

GET IN-VOLVED

Budgets, Ballots, &
Better Communities

WEEK 2:
**DEMYSTIFYING
THE BALLOT**

UNDERSTANDING THE
ROLES OF OUR ELECTED
OFFICIALS



INDIANA
COMMUNITY ACTION
POVERTY INSTITUTE
Research and Public Policy



Get IN-VOLVED is a non-partisan, five-week challenge series to help Hoosiers get to know a little more about their elected officials and the policymaking process. Participants receive weekly, bite-sized challenges to learn when and how they can participate in legislative processes.



**INDIANA
COMMUNITY ACTION
POVERTY INSTITUTE**
Research and Public Policy

A Program of **INCAASM**
INDIANA COMMUNITY
ACTION ASSOCIATION

The Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute is a program of the Indiana Community Action Association. We engage in research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain financial well-being.

AGENDA

- "Schoolhouse Rock" Review
- What are the different types of elected positions at the Federal, State, and Local levels?
- What jobs do our elected officials actually DO?

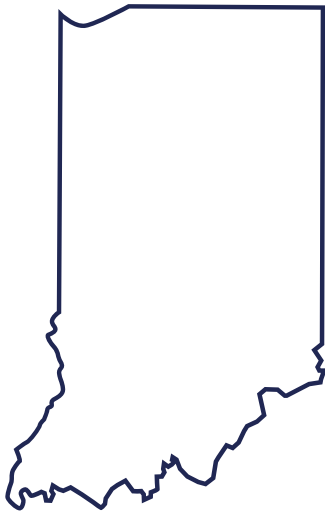
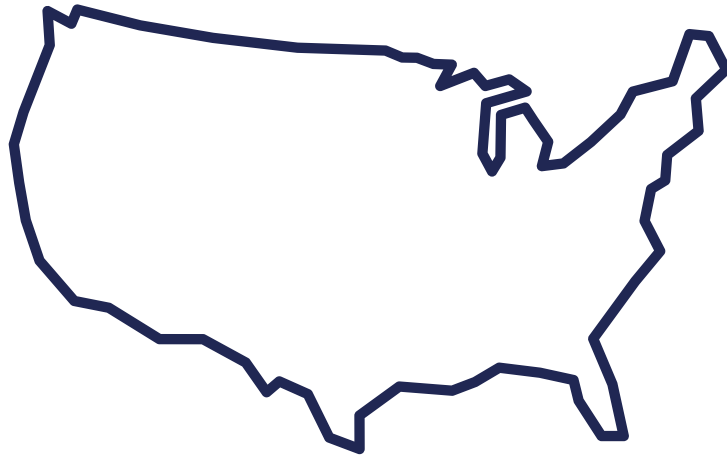


LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Federal Government

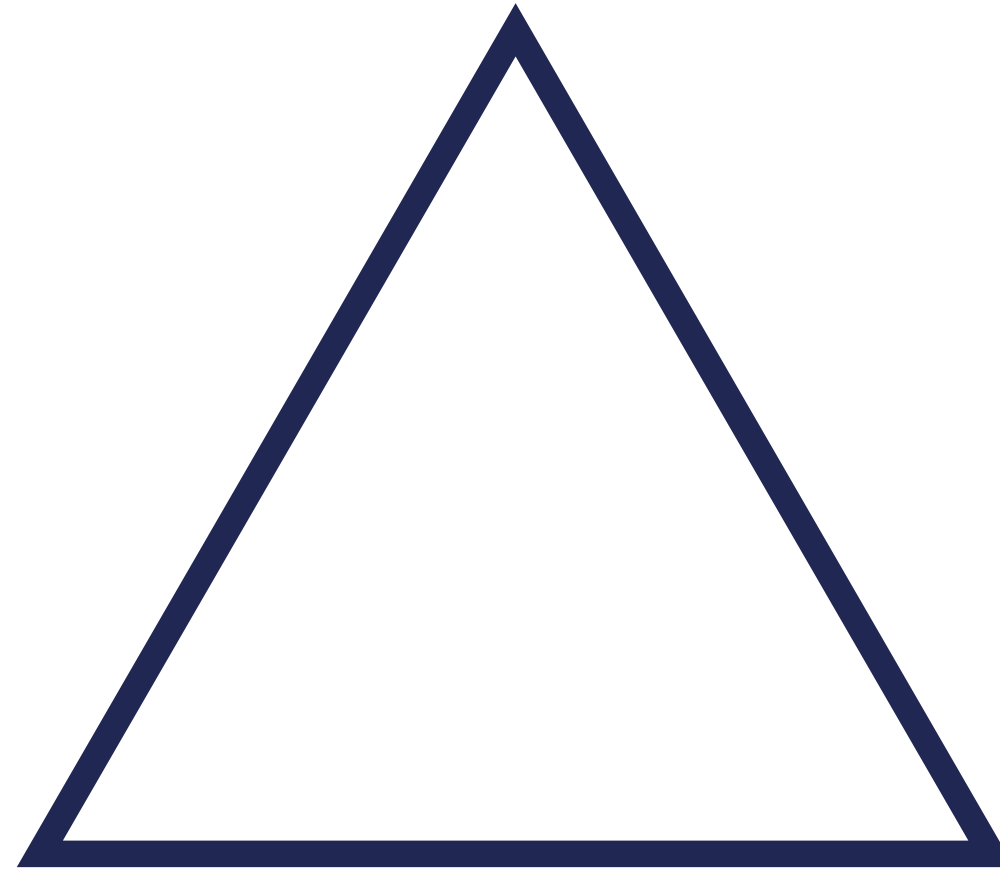
State Government

Local Government



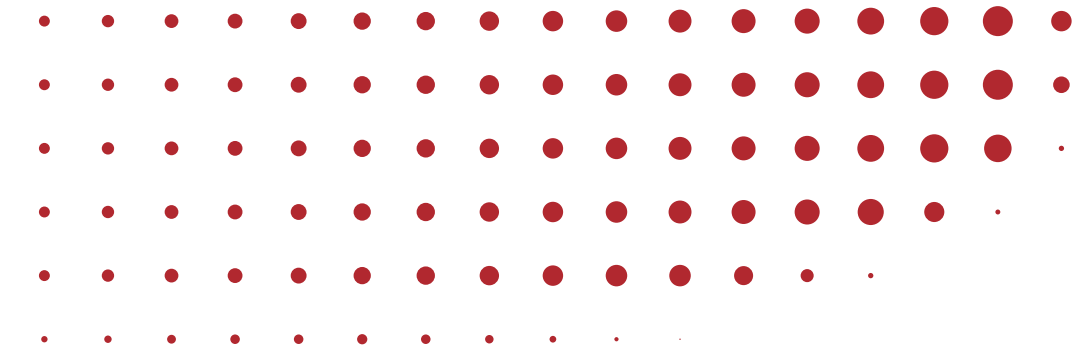
THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Executive



Judicial

Legislative



Checks & Balances

- Ensures no one branch of government has a monopoly on power
- Separation of powers designed to ensure checks on each branch and prevent corruption
- Structure exists at each level of government: Federal, State, and Local

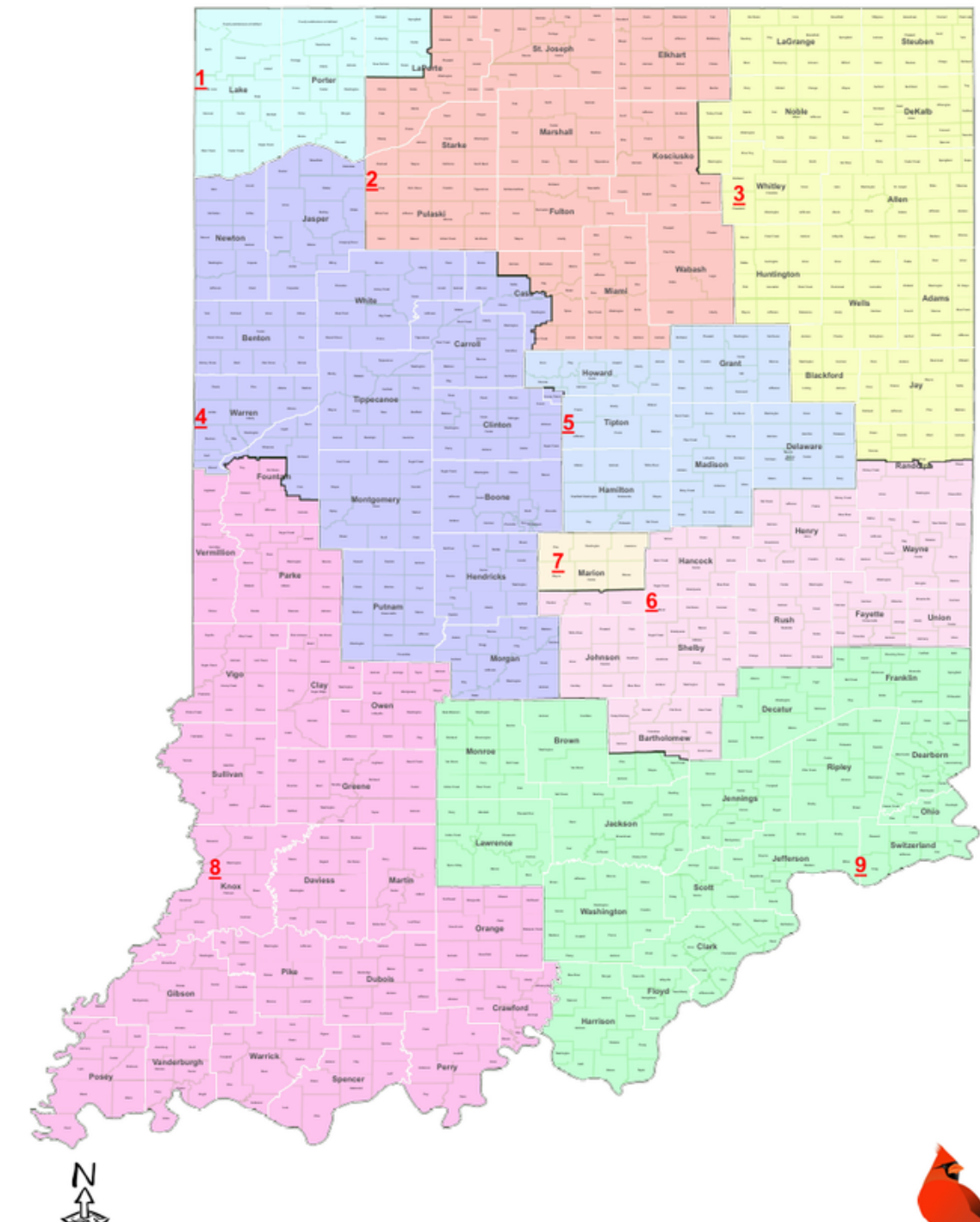
FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICES

CONGRESS – HOUSE

Representatives

- Term: 2 Years
- # of Members: 435 in total
- Per State Breakdown: # distributed in proportion to population
- Geography: each state draws its own districts based on population

Indiana Congressional Districts 2021



CONGRESS – SENATE

U.S. Senate

- Term: 6 Years
- # of Members: 100
- Per State Breakdown:
always two per state
- Geography: statewide
election, no districts



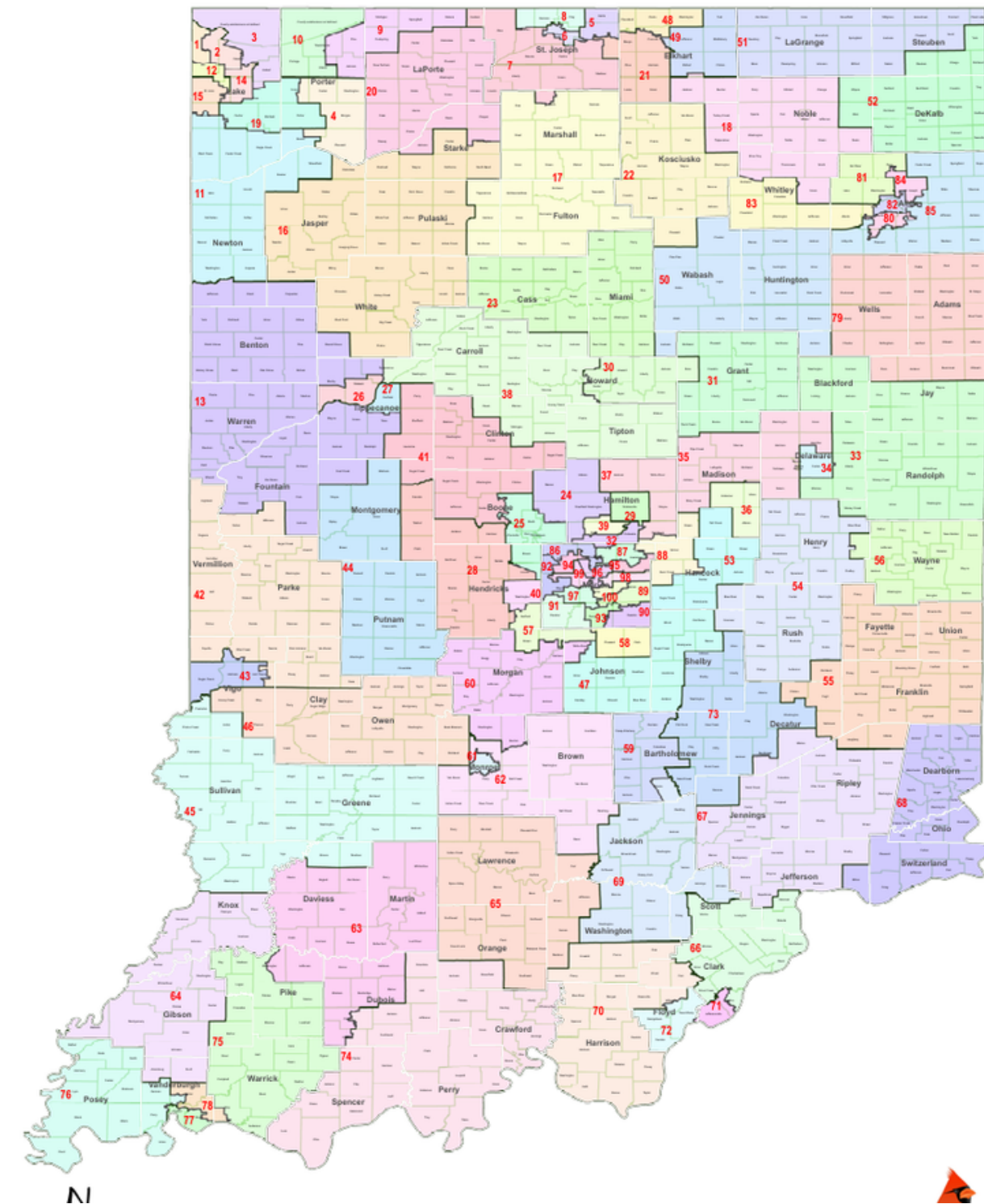
STATE ELECTED OFFICES

STATE LEGISLATURE

State Representative

- Term: 2 Years
- # of Members: 100
- District Breakdown: 100 districts of roughly equal population
- Geography: IN draws its own state house districts based on population

Indiana State House Districts 2021

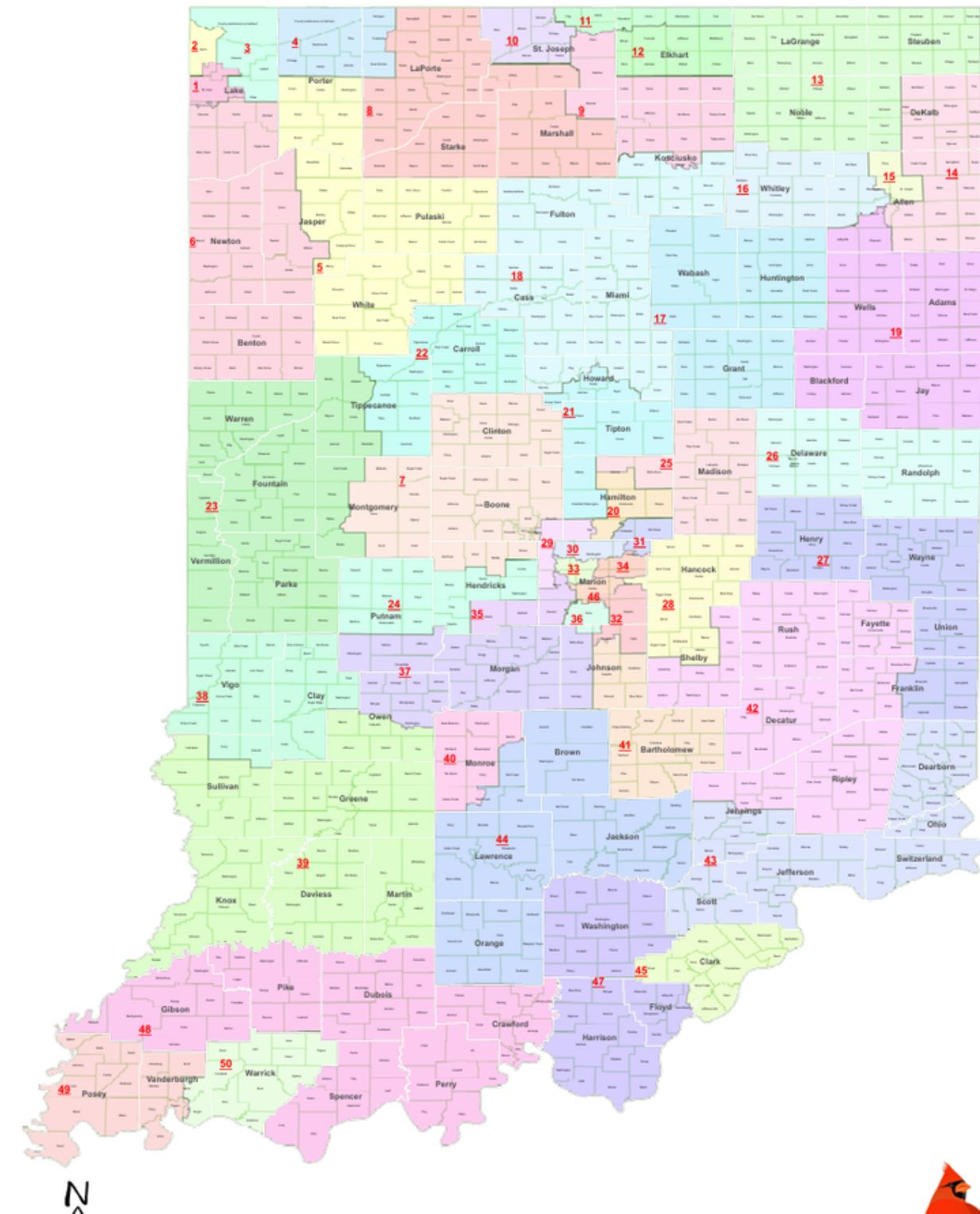


STATE LEGISLATURE

State Senator

- Term: 4 Years
- # of Members: 50
- District Breakdown: 50 districts of roughly equal population
- Geography: IN draws its own state house districts based on population

Indiana State Senate Districts 2021



EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICES

Secretary of State

- Term: 4 Years
- Geography: statewide election, no districts
- Duties are mainly administrative
 - Election Division
 - Business Services Division
 - Securities Division
 - Dealer Services Division
- 3rd Highest ranking official in state government



EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICES

State Comptroller a.k.a. Auditor of State

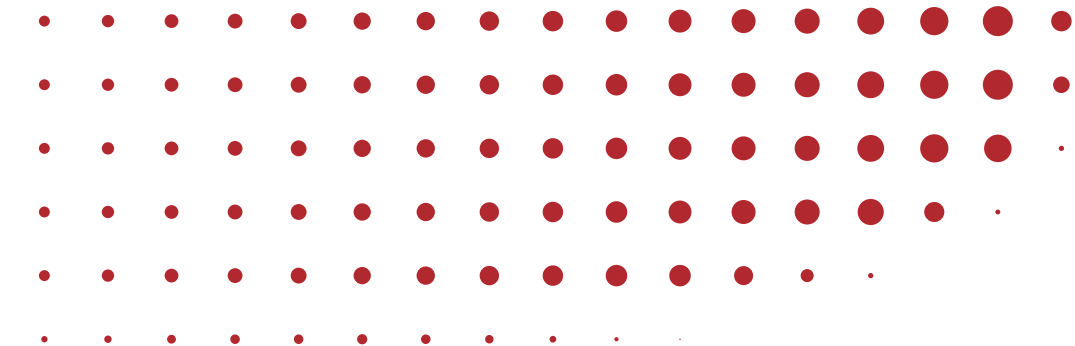
- Term: 4 Years
- Geography: statewide election, no districts
- Serves as the chief accounting officer for the state of Indiana
 - Accounting for all state funds, creating/maintaining general ledger etc.
 - Paying the state's bills and employees
 - Publish reports on state fund balances and federal expenditures



LOCAL ELECTED OFFICES

THERE ARE A LOT OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS...

- Within “local” there are a lot of further layers of government:
 - Counties
 - Cities/Towns/Commons
 - Townships
 - Tonight, we will highlight just a few key ones, but there are many more that vary depending on where you live.
- TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
 - COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER
 - CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
 - TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER
 - COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
 - COUNTY RECORDER
 - COUNTY ASSESSOR
 - COUNTY AUDITOR
 - COUNTY SHERIFF
 - COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
 - SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
 - TOWNSHIP JUDGE, COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS COURT

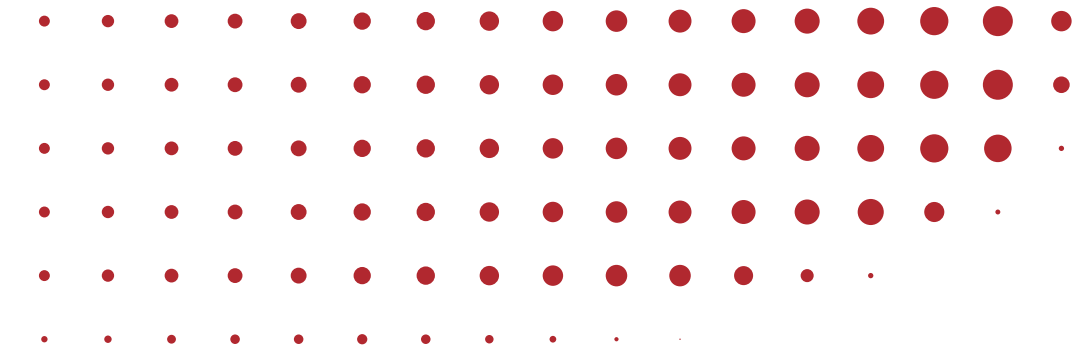


LOCAL COUNCILMEMBERS

- Various terms and titles
- Geography: City, county, town, & commons

Key Roles & Powers

- Typically hold the fiscal powers -local taxes, budgets and payments, etc.
- Administrative oversight, governance, planning and appointment powers (for certain local positions)
- Create/change local laws (ordinances)



TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

FUN FACT: Township Trustees make up the largest group of elected officials in Indiana!

- **Term: 4 Years**
- **Geography: Townships**

Key Roles & Powers

- **Quickly meet the needs of those locally in a emergency**
- **Fire protection and ambulance sevrices for those in township (not in city/town)**
- **Poor relief/assistance**
- **Burial/cremation assistance for poor**

YOUR CHALLENGE

*UNDERSTAND THE SEPARATION OF POWERS
BETWEEN THE THREE DIFFERENT BRANCHES
OF GOVERNMENT*

*UNDERSTAND WHICH ELECTED OFFICES
CORRESPOND TO EACH LEVEL: FEDERAL,
STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT*

*LEARN THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF
DIFFERENT ELECTED POSITIONS ACROSS
THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVEL*

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Thank
you for
joining
us!



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