

Tracey Hutchings-Goetz

<https://www.hoosieraction.org/>



3

3



We are a member-led, non-partisan, statewide grassroots organization dedicated to improving lives by acting together.

We believe all Hoosiers should have a say in the decisions which impact them—including the decisions of our legislature.



4

The Legislative Process & Effective Organizing

- I. Find your legislator
- II. What legislators do
 - A. Bills
 - B. Committees
 - C. Caucuses
- III. Tactics for impacting the legislative process
 - A. Building relationships
 - B. Getting a bill out of committee
- IV. Q&A
- V. Close & Evaluation



5

The Statehouse



6

The Indiana General Assembly

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: **150 MEMBERS**



SENATE: **50**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: **100**



7

Find Your State Legislators

Go to <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

Put the names of your State Representative and State Senator in the chat!



8



9

Basic Legislative Session Calendar

Mid-November: Organization Day

- legislators sworn in (symbolic start of the session)
- legislators may begin filing bills

First Week of January: Session Starts

- bill filing deadline typically the second week of January
- in order to move forward bills must be heard in committee by the midpoint of the session

Mid-March: Short Session Must End

Mid-May: Long Session Must End



10

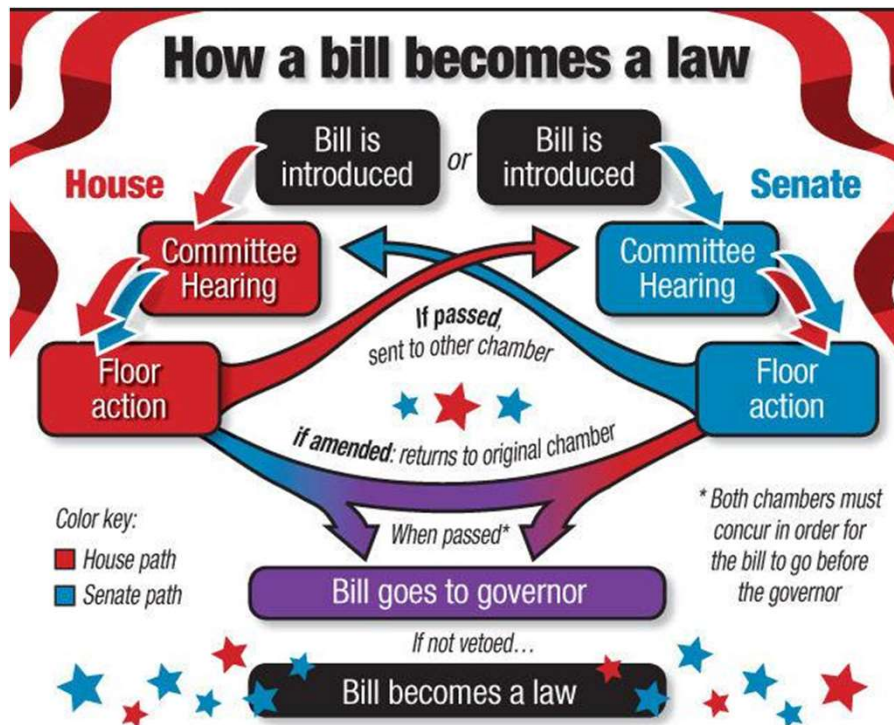
The Indiana General Assembly Website

<http://iga.in.gov>

- Allows you to track legislation
- Search for bills past and present by name, number or issue
- Watch committee hearings and session live
- See the calendar for the session
- Find legislators
- See who sits on what committee



11



12

Committees

- Every bill gets assigned to a committee.
- Every committee has a chair - they decide what gets heard.
 - The majority of bills are never granted committee hearings. They die sad, quiet deaths.
- When a bill is assigned a hearing, the public has the opportunity to testify on the bill.
- The bill is then voted on in committee. Bills need a majority of the committee members to vote yes to move forward, so a committee of 13 would need 7 “yes” votes.



13

What committees do your legislators sit on?

Find it out on the IGA website, and put it in the chat!

Are any of your legislators committee chairs?



14

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15

Caucuses & The Supermajority

Prior to going into session legislators of the same party meet together in caucus to discuss their votes. This is called caucussing.

Because Republicans have a supermajority in the legislature, they can pass bills without the votes of any Democrats. This allows them to make decisions out of the public eye in caucus.



16

To move a bill, you must be in relationship with legislators.

17



18

How to get a bill written

- I. **Build relationship(s)** with potential bill authors.
ALWAYS include a Republican.
 - Start by meeting with them—ideally with constituents
 - Follow up, follow up, follow up!
 - [Research legislators before meeting with them](#)
- II. **Ask them to author a specific bill**—ideally in a meeting.
- III. **Demonstrate your power** to impact money, votes, or reputation as needed to push someone to author a bill.



19

Flexing our power to line-up a bill co-sponsor

The image shows a Zoom meeting grid with 20 participants. The participants are: Wil, Tasha, diann's iPad, Hannah Milano, April, Dennis, Janice, Lori, Jennifer Lee Jo..., David Schell, Deborah, Chuck, Marianne Schel..., Bryce Gustafs..., Carol, Stephanie Wes..., Tiffany Grant f..., and Peggy Mayfiel... The Zoom logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the grid.

Overlaid on the right side of the Zoom grid is a Facebook post from 'Hoosier Action' dated September 30, 2020. The post is titled 'Superfund Cleanup Townhall!' and has 8 reactions, 22 comments, and 827 views. It also shows 1.8K people reached and 80 reactions, comments, and shares. The post includes a link to a secure EverAction page and a comment from Chi Tasha Coppinger.

20

How to get a committee hearing

- Committee chairpeople are enormously powerful. They decide what gets heard.
 - The majority of bills are never granted committee hearings. They die sad, quiet deaths.
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21

Lining up a cosponsor and getting a committee hearing



22

What are some tactics to get a committee hearing?

- Meet with legislators and ask them directly what would move them.
- Generate contacts into offices→ especially in-district.
 - Phone calls or emails are both effective.
 - Form emails are not very effective, especially if they do not come from in-district.
 - Social media calls to action can help. Canva is a free graphic design software I recommend.
- Organize grassroots leaders in district as spokespeople, advocates.
- Organize grasstops leaders in district (i.e., pastors, the local basketball coach, the school superintendent, etc.)
 - Petitions or other sign-on letters are a good tool for this.
- Organize other committee members, especially Republicans, to help build pressure of the bill.
- Generate public attention through letters to the editor, op-eds, or earned media, especially in papers we know the legislator in question cares about.
- Hold a public event or press conference at the Statehouse



23



24

What makes Eva's testimony powerful?

- It's short 3 minutes maximum.
- Ground your testimony in shared values.
 - This is less to be convincing and more to shape press coverage.
- Share your story or come prepared with other stories which demonstrate the potential impact of the legislation.
 - This will also help shape press coverage.
- Speak to the self-interest of committee members in your testimony. Think about what will move them based on what you know about them.
- Be prepared for follow-up questions.



25

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26

**Power is the only rule which
really matters at the Statehouse.**

27

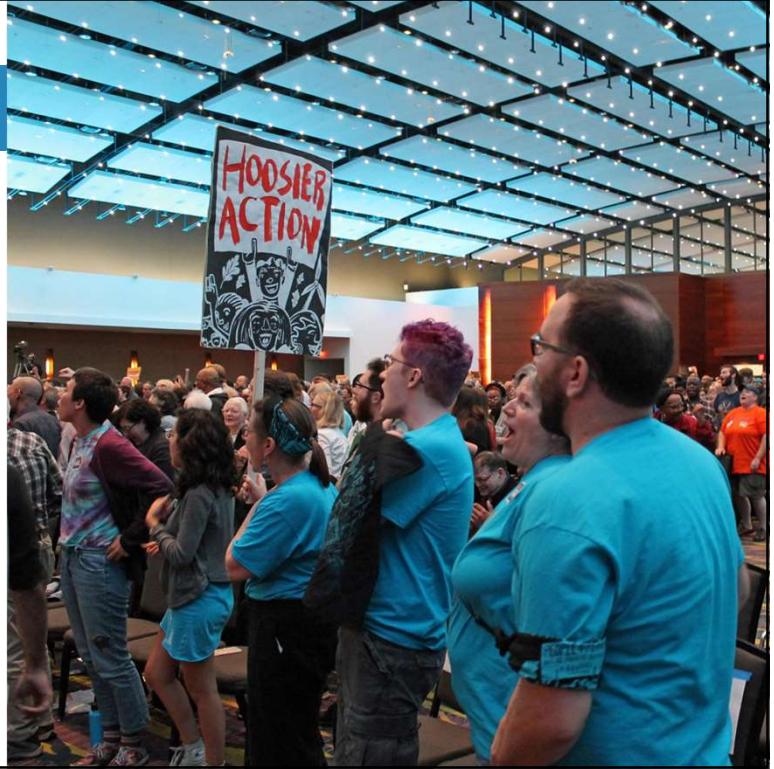
**Organized People +
Organized Money
=POWER**



28

Evaluation & Closing

- What have we learned together?
- How are you feeling in one word?



29

Any questions or comments before we break for lunch?



30

30