

How to Effectively Advocate Your Issue to Legislators

The legislative session is only a few months away, and most legislators are already looking at drafting new bills. Maybe you have an issue that you believe should be considered by the Indiana General Assembly. If so, here are some tips on how to best advance your Issue with the legislature.

1. Be informed:

Do your own thinking/research and be accurate

2. Get involved:

Participate in public meetings; get involved in crafting solutions instead of merely identifying problems

3. Get to know your legislators:

Keep it simple, make it personal, understand their roles and keep at it

4. Understand the law/policy-making process:

Familiarize yourself with the mechanical, political and inter-personal aspects of the process

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:

Understand your issue is not the only good cause which needs new/sustained/increased funding

8. Be passionate and persistent, yet patient:

Even the best bills take time to be understood and supported

Fifteen Top Issues For 2011 Session

- 1. Balanced Budget**
- 2. No Tax Increases**
- 3. Indiana Unemployment Insurance Fund**
- 4. Education Reforms**
- 5. Sunday Alcohol Sales**
- 6. Gambling Laws , Changes to Protect Gaming**
- 7. No Smoking in Public Places in Indiana**
- 8. Indiana Right to Work State**
- 9. Right to Life Pro-life Issues**
- 10. Right to Bear Arms**
- 11. Nullification National Healthcare in Indiana**
- 12. Hands Free Cell Phone Usage for Everyone**
- 13. Authorize New Energy Power Plants Nuclear**
- 14. Local Government Reform**
- 15. Exercise the 10th Amendment Constitution**
- 16. Immigration (Added during conversation)**
- 17. Redistricting (Added during conversation)**