

# LEGISLATORS RECEIVE THEIR MARKS

By Rebecca Patrick

Job creation and economic growth are hot topics for Indiana's business leaders and most Hoosiers. But are state legislators focusing on these issues?

The Indiana Chamber's *2015 Legislative Vote Analysis* attempts to answer that question for constituents. The annual publication grades legislators on their voting performance on pro-jobs, pro-economy policies.

The 2015 scores were wide-ranging, from 36% to 100%. There were a total of nine perfect marks – all in the House. The exact opposite happened last year when 10 senators were atop the list.

"We saw a greater spread in scores this year, even among those in the same party. That's a testament to the nature of the public policy being introduced and debated, as well as the changing demographics in the Legislature," states Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar.

"Whether a legislator ranks high or low, their score is tied to how they voted on bills in our *Legislative Agenda*, which is presented to each member of the General Assembly. These bills are selected based on their significant effect on the state's economic climate and workforce."

New this year, the Indiana Chamber added a secondary leadership element to the scoring metrics: significant, tangible actions by committee chairs as well as bill authors and sponsors.

For more than a third of the legislators, this meant a "slight adjustment to the base voting scores and, we believe, represents a more accurate picture of their overall performance," Brinegar says.

"Two important aspects of being a legislator aren't captured in votes on the House and Senate floors. One is holding initial committee

hearings and giving legislation the opportunity to move forward – or choosing not to do that," he explains. "The other is authoring impactful legislation. This new factor allows us to include these key actions."

Brinegar stresses that the overall voting record remains the overwhelming component of the scoring.

For 18 legislators who went the extra mile, they earned a star designation for overall leadership or their significant efforts on issues deemed of critical importance.

The majority of the bills included for examination can be traced back to the Indiana Chamber's economic development plan, *Indiana Vision 2025* ([www.indianachamber.com/2025](http://www.indianachamber.com/2025)), released in 2012. That plan contains 33 goals in the four driver areas of Outstanding Talent, Attractive Business Climate, Superior Infrastructure, and Dynamic and Creative Culture.

"*Indiana Vision 2025* includes some very ambitious objectives – and there is a reason for it: We can't afford to be anything but aggressive given the intense competitiveness that exists in the Midwest, nation and world," Brinegar maintains.

"There's competition for employment – both for workers and companies competing for projects – and for business location and expansion.

"That's why it's important that we accelerate the pace of legislation that will have real and positive impact on the Hoosier workforce. And this report holds legislators accountable to that."

The Indiana Chamber uses these scores to determine eligibility for endorsement by its political action committee, Indiana Business for Responsive Government.



**RESOURCE:** Scores and full report at [www.indianachamber.com/lva](http://www.indianachamber.com/lva)

## Indiana General Assembly

# 2015 Legislator Vote Scores

Indiana House	2015 Score	2-Year Score	Indiana House	2015 Score	2-Year Score	Indiana Senate	2015 Score	2-Year Score
Arnold	69%	76%	Lehman ☆	96%	95%	Alting	74%	82%
Austin	53%	59%	Leonard	94%	93%	Arnold	56%	62%
Aylesworth	88%	88%	Lucas	89%	90%	Banks	77%	77%
Bacon	83%	84%	Macer	52%	55%	Bassler	87%	87%
Baird	98%	95%	Mahan	89%	91%	Becker	57%	59%
Bartlett	44%	44%	Mayfield	98%	93%	Boots	84%	91%
Bauer	43%	44%	McMillin ☆	94%	92%	Bray ☆	91%	91%
Behning ☆	95%	93%	McNamara	98%	93%	Breaux	51%	51%
Beumer	80%	84%	Miller	96%	96%	Broden	53%	58%
Borders	85%	85%	Moed	53%	54%	Brown	91%	91%
Bosma ☆	100%	97%	Morris	93%	90%	Buck	84%	88%
Braun	92%	92%	Morrison	96%	93%	Charbonneau ☆	89%	92%
Brown, C.	38%	43%	Moseley	46%	55%	Crider	80%	88%
Brown, T. ☆	94%	90%	Negele ☆	96%	95%	Delph	71%	77%
Burton	100%	96%	Niezgodski	44%	53%	Eckerty	93%	94%
Carbaugh	94%	89%	Nisly	71%	71%	Ford	84%	84%
Cherry	100%	96%	Ober ☆	100%	94%	Glick	78%	84%
Clere	96%	95%	Olthoff	88%	88%	Grooms	83%	87%
Cook ☆	96%	96%	Pelath	46%	50%	Head	77%	81%
Cox	94%	93%	Pierce	47%	52%	Hershman ☆	93%	93%
Culver	94%	92%	Porter	45%	46%	Holdman	86%	92%
Davisson	94%	93%	Price ☆	98%	96%	Houchin	91%	91%
DeLaney	54%	56%	Pryor	44%	46%	Kenley	88%	90%
Dermody	73%	77%	Rhoads	98%	94%	Kruse	90%	92%
DeVon	96%	94%	Richardson	94%	93%	Lanane	53%	55%
Dvorak	36%	46%	Riecken	46%	52%	Leising	80%	88%
Eberhart	93%	91%	Saunders	84%	81%	Long ☆	94%	96%
Errington	52%	54%	Schaibley	100%	100%	Merritt	90%	94%
Fine	90%	90%	Shackleford	50%	54%	Messmer	82%	82%
Forestal	54%	58%	Slager	86%	85%	Miller, Patricia	83%	90%
Friend	100%	96%	Smaltz	82%	85%	Miller, Pete	91%	95%
Frizzell	96%	93%	Smith, M.	94%	94%	Mishler	88%	92%
Frye	92%	92%	Smith, V.	45%	47%	Mrvan	46%	53%
GiaQuinta	54%	58%	Soliday	86%	87%	Niemeyer	78%	78%
Goodin	49%	54%	Speedy	92%	91%	Perfect	91%	91%
Gutwein	89%	91%	Stemler	56%	60%	Raatz	87%	87%
Hale ☆	54%	59%	Steuerwald	100%	97%	Randolph	47%	49%
Hamm	94%	89%	Sullivan	94%	93%	Rogers	58%	57%
Harman	84%	83%	Summers	54%	56%	Schneider	82%	88%
Harris	71%	71%	Thompson	96%	91%	Smith	76%	82%
Heaton	98%	95%	Torr ☆	98%	96%	Steele	84%	89%
Huston ☆	98%	97%	Truitt	90%	90%	Stoops	47%	49%
Judy	90%	90%	Ubelhor	98%	93%	Tallian	54%	54%
Karickhoff	87%	87%	VanNatter	89%	88%	Taylor	48%	49%
Kersey	44%	46%	Washburne	96%	89%	Tomes	56%	66%
Kirchhofer	100%	98%	Wesco	98%	93%	Walker	87%	89%
Klinker	60%	65%	Wolkins	97%	92%	Waltz	69%	77%
Koch ☆	83%	83%	Wright	52%	52%	Yoder ☆	92%	94%
Lawson	52%	54%	Zent	90%	92%	Young	70%	79%
Lehe	100%	96%	Ziemke	96%	95%	Zakas	73%	82%

☆ Legislators who demonstrated overall leadership or made significant contributions on specific business issues of critical importance

**RESOURCE:** Full report at [www.indianachamber.com/lva](http://www.indianachamber.com/lva)