



2012 LEGISLATIVE VOTE ANALYSIS

Connecting the Political and Legislative Dots

“If you don’t keep score, then you are only practicing” (or some variation of that phrase) is a popular – and largely accurate – expression. And it’s one that definitely applies to the legislative/political world.

Each year, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce offers what is referred to as the “trio of accountability.” A *Legislative Business Issues* document reflects the public policy positions that are the product of the work of its member-driven policy committees. Multiple versions of the *Legislative Agenda* use those positions to then indicate support or opposition to specific bills that are introduced during the Indiana General Assembly session.

The third piece is the *Legislative Vote Analysis*, which grades the 150 legislators on their votes on those issues that are important to improving the state’s pro-jobs, pro-economy climate. The core of the document is a one-page listing of lawmakers’ scores for both the most recent session and the two-year aggregate percentage. Legislators with a vote score of 70% or greater are eligible for endorsement by the Chamber’s non-partisan political action committee, Indiana Business for Responsive Government (IBRG).

“Keeping score is an essential part of improving the opportunities for Indiana companies and their employees,” Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar emphasizes. “When enough legislators understand and support important pro-jobs, pro-economy initiatives, some remarkable results are achieved by the General Assembly. If those legislators compile high enough overall vote scores, IBRG works to help get them re-elected and continue the cycle of success.”

The May-June *BizVoice*® detailed the top Indiana Chamber priorities for 2012 and the outcomes of each (story can be found under archives at www.bizvoicemagazine.com). The September-October issue will focus on the upcoming election, with previews of not only the Indiana General Assembly but the races to see who will become the next governor and U.S. senator representing our state.

On the following pages, we provide some information that helps connect the dots between the trio of documents and the activities at the Statehouse. Included are:

- the one-page voting percentages from the *Legislative Vote Analysis* (the full report is available online at www.indianachamber.com/lva);
- a two-page legislative milestones document that outlines a top 10 of policy victories from 2000-2010 and follows with a summary of key successes over the past two legislative sessions; and
- a listing of the Indiana Chamber’s issue expert team, their areas of responsibility and their contact information