

Indiana State House Profiles



Name: Eric J. Holcomb

Position: Governor of Indiana (51st)

Served in the Role Since: January, 2017

Previous Political Positions Held:

Lt. Governor of Indiana (2016-2017)

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

As 51st Governor, I serve as Indiana's chief executive officer. The Indiana governor is the commander-in-chief of the state's armed forces and oversees the executive branch of government.

The position can recommend legislation, review legislation that's approved by the Indiana House and Senate and sign legislation into law. I have the power to veto an approved bill and return it to the General Assembly, and I have the authority to issue executive orders, grant pardons, reprieves and commutations.

What are some of your most important daily responsibilities?

As governor, I oversee 28,000 state employees and a \$34 billion biennial budget. I work closely with the cabinet members that manage the day-to-day operations of state government agencies. Hoosiers rely on state services so it's imperative that the process in place works well and is being improved upon.

I value travelling throughout the state and speaking with community leaders, elected officials and citizens to make sure I'm representing all Hoosiers to the best of my ability.

I also stay in-tuned to the business community to understand what challenges they're facing and what state government can do to remove barriers so that they can succeed. Their success is a win for Indiana.

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

This position relies on communication with our federal and local partners to stay informed on the issues that touch every corner of this state. This is also a role that requires collaboration to continue the balance of power. The executive branch of government needs to work with the judicial and legislative branches for us to continue to live in a democracy.

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

I believe good government can be achieved by growing our economy, investing in our infrastructure, expanding our workforce and education opportunities, improving our public health and by providing good government services.

Government should provide the best tools and resources so that citizens can have the opportunity to better their lives.

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

Having a servant's heart and contributing to the greater good has always interested me. I signed up and served in the United States Navy. I felt it was my duty to serve our country.

In the years that followed my military service, I worked for several government officials and some of them became mentors to me. I learned through observance and hard work what it takes to be of true service to Hoosiers and to make the tough decisions for the greater good.

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

The common denominator in everything I've done professionally is service oriented. I would advise young people to get involved, whether it's through their school or in their community, find ways where you can make a difference.

Education is the foundation for growth, and it can equip young people to determine their own destiny. Throughout your journey, be honest, be humble and be hungry, and don't mistake being humble for being laid back. You've got to be hungry and earn it every single day and always be an active and open lifelong learner.

I believe serving in local, state or federal government affords you an opportunity to make a positive difference in oversized ways. I can't think of any more meaningful reward than that!