

LEARN ABOUT INDIANA



A Student's Guide to State Government

Distributed by:

Indiana House Republicans

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What is a normal day like for a legislator?

A typical day for a legislator during session consists of meetings with constituents, session and committee hearings.

Each legislator is assigned to a committee, or multiple committees, to study proposed legislation. During the committee meetings, they hear public testimony from citizens, experts and members of government agencies.

Session can be very time-consuming. There are days when legislators are in session for more than 12 hours, listening to debates on bills and casting their votes.

Many school groups come to the Statehouse in Indianapolis to learn about Indiana history, and representatives often meet with students to help them learn about the General Assembly.

Also, just because session doesn't last 365 days a year, doesn't mean they stop working for you. As a matter-of-fact, when legislators are back home, they spend a lot of time attending meetings and community events.

In order to best represent their communities, it is important that legislators meet with constituents constantly to learn what is most important to them.



Legislators cast their votes during session in the House Chamber.

Can I be a state legislator?

Not yet, but definitely in a few years! There are certain requirements you must meet in order to become a state legislator.

To be a state legislator, you must:



Be a citizen of the United States



Have lived in Indiana for two years



Have lived in your district for at least one year



Be at least 21 years old to run for the Indiana House



Be at least 25 years old to run for Indiana Senate

What do Indiana legislators do for a living?

Indiana has what is called a part-time citizen legislature. Indiana lawmakers live, work and raise their families in the district they represent. The state legislature is in session three to four months a year, which allows lawmakers to spend a great deal of their time at home in the community they represent.



As a former teacher, Rep. Wendy McNamara brings her passion for education to the House of Representatives.

Here are some of the past and present jobs of Indiana State Representatives and Senators:

- Attorney
- Pharmacist
- Auctioneer
- Business Owner
- Dentist
- Pastor
- Engineer
- Teacher
- Doctor
- Florist
- Professor
- Farmer
- Consultant
- Realtor
- Insurance Agent
- Firefighter
- Accountant
- Pilot

Indiana Branches of Government

Executive Branch

The Executive Branch administers the state government and enforces state laws. This branch consists of seven Constitutional offices elected by the citizens of Indiana. These offices are: governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, attorney general and superintendent of public instruction.

This branch also consists of over 70 state agencies, as well as boards and commissions that report to the governor, who serves as Indiana's chief executive, and lieutenant governor.



Governor Eric Holcomb

Judicial Branch

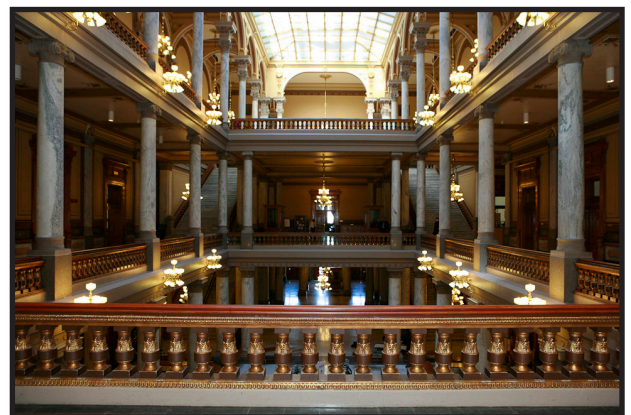
The Judicial Branch consists of the Supreme Court, the Appellate Court and Indiana Trial Court. It is the job of the Judicial Branch to uphold the laws of our state and our nation.



Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush

Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch is the “voice of the people” and writes the laws that we must follow. The legislature is called the Indiana General Assembly and has two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate.



Inside the Indiana Statehouse

The General Assembly

House of Representatives

In the Indiana House of Representatives, the Speaker of the House presides over the members while they are in session. The House consists of 100 members, twice as many members as the Senate. Each representative represents approximately 65,000 Hoosiers and is elected to two-year terms.



House Speaker
Brian Bosma

Senate

In the Indiana Senate, the lieutenant governor presides over the members and may cast tie-breaking votes. The Senate President Pro Tempore is the second-highest ranking member of the Senate and the highest-ranking senator. The Senate consists of 50 members, half as many as the House. Each senator represents approximately 130,000 Hoosiers and is elected to four-year terms.



Lt. Governor
Suzanne Crouch



Senate President Pro Tempore
David Long

Indiana House Page Program

Through the Indiana House Page Program, students in grades 6-12 have the opportunity to come to the Statehouse and participate in a full day of legislative activity. This is an approved absence from school.

House pages have the opportunity to: tour Indiana's historical Statehouse, including House and Senate chambers, the Supreme Court and the governor's office; observe the legislative session directly from the floor of the House and listen to debates on important policy issues; and meet and assist representatives with legislative tasks.

Applications to page in the upcoming session, which begins in January, can be submitted in December.

Visit www.indianahouserеспублиcans.com/page-program to apply.

Be sure to sign up early, because page positions fill quickly.

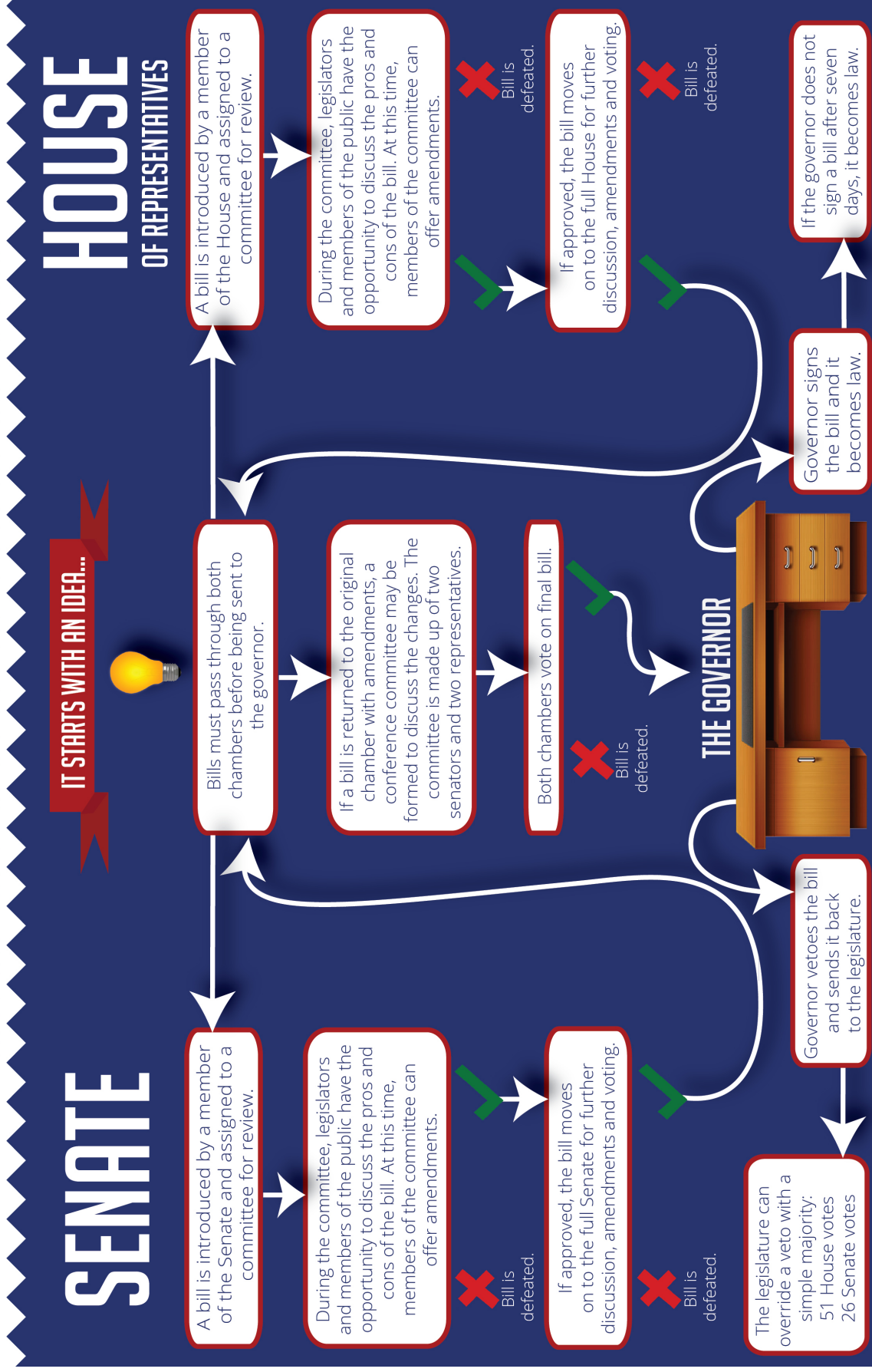
You need the following information when applying:

- Name
- Address
- Age
- School
- Name of parent/guardian
- Emergency contact
- Email address
- Name of representative
- Date requested
- Second choice of date requested
- Name of local newspaper
- Any special requirements



Rep. Sharon Negele shows a student page around the Statehouse.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



Indiana Fun Facts

State Capital

The capital of Indiana is Indianapolis. The Statehouse is located there. Corydon was the first Indiana capital from 1813 to 1825.

State Motto

The state motto is the "Crossroads of America."



State Seal

The State Seal depicts a pioneer scene portraying how the early people of Indiana overcame the wilderness. The seal has been in use since 1801, but it was not officially adopted until 1963.

State Flag

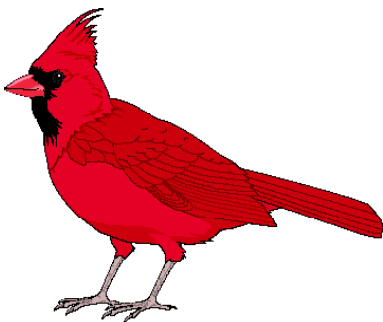
The star above the torch stands for Indiana, which was the 19th state to join the Union. The state colors are blue and gold.



The rays symbolize far-reaching influence.

The torch represents liberty and enlightenment.

State Bird



Cardinal

Population

Indiana's population is ranked 16th in the nation. According to the latest statistics, Indiana has 6,596,855 Hoosiers living here!

State Flower



Peony

Government Glossary



The House Chamber

Amendment: A change to a bill the House or Senate is considering.

Bill: The actual proposal legislators introduce to be considered for a new law.

Chamber: One of the two legislative bodies in our state; either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

Committee: A group of lawmakers chosen to study bills about a specific subject.

Democrat: One of the two main political parties in Indiana. This party's symbol is the donkey.

District: The area a lawmaker represents.

Interim: The time between sessions of the General Assembly.

Legislature: Also referred to as the General Assembly. This is made up of the House and the Senate.

Quorum: The minimum number of members required to be present for the House or Senate to conduct business.

Recess: A break in the daily legislative business. (Yes, we get recess too!)

Republican: One of the two main political parties. The symbol of this party is the elephant.

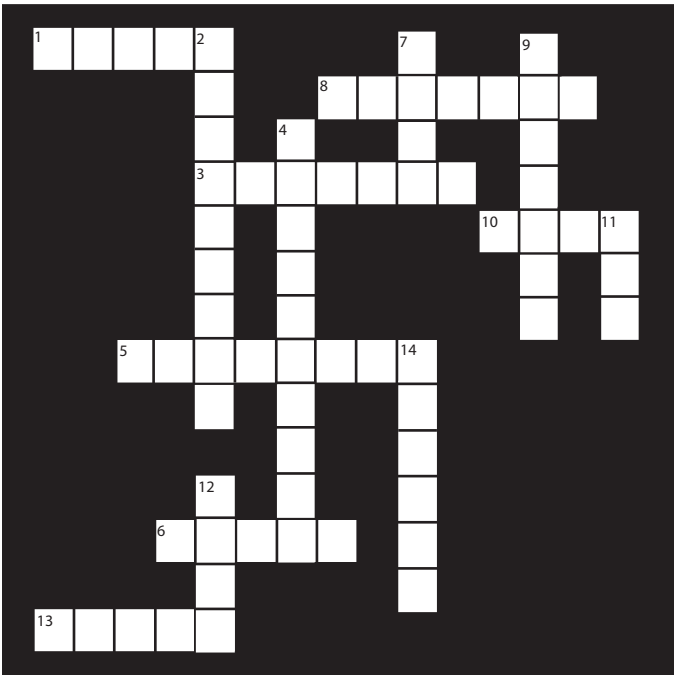
Veto: When the governor refuses to let a bill become a law.

State Government Puzzles



Reps. Dave Ober and Martin Carbaugh look for answers to the crossword.

Crossword



Across

1. Indiana has _____ branches of government.
3. The original capital was located in _____.
5. This person is the chief executive of Indiana.
6. This chamber has 100 members.
8. He or she presides over the House.
10. The first phase in creating a law is to write a _____.
13. To change a bill is to _____ it.

Down

2. Branch in which the Secretary of State works.
4. The state motto is the "_____ of America."
7. What the governor can do to a bill he doesn't support.
9. When the legislature meets.
11. A bill that successfully makes it through the legislative process.
12. The state colors are blue and _____.
14. A break in the daily legislative business.

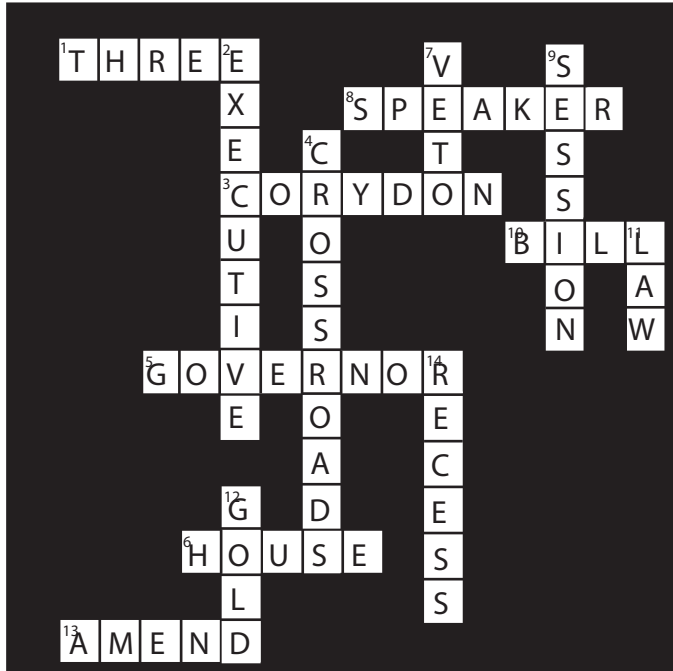
Statehouse Scramble

Unscramble these words
(Hint: Indiana Government)

1. tove _____
2. wal _____
3. natese _____
4. slilb _____
5. mtemtecoi _____

State Government Puzzle Solutions

Crossword



Reps. Heath VanNatter and Greg Steuerwald having fun in the House Chamber.



Rep. Dennis Zent gives a thumbs up.

Statehouse Scramble

Unscramble these words
(Hint: Indiana Government)

1. tove _____ VOTE or VETO
2. wal _____ LAW
3. natese _____ SENATE
4. slilb _____ BILLS
5. mtemtecoi _____ COMMITTEE