

Your Voice is Critical



Contacting Your State Legislators

There's NO Replacing Your Own Personal Involvement

- Each legislative session, hundreds of proposals are introduced that can potentially impact how you operate your business.
- As an Indiana Chamber member, you have access to all our resources.
- By understanding the legislative process and holding your legislators accountable for their actions, you can affect the outcome.

Identify and Contact Your Legislators

- If you aren't sure who your state representative and state senator are, visit the “grassroots” section of www.indianachamber.com
- Phone numbers:
 - House (317) 232-9600 or (800) 382-9842
 - Senate (317) 232-9400 or (800) 382-9467



Other Ways to Contact Your Legislators

Mail

Legislators Name

Indiana House of Representatives or Indiana Senate
Statehouse

200 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204



** When writing to your state legislators, the proper salutations are “Dear Senator _____” and “Dear Representative _____” respectively.*

Other Ways to Contact Your Legislators

E-Mail

- Visit the “grassroots” section of www.indianachamber.com for legislators’ addresses.
 - While e-mail can be a quick form of communication, be aware that the high volume of such messages and legislator preferences for other forms of communication may hinder effectiveness.



Other Ways to Contact Your Legislators

In Person

- Most legislators participate in community forums, often hosted by local chambers, to talk about pending and future legislation.
- Or, contact your legislator's office to set up a personal visit.

** Ask about our legislative directories the Indiana Chamber updates and sells annually!*

Procedures to Follow

- If possible, refer to the bill number of the legislation in which you are interested.
- Be clear and concise in explaining how the proposed legislation affects your business and why you support or oppose.
- Request your legislator take a specific action by telling him or her what outcome you seek.
- Discuss only one issue per call/e-mail/letter and ask the legislator to specify his or her position on the issue.

Procedures to Follow

- If the legislator is unavailable, his or her staff will take a message relaying your opinion. If you would like the legislator to call back, leave your work and home phone numbers and the best times to reach you.
- For ALL communication, don't assume the legislator knows you are from his/her district. Always include your mailing address and telephone number and state that you are a constituent or district resident.

Tips for Advocating Your Issues

1. Be informed. Do your own thinking and research. Above all, be accurate.
2. Get involved. Participate in public meetings. Go beyond merely identifying problems to crafting solutions.
3. Get to know your legislators. Make it personal. Understand their roles and keep communicating with them.
4. Understand the law and policy-making process.

Tips for Advocating Your Issues

5. Know the strengths and weaknesses of your issue.
6. Understand the importance of compromise and consensus building.
7. Understand the need for fiscal responsibility. Your issue is not the only good cause that needs new/sustained/increased funding.
8. Be passionate and persistent, yet patient.

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