



INDIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

2018 INDIANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

Building Stronger Hoosier Communities Together

Fellow Democrats,

Hoosier Democrats are fighting for an Indiana where Hoosiers come first. Where leaders rise to meet challenges head-on. Where the focus is on building stronger communities and working families, fairness and our future, together. Our candidates, from township office to U.S. Senate, will fight for common sense initiatives to educate and train Hoosiers so they can thrive in the 21st century economy and earn a livable wage, provide for their family and retire with dignity. They will advocate for policies like paid leave and child care tax credits to lower the cost of living for working families and invest in quality of life initiatives.

We stand for freedom: the freedom to cast a ballot, freedom from the fear of a pre-existing condition bankrupting you or worse, freedom to live in a big city, small town, or anywhere between and have access to good-paying jobs and good schools, and the freedom to pursue your dreams free from discrimination. This is what progress looks like.

Our Party will provide the resources, know-how and grassroots training to help elect Hoosier Democrats at every level who demonstrate our values.

Our vision for Indiana is a state led by Hoosier Democrats where residents live in vibrant communities they are proud to call home. Where they earn the Midwest's highest wages, send their children to top-ranked schools, and live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Across our state, Hoosier Democratic candidates from the local level to Washington are already putting our principles to work, building stronger communities. They are finding new and innovative ways to train Hoosier workers and to grow good-paying jobs in their communities. They are putting more money back in the pockets of working Hoosiers by reducing the cost of living. And they are investing to create places where families want to live and where Hoosiers want to start businesses. From Hammond to Gary, South Bend, Winchester, Lafayette, Indianapolis, Sullivan, New Albany, and everywhere between, Hoosier Democrats are leading. At the Indiana Statehouse and in Congress, Hoosier Democrats fight for common sense policies that put the Hoosiers they represent first. It's our job to build on their work, and to elect more Democrats to offices at every level.

Livable wages. Early childhood and strong public education. Protecting access to affordable health care across the state. Safety, security and equality. Fairer elections. Democrats are fighting for these principles to build stronger communities.

Let's build on their progress. Let's get to work, and work together to do it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Zuby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair

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31	deals.....	21 –
32	• Achieve our long-term infrastructure investment goals with an eye on Indiana’s future,	
33	environmental sustainability, and the prosperity of our state.....	21 –
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3 for state contracts.....- 22 -
4 • Manages services for women veterans- 22 -
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8 military suicides.- 22 -
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10

1 AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL HOOSIERS

2

3 The facts don't lie. The Indiana economy is leaving Hoosiers behind. The cost of living keeps rising but
4 Hoosiers' incomes haven't kept up.

5 Hoosier Democrats are committed to ensuring families do not just make ends meet, but thrive. The
6 unemployment rate is not the ultimate barometer of a successful economy because not all jobs are
7 created equal. Too many Hoosiers work more than one job just to put food on the table.

8 An economy that works for Hoosiers grows good-paying jobs but also proactively
9 provides opportunities for workers to retrain and retool to compete for 21st century
10 jobs.

11 An economy that works for all Hoosiers lowers the barriers for Hoosier entrepreneurs to take risks and
12 start businesses right here.

13 Hoosier women earn just 75 cents for every dollar men make. For African American women: 64 cents,
14 Hispanic women: 56 cents, and for Asian women: 77 cents.

15 Lost wages mean fewer resources to spend or save and make the rising cost of living even more difficult
16 to navigate.

17 Indiana's gender pay gap increased in 2016. It's unacceptable and it costs Hoosier
18 women more than \$10 billion every year.

19 To restore this vision for the Indiana economy, Hoosier Democrats will fight to:

- 20 • Work to raise incomes in our state, including incrementally increasing the minimum wage to
21 \$15/hour to ensure no person working 40 hours a week lives in poverty while minimizing the impact
22 to small businesses. Earning a sustainable, livable wage allows working families to provide for their
23 families, save for retirement and get ahead.
- 24 • Continue the fight for equal pay for equal work, period.
- 25 • Institute a pay equity policy for public employees to ensure they are paid fairly, and highlight
26 Indiana businesses that promote pay equity.
- 27 • Make two years of community college or technical training tuition-free for high-demand, high-wage
28 positions aligned with local employers' needs.
- 29 • Look beyond renaming existing workforce development programs and target existing workforce
30 training dollars to career-ready programs that teach the skills employers need now.
- 31 • Focus high-wage, high-growth economic development efforts in rural areas and communities with
32 high unemployment or that are underrepresented in traditional economic development efforts.

- 1 • Expand broadband internet access to lower barriers for businesses, families and students in rural
2 areas.
- 3 • Support education on women’s rights and work with our women’s organizations that support these
4 efforts.
- 5 • Incentivize our state’s best and brightest to call Indiana home by creating tax incentives for those
6 graduating with degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).
- 7 • Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit and other savings vehicles for low income Hoosiers.
- 8 • Invest in manufacturing to help small businesses purchase equipment and hire new workers through
9 initiatives such as Manufacturing Reinvestment Accounts.
- 10 • Promote economic innovation through sustained investment in research and development.
- 11 • Ensure Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals can continue to work and access educational
12 opportunities in Indiana, while recognizing the \$500 million in economic activity DACA recipients
13 generate for the Hoosier economy.
- 14 • Support small businesses and startups in our state – especially those engaged in technological
15 innovations that help diversify the Hoosier economy.
- 16 • Incentivize employers to hire unemployed and underemployed Hoosiers.
- 17 • Encourage an extensive evaluation of tax incentives, as well as the establishment of rigorous job
18 creation and accountability standards for economic development tools offered by the state. Claw
19 back any incentives or taxpayer dollars used by companies to offshore Hoosier jobs, and continue to
20 hold accountable those members of the General Assembly who vote against these claw backs.
21

22 A FAIR DEAL FOR INDIANA WORKERS

23

24 Too often, incentives and tax breaks flow to corporations all too willing to chase profits by moving
25 Hoosier jobs overseas. Communities in Indianapolis, Huntington and across the state know the
26 economic uncertainty that comes with companies shipping jobs out of Indiana towns. We must put
27 Hoosier workers before the corporations who do not look out for the best interests of Hoosier families
28 in our state.

29 We also must recognize organized labor’s critical role in building Indiana’s middle class. Labor unions
30 have fought for fair wages, good benefits and safer workplaces. As a result, every Hoosier worker enjoys
31 the benefits organized labor fought so hard for and won.

32 **Stronger labor unions strengthen the entire workforce. They are instrumental in**
33 **raising wages for Hoosiers across the economy.**

34 The right of workers to bargain collectively drives wages higher and fuels the growth of the middle class.
35 “Right to Work” laws and other attempts to diminish Hoosier workers’ rights have led to stagnant

1 income growth. Restoring prevailing wages laws will help turn lagging wage growth around. It's time to
2 end Republicans' war on working men, women and families.

3 The Indiana Democratic Party stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the efforts of our partners in organized
4 labor to remain the foundation of the American marketplace. We'll fight to repeal efforts to
5 purposefully undermine Hoosier workers' right to organize and demand fair wages and safe working
6 conditions.

7 We will:

- 8 • Support efforts such as Senator Joe Donnelly's End Outsourcing Act that closes tax loopholes that
9 encourage some corporations to ship American jobs overseas. It is unacceptable that our tax code
10 awards incentives or taxpayer-funded contracts to companies that send Hoosier jobs to other
11 countries.
- 12 • Crack down on unfair practices that lead to a loss of Hoosier jobs including currency manipulation
13 and other tactics that put Indiana manufacturers on an unfair playing field.
- 14 • Oppose unfair trade deals that ship American jobs overseas. We need fair trade, not agreements
15 that have the potential to put American companies at a disadvantage and Hoosiers out of work.
- 16 • Support the passage and enforcement of state and federal laws ensuring workers the right to
17 bargain collectively, including those who work in the public sector and simplify the process for
18 workers to organize unions.
- 19 • Repeal "Right to Work" and restore the Common Construction Wage to increase working Hoosiers'
20 incomes and boost local economies.
- 21 • Encourage strong and swift penalties for violating labor laws, and support banning permanent
22 replacements of workers who strike responsibly.
- 23 • Ensure that any new trade agreements include strong standards on labor, the environment, and
24 currency manipulation.
- 25 • Oppose any efforts that cancel labor agreements or any measure that endangers workers on the
26 job.
- 27 • Work to restore workers' rights to overtime, fight the repeal of dues deduction laws, work to restore
28 and enhance prevailing wage protections, and stop companies from mislabeling employees as
29 "independent contractors" to avoid paying benefits and taxes.
- 30 • Empower the Indiana Civil Rights Commission to proactively fight pay discrimination at every level
31 and ensure once and for all, equal pay for equal work.
- 32 • Protect whistle-blowers reporting unsafe or unfair working conditions.
- 33 • Reform workers' compensation to provide injured workers the resources they need to rejoin the
34 workforce.
- 35 • Ensure out-of-work Hoosiers have access to adequate unemployment insurance to help them return
36 to the workplace.
- 37 • Enforce "Buy American" provisions and ensure no waivers to Buy American procurement
38 procedures.

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1 A WORLD-CLASS PUBLIC EDUCATION

2

3 Indiana’s Constitution guarantees a quality public education for every Hoosier child.

4 Public schools anchor Indiana communities. Public schools are the spark that ignite
5 the curiosity of Hoosier children and are their ticket to a promising future.

6 Public schools are the center of urban and rural communities, alike. And Republicans have put their
7 promise in jeopardy.

8 It’s time to focus on what’s best for student learning again. Indiana is mired in a teacher shortage crisis.
9 For too long, political considerations have outweighed what is best for students. It starts with respecting
10 teachers, educational best practices, and returning the emphasis to the classroom. Average teacher pay
11 in Indiana dropped by 15 percent between 2000 and 2017, the largest drop in the nation.

12 We will work to:

- 13 • Secure fair and adequate funding for public schools to ensure access to a balanced curriculum for all
14 students and ensure access to highly effective teachers regardless of their ZIP code.
- 15 • End the practice of Hoosier taxpayer dollars funding private or for-profit schools.
- 16 • Invest in educators by boosting pay and ensuring classrooms across the state are equipped with the
17 resources – both material and staff – to provide a top quality learning environment.
- 18 • Promote a positive learning climate for all students. End bullying so all students feel included
19 regardless of their race, color, religion, creed, national origin, economic status, disability, sex, sexual
20 orientation, or gender identity.
- 21 • Demand access to universal preschool across the state, including the expansion of preschool
22 programs in all public school corporations by 2020.
- 23 • Abolish ISTEP and all other high-stakes tests.
 - 24 • Make streamlined, individualized assessments that provide quick feedback to students,
25 families, and educators, that show performance and growth over the course of a school year
26 optional.
- 27 • Individualize high school graduation plans and expand access to college and career ready pathways.
28 Ensure all students have a clear pathway to graduation that supports their ability to enter college or
29 begin their career.
- 30 • Foster an environment of trust that embraces great teachers and encourages the best and brightest
31 to enter the teaching profession.
- 32 • Engage families to increase the literacy rates of Hoosier children by embracing tried-and-true best
33 practices.
- 34 • Ensure our schools continue to be safe for all Hoosier children by providing the resources and
35 flexibility for local administrators to develop security solutions that work in their communities.

- 1 • Close the digital divide to ensure all students have equal access to technology and resources at
- 2 school and at home through expanding broadband internet access, especially in rural areas.
- 3 • End the practice of charging fees for public school textbooks and computers.
- 4 • Ensure affordable and no-cost meals are available to public school students based on income and
- 5 end the practice of meal debt-shaming.
- 6 • Promote the affordability of higher education for all Hoosiers by ensuring that tuition, textbooks,
- 7 and other material costs remain as low as possible.
- 8 • Expand the *21st Century Scholars* program.
- 9 • Offer in-state tuition rates to DREAMers who received DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- 10 status from the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service.
- 11 • Promote prevention and education programs that teach age-appropriate sex education. These
- 12 programs should focus on medically-accurate information for Hoosiers to protect themselves and
- 13 others.
- 14

15 INVESTING IN HOOSIERS, REDUCING THE COST OF LIVING AND DEVELOPING A 21ST

16 CENTURY WORKFORCE

17

18 Our state’s most valuable resource has always been Hoosiers. Time and again, Hoosiers have proved,

19 with the right tools, our work ethic, ingenuity, and creativity is second to none. To compete in the 21st

20 century economy, we must invest in Hoosiers and build strong communities.

21 *Hoosier businesses count on a talented workforce but Indiana ranks 45th in labor*

22 *supply. No matter how low taxes are, businesses won’t relocate or expand if they lack*

23 *a supply of workers with the right skills.*

24 We need comprehensive approaches that:

- 25 • Re-invest in higher education at the state level while encouraging colleges to keep costs in check.
- 26 Hoosier Democrats believe students can go to college or receive training that best meets their
- 27 career goals without being saddled with student loan debt for years to come.
- 28 • Allow Hoosiers with student loan debt to refinance at the lowest rate possible and simplify and
- 29 expand income-based repayment options.
- 30 • Vigorously pursue federal grants for higher education/training programs in high-demand, high-wage
- 31 jobs.
- 32 • Find ways to encourage start-up investment and remove barriers to capital for Hoosier
- 33 entrepreneurs.
- 34 • Provide income-based tax credits to help offset the cost of child care and reduce Hoosiers’ cost of
- 35 living.

- 1 • Create a comprehensive paid family leave program that allows new parents – both mothers and
2 fathers – to spend time with their newborn or newly adopted child and for family members to care
3 for an aging or sick loved one without the fear of losing a paycheck or failing to cover bills.
4

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6 SAFE AND STRONG COMMUNITIES

7 Public safety is vital to thriving communities and providing our children the future they deserve, and it
8 takes an all-hands-on-deck approach. Building safe and strong communities means examining past
9 practices and ensuring every stakeholder has a seat at the table. For too long, Indiana has failed to look
10 inward and evaluate our efforts. It's time to move Indiana forward. Currently, under-supported,
11 overstretched law enforcement agencies both at the state and local level are struggling to meet the
12 challenges faced by violent crime and an epidemic of drug addiction that is tearing at the fabric of too
13 many Hoosier communities.
14

15 We firmly oppose the practice of racial profiling as a law enforcement tool. Police stops or arrests should
16 be based on evidence of criminal conduct, not on a person's demographic or physical characteristics.
17 More work must be done to correct systemic racism including the disproportionately high arrest of
18 people of color and fair housing, health, environment, and safety standards. For too long, these issues
19 have been addressed at the margins and must be confronted head-on.
20

21

22

23 We will:

- 24 • Make it clear that Indiana does not condone acts of hate by passing a statewide hate crimes law.
25 Indiana is one of only five states currently without one.
- 26 • Work with the Indiana General Assembly to ensure that local law enforcement agencies have the
27 resources and tools available to them to keep Hoosiers safe.
- 28 • Attack Indiana's opioid epidemic by mustering state and local agencies to track, investigate and
29 prosecute pill mills and dealers, and prevent and treat addiction.
- 30 • Expand on recent criminal code reforms to explore ways in which penalties can be more fairly
31 assessed.
- 32 • Study policies requiring that bail be set using evidence-based risk assessments to ensure low-
33 income, low-risk offenders don't remain in jail simply because they can't afford bail.
- 34 • Provide grants for local law enforcement agencies to institute de-escalation and bias training.
- 35 • Close the gun show and terrorist watch-list loophole and ensure every transaction involving the sale
36 of a firearm includes a comprehensive background check. Strengthen child access prevention laws to
37 ensure the safe storage of firearms.
- 38 • Take steps to reduce recidivism including expanding work release and education programs to help
ex-offenders find jobs and reintegrate into society.

- 1 • Streamline the criminal record expungement process and make expungement assistance available at
2 Department of Workforce Development WorkOne locations.
- 3 • Work with law enforcement agencies, health care groups and other stakeholders to legalize medical
4 marijuana and decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana.
- 5 • Indiana Democrats believe that Hoosiers should have the right to vote on the regulation and
6 taxation of marijuana.
- 7 • Protect survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, and stalking through legislation.
- 8 • U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has demonstrated tactics that have taken
9 away the right to a fair hearing in court, due process, and equal protection under the law.
10 Families across the Hoosier State are living in constant fear of being ripped apart.
11 Communities are becoming less safe as immigrants are fearful of working with law
12 enforcement to report and/or help solve crimes. Furthermore, due to abuses and ineptitude
13 within the agency, Americans, including veterans, have been deported. Common sense
14 immigration policies can and should be developed, and the abuses under ICE should cease
15 immediately. Congress should assume its full oversight authority over the agency and take
16 action by either reforming the agency through legislation or shifting responsibilities to other
17 areas or agencies of government that may not be beholden to the tactics of the Trump-
18 Pence Administration.

19
20

21 HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND LOWERING THE COST OF QUALITY CARE

22

23 The United States is the richest country on earth, yet we rank near last among industrialized countries in
24 health care coverage.

25 *As Democrats, we believe health care is a right, not a privilege. The Affordable Care*
26 *Act was an enormous step forward. More Americans than ever before now have the*
27 *peace of mind and security that comes with knowing your family is covered.*

28 Pre-existing conditions no longer mean a lifetime of medical debt, a loss of coverage, or worse.

29 But there's much more to be done. We must curb the rising cost of premiums and prescription drugs,
30 preserve Medicare and fight any efforts to move backward on access to affordable health care. The
31 Affordable Care Act isn't perfect and it's up to Democrats to work together to make universal health
32 coverage a reality for Americans.

33 We must also stem the rising tide of opioid addiction in our communities. Indiana's opioid overdose
34 death rate has quadrupled since 1999. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates

1 there are 109 opioid prescriptions for every 100 Hoosiers. And Indiana lags neighboring states in access
2 to treatment. We must take proactive steps to end this scourge.

3 We must:

- 4 • Keep health care costs down by making premiums more affordable, reducing out-of-pocket
5 expenses and capping prescription drug costs while maintaining protections for those with pre-
6 existing conditions and prohibitions on lifetime coverage caps.
- 7 • Fight attempts to cap or block critical funding for the Healthy Indiana Plan or HIP 2.0.
- 8 • Adequately fund outreach programs to ensure Hoosiers know which health care options are
9 available to them.
- 10 • Block any Republican effort to privatize, “voucherize”, or phase out Medicare.
- 11 • Expand access to mental health and addiction treatment by preserving and expanding care
12 options through HIP 2.0 and the Affordable Care Act. This includes supporting efforts such as
13 Senator Joe Donnelly’s legislation to address the shortage workers in the addiction treatment
14 field.
- 15 • Develop a HIP 2.0 buy-in option for Hoosiers earning more than the allowable limits so they can
16 retain health care coverage. This program allows working people to earn more income without
17 the risk of losing vital health care coverage.
- 18 • Work with stakeholders and relevant state agencies to create opioid treatment benchmarks to
19 determine progress and success for those participating in treatment so the state can direct
20 resources to the most successful options.
- 21 • Invest in community health centers, especially in traditionally under-served and rural areas.
- 22 • Incentivize health practitioners and doctors to work in rural and under-served areas through
23 tuition forgiveness and other methods.
- 24 • Promote the health and safety of women and their families, including access to vital health
25 services and care to obtain preventive and family planning services including all forms of birth
26 control.
- 27 • Work to stop harmful legislation that puts women and Hoosier families’ safety at risk by putting
28 lawmakers between women and their doctors and endangering the doctor-patient relationship.
- 29 • Support efforts to reduce Indiana’s high infant mortality rate, including the fight to ensure
30 access to affordable and ongoing medical and pre-natal care.
- 31 • Fight against legislators forcing doctors to perform unnecessary medical procedures on patients.
- 32 • Fight for legislation that promotes medically accurate information be given to patients.
- 33 • Stand with Hoosier women against legislation that further erodes any rights that have been
34 gained and continue efforts for more protection under the law towards equality and
35 preservation of their healthcare choices.

37 **EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF ALL HOOSIERS**

38

1 The Indiana Democratic Party is proud of our longstanding commitment to and support for civil rights
2 and equality. We support making the promise of “equal protection under the law” a reality for all.

3 As the Party of inclusion, we strongly oppose the restriction of opportunities to
4 Hoosiers based on race, religion, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity,
5 veteran status, economic background, or as a person with a disability.

6 A key step forward is electing more public officials that reflect the communities they represent. Hoosier
7 Democrats are committed to providing the resources, training, and tools to those candidates.

8 We reaffirm our commitment to fully embrace Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended,
9 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, as well as full
10 enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 for Hoosiers with disabilities and the Age
11 Discrimination in Employment Act.

12 As Democrats, we believe that older workers are a vital part of the workforce and that prohibitions
13 against age discrimination should be enforceable in the same manner and to the same extent as any
14 other discrimination. We also continue to support legislation that would protect the freedom of all
15 Hoosiers and create tougher penalties for those who infringe, criminally or otherwise, on those
16 freedoms.

17 We are concerned with accessibility issues for those with disabilities, including personal income limits
18 and attaining and sustaining personal care when needed. We also believe that a state Family and
19 Medical Leave Act should be ratified and that meaningful remedies be available when a person is
20 subjected to discrimination and seeks redress under our state’s civil rights statute. Further, Hoosiers
21 should not be bound by their disabilities – therefore, Democrats will advocate for a better environment
22 for entrepreneurship and small business opportunities for Hoosiers with disabilities.

23 We will enforce, protect and fight for the continuation and expansion of civil rights protections for
24 students with disabilities in IDEA 2004 and Section 504 under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, without
25 reduction, so all students may receive a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive
26 environment necessary.

27 We believe those who wish to make a life for themselves and their families in Indiana should be
28 afforded the opportunity to do so. Furthermore, it is unconscionable for any human being to be
29 exploited or abused. Every Hoosier deserves to be treated with basic human decency and should be
30 allowed to pursue the American dream.

31 We believe that state and local governments, as well as the private sector, should create a truly diverse
32 and inclusive economic infrastructure by making it a priority to buy goods and services from minority
33 contractors.

1 Republican leaders at the Statehouse have invested too much time and taxpayer resources focused on
2 divisive social issues that send an unwelcoming message to those around us.

3 This is simple. As Democrats, we believe in full rights and protections for all people in
4 our country, regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or ability.
5 These are our neighbors and any effort to reduce or restrict their rights and
6 protections will ultimately hobble the Hoosier economy and send a signal that
7 Indiana is an unwelcoming state.

8 The Indiana Democratic Party opposes all forms of discrimination based upon sexual orientation or
9 gender identity and all efforts to enshrine discrimination in our state’s Constitution. As Democrats, we
10 oppose discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation and we strongly support the
11 adoption of a statewide policy barring discrimination against LGBTQ+ Hoosiers.

12 Democrats are working to ensure that every Hoosier gets a fair shot to achieve the American dream. For
13 the sake of current and future generations, we feel it is our duty to put an end to any injustices that
14 threaten that goal. In the Indiana Democratic Party, everyone has, and always will have a voice.

15 **ELECTION REFORM AND REDISTRICTING**

16

17 To restore trust in government, the Indiana Democratic Party supports the right of every eligible Hoosier
18 citizen to register to vote and cast a ballot without undue burden, fear, or intimidation.

19 Voting is our most fundamental right as citizens, one that preserves all other rights
20 and ensures the legitimacy of our political system.

21
22 As Hoosier Democrats, we:

- 23 • Vehemently oppose any politically-motivated efforts aimed at disenfranchising any voter of our
24 state, including efforts to make it difficult for voters to obtain identification or restricting access
25 to polling locations.
- 26 • Support expanded access to early voting through sufficient early voting sites across the state.
- 27 • Extend the hours polls are open to 6am to 9pm on Election Day. Indiana has some of the
28 shortest Election Day voting hours in the nation.
- 29 • Automatically register all eligible US citizens with an Indiana driver’s license unless they choose
30 to opt out.
- 31 • Support the opportunity to vote by mail for all Hoosier voters without requiring an excuse to do
32 so.

- 1 • Support redistricting reform to maximize voter participation and end the practice of
2 gerrymandering, where politicians choose their voters, instead of the other way around.
 - 3 ○ The Indiana General Assembly must immediately create an independent redistricting
4 commission that will draw maps based on legitimate legal factors and exclude political
5 considerations.
- 6 • Advocate for reforms to campaign finance laws that disrupt the ability for all Hoosiers to
7 participate in the political process and allow undue influence from outside interests and those
8 with the deepest pockets. It's time for dramatic changes in campaign finance laws to eliminate
9 the extraordinary influence exercised by special interests and the wealthy.

10 **SECURING THE FUTURE OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE HOOSIERS**

11

12 Every Hoosier deserves a fair shot at success, economic security and to earn a good living. The Indiana
13 Democratic Party has a long and proud tradition of championing policies that provide Hoosiers with a
14 launching pad to achieve their full potential.

15 We know that children live better lives when their families are strong.

16 We know that families are stronger when they reside in communities that connect
17 them to economic opportunities, social networks and services. These connections
18 include employment, health care, education, adequate nutrition, housing,
19 technology, culture and safe child care.

20 We are committed to enabling the economic stability of all Indiana families by minimizing barriers to
21 employment. Transportation, childcare, education, discrimination, and eldercare are all potential
22 obstacles that can prevent individuals from reaching their full potential in the workforce. The Indiana
23 Democratic Party supports policies that will assist Hoosier workers with these issues and provide
24 opportunities to earn success.

- 25 • Fully-fund the Department of Child Services (DCS) so that the Department meets the 12/17
26 caseload standards statewide and any necessary investments are made judiciously.
- 27 • Ensure family case managers are properly trained and compensated and develop a tuition
28 forgiveness program for college graduates who work for DCS.

29 Indiana had 29,315 children in foster care during fiscal year 2016, according to
30 federal data from the Administration for Children and Families. During that same
31 time period, there were 23,646 children in care in Ohio; 19,998 in Illinois; 18,194 in
32 Michigan and 13,016 in Kentucky. Illinois has twice the population but half as many
33 abused and neglected children in its system.

1

2 We have a moral obligation to take care of our nation’s seniors, and after a lifetime of paying into these
3 programs, we have a responsibility to ensure that both Medicare and Social Security are preserved for
4 current and future retirees. We must ensure the state programs designed to help protect and support
5 our Hoosier seniors are adequately funded.

6 The Indiana Democratic Party believes that vulnerable Hoosiers, including senior citizens and low-
7 income families, must not be the victims of those who would take advantage of them through risky
8 mortgages, loans, or identity and investment schemes. Hoosier families must be free from the fear of
9 losing money to predatory lenders or dubious commercial enterprises. We should also recognize the
10 importance of consumer protections by supporting efforts to bolster cyber security and fraud reduction.

11 As the Party that advocates for all Hoosiers, we:

- 12 • Fully support adequate funding for substance abuse treatment and prevention services,
13 including programs for prenatal substance abuse prevention. Indiana must adequately address
14 the needs of people with HIV/AIDS, while at the same time provide access to education and
15 prevention services to reduce the number of new infections following the previous
16 administration’s trepidation in response to the outbreak in Southern Indiana.
- 17 • Fight food insecurity and make clear we are committed to a guarantee that no Hoosier should
18 go hungry.

19

20 CONSERVING OUR LAND, PROMOTING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

21

22 The Indiana Democratic Party believes in a strong, balanced approach to energy production and
23 environmental stewardship and is keenly aware that our state’s economy depends on healthy land. We
24 believe a responsible and comprehensive energy policy should promote domestic production and
25 national security, while providing affordable, clean energy to Hoosier families and businesses.

26 Hoosiers have a tremendous opportunity to contribute to the evolving energy economy. The production
27 of renewable and alternative energy sources could create jobs and compete with conventional sources
28 of power to drive down the cost of power, spur innovation, and preserve our land.

29 We also recognize Hoosier communities and our economy are built on the foundation of our natural
30 resources—from Lake Michigan and the Hoosier National Forest to our rivers and streams and fertile
31 farmland.

32 *As Hoosiers continue to innovate, we should acknowledge that our land, the air we*
33 *breathe and the water we drink are critical elements of the Hoosier economy and*
34 *must be maintained and protected.*

1 The Indiana Democratic Party believes that we must:

- 2 • Modernize and retool our state's economy to replace the manufacturing jobs that have vanished
3 from Indiana. We must utilize the skills of our workforce to attract “green” manufacturing and invest
4 in renewable energies, both of which will sustain the environment and provide high-skilled, high-
5 paying jobs.
- 6 • Target investment to communities disproportionately impacted by offshoring or change the energy
7 economy to retrain workers.
- 8 • Identify and reduce Indiana's carbon footprint.
- 9 • Protect our state forests from unnecessary lumber harvesting and regularly audit our state’s natural
10 resources for long-term environmental sustainability.
- 11 • Promote energy efficiency programming across the state by restoring programs such as the Energize
12 Indiana program.
- 13 • Promote an all-of-the-above energy strategy to decrease our dependence on foreign oil, which
14 poses a serious threat to our economy and our national security. Fluctuating gas prices create
15 economic insecurity and force Hoosier families to make difficult sacrifices.
- 16 • Support measures that will ensure and protect our supply of clean water and encourage
17 comprehensive water consumption and ground water protection plans.
- 18 • Create environmental regulations that are ‘scale appropriate’, (i.e. less burdensome on small to mid-
19 sized farms, businesses and manufacturers).
- 20 • Promote programs that encourage waste reduction and recycling.
- 21 • Increase investment in sustainable farming, fishing, forestry research and best practices.
- 22 • Become a leader in farmland preservation, air quality improvement and economic growth.

24 A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE CROSSROADS OF AMERICA

25
26 Indiana’s infrastructure is crumbling. From outdated bridges to dial-up internet, Indiana lacks a true
27 foundation for faster and more efficient modes of transport, and local communities struggle to maintain
28 what they have - let alone the capacity to improve or expand.

29 [Indiana’s location, at the “Crossroads of America,” is a strategic advantage that](#)
30 [Republicans are forfeiting through underinvestment and wasteful spending.](#)

31 Strong communities and a growing economy depend on a comprehensive approach to infrastructure.
32 Not just roads and bridges, but railways, ports, airports, transit, waterways and internet access.

33 The Indiana Democratic Party strongly backs making significant and strategic investments in Indiana’s
34 infrastructure through the targeted use of federal and state dollars. Construction of highways and
35 bridges must be adequately financed with a combination of resources to ensure that everyone pays a

1 fair share of the burden. We support developing and expanding public mass transit initiatives to reduce
2 congestion and pollution, especially for high-density population centers with disproportionately low-
3 income residents. Better transit options mean better access to good-paying jobs. Infrastructure
4 investment is as critical to the Indiana economy as it is to Hoosier communities. In addition, we must:

- 5 • Develop a comprehensive approach that targets dollars to projects where investment leverages
6 future growth, like expanded broadband internet access in rural communities or investment in
7 water and wastewater infrastructure, where some communities still rely on wooden pipes.
- 8 • Ensure Hoosier taxpayers receive a fair share of federal transportation funding by maximizing
9 available funding. Indiana currently receives 91% of its share of Highway Trust Fund contributions.
10 We need to increase the rate of return on our tax dollars by leveraging federal funds so the State of
11 Indiana and local governments have the infrastructure to support and attract businesses to Indiana.
- 12 • Study alternative methods to fund future infrastructure needs and move away from regressive
13 funding mechanisms that place a higher burden on low-income and working Hoosiers.
- 14 • Attach stiff penalties to private sector partners that fail to uphold their end of any infrastructure
15 deals or do not meet an agreed-upon timetable.
- 16 • Achieve our long-term infrastructure investment goals with an eye on Indiana’s future,
17 environmental sustainability, and the prosperity of our state for generations to come.

18

19 HONORING OUR VETERANS

20

21 The Indiana Democratic Party honors those who serve in the United States Armed Forces, as well as the
22 Indiana National Guard and Air National Guard. The dedication of an individual in this endeavor is the
23 ultimate selfless act on behalf of one’s state and country.

24 We continue to applaud the sacrifices of these individuals and their families to serve
25 our nation and to defend and protect the principles of democracy.

26 It is our steadfast belief that we must continue to be committed to giving our brave men and women the
27 tools to succeed in whatever endeavor our nation faces either at home or abroad. We must help bridge
28 the gap between military families and benefits they’ve rightfully earned.

29 Our party is committed to providing our aging and newly-returned veterans the benefits they have
30 earned. Our duty to those who serve our nation does not end when they leave that service: we must
31 guarantee that our veterans have access to the health benefits, education, and job opportunities we
32 promised them.

33 This includes championing legislation that:

- 1 • Gives veterans assistance in the job market and makes it easier for businesses to hire those who
2 serve our country.
- 3 • Incentivizes veterans to start new businesses and gives preference to veteran-owned businesses for
4 state contracts.
- 5 • Manages services for women veterans and military families.
- 6 • Removes restrictive timeframes to give military families as much access to needed assistance as
7 possible.
- 8 • Continues to focus on the growing problem of PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, and prevention of
9 military suicides. It is imperative that we respect, care, and prepare for new sets of challenges met
10 by our veterans so that they may come home to Indiana and be successful. One way that we can
11 accomplish this is supporting the successful implementation of Senator Joe Donnelly's "Care
12 Package," which addresses mental health care for our veterans.
13

14 RESTORING TRUST AND BALANCE IN GOOD GOVERNMENT

15

16 In today's hyper-political environment, the premise behind "good government" can easily get lost. Trust
17 in government is dangerously low and leaders at the highest levels of government are more interested
18 in creating problems than solving them.

19 The Indiana Democratic Party is working to restore trust in good government by sharing an aggressive,
20 results-based vision for how Indiana government can do much, much better.

21 Through our principles of fiscal responsibility, common sense, and inclusion, we can renew our focus on
22 building opportunities for working Hoosiers- rather than on an ideology that plays to the politics of
23 division and fear.

24 Hoosiers deserve leadership that will consider the full impact of fiscal decisions instead of elected
25 officials who chase headlines to score cheap political points.

26 The Indiana Democratic Party believes ethical governance is rooted in honesty, accountability, and
27 transparency. We believe that high ethical standards must be restored and put in place at every level in
28 state government. Values based upon the highest principles must be commonplace in the Governor's
29 Office, the General Assembly and all state agencies and elected offices.

30 Government ethics should be applied and enforced with an objective standard, and investigations
31 should be conducted independently, thoroughly, and publicly to make certain that violators are handled
32 accordingly and all questions raised are answered.

33