a state where people want to live, work, play, study, **and** stay. We have made record investments in education, broadband, and trails — actions that further enhance our quality of life and quality of place. We have created an economic environment that breaks records year after year with more job commitments, higher wages, and increased capital investment. It is because of this focus and these results that we have earned the trust of Hoosiers over and over again.

We believe good policy makes good politics.

Responsible, Efficient Government: Our Foundation

Government closest to people is the best government. And government that efficiently and effectively responds to the needs of people is even better government. Indiana Republicans, since the dawn of the new crew under Mitch Daniels, have focused on delivering great government service at a great taxpayer value. Whenever a Hoosier interacts with their state or local government, we want it to be a positive experience from start to finish.

Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability

We are the fiscal envy of the nation because we believe in fiscal responsibility at every level of government. The Indiana Republican Party has long stood for leaner, cleaner government, and we encourage our federal government to address our nation's biggest problems the Indiana Way, by implementing common sense solutions that focus on the future.

Among our strongest accomplishments, thanks to the responsible Republican leadership that continues today, Indiana maintains a AAA bond rating, keeps an honestly balanced budget, holds the line on spending, and maintains responsible reserves. When other states want to know how to get the job done, they look to Indiana.

Balanced Budgets

We believe that government should live within its means and that budgets should be balanced. We applaud the passage of the balanced budget amendment to the Indiana Constitution in 2018.

Accountability to Hoosier Taxpayers

We believe that government should request of its citizens only the dollars it needs to provide appropriate services and no more. That is why we fully support Indiana's "Use of Excess Reserves" law and applaud the **2022 automatic taxpayer refund**.

The Indiana Republican Party is committed to keeping taxes low — cutting taxes over 10 times since 2005 and enacting the largest tax cut in history in 2022 — promoting policies that encourage growth and investment in our state's economy and paying as we go rather than accumulating debt.

Protecting Hoosier Seniors

Senior citizens have been promised the stability of Medicare and Social Security in their retirement. While we remain committed to improving government programs for future sustainability, these solutions should not come at the expense of seniors who have planned for them in their retirement. We also commend the efforts of those working to protect Hoosier seniors from fraud and scams.

Jobs and the Economy: Building a 21st Century Economy

We recognize the importance of economic growth to the vitality of our state. While our roots are in manufacturing and agriculture, Indiana Republican leadership is committed to ensuring that not only does our economy grow, but that it also diversifies to meet the needs and demands of the future. Indiana has already become a magnet for industries of the future like hypersonics, microelectronics, cyber, drones, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, plant genetics, and battery technology, and we are working hard every day to expand the footprint of these enterprises to bring more high-wage, high-growth jobs to our state. We have realized success — as evidenced by our growing gross domestic product, rising personal income, and low unemployment — because of our focus on fostering an environment where businesses of all sizes can thrive, jobs can grow, and ideas can go from paper to public. As a result, we continue to be nationally recognized for our pro-business environment, an accolade that matters because it provides jobs and opportunities to Hoosiers. Survey after survey has placed us as best in the Midwest, if not among the top states in the nation, on a number of key indicators.

We are proud of these accomplishments and are committed to strengthening our position, all for the benefit of Hoosiers.

Free Enterprise Solutions

We support free-enterprise solutions as a way to address issues facing our state and our nation. One-size-fits-all federally mandated programs are less efficient and effective than solutions implemented locally with the input of our free markets and free enterprise system.

The Importance of Agriculture and Rural Communities

Agriculture has been one of Indiana's most important industries since its founding and remains so today. Nearly half a million Hoosiers are connected to agriculture, and Indiana Republicans are committed to ensuring that Indiana agriculture and agri-business continues to grow. Indiana is a leader in the agriculture industry, and as agriculture becomes more high-tech, this vital industry must be protected and encouraged here in Indiana.

Our Party has worked diligently to ensure that agricultural and rural communities remain a priority, investing so that they continue to be a vibrant, high-quality option for Hoosiers seeking a rural but connected place to live, work, play, study, and stay. Indiana Republicans will further reinforce our commitment to agriculture and rural Indiana by continuing our focus on rural housing, workforce, broadband connectivity, biofuels production, and the conservation of our working lands and natural resources.

Promoting Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Small businesses are essential to Indiana's economy. We applaud our entrepreneurs and oppose any governmental intrusion that impedes their success.

We support our Republican leadership in continuing to foster and promote a tax and regulatory environment that encourages the growth of our existing small businesses and the creation of new ones. Indiana, with our continued efforts, will be home to one of the strongest entrepreneurial ecosystems in the nation.

International Trade and Investment

Indiana is no longer fly-over country. We are on the map, as evidenced not only by our national rankings, but also by our international positioning. We are proud of our work with allies and partners overseas, which has contributed to Indiana's continued economic success. Through trade missions, we believe additional investment in Indiana and in the Hoosier workforce is made possible. Trade missions have helped Indiana build long-term relationships around the world, attract, and expand businesses, bring jobs to our state, and expand our already robust network of exports.

Energy Independence

As a coal-producing state, Indiana has thousands of energy sector workers and over 300 years of coal beneath our soil. Indiana can and should be a leader in coal production. We are committed to working with the energy and coal industry in Indiana to utilize and to develop clean coal technology. In addition, Indiana is making strides toward the next generation of energy. We support a broad "all of the above" energy portfolio and believe free markets should be encouraged to find effective and efficient energy solutions, not government mandates.

Infrastructure: Indiana as the ‘Crossroads of America’

Being known as the “Crossroads of America” is not just a motto, it is a mission. Whether traveling east to west, or north to south, we are committed to delivering to Hoosiers world-class infrastructure that enhances our role as a logistics hub and makes daily commuting easier.

But infrastructure means more than roads and bridges — it is about ports, rail, broadband internet, and trails too. We are committed to maintaining and repairing Indiana’s existing infrastructure and building infrastructure that connects Hoosiers to every corner of the state. As Indiana grows and diversifies its economy, our infrastructure advantage must grow as well. We applaud Republican leaders for finding responsible, long-term solutions to funding infrastructure so that our state can continue to grow for years to come.

To that end, Indiana Republicans support the continued prioritization and investment into infrastructure because we believe having a good and well-maintained infrastructure is key to driving regional economic development throughout Indiana.

Education and Workforce Development: Investing in Tomorrow

Hoosier Republicans believe education is the bedrock of our democracy and our economy. An informed citizenry can make better decisions, and a skilled workforce can grow the economy and lift up more people.

Therefore, the Indiana Republican Party will continue to focus on providing high-quality learning opportunities for all children by improving accountability, setting and supporting high state-based standards, and ensuring that post-secondary, technical, and vocational education opportunities are accessible and affordable.

Education

We believe that parents — **the primary educators of children** — must play an active role in their child’s educational journey. Additionally, Indiana Republicans also believe it is important that our state has the best and brightest teachers to educate our children, and that schools have the financial resources they need as they prepare the next generation of Hoosier leaders.

We believe that political indoctrination has no place in Hoosier classrooms. Concepts like Critical Race Theory and its progeny are divisive and teach students that some are inherently oppressive while others are merely victims, denying them the opportunity to think for themselves and formulate their own opinions. We strongly believe that Hoosier children should not be taught what to think but rather taught how to think for themselves.

Finally, we must renew our commitment to teaching Hoosier children the value of freedom in all respects. We must equip our teachers to teach them the entirety of our nation’s history — both the good and the bad — and must provide them with the facts and context necessary to understand our important and storied history.

Early Childhood Education

Every child deserves to start kindergarten ready to learn and to begin a lifetime of learning. We believe that today’s children are the leaders of tomorrow, and we are committed to providing a quality education to every Hoosier child, regardless of economic status.

School Choice

We support the right of every parent to decide if their children will attend public, private, charter, parochial, or home schools, and we want to ensure school choice is available for all students, particularly for those with disabilities and special needs.

Furthermore, we applaud Indiana’s consistent ranking as one of the best states in the country for school choice.

Fair Competition in Student Athletics

Athletics play a vital role in the development of the students who participate in them, providing a myriad of character-building opportunities that boost self-confidence and teach the importance of teamwork, integrity, and personal responsibility. To ensure this opportunity for development remains fair and equitable, we support Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 which ensures equal opportunity for women and girls in all facets of education — including athletics — and believe that biological males should not participate in women or girls sports.

Skills-Based and Vocational Training

We support Republican efforts to better align the needs of job creators to the skills of Hoosier workers. This includes initiatives like Next Level Jobs which provides free training to working-age Hoosiers through the Workforce Ready Grant, and the Employer Training Grant, which reimburses employers for each new employee that is trained, hired, and retained for six months. These innovative solutions to a long-term challenge are what help Indiana stand out among the competition.

Retaining and Attracting Talent

Young Hoosiers are the next generation of leaders, parents, entrepreneurs, and workers. We believe elected officials and post-secondary institutions should make it their priority to not only attract individuals to Indiana, but to retain our wealth of homegrown talent.

We are committed to policies that enhance our talent pipeline by ensuring our young adults have access to post-secondary training, which is aligned with current and emerging job opportunities in Indiana. Further, we believe efforts should be made to help encourage young talented STEM graduates to make Indiana home, further fueling innovation and entrepreneurship.

We are also committed to assisting established Hoosier professionals who are looking to learn new skills to better compete in today's fast-paced and ever-changing economy and to enhancing quality of place and quality of life across the state.



Health and Well-being: A Chance for All Hoosiers

Foundational to our success as a state is the health and wellbeing of our people. Indeed, a healthy public has far-reaching implications on education, safety and crime, the economy, and so much more. Indiana Republicans believe good health to be an engine of growth, and support efforts to improve the health outcomes of all Hoosiers.

Healthcare

We believe healthcare decisions should be made by patients in consultation with their personal physician, not government bureaucrats. We applaud the successful repeal of the individual mandate, a cornerstone of the Affordable Care Act, and continue to support federal and state actions that make healthcare more accessible and affordable. We support protecting innovative, state-based healthcare solutions such as the Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0 and restoring and expanding state control over programs like it.

Lastly, we oppose unconstitutional mandates — like Joe Biden’s national vaccine mandates — which infringe upon the medical freedom of Americans.

Mental Health

We recognize the need for and support the expansion of mental health services across the state and the improvement of public health infrastructure, ensuring easier access to the Hoosiers in need of these vital services. We also support efforts to remove the stigma of seeking mental health services by building awareness and expanding education about mental health.

Furthermore, we fully support the efforts to make Indiana’s bold and aspirational vision of zero suicides among Hoosiers a reality.

Drug Epidemic

We believe that tackling our state’s drug epidemic requires a comprehensive mix of prevention, enforcement, and treatment. This epidemic, predominantly a result of opioid addiction, is ravaging communities and tearing apart families.

From expanding the number of opioid treatment centers to ensuring nearly every Hoosier is within an hour’s drive of help, to charging drug dealers with the highest possible felony when their actions lead to the death of a fellow Hoosier, to requiring healthcare professionals to check the state’s prescription database before prescribing potentially addictive medications, we remain focused on addressing this problem before it is too late.

Protecting Hoosier Children

We believe that society has a moral responsibility to protect all children, born and unborn, and that we should take steps to further reduce Indiana’s already declining infant mortality rate by continuing to provide children with the services they need.





A Clean Environment

We support a safe, healthy, and clean environment. The quality of our Hoosier environment is dependent upon vigilant partnerships between government, business, and individuals alike. We support coordinated, science-based, consistent efforts to responsibly reduce, regulate, and remediate pollutants to protect human health and the environment and that hold other countries accountable for their pollution, as long as they are balanced with our priority goals of growing the economy, increasing jobs, and protecting our overall quality of life.

Adoption

Every child, regardless of age, deserves to have a family that will love, nurture, and support them in a safe environment. That is why we support adoption and the state's services that assist families in navigating the ins and outs of the adoption process. While our laws already make Indiana an adoption-friendly state, we support further action that improves the adoption process and that encourages and incentivizes adoption in order to place children in loving homes as soon as possible.

We are proud of Indiana's rank as a national leader in adoptions, as well as our rank as the number one state in the nation for adoptions from foster care.

Special Needs

As Republicans, we believe that every life is precious, and that individuals with disabilities and special needs are valuable members of our society. We support the state's service to individuals with disabilities through numerous existing programs and services such as health care, case management, community and facility habilitation, and respite, and encourage the state to continue to support and improve these services to meet the needs of these precious Hoosiers.

Safety and Security: A Primary Responsibility

Government — at all levels — has a responsibility to keep its citizens safe. Whether through our troops overseas, the men and women who work to protect us here at home, or state and local law enforcement, security is one of the most important functions of government. We are proud to support those who serve our communities, especially those who wear the uniform to keep us safe.

We believe our country is uniquely positioned to create a safer and more secure world through strong leadership, but in doing so must not forget to put America first.

Protecting Hoosiers

Among our most solemn duties is protecting our fellow Hoosiers. Our police, firefighters, and other first responders are always on the scene in the event of natural disasters such as tornadoes and floods. In addition, they are always ready to ensure general public safety while putting their own lives in danger. Because of this, we fully support our law enforcement and public safety officers and fully oppose any efforts to defund them.

Protecting and Honoring Hoosier Veterans and Military

Indiana is proud to be home to hundreds of thousands of veterans, members of the military, and one of the largest National Guards in the country. Our veterans should be honored and shown appreciation by a grateful citizenry and a government committed to protecting them and thanking them for their service. State and local government must continue to focus on enhancing career choices and providing effective opportunities in gratitude for the sacrifices each veteran has made for our state and our country.

Energy and National Security

Our dependence on foreign sources of energy poses a grave threat to our national security and economic stability. We believe more fuel and energy sources should be produced in America and the Midwest. We support the prudent development of alternative fuels and energy.



The Drafting Process

The Indiana Republican Party's 2022 Platform was drafted with guidance from Hoosiers who attended platform hearings and submitted their thoughts via email. Following the collection of testimony, the Platform Committee Co-Chairs, with assistance from various staff members of our Party, produced an initial draft that reflected the feedback received at hearings in Jeffersonville, Danville, and Mishawaka; written testimony submitted electronically; and long-held core beliefs of the Indiana Republican Party. An edited draft was then presented by the co-chairs to the full Platform Committee, and a meeting of the full committee was held on May 21, 2022, for discussion, debate, and further refinement. The platform was unanimously adopted by the members of the Platform Committee in attendance at the conclusion of that meeting.

Platform Committee

Randall "Randy" Head, Co-Chair (Cass)

Jodi Smith, Co-Chair (Hendricks)

Kyle Hupfer, Chairman of the Indiana Republican Party (Madison)

Erin Lucas, Vice-Chairman of the Indiana Republican Party (St. Joseph)

Mary Martin, Secretary of the Indiana Republican Party (Steuben)

John Hammond, National Committeeman of the Indiana Republican Party (Marion)

Kyle Babcock (Hamilton)

Beth Boyce (Johnson)

Philip Clay (Hendricks)

Jeff Cummins (Marion)

Quincy Cunningham (Boone)

Ted Feeney (Marion)

Chris Garten (Clark)

Brenda Goff (Posey)

DeWayne Hines (Bartholomew)

Misty Hollis (Wayne)

B.R. Lane (Lake)

Kurt Luidhardt (Johnson)

Mike McDaniel (Marion)

Cindy Mowery (Marion)

Jamey Noel (Clark)

Jeff Papa (Boone)

Kyle Pierce (Madison)

Zach Potts (St. Joseph)

Litany Pyle (Fountain)

Darren Reese (Grant)

Rick Ring (DeKalb)

Heather Setser (Crawford)

Mike Simpson (Porter)

Anne Vermillion (Grant)

Alfonso Vidal (Warrick)

Mindy Westrick Brown (Marion)

Shelly Williams (Noble)



