

Indiana State House Profiles



Name: Tera Klutz

Position: Auditor of State

Served in the Role Since: January, 2017

Previous Political Positions Held:

Allen County Auditor (2010-2017)

Describe, in general, your role within the Indiana Government.

The Auditor of State plays a crucial role in the functionality of state government – from balancing the state’s checkbook to working with local units of government to developing year-end financial reports. With a very small support team, my primary responsibilities include (1) accounting for all state funds, (2) overseeing and disbursing county, city, town and school tax distributions, (3) paying the state’s bills and the salaries of more than 30,000 state employees and (4) administering Indiana’s Deferred Compensation Plan.

What are some of your most important daily responsibilities?

I ensure all aspects of government are supported financially so that usually entails a lot of conversations and meetings with both local and state leaders to ensure we are on the same page, reports are processed, and everyone receives accurate funding. I also work a lot with state leaders to ensure our payroll for all 30,000+ state employees is on schedule, accurate and continuously improving. We have employees serving in hospitals, surveying land and water, building roads and protecting Hoosier neighborhoods – we have to ensure they are paid! Another daily responsibility is making sure all the information we have concerning the state’s financial status is available to Hoosiers within our Indiana Transparency Portal. One of the many ways Hoosiers can use the portal is viewing funding disbursements to see how their local communities are doing financially.

How does your position require you to interact with other government officials on a daily basis?

My position requires my team and I to interact with local and state government officials on a daily basis to discuss funding. The reports they create on the local level will include tax information and revenue that help my office dedicate appropriate funding for their area – this may include a town, city, county or school corporation. We have to be in constant communication to ensure we are always on the same page to avoid any confusion that may jeopardize funding for necessities or local projects, for example.

What do you think is the most important aspect of Government?

Government must be transparent in order to obtain and retain public trust. I have dedicated a huge focus of my office to ensuring any and all financial information is readily available to any Hoosier interested in knowing where and how funds are distributed within their local or state government, among other information.

How did you get involved in Government? What made you want to run for office?

After graduating from Indiana University – Purdue University in Fort Wayne, I became a CPA. I worked as a Senior Accountant at Crowe and PwC and in 2002 I began working as the Chief Deputy Auditor in Allen County. In 2010, I was elected to serve as County Auditor in Allen County. My family was the main force behind my decision to run for an elected position. I was re-elected in 2014 and before my second term was up, the State Auditor position became available because the current Auditor was appointed to Lt. Governor. I had an in-person conversation with Governor Eric Holcomb over lunch and within weeks, I was sworn in and moving my family to Central Indiana. I was then elected to a four-year term in 2018 and plan to run again in 2022.

What advice would you give to young people that are interested in learning more about Government or becoming involved in public service?

Get involved!! There are so many opportunities for our future leaders to get involved within their communities and learn the government and political process. If they are too young to vote or serve in an official capacity, you can always volunteer. Learning about the process and experiencing the opportunities is eye opening and allows you to learn first-hand what you have learned in a classroom. Almost every politician I have met has started locally and they are so much more well versed on the process and understanding the need for strong leadership. You also don’t have to have your name on the ballot to get involved. I have met equally as talented individuals who are serving in an unofficial capacity, but their passion allows them to serve in other ways that benefit their state and/or their local community. Don’t be afraid to get involved!