

Advocacy 101: Legislative Lobbying from a Grassroots Perspective

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November 5, 2016

Indiana General Assembly

- Indiana House of Representatives:
 - 100 total members
 - Currently, 71 Republicans and 29 Democrats
- Indiana State Senate
 - 50 total members
 - Currently, 40 Republicans and 10 Democrats
- **Election: November 8, 2016 (Stay tuned on gubernatorial race)**

Who is my legislator?

- Identifying your legislators is a crucial first step in creating a grassroots network.
- Visit the following link for a complete list of the elected officials who represent you:
<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

Indiana General Assembly Website

The Indiana General Assembly (IGA) Website serves as an important tool to follow along for committee hearings and floor votes and can be found at the following link: <http://iga.in.gov/>

IGA Website Continued

The screenshot displays the Indiana General Assembly website for the 2016 session. The header includes the IGA logo and the text "Indiana General Assembly 2016 Session". A navigation menu contains links for Information, Session, Committees, Legislation, Laws, and Publications. A search bar is located in the top right corner, with tabs for Code, Bills, and Legislators. Below the search bar is a large image of a stained glass window. A "Find Your Legislator" section is positioned below the image, with a sub-header and a brief description. To the right, the "Upcoming Meetings" section shows a calendar for Tuesday, October 18, 2016, with a meeting at 10:00 AM in the House Chamber. Below this are sections for "Watch Live" and "Video Archive". The footer contains several informational boxes: "FAQs", "Archives 1997-2013", and "Publications". A final footer row includes links for Site Map, Contact Us, Find Your Legislator, Accessibility, in.gov, Find an Agency, and Find a Person.

iga.in.gov/#

Indiana General Assembly 2016 Session

Information Session Committees Legislation Laws Publications

Search Code Bills Legislators

Search the current session

Search the current session

Advanced Search

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday

View calendar details + < Oct 18 > 2016

10:00 Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Human Services, Interim Study Committee on House Chamber

Watch Live: Senate | House

Video Archive > Browse the Archive

Find Your Legislator >

Use the online form or district maps to locate information and contact details for your local Legislator.

Notices Find Your Legislator Senate House of Representatives Interim Committees

FAQs

Where can I learn more about past and present members of the Indiana General Assembly?
How do I troubleshoot issues on the website?
What is the General Assembly?

Archives 1997-2013

Interim
Session
Indiana Code
Reports from Agencies

Publications

Administrative Code
Property Tax Studies
Reports from Agencies
Indiana Tax Incentive Review

Site Map Contact Us Find Your Legislator Accessibility in.gov Find an Agency Find a Person

Key Legislative Dates

- 2017 Legislative Session
 - The Indiana Constitution requires the IGA to enact a new, biennial state budget every two years.
 - Odd-numbered years are therefore budget years and referred to as a “long session.”

Key Legislative Dates Continued

- Organization Day: November 22, 2016
- Legislative Services Agency Bill Request Deadline: December 9, 2016
- Session Reconvenes: January 3, 2017
- Joint Convention for the Inauguration of the Governor: January 9, 2017
- Last Day of Session: By statute, the legislature must adjourn by April 30th in odd-numbered years.

The Legislative Process

- Bill is filed
- 1st Reading – Assigned to a committee
- Scheduled for hearing and vote in committee
- Committee Report adopted
- 2nd Reading on floor – Amendments
- 3rd Reading on floor – Final Vote
- Bill switches chambers and process repeats

The Legislative Process: Conference Committees

- If a bill is amended in the second chamber, it returns to the house of origin for the changes to be approved.
- If the author agrees with the changes made, the legislator files a motion to concur; if the author disagrees with the changes made, the legislator files a motion to dissent.
- If a dissent is filed, a conference committee is convened to resolve differences.
- If an agreement can be reached, the signatures of the four conferees are required.
- A final vote is then scheduled in both chambers on the final version.
- Note: If a bill is not amended in the second chamber, the bill is sent directly to the Governor's Office for action.

The Legislative Process: Gubernatorial Action

- The Governor has seven (7) days to take action on a bill once it reaches the Governor's desk.
- The Governor has three (3) options:
 - Can sign the bill into law
 - Can allow the bill to become law without his/her signature
 - Can veto the bill

A Citizen Legislature

- The IGA is a part-time legislature; the majority of its members have “regular” jobs.
- Accordingly, legislators often rely on input from constituents, advocacy groups, and lobbyists to help them craft public policy.

Types of Advocacy

- Education/Information Sharing
- Targeted Letters
- One-On-One Meetings
- Community Forums
- Petitions

Effective Issue Advocacy

- Meet with legislators in your district
- Build coalitions; identify active members of your Association
- Coordinate an education campaign
- Create a one-pager outlining major issues for your local legislators

Effective Issue Advocacy Continued

- **You** are the most effective tool for your organization. Legislators want to hear from you.
- It is never too early to start:
 - Scheduling one-on-one meetings
 - Attending community events hosted by your legislators
 - Creating a fact sheet
 - Providing personal stories / specific examples

Develop an Ask

- Describe who you are, who AMTA-IN represents, and why AMTA-IN is pursuing licensure:
 - Indiana is one of only six states that does not regulate the profession of massage therapy statewide. Indiana's approach is out of line with the rest of the U.S. and is based on a regressive view of health care and massage therapy as a profession.
 - Standards of minimum competency (measured and enforced through formal education, training, and examination requirements) are necessary for the health and protection of Hoosiers, as massage therapy has a significant impact on a person's health and well-being. The public has a right to expect that a massage therapist has the qualifications needed to practice effectively and safely.
 - Without state regulation, there is no safety net at the state level to monitor those massage therapists with allegations and complaints filed against them.

Questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions through this process!

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