



SECURITY • INTEGRITY • OPPORTUNITY

PLATFORM 2006

Promises Made, Promises Kept...

In the four years since Hoosier voters hired me to serve as Indiana's Secretary of State, we have protected the integrity of Indiana elections, brought security to Hoosier investors and cut the red tape to give Hoosier business the opportunity to take root and grow here at home. Every step of the way our focus has been the creation of a better Indiana for honest, hardworking Hoosiers.

We have made great progress in our first lap, but the race is far from over. We look ahead to the next four years and see opportunities to bring greater transparency to the money spent in political campaigns by introducing campaign finance reform legislation. We see a chance to bring greater efficiency and accountability to Indiana elections by seeking legislation to make the Secretary of State's Office the tie-breaking vote on the Indiana Election Commission and the head of the Election Division. We will continue to work to make it easier for the future business owners of Indiana to get on their feet without government weighing them down with red tape and bureaucracy.

I ask that you give me the opportunity to serve all of Indiana for another four years; together, we can keep Indiana moving forward.

Election Reform

Protecting the Integrity of Indiana's elections

“The cornerstone of our democracy is the faith that your vote counts and is not discounted by those who seek to destroy the integrity of our elections. With that principle as our guide, for the first time ever, we have sought to protect the integrity of Indiana elections by requiring voters show their photo ID before they vote, that voter lists in Indiana be cleaned up to remove dead voters and duplicate registrations, and, through the creation of provisional ballots, improve access so no voter is denied the right to vote on Election Day.” – Todd Rokita, Indiana Secretary of State.

What we've done...

Polling Place Accessibility: This General Election marks the first in Indiana's history in which all voters with disabilities will be able to vote privately and independently cast a ballot at the polls. Polling locations in Indiana are now accessible and equipped with voting systems for all Hoosiers. Our office has developed a reimbursement grant program to assist counties in their efforts to improve polling place access to the elderly and disabled.

Photo ID: The 2006 General Election marks the third in Indiana under a new law requiring voters to show their photo ID at the polls. Voters can cast their ballots with the confidence that their vote counts and is not discounted by those that seek to undermine the integrity of our elections. This improves the integrity of the ballot and secures our fundamental right to vote.

Statewide Voter File: For the first time ever, Indiana has launched a statewide voter registration system linking voter rolls in all of our 92 counties. This means we have made it extremely difficult for those who would fraudulently register in more than one county to undermine the integrity of an election. Coupled with the photo ID requirement, we have made it nearly impossible for anyone to cast more than one ballot at the polls on Election Day.

Voter List Cleanup: We have long suspected that Indiana voter lists were riddled with inaccuracies. Between deceased voters and duplicate registrations our initial efforts uncovered the potential that over 1 million erroneous voter records exist, threatening the security of Indiana elections. For the first time in Indiana, we are working to clean up voter lists to accurately reflect registered voters.

Voter Outreach: We have worked to reach out to voters to improve access and make it easier to get to the polls or vote absentee. We will continue to work to ensure that your right to vote is protected and voting is as accessible as it can be. Our current outreach efforts include:

- We're working with the Department of Defense to improve ballot delivery and return for military and overseas voters.
- We have launched a voter awareness and outreach media campaign on the general election and photo ID law, helping Hoosier voters understand election law changes.
- We have worked with IUPUI to cultivate relationships with students who wish to serve as poll workers.
- Our election hotline is in place to help voters with any election related questions, ensuring that all voters can go to the polls with confidence on Election Day.
- By working with non-profit associations, we're reaching out to their members to educate them on voting procedures, rights and responsibilities.
- Reaching out to the community, our office recently has taken part in events such as Fiesta Fort Wayne and the Indiana State Fair.

What we're doing...

Vote Centers: Thanks to new legislation developed and supported by my office, two Indiana counties will pilot a new voting concept in their 2007 elections. By utilizing technology wisely, voters in pilot counties will be able to cast their ballots in any one of the county's centralized Vote Centers. The concept of precinct-based polling locations simply is outdated as we adapt to modern patterns of living, working, and traveling. Vote Centers will improve voter turnout by bringing polling places to voters, allowing them to vote the way they live.

Election Division Reform: As chief elections officer in the state of Indiana, I believe that Hoosier voters and taxpayers deserve an election system that is accountable to an elected official. Because of a divided system, the Secretary of State's office does not have the tools necessary to oversee and efficiently administer elections. To solve this problem, I will seek legislation in the 2007 session to make the Secretary of State the tie-breaking vote on the Indiana Election Commission. This commission is currently designed to fail in grid lock between 2 Democratic and 2 Republican appointees.

State government is currently plagued by a bureaucratic system duplicative in nature in the Indiana Election Division, the only agency in state government not accountable to an elected official or the public. This system is jokingly referred to as the Noah's Ark of state government, where just because of political affiliation there are two employees for every one job. If that doesn't scream of government waste and inefficiency, I'm not sure what could.

Campaign Finance Reform: We are revolutionizing election processes to reflect new technologies and capabilities. Candidates and election committees can now file electronically, easing election law compliance, but more importantly creating a more transparent and accessible system for the public.

Looking ahead, our office will seek legislation to standardize Indiana's campaign finance law by applying the same contribution limits to all business entities and organizations that donate to political campaigns, including LLC's and LLP's. Currently limits apply only to corporations and labor organizations. This will bring fairness to Indiana's campaign finance law by evenly applying consistent standards across entities of all kinds.

We will also work to lower the threshold contribution amount for those that give. Under current law, unless committees receive more than \$100 to candidates or \$200 to parties, they are not required to disclose any information about the source of those dollars. We will work to lower that threshold to \$50 to bring greater transparency, ensuring Hoosiers know who is giving and receiving campaign contributions.

Redistricting: For too long we have experienced gerrymandering and other divisive election rulemaking carried out for political purposes. The effect is devastating. It decreases voter turnout because the public perceives election results to be predetermined. I believe in a representative government with participation by all, and will continue to work toward placing elections back where they belong – in the hands of voters.

I propose that we allow an independent commission, made up of retired judges, to perform redistricting under tight, specific criteria, and without using political party affiliation, incumbent home addresses or voter history information to draw district boundaries. The Commission should conduct its decision-making meetings in public and allow for meetings throughout the state for input from voters and taxpayers. Indiana voters deserved a representative, independent and non-partisan process.

Limited Permanent Absentee Voting: I believe the maintenance and well-being of our communities are enhanced by voting in person with our neighbors. Hopefully, we will never abandon this system of community voting. However, there are those in our communities who would benefit from being placed permanently on the absentee voter list. Those voters who are truly disabled or infirm to the extent that appearing at a polling site creates extreme hardship or is physically impossible should be allowed to register on a permanent basis as absentee voters. This would not be available as a casual convenience, but would remove the difficulty of absentee registration for those who truly demonstrate an ongoing, permanent need for absentee voting.

Voter and Student Education: Our office continues to partner with elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, and universities to increase interest in civic participation among young Hoosiers. During these collaborative efforts, one specific need was demonstrated repeatedly: Indiana students and teachers were calling for homegrown K-12 election education materials. We've heard that message and we are responding to their call. Our office is currently guiding development of a classroom-friendly election education curriculum. Components include mock election materials and a clear, relevant introduction of the importance of voting in our form of representative government.

Securities Reform

Bringing Security to Indiana Investors

“For the first time we have worked to educate Hoosiers about investing wisely through our program, Indiana Investment Watch, and have to come to the aid of those when investment fraud threatens a family’s financial security. Working with prosecutors throughout the state we have seen results and we’re sending a message: if you’re thinking about defrauding investors, don’t come to Indiana.” – Todd Rokita, Indiana Secretary of State.

What we’ve done...

Investment Watch: The launch of Indiana Investment Watch signifies a milestone for investors. For the first time we now seek to halt investment fraud before it has a chance to threaten the financial security of honest, hardworking Hoosier families. Armed with knowledge and resources, Hoosiers are better prepared to identify legitimate investments and develop sound investment strategies.

Prosecution Assistance Unit (PAU): For the first time ever, we are assisting local prosecutors in identifying and prosecuting investment fraud. When investment fraud does occur, our office’s newly-created Prosecution Assistance Unit helps local authorities successfully prosecute this type of white collar crime. The PAU is staffed with former Indiana State Police Officers who are skilled at conducting complex investigations. We’re working hard and showing results: to date we’ve secured over 170 hours of jail time for those who have defrauded the public and we have achieved a 95% conviction rate.

Opportunities for economic development: Our no-nonsense approach to white collar crime guarantees legitimate Indiana businesses a more stable environment in which to thrive. Coupled with new, business-friendly legislation, it is but one more way we are working to welcome new business enterprises to the State.

What we’re doing...

Mortgage Brokers Regulations: Our office has worked to crack down on mortgage brokers that seek to defraud Hoosier homeowners and prospective buyers, but our work isn’t done. To increase our efforts, I pledge to seek legislation in 2007 that will expand the authority of the Secretary of State’s office to include possible oversight of HUD qualified mortgage brokers. Currently the federal government only tacitly regulates such brokers. As recent events have proven, however, further oversight is needed.

Improved measures to ensure quality through mandatory continuing education, a code of ethics and membership in the Indiana Association of Mortgage Brokers are some common sense ways we can protect the public. When unscrupulous brokers do violate the public’s trust, my track record of prosecuting those who seek to defraud the public makes this expanded oversight an obvious next step in protecting Hoosier taxpayers.

Modernizing Securities Regulations: In addition to modernizing and streamlining our State’s business laws, our office continues to do the same with Indiana’s securities regulations. In 2006, I supported legislation to further protect Hoosiers and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy. Some of the subsequent improvements include:

- Allowing greater flexibility in the designation of enforcement personnel
- Exempting foreign mergers
- Allowing securities charges to be brought in the county where offered or sold

- Removing the 30-day lead time from franchisor renewals
- Enhancing compliance with and enforcement of the Loan Broker Act
- Allowing for targeted compliance reviews rather than random reviews

Business Services Reform

Cutting the Red Tape

“We have worked to create a competitive environment for job growth that welcomes new enterprise and encourages entrepreneurial innovation. For too long Indiana has been a state that drives jobs to other, friendlier locations. Thanks to the work of our office, we’re cutting the red tape for Hoosier business and telling the world to forget what you knew about Indiana, we’re now open for business.”
- Todd Rokita, Indiana Secretary of State.

What we’ve done...

Cutting the Red Tape, Saving Indiana Jobs: My office has worked to modernize Indiana’s laws to reflect 21st century business practices. The foundation of these new laws comes from hundreds of hours of work through the State’s Business Law Survey Commission – comprised of some of the top business and legal minds from across Indiana, which I have the privilege of chairing.

Based on the findings of the Commission, key lawmakers helped introduce and pass our package of “pro-business” bills. These laws seek to attract out-of-state companies and encourage businesses to incorporate here in Indiana, creating jobs for Hoosiers by enhancing outdated business laws that were previously not conducive to new business investment.

As the gateway for existing companies and new business startups in Indiana, we have worked to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape so Hoosier businesses can focus on what they do best: create jobs. Our office championed legislation (HEA 1165-2005) to assist businesses when they need to file reports with the Secretary of State’s office; that legislation included business friendly measures such as:

- Making Indiana’s Business Corporation Law more reflective of the way business is done in the state; making it easier for out of state businesses to move to Indiana.
- Set forth requirements for certain business entities, for instance a limited partnership and a limited liability company, to merge.

Our goal with this legislation was to lessen the financial and time burdens on Hoosier business owners and provided them with a technologically sound and efficient alternative to filing the required reports. Our goal has always been to provide service on our customer’s schedules, and by expanding the options firms have in completing entity documents, we’re doing just that.

We have modernized Indiana trademark information, allowing businesses and individuals to now search for such information online. The new online system makes it easier than ever for our customers to access Indiana trademark information. When a business wants to create a new or updated name or logo, instant information about what is already in use can be a critical part of the creative process. My office is committed to providing services on your schedule, and this is just another way we’re proving that to Indiana businesses and individuals.

Currently, 59% of entities forming in Indiana are Limited Liability Companies. We worked to preserve jobs by introducing the “Springing LLC Member” concept. This allows thriving Indiana businesses to continue even after the last of the remaining LLC members have gone. This works to save jobs, goods and services, and taxable revenue for the State.

What we're doing...

eGovernment Business Portal: We have worked to support Indiana's existing small businesses, and we have provided practical guidance to those wishing to start new enterprises. The official Secretary of State website, www.sos.in.gov, features a business portal designed to assist small business owners as they navigate legal requirements and government regulations.

Our guiding objective is to allow business owners to concentrate on growing their businesses rather than cutting through unnecessary red tape. As the demands placed on small businesses evolve so will the portal. New services for this site are currently under development, and, in the near future, businesses will have the option of establishing an Internet presence using the portal's web-ready module to start their business from home or the office. By working side-by-side with small business owners, I will continue to provide the types of services and solutions that keep businesses running smoothly.

Modernization: As a result of our work to pass new laws for incorporating a business in Indiana, we have set Indiana apart from the other 50 states as *the* place to incorporate in America. Through offering the option of filing incorporation documents online and continuing to provide one-on-one customer service in our Business Services Division, we are taking a modern, business-friendly approach to the business of taking care of business.

There's more work to be done. One of my top priorities for the Business Services Division is a larger modernization project which involves scanning millions of legacy documents so they can be made available online at the fingertips of Indiana business owners.