I. The Relationship of Chamber Committees to the Board of Directors

The standing committees of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce are created by the Chairman of the Indiana Chamber's board of directors.

The committees of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce derive their authority from the board of directors and are responsible to the board.

The chairman of the board of directors, acting on behalf of the entire board, appoints committee chairmen and committee members.

The committee staff executive and committee chairman serve as the liaisons between the committee and the board of directors.

The committee liaisons present to the board the committee's reports, recommendations, and requests; and transmit to the committee the board's decisions, approval of requests, interpretations of policy, and any additional information the board may desire the committee to have in order to carry out its work.

Committee Action Governed by Chamber Policies

The overarching philosophy is established in resolutions adopted by the Board at the Fall Board of Directors meeting of the Chamber. These resolutions are reviewed prior to each Fall Board Meeting by the appropriate public policy committee. The Public Policy Committee's recommendations for revisions or additions are then subject to approval, rejection or modification at the Fall Board of Directors’ meeting.

Interim actions of committees and the board may supplement but may not be in conflict with previously adopted resolutions of the Indiana Chamber.

In addition, interim actions of committees may supplement but may not be in conflict with legislative policy positions adopted by the board of directors at their fall meeting.
The committees of the Chamber shall limit their deliberations and recommendations to issues of broad business interest. The Chamber committees should avoid suggesting Chamber intervention in narrow issues of an intra-industry nature and should not assume the role of special pleader on behalf of a particular industry or geographic area.

II. The Role and Responsibilities of Chamber Committees

Each Chamber committee, which addresses substantive state and national legislative issues and Chamber policy, is established to perform three tasks:

1. To recommend to the Chamber's board of directors new policy and revisions of existing policy as needed to keep the Chamber's position reflective of changing conditions;

2. To provide advice, guidance, expertise, and informational resources to the Chamber staff assigned to the committee on policy issues that pertain to the committee's area of responsibility;

3. To occasionally assist in providing expert witnesses to testify before legislative committees and regulatory agencies and to show how the Chamber's members would be impacted by pending legislative or regulatory proposals.

III. Committee Membership

Membership on a committee of the Indiana Chamber shall be limited to individuals whose employers are members of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. It is the intent of the Chamber that committee memberships be reasonably balanced between (1) representatives of top management and (2) specialists in the committee's particular field of responsibility. The Chamber shall also strive to establish committee membership that has a reasonable balance of the various segments of Indiana businesses as well as a balance among geographic regions. The Chamber shall also strive to attain committee members who will be able and willing to focus on broad business-related policy issues versus firm or industry specific concerns.

Committee appointments shall be made annually by the chairman of the board after the fall board meeting. Recommendations will be made by the committee chairman and staff executive assigned to the committee.

The terms of the appointment of committee members shall be for one year with appointments renewable upon the recommendation of the committee chairman and staff executive.

The primary criteria for reappointment to a committee shall be the member's attendance and participation at committee meetings and other committee activities.
IV. Committee Operations

Committees shall meet at the call of the committee chairman. Usually, committees will meet at least two times per year, depending upon needs.

Committees shall study and analyze all important issues, trends, and legislative proposals relating to its particular field of responsibility. From its review and studies, committees will develop recommendations for needed new policy and revisions of existing policy.

Policy recommendations developed by committees shall first be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Indiana Chamber. The Executive Committee may approve, reject, or modify a policy recommendation submitted by a committee. The Executive Committee may also send a policy recommendation back to a committee for further consideration and deliberation. Once approved by the Executive Committee, a policy recommendation is then submitted to the full board of directors for consideration of adoption.

The Chamber staff member assigned to the committee shall be responsible for recording and maintaining the historical records of the committee's activities and recommendations. Minutes of all committee and sub-committee meetings shall be recorded and distributed to the committee membership, the president of the Chamber, and the chairman of the board.

The committee chairman shall appoint sub-committees as he deems appropriate.

V. Relationship of the Committees to the Chamber Staff

A Chamber staff member shall be assigned to serve the committee as staff executive. The staff executive is the liaison between the committee and the Chamber.

The staff executive to the committee shares responsibility with the committee chairman for the proper functioning of the committee.

The staff executive is responsible to the president of the Chamber.

The staff executive conducts research necessary for the work of the committee and serves as advisor to the committee when decisions are formulated that involve policy and action recommendations.

The staff executive maintains liaison with state and federal agencies active in the committee's field and with the Chamber's affiliated local chambers and statewide associations.
CIVIL JUSTICE POLICY

The Civil Justice Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions in the issue areas of civil justice, tort and product liability. It examines existing statutes and new and existing court decisions and their impact on business. It further advises the Chamber on potential improvements and assists the Chamber in maintaining a positive legislative climate that is fair, consistent, and timely for business. The committee also reviews important legal decisions and advises the Chamber on when involvement in court challenges is recommended.

CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

The Congressional Affairs Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions relating to federal business issues. The committee also advises the Chamber as to the best methods of communicating the Chamber’s messages to Indiana’s congressional delegation. It provides advice and guidance regarding the impact that federal legislative and regulatory initiatives may have on Hoosier businesses. The committee also interviews candidates for Congress and determines Chamber endorsement in congressional races.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE POLICY

The Education & Workforce Policy Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions spanning the full continuum of Indiana’s talent pipeline, from early childhood and K-12 education through postsecondary education and workforce training. The committee advocates for policies and practices that promote greater collaboration and coordination across Indiana’s education and workforce development systems in alignment with the needs of employers and the state’s economy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Economic Development Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions in the broad area of economic development to improve the competitiveness of Indiana’s business climate. It carries out specific assignments assigned to it by the Chamber’s board of directors.
EMPLOYMENT LAW POLICY

The Employment Law Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions on human resources issues. The committee studies and develops initiatives regarding pro-employer human resources policies to be implemented by the General Assembly.

The committee also analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions on issues related to labor-management relations, unemployment compensation, the unionization of government, prevailing wage/living wage and other labor relations issues that impact the business community.

ENERGY POLICY

The Energy Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions designed to maintain and enhance Indiana’s position as a producer/supplier of safe, reliable, abundant and low cost energy. The committee seeks to ensure that proper policies are implemented to provide for the needs of future economic growth and to allow Indiana businesses to compete effectively in the global marketplace.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions concerning the many environmental laws and regulations that impact business in Indiana. The committee develops policy statements for the Chamber in the areas of air, water and land quality to be presented to the various environmental boards and legislative committees.

HEALTH CARE POLICY

The Health Care Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions on matters related to employer-sponsored health care. The committee examines the impact of proposed health care legislation on businesses in Indiana. It makes recommendations for policies that improve the availability of cost and quality information for health care consumers while opposing government interference with, and mandates on, the provision of health care by businesses.

HOOSIER VOICES FOR I-69

Hoosiers Voices for I-69, formerly a separate policy and advocacy organization, is now a policy committee of the Indiana Chamber. Hoosier Voices for I-69 advocates for policies and funding to complete the extension of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville and provides guidance to Chamber staff on the annual I-69 summit.
INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

The Infrastructure Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions on a variety of issues relating to physical infrastructure including transportation (roads, bridges, rail, ports, etc.), water and sewer and logistics. The committee is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of a thoughtful plan to enhance Indiana’s competitiveness in each of these areas.

TAXATION AND PUBLIC FINANCE POLICY

The Taxation and Public Finance Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions on issues concerning taxation policy, state and local fiscal matters and their impact on business costs and business competitiveness.

TECH POLICY

The Tech Policy Committee will analyze and advocate legislative policy positions so Indiana’s technology companies, entrepreneurs and innovation can better thrive.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The Workplace Health and Safety Committee analyzes and recommends legislative and public policy positions for issues pertaining to the health and safety of Indiana’s workforce. The committee reviews existing and proposed legislative and regulatory proposals to ensure that they are reasonable, grounded in sound science and are no more stringent than existing federal requirements. The committee further works to maintain prudent, employer-oriented laws and regulations in the area of worker’s compensation.
FINANCE/ AUDIT

Considers and recommends short- and long-term financial plans for the Chamber, including reserve and reinvestment levels, 401(k) plan investments, and operating and capital budgets/expenditures. Reviews Chamber financial statements, monitors internal financial accounting controls and processes, and makes recommendations regarding financial operations procedures. Oversees the Chamber’s annual audit, including timing, costs, results and management recommendations.

NOMINATING

The Nominating Committee develops recommendations for nomination to the Indiana Chamber of Commerce board of directors using the nominating guiding principles as the basis for such recommendations and reviews the candidates nominated for the Indiana Chamber board of directors. The committee also develops recommendations for Board members to serve as Chamber officers and on the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee consists of a maximum of twenty (20) directors as well as two staff members (President and Secretary) and has the power to transact the business of the board of directors to the extent specified by the board.

OTHER INDIANA CHAMBER GOVERNING ENTITIES

INDIANA BUSINESS FOR RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT (IBRG)

As the political arm of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, its mission is to aid in the election of candidates to the Indiana General Assembly whose legislative voting records and/or positions on business-related legislation will enhance the Indiana General Assembly’s commitment to a favorable business climate.

INDIANA CHAMBER FOUNDATION

The Indiana Chamber Foundation board of directors drives and directs the funding arm of the timely and thought-provoking research undertaken to enhance Indiana’s economic future and quality of life. The objectives of this entity [a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit tax-deductible corporation] are to elevate the visibility and discussion of key issues that impact Indiana’s economic opportunities by providing credible and current information to the citizens of Indiana concerning business, community development and quality of life issues.