



CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Policies Would Lift Up Economy, Hoosiers

By Rebecca Patrick and Matt Ottinger

Throughout the 2025 legislative session, which concludes in late April, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce is advocating on behalf of employers and the workforce in all regions of the state. Included on the group’s list of Top 10 legislative priorities are ensuring any property tax reforms don’t shift the burden to businesses and addressing barriers to labor force participation while investing in upskilling individuals.

These policy goals align with the organization’s latest visioning plan for the state, *Indiana Prosperity 2035* (IP35). A survey of Indiana Chamber member companies at the end of 2024 “further helped identify the most critical areas for the Hoosier business community that demand our increased involvement,” says president and CEO Vanessa Green Sindlers. In the survey, the IP35 pillar of Economic Growth, Innovation and Entrepreneurship came out on top with Workforce Development and Talent a close second.

“Currently, we are working with lawmakers, Governor Mike Braun and other stakeholders to advance bills that fall under IP35 and move the state further ahead and increase its competitiveness. At the same time, we will champion small business and

defend against legislation that hinders economic growth and free enterprise,” Sindlers offers. “Together, these actions are what will enable Indiana to rise even higher on the list of best states to do business and be a place where more people want to live and work.”

The full list of the IP35 pillar areas and the top priorities (in alphabetical order) within each:

Economic Growth, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Ensure property tax reforms make sense for all payers and don’t shift the burden to businesses
- Establish state Office of Entrepreneurship to lift up and emphasize commitment to small businesses
- Expand statewide economic development initiatives to continue momentum in all regions

“We are working to advance bills that will move the state further ahead and increase its competitiveness. At the same time, we will champion small business and defend against legislation that hinders economic growth and free enterprise. Together, these actions are what will enable Indiana to rise even higher on the list of best states to do business and be a place where more people want to live and work.”

– Vanessa Green Sindlers



Sinders: “Providing business personal property tax relief will lower the cost of capital for businesses, supporting existing industries and positioning Indiana as a more competitive destination for investments. These reforms are essential to fostering long-term economic growth and strengthening our state’s economic foundation.”

Workforce Development/Talent and K-12 Education

- Implement additional tools to attract, cultivate and retain talent in the state
- Increase workforce skills and labor force participation, including at the onset by strengthening career and technical education pathways
- Seek further innovation in K-12 that leads to significant and continued improvements in student performance and workforce preparedness

Sinders: “As a state, we are rightly focusing on getting skilled workers here and keeping them, but just as important is upskilling and growing our homegrown talent. One big catalyst for upskilling would be encouraging and incentivizing businesses to invest in their workers’ development and thereby create higher wages for them.”

Separately, Sinders stresses the importance of “pointing students in a good direction by incentivizing in-demand credentials, while also continuing to make sure the credential requirements match what’s currently needed for the job.”

Healthy, Prosperous Citizens and Communities/Quality of Place

- Contain healthcare costs for businesses and residents
- Expand access to affordable quality childcare and housing

Sinders: “The Indiana Chamber has long advocated for a significant increase in Indiana’s cigarette tax, and now, we believe, there is a real chance for action given the landscape. A minimum \$2-per-pack increase would improve much-needed public health outcomes and reduce employer healthcare costs, while also boosting state revenues.”

She also highlights the importance of tackling childcare and housing needs: “Expanding childcare capacity and improving affordability are critical to getting more Hoosiers into the workforce and keeping them there. Similarly, addressing housing affordability and availability will help retain and attract talent, building stronger communities and a more robust economy.”

Superior Infrastructure and Energy

- Ensure reliable energy availability and affordability for businesses and residents
- Secure additional road funding via a more modern mix of sources to enable sustainability and meet projected infrastructure needs

Sinders: “Sustainable funding for maintaining and improving Indiana’s roads and bridges goes hand in hand with the state’s future prosperity – it’s simply vital for economic growth and connectivity. By ensuring long-term infrastructure investments, we can support the efficient movement of goods and people, strengthening Indiana’s position as a national leader in logistics and commerce.”

Hoosiers can stay up to date on the Indiana Chamber’s efforts by visiting its online policy center at www.indianachamber.com/policy.

RESOURCE: Indiana Chamber at www.indianachamber.com/2035

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