

## 2012 Top Legislative Priorities

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Support** the state adopting a right-to-work statute banning the practice of requiring union membership or financial support as a condition of employment. *Would remove a significant impediment to investment and job creation. Would help Indiana continue to distinguish itself from neighboring states and to build a national leadership position in economic development.*

### EDUCATION

- **Support** protecting the 2011 reforms involving charter school expansion, school choice, merit pay for teachers and teacher collective bargaining. *These new laws are the most significant enhancements to the state's education system in more than 20 years; they put the focus where it should be – on students and increasing their potential for academic achievement. We need to make sure these reforms stay intact and are executed as intended.*
- **Support** expanding school accountability. *Our system, while improving greatly under current state leadership, still offers far too many loopholes for perpetual failure.*

### ENERGY

- **Oppose** renewable energy mandates. *Indiana already has significant renewable energy development without benefit of a mandate, which would present unreasonable costs to power consumers and utilities.*

### HEALTH CARE

- **Support** ban on smoking in the workplace. *Smoking is detrimental to employee health and productivity, and contributes to higher premiums for businesses providing employee health benefits.*
- **Oppose** any health care mandates or assignment of benefits (AOB) policy. *Mandates and AOB both serve to increase the cost of health care premiums for employers and their employees.*

### LABOR RELATIONS

- **Support** work share component incorporated into state's unemployment insurance system. *Would allow employees to collect reduced wages and partial unemployment benefits – as opposed to losing their jobs; is a temporary and practical alternative to layoffs.*

## 2012 Top Legislative Priorities (con't)

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Support** common sense simplification and reforms to local government structures and practices. *Current local government system lacks high standards against nepotism and allows for too many conflicts of interest. This, coupled with the streamlining of duties and functions as appropriate in county and township government, will result in a more effective system and better use of taxpayer dollars.*

### TAXATION

- **Support** elimination of the state inheritance tax. *Only 1% of the state's revenue pool comes from this tax, but the consequences are much higher. Why? This tax serves as a big deterrent for high income individuals to remain in Indiana (and spend money) or keep their assets here. It's more beneficial for the state and its residents to remove the tax.*
- **Support** exempting the taxation of machinery and equipment. *Indiana needs to be on a level playing field with surrounding states – some of which have already made this move or are considering it now. Exempting machinery and equipment from property tax would be another strategic step in our economic development efforts.*