

# Indiana State House Profiles



**Name:** Rodric Bray

**Position:** Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore

**Served in the Role Since:** 2018

**Previous Political Positions Held:**

Indiana Senator 2012-current

Morgan County GOP Chair 1998-2005

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

As a state lawmaker, it is my job to represent the views and opinions of the Hoosiers in Senate District 37, which includes all of Morgan County and parts of Johnson, Owen and Putnam counties, who elected me to serve at the Statehouse. I take constituents' opinions, which are shared with me via phone calls, emails, letters and in-person conversations, into consideration whenever I vote on a bill before the Senate.

It is also my responsibility to communicate to other government officials what Hoosiers want. This could mean drafting a new law, talking with the governor about issues facing Hoosiers, or working with other lawmakers to solve problems facing Hoosiers.

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

First and foremost, it is my job to help Hoosiers navigate their state government. Constituents can contact my office and let me know about issues they may be having accessing a government service, and we can help them get the information and resources they may need.

During the legislative session, which only happens for a few months out the year, several times a week I participate, and sometimes lead, the Senate sessions. This can involve voting on bills, debating with other Senators and leading the discussion from the rostrum.

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

As the leader of the Senate, I am often in consultation with other state leaders like the Speaker of the House, Gov. Eric Holcomb and other agency heads. Often, members of the Senate will bring big issues to me that I try to help them solve by collaborating with other government officials.

The same is true for local government officials – sometimes I am able to help our local officials navigate programs and/or problems more easily, and sometimes they bring me big issues affecting them that require a change in state law, and we have conversations about what that might need to look like.

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

The most important part of government is serving the people of Indiana and be responsive to their needs.

Many people don't realize how much government affects their daily lives. Government leaders have a say in everything from what roads are paved to providing clean water to taxes to law enforcement. As such, we all have a responsibility to pay attention to the actions of our government and stay involved in how it is run.

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

Public service has a long history in my family. My grandfather was a congressman, and my father was a longtime state senator. Growing up, we always had conversations about politics and public policy around the dinner table. When the right opportunity finally came along for me to enter public service, I was ready to take it. I believe public service is so important to a healthy democracy, and it is a great honor for me to be representing the people of my hometown at the Statehouse.

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

Don't hesitate, and always keep learning! We need level-headed, strong, good people of all walks of life serving in our government in order to make sure it works well for Hoosiers across our state. As a student, you can volunteer with local officials and seek out opportunities at the Statehouse. For instance, the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives both offer opportunities for students in grades 6-12 to serve as a Page for a day where you can get an up-close look at how the legislature operates. You never know where a day at the Statehouse can take you long-term, whether that's sparking an interest in public service, in a policy issue, or meeting someone who can help you jump-start your career after high school.