

Indiana Library Federation and Advocacy

March 12, 2025

Indiana Library Federation leads, educates, and advocates to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.



INTRODUCTIONS



Vanessa Martin

- ILF Advocacy Committee, 2025 Co-Chair
- Director, Greensburg Decatur County Public Library



Julie Wendorf

- ILF 2025 President
- Director, Crown Point Community Library
- ILF Advocacy Committee, 2024 Co-Chair (will return in 2026)



Chad Heck (unable to join us today)

- ILF Advocacy Committee, 2025 Co-Chair
- Chief Technology Officer, MSD of Pike Township

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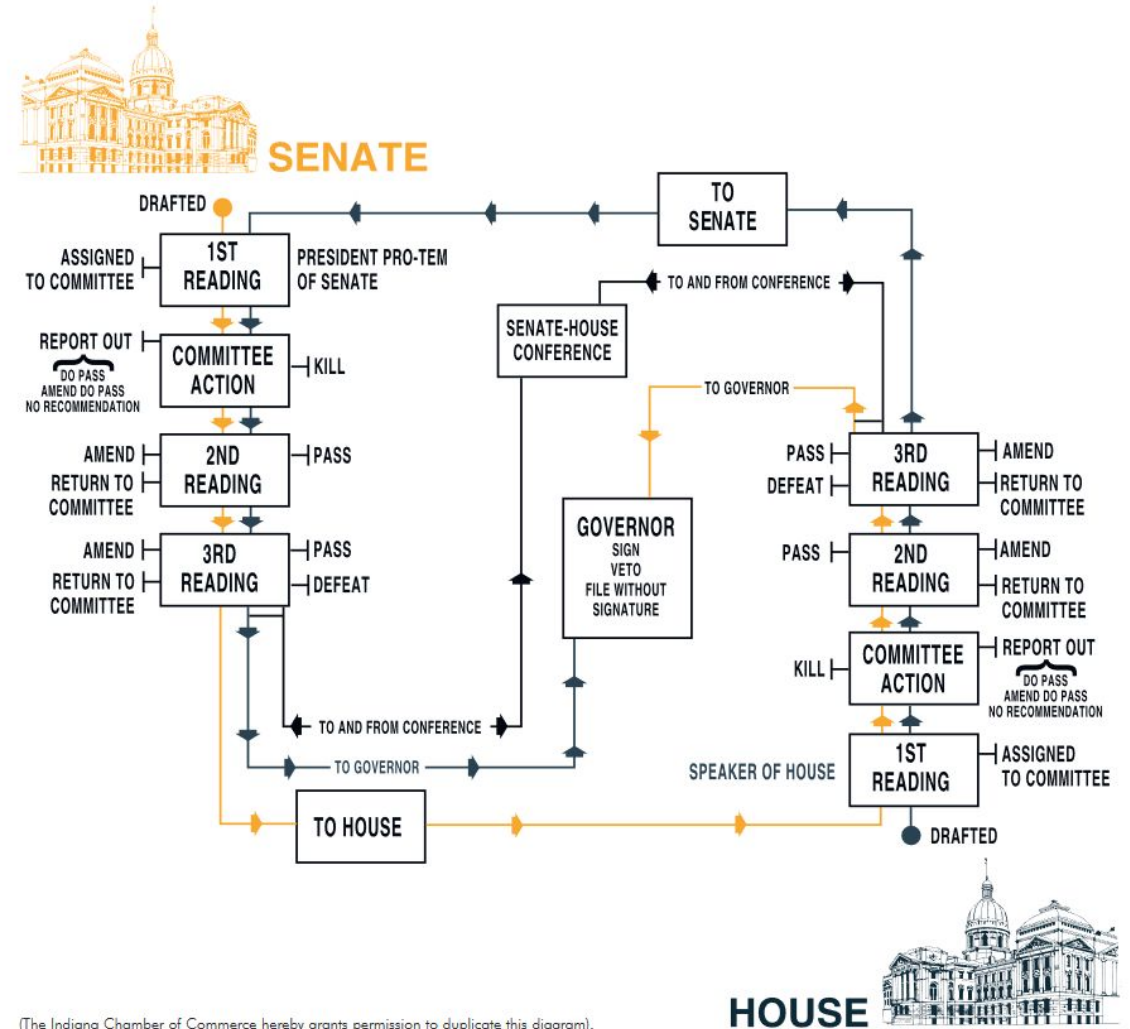
LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

- **2 parts of the General Assembly: House and Senate**
- **100 Representatives (serve 2-year terms)**
- **50 Senators (serve 4-year terms)**
- **District maps available at: iga.in.gov/information/**
- **Odd years = Long Session-Budget year**
- **Even years = Short Session**

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

- Legislative process of the IN General Assembly is complex
- It isn't over until Sine Die (April 29, 2025)

<https://www.indianachamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/HowABillBecomeLaw2018.pdf>



WHO ARE YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS?

- Find your legislator:
iga.in.gov/information/find-legislators
- 1 Representative and 1 Senator that represents you and where you reside and work
- Legislative Mapping Survey for ILF



ILF: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Advocacy Committee

- Taft Public Affairs Group
- Meets year round
- Educational webinars, training, and conference sessions
- ILF Statehouse Day

ilfonline.org/advocacy



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ILF: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Grassroots Pro-Library Campaign

- Counterbalance to Purple for Parents and Mom's for Liberty social media
- Sourcing community supporters
- Building support
- Fundraising



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ILF: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Intellectual Freedom Committee

- Educational webinars, training, and conference sessions
- Mock book challenges
- Contact us/Report a Local Issue form
- Challenge resources
- Policy and procedure examples

ILF IF Resources



2025 Pre-Legislative Session

ILF 2025 Legislative Priorities

ilfonline.org/advocacy

- Literacy
- Protection of the Freedom to Read
- Funding and Support

ILF Lobbyists:

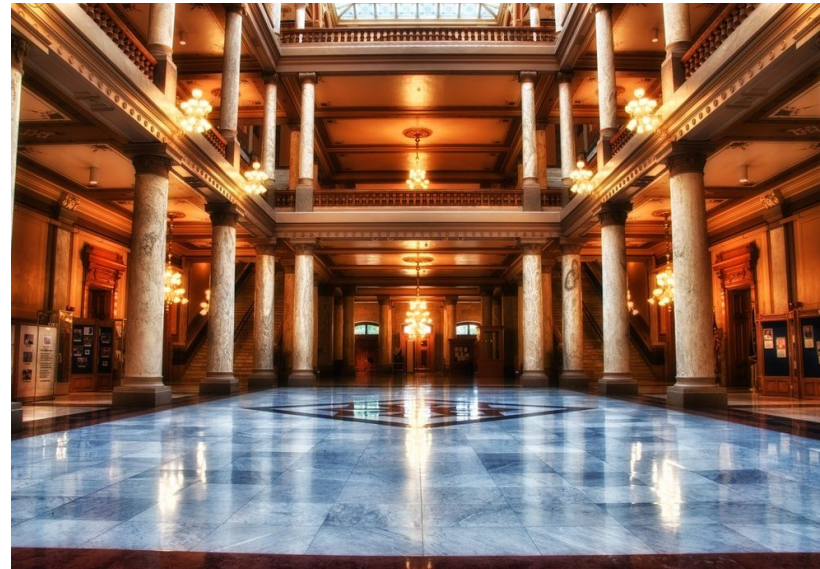
- Taft Public Affairs Group
 - Mark Shublak
 - Camille Blunt

New Administration:

- Governor and Lt. Governor
- Restructure with new pillars
- New Legislators and Committee Assignments

Session focus:

- Budget session
- Property Tax Reform
- “Lean” government
- 1st amendment/freedom to read issues



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2025 LEGISLATION

- **SB283: Library Governance (Sen. Gary Byrne)**
 - Eliminates the authority of public libraries to levy their own tax, gives authority to county council
 - Testified in Committee, ILF Statement
 - “Died” in Committee, Author will bring bill back next year
- **SB1: Property Tax Reform (Sen. Travis Holdman)**
 - Limits property tax growth, relief for homeowners (65+ and new owners), relief for farmers, reforms referendum process
 - As introduced-major impacts to local governments, Amended version better but still concerns
 - Testified in House Ways & Means, ILF Statement, ILF Impact Statement
- **HB1001: Budget (Rep. Jeffrey Thompson)**
 - Our focus: Indiana State Library funding cut by almost 30%, Eliminate state’s matching funding for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
 - Testified in House Ways & Means, ILF Presidents’ Statement on DPIL
 - Turn of events with DPIL and Governor’s office; Upcoming meeting scheduled, will testify at hearing

2025 LEGISLATION

Bills we have been supporting:

- **SB351: Municipal parks and recreation board (Sen. Mike Gaskill)**
 - Allows a resident of the library district to be appointed to the parks and recreation board of a third class city or town
 - Passed out of committee and Senate, amended to be more inclusive of different classes of cities
 - House Local Government–Hearing 3/18 or 3/24
- **HB1523: Public Depositories (Rep. Kyle Pierce)**
 - Allows a political subdivision (libraries included) to invest public funds in certificates of deposit outside of the the political subdivision's county
 - Amended but for libraries only allows CD investments at institutions within the county, will try to get amended again in Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Comm.

YOU: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- **Become a personal member of ILF and be an active member**
- **Advocate for your library to be an institutional member of ILF**
- **Inform yourself**
 - **Library Advocacy Update**
 - **Look for “Calls to Action” on library listservs**
 - **Follow ILF Social Media**
 - **Pay attention to your local news outlets**



YOU: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Join INFREADOM group and share it with others
- Attend ILF Statehouse Day
- Attend ILF Regional and Annual Conference
- Develop your “elevator speech”-share data and stories



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QUESTIONS?



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Contact Us!

Vanessa Martin

vmartin@greensburglibrary.org

Julie Wendorf

jwendorf@crownpointlibrary.org

Chad Heck

caheck@pike.k12.in.us