



State Legislative Update

January 9, 2026

2026 INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEEK 1

General Legislative Information

- Week 1 - which is really the third week - of the 2026 “short” legislative session is now complete. As you recall, the IN General Assembly got underway in December for two weeks, dealing with the mid-cycle redistricting effort. Several committees began meeting in December, and they are now meeting in earnest. With the early start to session, all legislative calendars have been adjusted, and the anticipated adjournment Sine Die date has been moved up to February 27th. All of this means this will be an incredibly short session.
- The bill filing deadlines for both the House of Representatives and the Senate were this week, so as the remainder of the introduced bills become public in the coming days, the tracking list will be fine-tuned. That list will contain legislation specific to the energy/utility world, as well as to local government, economic development, and other topics of general interest. Legislators are limited as to how many pieces of legislation they can introduce (House limit is 5 and the Senate limit is 10 per legislator). That, coupled with the accelerated pace of the session, may lead to fewer bills landing on our tracking list.
- Both House and Senate Democratic caucuses released their legislative priorities on Monday, focusing on affordability for working families by lowering costs for housing, childcare, health care, and utilities.
- Senate Republicans released their priorities for the session on Wednesday. They are focusing on government reform, public safety, and fiscal discipline during the 2026 legislative session. Specifically, Senate Republicans are seeking to prevent waste, fraud and other abuses in Indiana’s welfare system; protecting Hoosiers by passing a constitutional amendment that would hold dangerous criminal suspects without bail if they pose risk to other people in a community; and they want to keep promises to taxpayers by concluding session early and under budget and not spend taxpayer dollars unnecessarily.
- House Republicans also unveiled their legislative agenda this week. Similar to the other caucuses, their focus will be on lowering costs for Hoosiers and reducing government bureaucracy. Specifically, they want to expand housing supply to drive down the cost of home ownership, address energy affordability by adding performance based accountability to make sure utilities are able to hit targeted metrics and reduce costs for customers, streamline government and eliminate waste and inefficiencies, and lastly reduce unnecessary regulations and increase resources so that K-12 has more flexibility in teaching students.
- Governor Braun will deliver his State of the State address on Wednesday January 14th at 7:30 p.m.



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Of Specific Interest to IMPA/Municipal Electric Utilities

- In December, the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee met for an informational meeting on the concept of performance-based utility ratemaking, or PBR as it is commonly referred to. PBR is a term used to describe the regulatory tools that reward or penalize a rate-regulated utility if they do not meet specific metrics, such as affordability, outage restoration speed, reliability, etc. Legislation is being introduced to address this and several other areas specific to investor-owned electric utilities.
 - House Bill 1002 will be the primary piece of energy utility legislation considered by the General Assembly this session. HB 1002 has several provisions pertaining to budget billing for rate regulated electric utilities, Performance Based Ratemaking, cold weather and heat related customer disconnection and reconnection policies which would apply to all electric utilities, and a mandate for rate regulated electric utilities to create a low-income customer assistance program for electric service. This measure will be heard in the House Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee next Tuesday, January 13th.
 - Importantly, there are only three rate-regulated municipal electric utilities - IMPA members Anderson and Frankfort, and non-IMPA member Auburn - to which some sections of HB 1002 will apply. We are working with legislators to make sure that municipal electric concerns are considered and ultimately addressed.
- The legislature is also expected to address the issue of land use and economic development, with specific provisions related to the locating of data centers and other large load customers in Indiana.

Fun Legislation

- It would not be a legislative session without a bill that designates something special as it relates to the Hoosier state. This year it is Senate Bill 21, a bill that designates the breaded tenderloin sandwich as the official state sandwich of Indiana! It passed out of committee unanimously and will now be served up to the full Senate for consideration. The bill's author, Senator Andy Zay from Huntington, Indiana, will be resigning his Senate position effective Monday January 12th, as he will assume his role as Chairman of the IN Utility Regulatory Commission next week. This is in effect his last legislative effort!

State Legislative Departures in 2026

- At this time, there are several legislators who will not be seeking re-election or running for other offices in 2026:

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- State Representative Shane Lindauer who represents House District 63, which includes IMPA members Washington and Jasper, will not seek reelection;
- State Representative Karen Engleman who hails from the Town of Georgetown and represents House District 70 in southern Indiana will not seek reelection;
- State Senator Kyle Walker who represents Senate District 31 (Hamilton and Marion Counties) will not seek reelection;
- State Senator Eric Bassler who represents Senate District 39, which includes IMPA members Washington and Jasper will not seek reelection;
- State Representative Mike Karickhoff who hails from Kokomo and represents House District 30 will not seek reelection;
- State Representative Craig Haggard who represents House District 57 just southwest of Indianapolis has officially filed to run for Indiana's 4th Congressional District and will not be running for his State House District 57 seat. He will be officially challenging incumbent Congressman Jim Baird.
- State Representative Michelle Davis who represents House District 58 will be foregoing her House seat and running for State Senate District 41 against incumbent Senator Greg Walker.

2026 Election Filing Opens

- The 2026 election season officially began on Wednesday January 7th when candidates for a number of offices could officially begin filing their declaration of candidacy in the Secretary of State's office for a major political primary nomination. This includes candidates for federal office, as well as statewide, legislative, judicial, county and some municipal offices. The Elections Division of the SOS office will accept declarations of candidacy through noon on February 6th.

