

# Indiana State House Profiles



**Name:** Holli Sullivan

**Position:** Indiana Secretary of State

**Served in the Role Since:** March, 2021

**Previous Political Positions Held:**

Indiana House of Representatives 2014-2021

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

I hold the statewide office of Secretary of State. This is a constitutional officer position elected every 4 years. The Secretary of State is Indiana's chief elections officer.

My office is responsible for administering statewide voter registration, elections filing with candidates, certifying election results and maintaining election records.

The office is responsible for certifying and keeping permanent records of official state documents including; statutes and constitutional amendments as well as state proclamations and commissions.

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

There are three divisions outside of elections within the office of the Secretary of State with daily responsibilities.

The Securities division regulates and investigates violations of state securities law and licenses collection agencies.

The Business Services Division maintains records for more than 250,000 businesses in the state. Every company in Indiana must register with the Business Services Division.

The Auto Dealer Services Division registers and regulates the manufacturing, distribution, sale, re-sale and salvage of motor vehicles in Indiana.

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

While the Secretary of State is an independently elected position, I often collaborate directly with members of the state legislature, regarding state bills dealing with election changes and security.

Currently, I am also visiting every county in Indiana to meet with each elected county clerk to talk about election successes and areas for improvement.

County Clerks in Indiana perform county-related election duties, issue marriage licenses, record and maintain oaths of offices.

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

That elected office holders truly represent the will of their constituency. As an elected official, it is incumbent to make sure the work we do is focused around what is in the best interest of Hoosiers.

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

I started taking serious note of the political process almost by accident. I watched a Congressional vote on CSPAN and I was struck by how few women were involved. That observation inspired me to question why. After talking to other women in my community, I found that most didn't feel included. Within a few years, I started a local civics group to get women more engaged and educated, mainly focused on local politics. I never intended on running for office personally but was approached to consider seeking a seat in the state legislature. I was elected in 2014.

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

Two things;

1. Pay attention, especially at the local level. Often the most impactful political decisions are made in city councils and school boards.

2. Don't hesitate to become civically involved. Look for opportunities to volunteer, not just politically but also around your community. These are chances to learn about the process but also to meet people already working in public service.