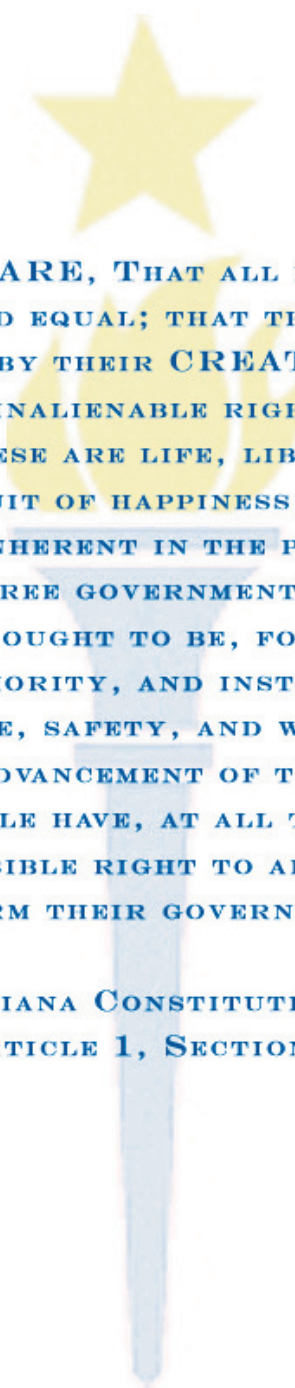


THE PARTY OF *PURPOSE*



**2010
INDIANA
REPUBLICAN
PARTY
PLATFORM**



**WE DECLARE, THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE
CREATED EQUAL; THAT THEY ARE
ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH
CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS; THAT
AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS; THAT ALL
POWER IS INHERENT IN THE PEOPLE; AND
THAT ALL FREE GOVERNMENTS ARE, AND
OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE, FOUNDED ON
THEIR AUTHORITY, AND INSTITUTED FOR
THEIR PEACE, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING.
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THESE ENDS,
THE PEOPLE HAVE, AT ALL TIMES, AN
INDEFEASIBLE RIGHT TO ALTER AND
REFORM THEIR GOVERNMENT.**

**INDIANA CONSTITUTION,
ARTICLE 1, SECTION 1**

PREAMBLE

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 Constitutions of the United States and the state of Indiana

However, the circumstances our country faces in 2010 are drastically different than what we were experiencing in June of 2008 when the previous platform was adopted. At that time Indiana was near full employment and state reserves topped \$1 billion, thanks to the fiscally responsible, pro-growth policies of Governor Mitch Daniels. Days later, 82 of our 92 counties experienced massive flooding from record rainfall across the state. Later that fall, an economic storm of far greater proportions hit. As the housing bubble burst and credit markets started to freeze, Indiana was poised to lead the country in weathering the economic storm.

Governor Daniels says we are “fighting the recession to win.” Lt. Governor Becky Skillman has called this a “recession of opportunity.” No matter how it is framed, it is clear that our Republican leaders in Indiana are not using the global economic downturn as an excuse to relent on their constant vigilance on behalf of Hoosiers, nor are they willing to compromise their belief that individuals, not government, will pull us out of this economic downturn.

By contrast, Democrats in Washington have used this recession as a fulcrum on which to leverage record spending, new mandates, and dangerous encroachments on individual liberties. In the Indiana Statehouse, too, Democrats have countered that the solution to our challenges is more government that spends without limits. The only difference today between the national and state Democrats is that the liberals in Washington have been far more successful at pushing their unsustainable brand of government onto the country.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Governor Daniels, Lt. Governor Skillman, and Senate President Pro Tempore David Long, House Republican Leader Brian Bosma, and their colleagues in the legislature for their adherence to the principles of smaller government, low taxes, and individual liberty, which has spared Indiana from the unfathomable deficits we are seeing at the federal level.

Thanks to the bold leadership of Governor Daniels, The Indiana Republican Party remains the party of purpose in Indiana, committed to leading the change by providing innovative, common sense solutions to the real world problems of everyday people and offering the promise of upward mobility for all our fellow citizens. The state of Indiana and our party both serve as models for the rest of the nation.

2010 stands to be a banner year for Indiana Republicans. Our goals are to regain a majority in the Indiana House and protect our majority in the Indiana Senate; defeat Democrat incumbents in Congress whose

voting record is out of step with Hoosiers and return a Republican majority by electing Dan Coats, Jackie Walorski, Larry Buschon, and Todd Young; retain the four U.S. House seats currently held by Republicans; and keeping the statewide offices of Secretary of State, Auditor, and Treasurer in Republican hands.

CORE GOP BELIEFS

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 – to men and women of all races and circumstance – wherever they may reside.

Taxes should be as low as possible, governmental spending should be kept under control, and regulatory requirements should be reasonable and restrained. Limited government is good government. Any and all of the following positions shall coincide with our core beliefs.

FREEDOMS AND VALUES

We stand behind...

The First Amendment

We believe that the First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. We do not support court ordered mandates that banish prayer from public forums.

We are supportive of “faith-based initiatives” and applaud Governor Daniels for creating the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, which provides help to both community-based and faith-based organizations seeking to make Indiana a better place to live for all citizens. Indiana is proving that faith-based approaches are often the most successful way to help citizens escape addictions, dependence, or lives of crime.

The Second Amendment

We understand and support the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution that gives the “people” the right to “keep and bear Arms,” which protects gun ownership by all lawful citizens.

The Sanctity of Life

While recognizing the various opinions among members of our party, we support current Indiana law that says, “Childbirth is preferred, encouraged, and supported over abortion” (IC 16-34-1-1).

The health care bill that passed earlier this year with the support of all six Democratic members of the US Congress from Indiana fails to prevent tax dollars from being used to fund abortions. We agree with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which writes, “there is compelling evidence that it would expand the role of the federal government in funding and facilitating abortion and plans that cover abortion.”

Strong family structures

We support the millennia old concept of marriage as a union between a woman and a man, and we agree with the Republican leaders in the Indiana Senate and the Indiana House of Representatives that any proposal to change that concept should be decided by the people rather than the courts.

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.

We also believe that support for, and the promotion of, responsible parenting will pay huge future rewards. We understand that individual responsibility is a prerequisite for the preservation of freedom. Every individual must be responsible for his or her actions and every individual must have the opportunity to succeed.

Free and Fair Elections

Indiana Republicans commend Secretary of State Todd Rokita in his successful efforts in support of Indiana's voter identification law, which was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. Thanks to this law, Indiana is at the national forefront for guaranteeing free and fair elections.

We believe strongly in the right to vote. We join with Republicans in the General Assembly who have repeatedly supported efforts to increase voting accessibility and improve the integrity of the election process with measures like the Voter ID law.

The maps drawn by House Democrats in 2001 have disenfranchised Hoosier voters, allowing Republican candidates to garner hundreds of thousands more votes than their Democrat opponents without attaining a majority of representatives to govern. The back room process of drawing maps solely for political advantage must come to an end.

Republicans pledge to apply objective principles to the redistricting of 2011, creating legislative and Congressional districts that are compact and contiguous, preserve local communities of interest, respect local government boundaries and precinct lines, and protect minority rights through full compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act. We encourage our legislators to enact these fundamental principles into Indiana law despite their rejection by the House Democrat leadership in 2010.

We also join with Republicans in the General Assembly who have repeatedly opposed measures that could threaten the integrity of our elections.

The Arts

Indiana Republicans appreciate the arts as an integral part of our culture, whether it is for economic development, education, or entertainment. We believe that the arts should be supported by exploring more opportunities through strong public-private partnerships.

2010 PLATFORM

ECONOMY

We believe in...

Aggressive pursuit of new job opportunities

Since assuming office in 2005, the number one priority of Governor Mitch Daniels and Hoosier Republicans has been the creation and retention of good-paying jobs for Hoosiers.

Governor Daniels and Lt. Governor Skillman, with the aid of Republican majorities in the General Assembly, created the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and gave this agency the tools needed to attract jobs and investment from private enterprise.

Under Republican leadership, Indiana has improved its infrastructure – both seen and unseen – first through Major Moves, our state’s \$3.8 billion road-building infusion, then through landmark telecommunications deregulation. The economic development tool box was expanded further through the single factor sales tax, shovel-ready program, and a bevy of tax credits that give employers ample incentives to take job-creating risks in Indiana they may not otherwise pursue. As a result, *Forbes* ranked Indiana first in the Midwest and sixth nationally for the cost of doing business.

Though economic circumstances have changed, Indiana’s status as a destination state for job creation has not. This is demonstrated perhaps most potently by the 51 companies who chose Indiana over other states when choosing to consolidate their operations. When looking to cut costs in this difficult economy, these 51 companies brought 5,550 new job commitments and kept nearly 11,000 positions in Indiana that could have potentially been moved to another state.

As of this writing, the IEDC has attracted more jobs in the first five months of 2010 than any year prior, despite the economic circumstances still facing the country. The average wage for these jobs is \$23.41 per hour – 28% higher than the current Hoosier average.

Indiana Republicans applaud the efforts of the IEDC to help bring good-paying jobs to Hoosiers, and we fully support the continued implementation of business-friendly policies for the state of Indiana.

A commitment to an international presence

As Republicans, we support free and fair international trade and expanded opportunities for Hoosiers to sell their goods and products in foreign markets. By the end of 2010, Governor Daniels and Lt. Governor Skillman will have led ten international jobs and investment missions. The results have been clear. In October of 2008, Indiana was named the top state for international investment per capita, and in 2009, international companies committed to invest \$143 million and create 1,800 jobs in Indiana. Thanks in part to these efforts, Governor Daniels was named “International Citizen of the Year” in April of 2010 by the International Center of Indianapolis. As competition in the global

marketplace continues, we believe Indiana must continue to explore opportunities for foreign investment and these new markets to sell Hoosier goods and services.

The importance of agriculture

One vital component to Indiana's economy, particularly in rural Indiana, is agriculture. Since the creation of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture in 2005, Indiana has seen 6,600 jobs and \$5.3 billion invested in agriculture-related business. In the international market, Indiana ranks 9th among states in total agricultural exports, sending \$3.7 billion of products each year and supporting 24,000 jobs on and off the farm. In 2009, Lt. Governor Skillman, who serves as the Secretary of Agriculture, updated the strategic plan to focus on advocacy, environmental stewardship, and economic opportunity. We support the efforts of ISDA to increase prosperity of our Hoosier farmers while being good stewards of our natural resources.

An expanded economic portfolio

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. Indiana Republicans applaud the work of the Daniels Administration to diversify employment and economic opportunities in Indiana, and we credit Republicans in the General Assembly for giving them the tools to do so. The IEDC has invested and achieved success in the emerging areas of life sciences and defense, among others. Over 13,300 life science jobs have been committed to the state in the past five years, and defense contracts in Indiana have ballooned from \$3.1 billion in 2004 to \$7.8 billion today. All of this has been done without reducing the focus on manufacturing, where 45,000 job commitments have been made. In fact, Indiana workers are now poised to build the products of tomorrow, led by commitments from EnerDel, Carbon Motors, Think Automotive, Remy, Cummings, Allison, and many other companies who are bringing the next generation of manufacturing jobs to Indiana.

TAXES AND SPENDING

We must...

Efficiently manage government

The majority of individuals testifying before the 2010 Platform Committee did so on the issue of limited government. The Indiana Republican Party is proud to stand for leaner, cleaner government. We echo the sentiments of Melissa Gerber, from Elkhart, who stated, "The platform should be small government, plain and simple."

The ballooning national debt is one of the most troubling trends of the day. In the first fiscal year of the Obama Administration, the federal deficit increased by \$1.9 trillion. In 2010, the total U. S. debt could reach \$14 trillion. The outrageous spending of President Obama and his Democrat majority in Congress holds several unthinkable consequences. We urge the Indiana Congressional delegation to make lowering the national debt a top priority for the 112th Congress.

The free spending Democrats in Washington could learn a lot by looking at what the Daniels Administration has done with responsible stewardship of tax dollars.

When Governor Daniels assumed office in 2005 with a Republican majority in the legislature, they worked together to pass the first honestly balanced budget in more than a decade. Governor Daniels turned a billion dollar deficit into a \$1.3 billion surplus during his first term and paid back the \$700 million owed to schools and local governments. As a result of this sound fiscal management, in 2008, Indiana earned a AAA bond rating for the first time in state history. Indiana Republicans are well aware of the fact that the surplus has been the primary reason taxes in Indiana have not risen since the recession began.

While in office, Governor Daniels has now signed and managed three consecutive balanced budgets; however, we know the best way to ensure fiscal discipline in Indiana is with a Republican governor and Republican majorities in both the Indiana House and Senate. We look forward to House Republicans regaining the majority in 2010.

We stand firmly behind Governor Daniels and his belief that government should not take one dime more than it needs from its citizens. Indiana Republicans are providing the leadership to make sure that state spending is within its means. Through fiscal discipline and efficiencies, Governor Daniels has trimmed hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary spending from state government. Today, there are fewer state employees than any time since 1981.

We also encourage local governments to begin operating more efficiently. In 2006, Indiana Republicans in the General Assembly gave local governments the ability to merge on their own accord. In 2008, the town of Zionsville merged with two surrounding townships, becoming the first municipality to do so. Other communities are beginning to follow suit, constituting a step toward eliminating duplicative layers of government for all of Indiana.

We continue to support the work of the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform, chaired by Chief Justice Randall Shepard and former Governor Joseph Kernan in 2007. The General Assembly has adopted five of the commission's 27 recommendations, including the important step of eliminating township assessors. As local governments struggle with the sagging economy, The Indiana Republican Party urges the General Assembly and local units of government to continue the debate on the remaining recommendations.

Indiana Republicans understand that small government is not in our best interest if it does not work. That is why we are proud that the Daniels Administration has proven itself able to do more with less. Despite having the fewest number of state em-

ployees since 1981, state government operations have improved measurably over the last five years. State government purchases goods and services from Indiana companies 87% of the time, up from 60% five years ago. Backlogs in permit and similar approvals have been eliminated across the spectrum of state agencies. Tax return waiting periods have been cut from 23 days to 15 days. The most oft cited example is the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, which through a variety of reforms has cut the average visit time from over 30 minutes in 2005 to eight minutes today. We are proud that Indiana state employees have applied business-like principles to streamline functions and deliver services far more efficiently than ever before.

Balance budgets without tax increases

The Indiana Republican Party is proud of the work Governor Daniels and Statehouse Republicans have done in the past six years, passing three consecutive balanced budgets without raising taxes despite efforts by Democrats to spend billions that we did not have. In accordance with our belief in lean government, we always believe budgets should be balanced with reduced spending rather than increased taxation. In 2009, the Tax Foundation recognized Indiana as the best state in the Midwest for low taxes and ranked us 12th nationally.

Due to the current economic climate, our General Assembly in 2011 will face one of the most difficult budget-writing sessions in the history of Indiana. Due to lower than expected tax collections since the beginning of the fiscal year in July of 2009, the reserves Gov. Daniels administration worked so hard to build will be nearly exhausted by the end of the biennium. And even if revenues rebound over the next year, Indiana will have fewer dollars to operate government in 2011 than it did in 2006.

While 46 states have increased, or have plans to increase, taxes since the start of the recession, we agree with Lt. Governor Skillman, who testified to the committee that the worst thing government can do in a down economy is raise taxes. This means lawmakers must look across all categories of state government for savings.

The Republican Party is the only party in Indiana that believes we can -- and must -- pass a fourth consecutive balanced budget in 2011 without a general tax increase.

Make property tax caps permanent

Indiana Republicans cheer Governor Mitch Daniels and Republican leadership in the House and Senate for their bold leadership in putting forward a comprehensive property tax plan that delivered immediate and significant relief for homeowners, permanent protection for taxpayers, responsible limits on local government spending, and improved accuracy and fairness in the assessment of property value.

In two years, Hoosier homeowners have seen property taxes fall by an average of 40%, providing the largest tax cut in state history. The result is more affordable housing, which protects seniors and young, first-time home buyers alike.

We thank the Republican leaders in the Indiana General Assembly for their persistence in adding property tax caps to the Indiana Constitution. Despite every effort from Democrat leadership to derail it, the 1%-2%-3% caps will be on the ballot in November 2010 for Hoosier voters to have the final say.

Indiana Republicans strongly support the ratification of the property tax caps as the only way to ensure Hoosier taxpayers are protected from future excessive spending.

HEALTH CARE

We support...

Repealing Obamacare in favor of free-market fixes

When Democrat Sen. Evan Bayh and Representatives Pete Visclosky, Joe Donnelly, Andre Carson, Brad Ellsworth, and Baron Hill voted in favor of President Obama's health care bill, they voted for an unprecedented infringement on the rights of the individual and the states.

In order to stop this calamitous law from doing severe harm to the fiscal condition of our state and nation, we stand in full support of Attorney General Greg Zoeller, who has joined at least 20 other states in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the new health care law.

It is impossible at this point in time to know the full costs of the Democrat health care overhaul, but we are learning more each week. A very recent study showed that health care reform as passed by Democrats in Washington will cost Indiana from \$2.9 billion to as much as \$3.6 billion over the course of a decade. The fact that costs will rise each year until they reach \$750 million in 2020 is an even scarier prospect for Hoosiers. Additionally, despite promises to the contrary, studies have already shown health care premiums will go up by as much as 78% due to new coverage mandates. Lastly, the expansion of Medicaid could lead to 500,000 new Hoosiers on Medicaid roles.

To help pay for the measure, Democrats levied a job-crushing \$90 billion tax on pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers that employ thousands of Hoosiers.

We must elect Republicans to Congress to fix this mess. The Indiana Republican Party believes that health care costs need to be controlled and that health insurance should be available to Americans who do not have a viable alternative today. We believe the bill passed by Congress and signed by the president will have no positive impact on the affordability of either care or insurance. Indiana Republicans firmly believe that this big-government boondoggle needs to be repealed and replaced with free-market alternatives. This replacement package should include tort reform, insurance portability, and a focus on Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). It must also protect seniors' Medicare benefits.

Once again, the federal government should look to Indiana for guidance on how to provide affordable health care. Upon assuming office in 2005, Gov. Daniels made health and wellness an important plank of his roadmap to recovery, creating INShape Indiana and Rx for Indiana.

The most important piece of Governor Daniels' health care push was landmark, bipartisan reform in 2007. Behind the leadership of Governor Daniels and Republicans in the General Assembly, the Healthy Indiana Plan has provided health care coverage to 45,000 Hoosiers. The Healthy Indiana Plan is based on free-market principles and creates a "POWER" Health Savings Account to help pay medical expenses for enrollees. It also provides tax credits for small businesses and ensures all Hoosier children have access to full immunizations. With the new federal law's massive expansion of Medicaid, Indiana's wildly successful Healthy Indiana Plan will be wiped out.

Furthermore, Governor Daniels began offering Health Savings Accounts to state employees as an alternative to traditional insurance plans. The results have been startling. Collectively, the 70% of state employees who have taken the HSA option have saved more than \$8 million, and the state has saved \$20 million. Most importantly, owners of HSAs are making better health care decisions. As Governor Daniels has said, "Americans can make sound, thrifty decisions about their own health. If national policy trusted and encouraged them to do so, our skyrocketing health-care costs would decelerate."

EDUCATION

We are committed to...

Providing the best K-12 education for our kids

Indiana Republicans 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. Our party supports local home-rule decisions by parents, teachers, administrators, and school boards, whenever possible. 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 believe Hoosier teachers deserve high praise for their efforts to shape the minds of our children. To reward our best teachers, we believe pay ought to be based on performance and not just seniority.

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 educating 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.

We are extraordinarily proud of the work Governor Daniels and Dr. Tony Bennett, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction, have done to improve educational opportunities for Indiana's youth. Governor Daniels' work to fund full-day Kindergarten, move ISTEP to the spring, return discipline to schools, and direct more dollars to the classroom have made an impact on our educational environment.

Indiana Republicans support fully funding K-12 education, and when state revenues begin to recover, we believe education spending ought to be the first area of the state budget to be strengthened. Hoosiers send a

larger portion of their personal income to schools than all but seven states. A policy Republicans added to the current state budget that requires half of all surplus revenues to go toward education demonstrates our commitment to schools.

Since Gov. Daniels took office in 2005, K-12 funding in Indiana has increased by \$359 million. Indiana now spends more dollars per student than 47 other states when adjusted for cost of living. If funding were the only problem facing schools, the problem in Indiana would have been fixed long ago. Now, as Dr. Bennett has said, “Instead of asking how much money we are spending on education, we should be asking how much education we can get for our money.”

Since taking office in 2009, Dr. Bennett has challenged the education establishment with bold initiatives to improve our schools. He has changed licensing requirements to allow more qualified individuals to pursue a career in the classroom. He closed loopholes around the 180-day school year requirement. He has begun grading schools on the same A-F scale that students get graded on, and he has put together a comprehensive “Fast Forward” program that brings some of the nation’s most innovative education ideas to Indiana. Republicans in the legislature have also worked with Dr. Bennett to expand charter and virtual charter opportunities in Indiana and remove Indiana’s nonsensical prohibition against considering performance as a part of teacher pay.

Indiana Republicans will continue to stand on the side of students, who will be the true beneficiaries of the bold reforms being brought by Governor Daniels, Dr. Bennett, and Republicans in the General Assembly.

The nation’s best colleges and universities

Indiana Republicans recognize our state’s institutions of higher education play a critical role in the economic vitality of our state. We support efforts to encourage research and development at our universities and move those innovations quickly into the commercial marketplace. Our universities are globally recognized for their work in preparing young people for the jobs of the 21st century and developing the tools that improve our lives. Republicans encourage the betterment of our university system and support the growth of Ivy Tech as our state’s community college network.

Indiana Republicans agree with Governor Daniels’ stated goal to create a trust fund to make higher education more affordable and accessible for Hoosier students and their families, without any increase in taxes, and to encourage the administrators and trustees of Indiana’s public universities to work with the governor and the General Assembly to achieve this goal.

Furthermore, we support Governor Daniels’ call for universities to begin offering more three-year college degrees. Two outstanding Indiana institutions -- Ball State University and Manchester College -- have already begun offering these accelerated degrees, which help both the state and the student save money.

We applaud Indiana’s College Choice 529 Plan, initiated by Auditor Tim

Berry while he served as Treasurer, and now continued by current Treasurer Richard Mourdock, which has helped thousands of Hoosier families save for their childrens' college education.

ENERGY

Republicans will pursue...

Energy Independence without "Cap and Trade"

We can all agree that conservation and renewable energy are positive steps toward a cleaner planet. We stand opposed, however, to the "cap and trade" legislation before Congress. "Cap and trade" will tax companies who do not meet strict environmental mandates to which other countries will not submit, sacrificing Hoosier jobs for negligible results.

As a coal-producing state, Indiana has thousands of energy sector workers and some of the lowest energy costs in the nation. By Democrats' own estimates, utility bills could double under their cap and trade plan, and massive job losses to foreign countries are guaranteed in states such as ours. As Gov. Daniels has written, "No honest estimate pretends to suggest that a U.S. cap-and-trade regime will move the world's thermometer by so much as a tenth of a degree a half century from now. My fellow citizens are being ordered to accept impoverishment for a policy that won't save a single polar bear."

As spelled out below, Indiana Republicans are 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 cap and trade scheme is needed to solve the world's real or perceived climate problems.

Indiana Republicans believe more fuel should be produced in the Midwest. We support the continued development of alternative fuels and believe Indiana can and should be a leader in biofuels production. In 2004, only one biofuel plant existed in Indiana. Today, fifteen biofuel plants are currently operating or under construction across the state, including the world's largest biodiesel plant and two of the largest ethanol plants east of the Mississippi.

Indiana Republicans believe that clean energy pursuits should include the promotion of alternative energy sources including wind, solar, and methane. Behind the leadership of Lt. Governor Skillman, who oversees Indiana's Office of Energy Development, the state has become a leader in wind power. Indiana ranked 1st and 2nd on the list of fastest growing wind states in 2008 and 2009.

Senator Richard Lugar has been leading the way for energy security at the federal level for more than a decade. He recognizes that America's dependence on foreign oil is a threat to our national security and understands that a fuel source created by agricultural products, and agricultural waste, could inject new resources into American farms.

Clean Coal Technology

Indiana Republicans recognize that the Indiana coal industry is a significant asset to Indiana's economy. Indiana Republicans also recognize the challenges that the continued use of Indiana coal present to improving our environment. We are committed to working with the energy industry and the coal industry in Indiana to utilize and develop clean coal technology, such as coal gasification. 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. We congratulate Governor Daniels and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for having all 92 counties meet all federal air quality standards for the first time ever.

Under the Daniels Administration, more land has been set aside for conservation than in any comparable period of our history. We commit ourselves to the task of protecting and conserving the beauty nature bestowed on our state.

SECURITY

We will fight to...

Keep our citizens safe

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 government can complete.

When Republicans swept into office in 2004, Indiana was on the verge of losing the last of its military bases. The federal Base Realignment and Closure process was well underway and hopes of maintaining bases in our state was low. Thanks to the persistence and hard work of Gov. Daniels, Lt. Governor Skillman, and supportive local leaders, Indiana now has a thriving military presence.

Indianapolis is adding jobs at Fort Benjamin Harrison. Crane Naval Base in southwest Indiana is thriving, where the state's only certified three-county tech park is providing an attractive location for new investment. Muscatatuck in Butlerville is now the largest and most sophisticated urban training facility in the country, and Camp Atterbury is one of America's largest National Guard mobilization facilities.

Indiana Republicans will continue to support these military facilities and work to enhance the defense industry in the state.

Provide for our nation's heroes

Indiana Republicans support with pride the men and women serving in the United States military, especially those serving in harm's way. We support their mission and pray for their success and safe return. We are particularly grateful to the thousands of Hoosier members of the Indiana National Guard and the Reserves currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. We commend the families who stand behind these loved ones as they protect the freedoms we hold so dear. We support and respect all veterans of conflicts past and present and pledge not to forget them in their time of need.

Actions to increase veteran benefits since 2005 include giving National Guardsmen called into active duty the difference between their National Guard and state salaries; waiving in-state college tuition for the families of veterans killed in combat; creating the Military Family Relief Fund; increasing tax deduction and benefits for veterans in 2007; and even exempting former POWs from paying for metered parking.

Protect Our Children

Indiana Republicans are proud of Governor Daniels' efforts to protect 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.

On his first day in office, Governor Daniels created the Department of Child Services, and since then Indiana has hired 800 new caseworkers to protect children, doubling the previous number. While every case of child abuse and neglect is a tragedy, we believe the reformed child welfare system in Indiana is making important progress. Governor Daniels and the Department of Child Services have been nationally recognized by Prevent Child Abuse America, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Administration on Children, Youth and Families for its efforts protecting children in Indiana.

The threat of sexual predators continues to be a challenge in the efforts to protect Hoosier children. We urge strict enforcement of Zachary's Law and other deterrents to deal harshly with those who would abuse our children. Indiana has made several important strides toward protecting children, such as legislation to strengthen Indiana's kidnapping laws and to require that any convicted child sexual offender wear a Global Positioning System monitoring device and be placed on lifetime parole.

We believe that society has a moral responsibility to protect all children from dangerous sexual 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.

Bolster police and fire protection

Indiana Republicans commend our Governor for achieving his stated goal of putting 250 additional state police troopers on the road by 2008. In addition, a new state-of-the-art crime lab has been opened

and approximately 800 new in-car computers have been issued.

We also support the creation of the state's first regional fire academies, so firefighters in every part of the state have access to the same high-quality training that previously only large cities could provide.

Support legal immigration into America

Indiana Republicans believe that the United States is, and should be, "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." America has always been a nation of immigrants and Indiana must be open and welcoming to those who come here legally and want to make their lives better. We believe that our strength is in our diversity. We encourage lawful immigration policies to accommodate new and diverse populations, but we also realize undocumented aliens pose a national security threat and our borders must be 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.

We believe the immigration issue requires a solution by the federal government. Indiana Republicans strongly encourage Congress and the Obama Administration to take the necessary steps to secure our country's borders.

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. However, Indiana Republicans believe those who are here illegally should not receive public benefits which are meant to be provided for citizens only. We should encourage all immigrants to learn English.

PARTY BUILDING

We will grow our party through...

Outreach

Indiana Republicans respect diversity 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. The Indiana Republican Party recognizes the historic contributions Americans of all ethnic origins and cultures have made to the fabric of this great nation. We welcome America's newest citizens and encourage their full participation in the Republican Party.

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 and our state.

Re-energized Voters

Given the drastic and unwelcome changes coming from Washington, DC, since President Barack Obama's inauguration, millions of people

nationwide are regaining, even beginning, their interest in politics and mobilizing through various grassroots groups. The Indiana Republican Party has the utmost respect and admiration for any individual who cares enough about the future of our country to exercise his or her First Amendment rights of speech and assembly.

We understand that the Tea Party movement and other similar grassroots groups are not monolithic, and we welcome all who share our principles to become engaged in the Republican Party and help us chart the course for conservative, constitutional leadership for decades to come.

Republican Mayors

Indiana Republicans are proud of the dozens of Republican Mayors leading communities across our state. Municipal governments, large and small, face many unique challenges. However, Republican leadership in the city halls across Indiana has proven time and again that the principles we believe in, fiscal responsibility, low taxes, sensible regulatory policies, and open and accessible government, can help create thriving communities. We applaud our Republican Mayors who are on the front line of public service in their communities.

ABOUT THE DRAFTING PROCESS

The 2010 Indiana Republican Platform Committee held public hearings in Mishawaka, New Albany, and Indianapolis, giving Hoosiers across the state the opportunity to address the platform committee in person. The committee also invited thousands of individuals to testify by e-mail and via the state party web site. The platform committee, composed of Republicans representing each of Indiana's congressional districts, met in general session providing each member the opportunity for input into the content of this platform. This platform thus reflects a broad consensus among Indiana Republicans on the party's core values and principles.

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