

# Indiana State House Profiles



**Name:** Kelly Mitchell

**Position:** Indiana Treasurer of State

**Served in the Role Since:** November 2014

**Previous Political Positions Held:**

Cass County Commissioner 1997-2004

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

The Office of the Indiana State Treasurer is one of five constitutional offices, with broad responsibilities and authority in the areas of investment and finance. I serve as the 55th Treasurer of State, the fifth highest-ranking statewide government official. The Treasurer is elected statewide every four years. In addition to being the state's chief investment officer and banker, the Treasurer serves as chairperson or a member of many state boards, commissions and authorities.

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

In my role, I oversee the Indiana Bond Bank, the Statewide 911 Board, the Indiana Education Savings Authority, the Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Authority, the TrustIndiana local government investment pool, the Indiana Education Scholarship Account Program, and am the Sole Trustee of the State Police Pension Trust, among a number of other positions. As the state's chief investment officer, I oversee the management of approximately \$10 billion on a daily basis.

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

Many people think the Treasurer's office handles every aspect of the state's money, but that isn't the case. I am the state's chief investment officer, but I work closely with the state legislature, the state auditor, the governor's office, the state budget agency, and many others – all of whom play a part in how funds flow through government. We also work with local governments through the Indiana Bond Bank, Statewide 911, and our Public Funds Management Seminars.

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

The most important aspect of any officeholder is to uphold their oath of office and fulfill their constitutional and statutory duties. The Indiana Treasurer of State upholds fiduciary responsibilities while investing and safeguarding public funds, oversees the management of the state's financial assets, and provides accurate and timely funding to state and local stakeholders.

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

In college, I had the opportunity to intern for Senator John McCain. I wasn't immediately convinced I would run for office, but working for him impressed upon me the need for integrity and stewardship in every level of government.

I decided to run for Treasurer after working in the office for over six years. I knew the office, understood the impact it had on Hoosiers, and wanted to make a difference in my state.

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

Civic engagement and public service is about more than voting or running for office. It's about volunteering at your local food bank. Serving in your church. Helping the less fortunate in your community. Even the simple act of being kind to each other. Whatever engagement you choose starts with you, and it starts in your community. It's tempting to view your current situation as a prelude, and graduation as the launchpad to bigger and better things, but the fact is that you have tremendous opportunities to create change now.