

# What to Watch for in Election Lead-Up



**Jeff Brantley**

**Indiana in primetime.** An open-seat governor’s race, an intense U.S. Senate battle that could decide control of that body, a Hoosier vice presidential candidate – all have worked to put a bright national spotlight on Indiana. With that has come major out-of-state dollars, super PACs and big increases in political operatives crisscrossing the state. Will Democrats – already moving resources into the state at levels not seen since 2008 (when Obama carried Indiana) – find an opportunity to “run the board” and even contest the presidential race here?

**Top-of-the-ticket impact.** Will Republicans and Democrats unify top to bottom behind their presidential candidates and agendas? How much will down-ballot candidates choose or need to position themselves independently of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton? In our state, we have candidates with obvious

and significant ties to both major party presidential nominees: Gov. Mike Pence is Trump’s running mate and former Sen. Evan Bayh might have been Clinton’s if he had stayed in office. While Bayh will no doubt tout being his own man, his U.S. Senate opponent, Congressman Todd Young, has been hammering home Bayh’s longtime support for Clinton. In the marquee state race, how Republican gubernatorial nominee Eric Holcomb plays his ties to Pence, who is now joined at the hip with Trump, could determine his fate.

**Turnout.** It’s not just a question of how many Americans will vote overall, but what variances will arise between voter-profile groups. It’s not simply about political parties, but ideological, demographic and regional subgroups. What about Bernie Sanders’ supporters? The Vermont senator consistently beat Clinton by 30-plus points among younger Democrat

## Statehouse Races to Watch

### The Potential Nail-Biters

Incumbents are expected to have tough battles in House Districts 4 and 19 – the latter being a rematch of 2014 that was decided 51%-49%. The other three are open races.

- House District 4: Ed Soliday (R) vs. Pamela Fisher (D)
- House District 19: Julie Olthoff (R) vs. Shelli Vandenburg (D)
- House District 20: Jim Pressel (R) vs. Karen Biernacki (D)
- Senate District 30: John Ruckleshaus (R) vs. Pam Hickman (D)
- Senate District 32: Aaron Freeman (R) vs. Sara Wiley (D)



### The Slam Dunks

These five contests are as close to sure things as you can get; all feature incumbent Republicans:

#### Senate District 16:

David Long (R) vs. Juli Dominguez (D)

#### Senate District 20:

Luke Kenley (R) vs. Paula Jo Gilliam (D)

#### House District: 39

Jerry Torr (R) vs. David Russ (D)

#### House District 58:

Woody Burton (R) vs. Edward O’Connor (D)

#### House District 67:

Randy Frye (R) vs. Rudy Howard, Jr. (D)



## Incumbents Not Seeking Re-Election

Some state legislators, like Earline Rogers, are retiring after decades of service; others, like Carlin Yoder, simply decided it was time to step aside. Three House members are running for higher office, thereby giving up their current elected positions: Rep. Christina Hale is the Lt. Gov. candidate on the John Gregg ticket, while Rep. Eric Koch and Rep. David Niezgodski are vying for open state Senate seats.

- Sen. Jim Arnold (D-LaPorte; District 8)
- Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend; District 10)
- Rep. Tom Dermody (R-LaPorte; District 20)
- Rep. Christina Hale (D-Indianapolis; District 87)
- Rep. Donna Harris (D-East Chicago; District 2)
- Rep. Eric Koch (R-Bedford; District 65)
- Rep. David Niezgodski (D-South Bend; District 7)
- Rep. John Price (R-Greenwood; District 47)
- Rep. Rhonda Rhoads (R-Corydon; District 70)
- Rep. Gail Riecken (D-Evansville ; District 77)
- Sen. Earline Rogers (D-Gary; District 3)
- Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford; District 44)
- Rep. Randy Truitt (R-West Lafayette; District 26)
- Sen. Brent Waltz (R-Greenwood; District 36)
- Sen. Carlin Yoder (R-Middlebury; District 12)

**All in the family:** Donna Harris is finishing out her late husband’s term; the Democratic nominee attempting to succeed her is her son, Earl Harris, Jr.

voters. What do they do? What about Republicans hostile to Trump?

**Voter intensity differences.** This is a major factor in turnout. How angry, how content, how energized are partisan voters with their parties' top candidates (President, U.S. Senate, Congress and Governor) and what "intensity gaps" might exist between the parties? Who is more motivated to turn out and actually vote? But it's also about the weeks leading up and what profiles of voters are motivated to talk politics with families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. And social media is more important than ever –

how engaged will some voters be in sharing views and persuading their "friends"?

**The Libertarians.** Even more filed this year in state legislative races and they did so disproportionately against GOP incumbents. As of early August, polling on the presidential level has candidate Gary Johnson pulling votes almost equally from Clinton and Trump. With the very unsettled presidential race and a much higher-profile Libertarian ticket than ever before, this could be the time for voters to give down-ballot Libertarian candidates a second look.

**Right track-wrong track, economy**

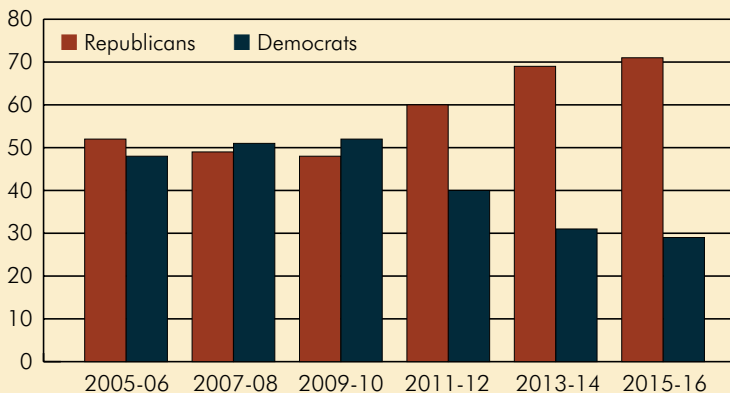
**and fear.** A historically high number of Americans currently think the country is on the wrong track and those negative views are bleeding down into state and local politics. Yet, the economy is reasonably strong, which tends to push back against a party shift at the top of the ticket. Will voter anger and fear (over terrorism, national security or potential economic instability) overwhelm any positive political points gained from a growing economy and jobs? What really matters is the state voters believe the economy, security and their families' futures are in – perception rules over reality in politics.

**AUTHOR:** Jeff Brantley is vice president of political affairs for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. Learn more at [www.ibrg.biz](http://www.ibrg.biz)

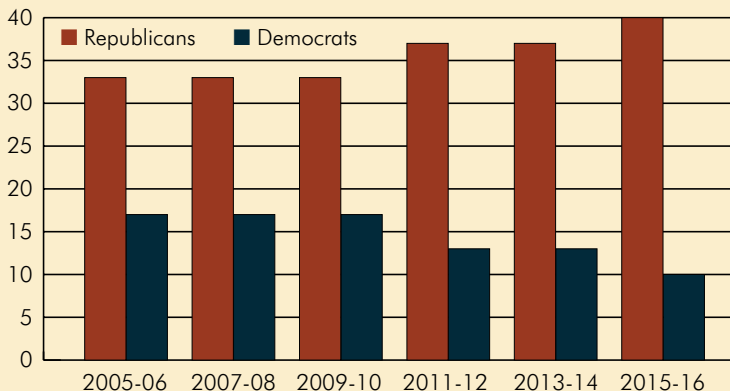
## Legislative Power Shift

After times of split power, the last three cycles have pushed Republicans to super or quorum-proof majorities in both caucuses.

### Indiana House



### Indiana Senate



## Indiana Lawmakers

**57.57**  
AVERAGE AGE

The average age of all state legislators is 56, per the National Conference of State Legislatures



**119 MEN**

**31 WOMEN**



### TOP OCCUPATIONS

**35**

Business Owners

**25**

Attorneys

**17**

Educators

## 2016 IBRG Candidate Endorsements *(as of August 10, 2016)*

### Indiana House Incumbents

Terri Austin, HD 36  
Michael Aylesworth, HD 11  
Jim Baird, HD 44  
Bob Behning, HD 91  
Greg Beumer, HD 33  
Bruce Borders, HD 45  
Brian Bosma, HD 88  
Mike Braun, HD 63  
Tim Brown, HD 41  
Woody Burton, HD 58  
Martin Carbaugh, HD 81  
Robert Cherry, HD 53  
Ed Clere, HD 72  
Tony Cook, HD 32  
Wes Culver, HD 49  
Steve Davisson, HD 73  
Dale DeVon, HD 5  
Sean Eberhart, HD 57  
William Fine, HD 12  
Bill Friend, HD 23  
Dave Frizzell, HD 93  
Randy Frye, HD 67  
Phil GiaQuinta, HD 80  
Doug Gutwein, HD 16

Richard Hamm, HD 56  
Bob Heaton, HD 46  
Todd Huston, HD 37  
Mike Karickhoff, HD 30  
Cindy Kirchhofer, HD 89  
Sheila Klinker, HD 27  
Doug Miller, HD 48  
Kathy Richardson, HD 29  
Don Lehe, HD 25  
Matt Lehman, HD 79  
Dan Leonard, HD 50  
Jim Lucas, HD 69  
Randy Lyness, HD 68  
Karlee Macer, HD 92  
Kevin Mahan, HD 31  
Peggy Mayfield, HD 60  
Bob Morris, HD 84  
Sharon Negele, HD 13  
David Ober, HD 82  
Hal Slager, HD 15  
Ben Smaltz, HD 52  
Milo Smith, HD 59  
Ed Soliday, HD 4  
Mike Speedy, HD 90  
Steve Stemler, HD 71

Greg Steuerwald, HD 40  
Holli Sullivan, HD 78  
Jeff Thompson, HD 28  
Jerry Torr, HD 39  
Heath VanNatter, HD 38  
Tom Washburne, HD 64  
Tim Wesco, HD 21  
David Wolkins, HD 18  
Dennis Zent, HD 51  
Cindy Ziemke, HD 55

### Indiana Senate Incumbents

Rod Bray, SD 37  
Ed Charbonneau, SD 5  
Michael Crider, SD 28  
Susan Glick, SD 13  
Brandt Hershman, SD 7  
Luke Kenley, SD 20  
David Long, SD 16  
Ryan Mishler, SD 9  
Lonnie Randolph, SD 2  
R. Michael Young, SD 35

### Non-Incumbents

House  
Jack Jordan, HD 17  
Chris May, HD 65  
Richard Pfeil, HD 8  
Jim Pressel, HD 20  
Sally Seigrist, HD 26

### Senate

Blake Doriot, SD 12  
Aaron Freeman, SD 32  
Eric Koch, SD 44  
Eddie Melton, SD 3  
John Ruckelshaus, SD 30  
Jack Sandlin, SD 36

### U.S. House

Jackie Walorski, CD 2  
Todd Rokita, CD 4  
Susan Brooks, CD 5  
Luke Messer, CD 6  
Larry Bucshon, CD 8

# WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS TODAY?

Where do you want it to go?

Your retirement plan is more than just an employee benefit, it is a business tool to help develop a long term business legacy.

ProCourse knows that the goals you want to achieve for your organization and your people require a bold vision and expert guidance. Take our Fiduciary Effectiveness survey to find the tools your organization needs to drive impact for years to come.

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