

2004: Politics and Performance

With the holidays behind us and the calendar changing to a new year, what does 2004 mean for the Indiana Chamber and the state's business community?

A few observations:

Expect an Indiana General Assembly that will be short on legislative action and long on politics. Despite a head start in November and early December with a three-week mini-session on property tax reassessment relief, all involved anticipate a quick exit from Indianapolis. There is little legislative desire to address the state's nearly \$1 billion budget deficit as the situation requires extremely difficult choices.



During our Central Indiana Legislative Preview (see Page 12), House Speaker Pat Bauer indicated February would be a good time to adjourn. The Chamber will maintain its aggressive agenda (Page 13), moving forward in as many areas as possible. *BizVoice* also offers a one-on-one interview (Page 8) with new Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis and her views on state economic development priorities.

An expected legislative scheduling alternative would be continuing through mid-March, but with only limited session days per week. Either way, the focus will soon turn to the May primary and November general election for all 100 state representatives and 50 state senators (in addition to governor, congressional and presidential races).

The Chamber's political action committee, Indiana Business for Responsive Government (IBRG), is already busy with the emphasis once again on control of the Indiana House. The current 51-49 Democratic advantage will be challenged. Business community support is critical to IBRG efforts to establish a pro-business majority in the House.

Business assistance to members and customers from the Chamber comes in the form of additional employee training seminars and regulatory compliance publications. Our Business Research Center, helplines for expert feedback to your questions, small business development efforts and other initiatives will continue to help members improve their business performance.

The Indiana Chamber is proud to be among the five largest state chambers in the country, but there is room for growth. To our members, thank you for your continued support. To others reading this issue of *BizVoice*, we invite you to join the Chamber team – one focused on making Indiana businesses the best they can be.

Kevin M. Brinegar
President

Ordering *BizVoice* Article Reprints

It is now easier than ever to obtain reprints of *BizVoice* magazine stories. For one low price (\$250), high resolution electronic files will be prepared and placed on a CD for your convenience. You will be granted permission to print as many copies as you need for marketing or information purposes. To order your CD, contact Tony Spataro at (317) 264-6861 or e-mail: tspataro@indianachamber.com.

BizVoice

January/February 2004
Volume 7, Number 1

BizVOICE

Publisher

Kevin Brinegar
kbrinegar@indianachamber.com

Editor

Tom Schuman
tschuman@indianachamber.com

Layout/Graphics

Tony Spataro
tspataro@indianachamber.com

Editorial Assistance

Rebecca Patrick
rpatrick@indianachamber.com

Advertising

Victor Bowers
(317) 264-7538
vbowers@indianachamber.com

Advertising Billing

Liz Hodge

Contributors

Tara Avery
J.R. Gaylor
Daniel Lattner
Carla J. Levy
Cindy Monnier
George Raymond
Pete Tinsley
Victoria Wesseler

Mission

To inform and influence

Indiana Chamber of Commerce Chair

Jean Wojtowicz
Cambridge Capital Management Corp.
Indianapolis

Vice Chair

Sam Schlosser
Plymouth Foundry, Inc.
Plymouth

President

Kevin Brinegar

BizVoice (ISSN 1521-0146) is published bimonthly by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, P.O. Box 44926, Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926. *BizVoice* magazine is provided as a benefit of membership in the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Non-member subscriptions: \$25.20 per year (includes sales tax). Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *BizVoice*, 115 W. Washington, Suite 850S, P.O. Box 44926, Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce
115 W. Washington, Suite 850S
P.O. Box 44926
Indianapolis, IN 46244-0926
Phone: (317) 264-3110, Fax: (317) 264-6855
Internet address: www.indianachamber.com
E-mail: bizvoice@indianachamber.com

© Copyright 2004, Indiana Chamber of Commerce

Indiana Chamber
The Voice of
Indiana Business.