

# Indiana State House Profiles



**Name:** Suzanne Crouch

**Position:** Indiana Lt. Governor

**Served in the Role Since:** January, 2017

**Previous Political Positions Held:**

Auditor of State January 2014-December 2016

Indiana House of Representatives 2005-2013

Auditor of Vanderburgh County, Indiana (8 years)

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

As Lt. Governor, I oversee a portfolio that includes the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Office of Community and Rural Affairs and Indiana Destination Development Corporation. In addition, I also serve as President of the Indiana Senate, chair of the Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, chair of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force, chair of the Indiana 2020 Census Committee and oversee the Next Level Veterans initiative and the Next Level Connections Broadband initiative.

*What are some of your most important daily responsibilities?*

Strengthen Indiana's rural economies and communities through capacity building, advocacy and innovation in agriculture, tourism, housing and community economic development.

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

As President of the Indiana Senate, I lead the chamber when in session. The Indiana lieutenant governor is also charged with breaking any 25-25 ties, when they occur.

In this role, I meet often with government officials, the agencies I oversee and stakeholders throughout Indiana to discuss investments, economic development and other topics or issues that might pertain to a town, county, region or Hoosiers everywhere.

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

Being good fiscal stewards of taxpayer money. Every dollar that comes through government at every level has a name and face attached to it.

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

I didn't have that one issue, concern or reason that I was passionate about that made me want to run. I found that passion after I got into office. What I learned on the job is that government connects you with people and those connections enable you to make a positive difference in people's lives. Now I work with the agencies and offices I oversee, along with promoting Hoosiers with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and work to bring awareness to various mental health issues impacting Hoosiers while removing the stigma that if someone needs help they should not be afraid to seek it.

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

It is okay if you stumble and fall, as long as you're always moving forward and never look back. Young people need to embrace opportunities, be tough and have grit. It is okay to decide to take a different path.

Put yourself in challenging situations, because our young people will grow from those experiences and it will help them better understand all the different things they are capable of achieving.