

## Half Full Just Not Enough

**W**hen the topic is confidence in the future prospects of the individuals, families and companies that comprise our state, one must look in the mirror and ponder: Is the proverbial glass half empty or half full?

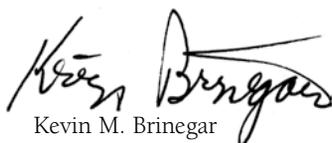
Answer: I'm going to expand the choices and respond with three-quarters full. Why, you ask, do I feel that way when Congress is establishing dubious records for inactivity, proper education and skills development remain elusive to too many people and naysayers abound?

A few of my reasons for optimism:

- We are in the midst of political debate season as this column is being written. I do believe new leadership at the state level will allow Indiana to continue the gains it has made in recent years. Also, despite so many negative indicators, I trust that common sense and some degree of bipartisanship will win out in Washington. A financial crisis of great proportions is near, and I can't imagine our political leaders will allow that to occur.
- Indiana truly has established itself as a forerunner among states with its education and economic development reforms of recent years. As always, the work is not complete. But a solid foundation has been put into place. And the *Indiana Vision 2025* long-range economic development plan from the Indiana Chamber and its many partners will provide a roadmap to the next steps.
- Positive feelings always emerge at this time of the year as we host our annual awards celebration, now in its 23rd year. We congratulate the winners – Scott Dorsey as business leader, government leaders Jerry Torr and Carlin Yoder, and community of the year Indianapolis – but take special pride in the fact that there are so many people working so hard in making our state the absolute best it can be.

Just as I have faith that we indeed are on the right track, I know you will enjoy the award winner profiles in this issue, our other features and the continuing spotlight on the dynamic and creative culture topics that are part of *Indiana Vision 2025*.

Thank you for reading *BizVoice*® and for your continued support of the Indiana Chamber.



Kevin M. Brinegar  
President and CEO

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