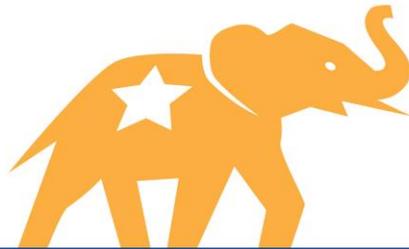

INSPIRING HOOSIER
LEADERS



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INDIANA REPUBLICAN PARTY
2016 PLATFORM

Adopted at the Indiana Republican State Convention on Saturday, June 11th, 2016

Indianapolis, Indiana.

MEMBERS OF THE 2016 PLATFORM COMMITTEE

Jeff Cardwell	Indiana Republican Party Chairman
Misty Hollis	Indiana Republican Party Vice Chairman and Platform Committee Co-Chair
Barb McClellan	Indiana Republican Party Secretary
Dan Dumezich	Indiana Republican Party Treasurer
John Hammond III	Indiana Republican Party National Committeeman
Marsha Coats	Indiana Republican Party National Committeewoman
Eric Koch	Platform Committee Co-Chair
Ginny Cain	Platform Committee Executive Secretary
Jim Bopp, Jr.	Terre Haute
Beth Boyce	Greenwood
Jackie Cissell	Indianapolis
Jeff Coats	Indianapolis
Cecilia Coble	Fishers
Emily Daniels	Mishawaka
Bill Davis	Fort Wayne
Michael Dora	Rushville
Deb Fleming	South Bend
Brenda Gerber	Fort Wayne
Brenda Goff	Mount Vernon
Brandt Hershman	Lafayette
Callie Jahn	Jeffersonville
Tom John	Indianapolis
Barbara Krisher	Fort Wayne
Jean Leising	Oldenburg
Josh Marshall	Indianapolis
Peggy Mayfield	Martinsville
Chris McBarnes	Frankfort
Mike McDaniel	Indianapolis
John Meredith	Richmond
Tim Neese	Elkhart
Jamey Noel	Jeffersonville
Rhonda Rhoads	Corydon
Larry Shickles	DePauw
Phil Stoller	Bluffton
Damon Welch	Madison
Aaron Williams	Indianapolis
Mark Wynn	Madison

ABOUT THE DRAFTING PROCESS

The Indiana Republican Party's 2016 Platform was drafted after soliciting input from Hoosier Republicans from public meetings held across the state and from online electronic submissions.

Following the public hearings and electronic submissions, the Co-Chairs, State Party Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the Platform Committee produced an initial draft of the Platform reflective of the feedback gathered which was presented to the full Platform Committee. A meeting was conducted on April 25th, 2016 at the Indiana Republican State Headquarters for discussion, debate and further refinement regarding the Platform. The Committee reviewed, amended and adopted the document.

As Republicans, we strongly believe in protecting and defending our U.S. and Indiana Constitutions.

CORE BELIEFS

GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, OF THE PEOPLE

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 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 and fair elections. We believe strongly in the right to vote without undue burdens from the government.

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

THE AMERICAN DREAM

We are blessed to live in America and to call ourselves Hoosiers. Indiana Republicans respect diversity of thought and of religious conviction as a fundamental American strength. We embrace, encourage, and will work to ensure the opportunity for full participation of all citizens in government, in the Republican Party, and in the pursuit of economic success. As Republicans, we encourage all Hoosiers to pursue the American dream of grow, prosperity, and self-worth for the betterment of life. Learning the English language is necessary to reach the full potential of the American Dream.

THE 2016 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The 2016 Bicentennial celebration honors Indiana's 200 years of history. The mission: To Celebrate History and Ignite the Future! The hope is to engage all 6.5 million Hoosiers and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

A Bicentennial Commission, comprised of 16 members, was appointed to oversee the planning and execution of statewide events in every county in Indiana. The Bicentennial Commission adopted four

main themes or pillars for their efforts:

- Nature Conservation, in recognition of the 1916 creation of the Indiana State Parks system as a gift to the citizens of Indiana
- Historical Celebration, celebrating accomplishments achieved during 200 years of Indiana Statehood
- Community Involvement, to engage all 6.5 million Hoosiers in the Bicentennial
- Youth and Education, in recognition that the true legacy of this special year is the health and well-being of Indiana's children.

MILLENNIALS

We are excited about the growing number of Millennials getting involved in the civic process around the state. It is imperative that the Republican party at all levels of government recognize the strong asset that Millennials are and encourage their involvement in order to ensure strong, seasoned leadership for the future of our Party.

WOMEN

We believe that the Republican Party provides women the greatest freedom and framework for prosperity for themselves and our families. 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. Additionally, we support efforts at the local, state, and national level to engage women in Party leadership and in elected office.

EMBRACE ETHNICITY

We recognize the importance of engagement with groups that may not have traditionally identified as Republicans. We respect and honor individuals and families of various cultural and ethnic backgrounds and celebrate the diversity of ideas and perspectives brought to our Party. We encourage our county parties to include more people of color to take part in local Party structures.

STATEMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Republican Party has a deep and long history in the struggle for racial equality in America. From the time of Abraham Lincoln and abolition of slavery, to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Republicans led the way in important legislation and conversation regarding the creed of this nation that all men are created equal.

With this in mind, the Indiana State Republicans once again assumes the mantle of leadership in the area of racial reconciliation. In doing so, we acknowledge that despite legislative efforts, racial tension persist as a troubling blemish upon the soul of our country and state. We acknowledge the many strides toward racial diversity and inclusion made by the many agents for change in the history of this country, yet we also are acutely aware of disparities both in reality and perception.

Furthermore, we understand that racism, in any form is harmful to its intended target, and it is also harmful to the one who harbors racist beliefs. This harm manifest itself in different means, but it is harmful nonetheless.

This is why we determine to assume the mantle of leading the people of our state toward racial reconciliation, with the goal of assisting our citizens in realizing the benefit of recognizing mutual and equal value in all persons. It is time again for our party to lead.

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. Governor Pence has long said that a society may be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable, and we applaud the Governor for his ongoing support of Hoosiers with disabilities. 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 we encourage the state to continue to support and improve these services to meet the needs of these precious Hoosiers.

LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

WE BELIEVE, in individual liberty and freedom. We believe personal liberty and freedom of each individual is a foundational right in our society, and that we should be free from intrusive government interference and 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 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 the sanctity of life. We believe in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, and we support current Indiana law, which states “Childbirth is preferred, encouraged, and supported over abortion.” IC 16-34-1-1.

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 and loving adults who successfully raise and nurture children to reach their full potential every day.

WE BELIEVE, in legal immigration. Indiana Republicans believe that the United States is, and should be, “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for ALL.” We believe that our strength is in our diversity. We encourage lawful immigration policies that attract new and diverse populations to our nation. We also realize that our borders must be adequately protected. We embrace, encourage, and will work to ensure the opportunity for full participation of all of our citizens in government, in the Republican Party, and in the pursuit of economic success.

The United States has always been a nation of immigrants and Indiana must be open and welcoming to those immigrants who come here legally and want to make their lives better. We recognize the historic

and current contributions that Americans of all ethnic origins and cultures have made to the fabric of this great nation. We welcome our newest citizens and encourage their full participation in the Republican Party. Indiana Republicans believe illegal immigrants should not receive government entitlements that are funded by law-abiding taxpayers.

WE BELIEVE, in the Bill of Rights. The liberties of every American citizen, as guaranteed by the 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 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 circumstance – wherever they may reside.

SUPPORTED INITIATIVES OF INDIANA REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Before Governor Pence took office, he pledged that he would make job creation JOB ONE. Under Republican leadership, Indiana now has more Hoosiers employed than any other time in our state's 200-year history, and our unemployment rate is at its lowest since August of 2001. As of August 2015, more than 200 companies committed to creating more than 17,000 new Hoosier jobs and investing more than \$3 billion in their Indiana operations in the coming years. Now, more than ever before, Indiana is a State that Works.

Indiana has become nationally recognized for our pro-business environment. In 2015, Indiana was ranked as "Best-in-the-Midwest" by Chief Executive Magazine, was listed as a "Top-10-State-for-Doing-Business" from Forbes, and was recognized as a "Top-Three-in-the-Nation" for corporate site selection by Pollina Corporate Real Estate.

Indiana Republicans applaud the efforts of Governor Mike Pence, Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, the Indiana General Assembly, and Republican Mayors across the state in bringing good-paying jobs to Hoosiers, and we support the continued implementation of business-friendly policies for the State of Indiana.

INDIANA REPUBLICAN MAYORS

In 2015, Indiana Republican Mayors were elected to 60 seats across the state. These mayors are the foundation for conservative leadership and economic growth. We believe a strong Indiana is one that elects Republicans at all levels of government.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is one of Indiana's primary industries. 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. In 2014, more than 84,000 Hoosiers were employed in agriculture-related industries, and Indiana was home to approximately 58,200 farms. Indiana's total agricultural exports in 2013 were \$4.7 billion. It is clear that Indiana is a leader in the agriculture industry, and this vital industry must be protected and encouraged here in Indiana.

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.

Together, Governor Pence and the Republican led General Assembly eliminated the business personal property tax for Hoosier small businesses. 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.

TRANSPORTATION

We believe that roads mean jobs here in Indiana. Every year since 2013, Governor Pence and the Indiana General Assembly have increased funding for transportation. Since 2013, the state appropriated more than \$1.26 billion in additional state funds to transportation. In FY14 and FY15, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) rehabbed or replaced 630 bridges and resurfaced 727 miles of highway.

Indiana is known as the Crossroads of America. Indiana Republicans support the continued prioritization and investment into infrastructure. Having a good and well-maintained infrastructure is key to driving economic development throughout Indiana.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND TRADE

Part of Indiana's success has been our work with allies and partners overseas. Governor Mike Pence and Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann led a combined nine trade missions to Asia, Canada, Europe, and Israel. These frequent trade missions have helped Indiana attract and expand businesses, brought jobs to our state, and expanded our already robust network of exports.

DIVERSIFYING OUR ECONOMY

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. Indiana has seen incredible growth in our technology, life sciences, and aviation/aerospace sectors. Companies like GE Aviation, Rolls-Royce, GM, Emarsys, and Appirio have chosen to invest in Indiana because of the pro-business environment created under the Governor Pence Administration, the General Assembly, and Indiana mayors.

In 2015, Indiana secured commitments from 59 companies in the tech industry – a 156% increase from the year before. Not only are these jobs expected to pay higher than average annual salaries, but these companies have committed more than \$159 million in capital investment in Indiana.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Our country was built on and has always welcomed immigrants. Legal immigration is an engine of economic vibrancy and growth. We support immigration reform that defends our borders, simplifies the visa system, encourages legal immigration, addresses the undocumented population issue without amnesty, and fosters a healthy environment where foreign nationals can successfully invest and establish themselves in our Hoosier communities.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

We believe education is the keystone for the future prosperity of our families and our state. 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 and technical education opportunities are accessible and affordable. We firmly support continued freedom from government intrusion for private, nonsectarian schools, religious schools, and home schools, as well as increased choice for Hoosier families.

We support Governor Pence and the Indiana General Assembly's decision to increase funding for K-12 education by \$480 million for State Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. Following this significant increase in investment, K-12 funding now makes up 52% of the state biennial budget. Additionally, \$70 million were prioritized for teacher performance grants, to help ensure that Indiana's good teachers are better paid. Indiana Republicans believe it is important that Indiana 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.

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. We support Governor Pence for signing into law, and committing the financial resources necessary for, Indiana's first state-funded pre-K program for low-income children in Indiana.

SCHOOL CHOICE

We support the right of every parent to decide if their children will attend public, private, charter, parochial or home schools. We also believe it is imperative that parents play an active role in the education of their children. We support Governor Pence and the Republican led General Assembly in passing the first ever facility funding for charter schools.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

We support Governor Pence's initiative to make career and technical education a priority in every Indiana classroom. 52% of Indiana high school students are enrolled in one or more CTE classes. In the 2015

biennial budget, \$48.6 million in new funding went to career and technical education. These programs are vital to ensuring that the Hoosier workforce is equipped to meet the needs of Indiana employers.

We also support additional training for adults who need new skills to qualify for higher paying jobs. The adult high schools were given an additional \$21.8 million over last budget to help Hoosiers achieve their goals. Government should maximize existing resources to enhance the skills of our adult workforce.

RETAINING AND ATTRACTING YOUNG 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 ensure 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.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

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 commonsense solutions that focus on the future.

Under the Pence Administration, Indiana maintained a AAA bond rating, kept an honestly balanced budget, held the line on spending, maintained reserves, and added no new debt.

We support and believe our Congressional Delegation will continue to ensure common sense Hoosier values are represented in Washington, D.C. We will champion the legacy of retiring Senator Dan Coats as we endeavor to continue his focus on cutting wasteful spending, reducing national debt and promoting pro-growth economic policy. We also honor his steadfast commitment to strengthening our national security and protecting Americans from terrorist threats as he stands for the sanctity of life.

BALANCED BUDGETS

We believe that budgets should be balanced and should reduce spending, rather than increasing taxation. We support the efforts of Governor Pence and the Indiana General Assembly to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Indiana Constitution.

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. The Indiana Republican Party is committed to keeping taxes low and to promoting policies that encourage growth and investment in our state's economy.

We support Governor Pence and the Republican led General Assembly for enacting the largest state tax cut in Indiana history, while also eliminating the business personal property tax for Hoosier small businesses, and lowering the corporate income tax to strengthen Indiana's competitive advantage in attracting new investment and good paying jobs for Hoosiers.

We believe that the federal tax code is too complicated and cumbersome to businesses and individuals, and we support efforts to make our federal tax code simpler, fairer and flatter for all taxpayers.

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 reject the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) overreach as it relates to carbon-based fuels. We believe free markets should be encouraged to find effective energy solutions, not government mandates. The states, not the federal EPA, should have primacy in decisions regarding new coal-fired plants which fuel the growth of their economies, and we support Governor Pence and Senator Dan Coats' efforts to fight back against the Obama Administration's war on coal.

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.

A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

We 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 responsibly reduce, regulate, and remediate pollutants to protect human health and the environment as long as it is balanced with our priority goals of growing the economy, increasing jobs, and protecting our overall quality of life.

FREE MARKET SOLUTIONS

We support free market 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.

HEALTH CARE

We believe health care decisions should be made by patients, in consultation with their personal physician – not government bureaucrats. We support our Congressional delegation's continued efforts to

repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act while ensuring health care is accessible, affordable, and optional.

We support Governor Pence for promoting the Indiana way to provide healthcare, and are proud that Indiana has set an example for the nation in providing a consumer-driven health care plan over traditional Medicaid. In 2014, Governor Pence unveiled his plans to advance private, market-based Medicaid reforms in Indiana. Governor Pence expanded the existing Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) and announced HIP 2.0, a consumer-driven health care coverage program for low-income adults that built upon Indiana's history of consumer-driven health care and replaced traditional Medicaid for non-disabled adults. HIP 2.0 added choices for Hoosiers that further promoted HIP's consumer-driven model, while providing new incentives for members to take personal responsibility for their health. We believe in providing consumer-driven health care and empowering Hoosiers to make their own health care decisions.

We support the enactment of Indiana HB 1145 which allows doctors to volunteer their services to the community free of charge. This legislation provides Hoosiers with additional free health care options during tough times.

We recognize the importance of addressing the mental health needs of Hoosiers and strongly support new and innovative approaches to providing mental health research, treatment and services. Initiatives such as the Pence Administration's mental health hospital and the recently enacted, Governor-backed funding support for the Club House Model rehabilitation centers are strong examples of Governor

Pence's commitment to care for our most vulnerable fellow Hoosiers, including those disabled by mental illnesses, brain diseases and addictions.

SECURITY

We believe one of the primary roles of government is to protect 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 & 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 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.

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 tornados and floods. In addition, they are always ready to ensure general public safety while putting their own lives in danger. In light of growing terrorist threats abroad and here at home, we commend all Hoosiers working to protect their fellow citizens.

PROTECTING HOOSIER CHILDREN

We believe that society has a moral responsibility to protect all children, born and unborn. We support the ongoing efforts of Governor Pence and Indiana lawmakers to continue to pass, and enforce, pro-life laws that protect the unborn and promote a culture of life here in Indiana.

When Governor Pence took office, he stated that he wanted Indiana to be the most pro-adoption state in the nation. We support Governor Pence and the Indiana General Assembly for enacting the first-ever state income tax credit for Hoosier families that adopt. We continue to support Governor Pence's efforts to make Indiana the most pro-adoption state in the nation and to ensure that every child has the opportunity to find a loving, safe, and forever family.

We also support the additional \$15 million in funding for new Department of Child Services (DCS) caseworkers. This funding will go toward protecting Hoosier children from abuse and neglect.

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.