

Equality Indiana Advocates

2027 Legislative Initiatives

Civil Rights

Hoosier Freedom from Discrimination Act

Policy Initiative:

Enact a statewide nondiscrimination law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Why This Matters:

LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers—especially transgender people—still lack basic legal protections, leaving them vulnerable to being fired, denied housing, or refused service simply for who they are.

Hoosier Freedom to Marry Act

Policy Initiative:

Modernize Indiana's marriage laws to affirm marriage equality for all couples and fully protect the legal rights of same-sex spouses and families.

Why This Matters:

Marriage equality safeguards family stability, parental rights, healthcare decision-making, and economic security for LGBTQIA+ families.

Repeal Anti-DEI Law (SB 289)

Policy Initiative:

Repeal SB 289, which restricts diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in public agencies, K–12 schools, and higher education institutions.

Why This Matters:

Anti-DEI laws create environments where discrimination and harassment of LGBTQIA+ people can go unaddressed, weakening workplace protections and undermining inclusive public institutions.

Legal Gender Recognition & Documentation

Policy Initiative:

Establish a private, accessible, and streamlined legal process for Hoosiers to update gender markers on state identification documents.

Why This Matters:

Accurate identification improves safety, reduces harassment, and ensures transgender Hoosiers can access employment, housing, voting, and healthcare without fear or barriers.

Education

Hoosier Freedom for Education Act

Policy Initiative:

Repeal laws that ban transgender students from participating in school sports, force schools to out LGBTQIA+ students, and exclude transgender students from college athletics.

Why This Matters:

Inclusive schools improve student safety, mental health, and academic success, while discriminatory laws isolate and endanger transgender and LGBTQIA+ youth.

Nondiscrimination in Choice Scholarship Schools

Policy Initiative:

Require any school receiving public funds through Indiana's choice scholarship program to comply with nondiscrimination protections for students and staff.

Why This Matters:

Public dollars should never subsidize discrimination against LGBTQIA+ students or educators.

Inclusive Public Health Education

Policy Initiative:

Require age-appropriate, LGBTQIA+-inclusive sexual health education in public schools and repeal SB 442, which restricts comprehensive instruction.

Why This Matters:

Inclusive, medically accurate education improves health outcomes, reduces stigma, and ensures all students receive information they need to make informed decisions.

Stronger Anti-Bullying Protections**Policy Initiative:**

Strengthen school anti-bullying laws to explicitly protect students from harassment based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, or disability.

Why This Matters:

Explicit protections improve reporting, accountability, and student safety—particularly for LGBTQIA+ youth.

Inclusive History Curriculum**Policy Initiative:**

Require public school curricula to include LGBTQIA+ contributions in Indiana and U.S. history.

Why This Matters:

Inclusive history affirms LGBTQIA+ students and ensures all students receive an accurate and complete understanding of our shared past.

Public Safety & Criminal Justice**Hoosier Freedom from Hate Act****Policy Initiative:**

Strengthen hate crime laws by explicitly including protections for transgender and gender-diverse Hoosiers.

Why This Matters:

Explicit inclusion improves accountability, data collection, and safety for communities most vulnerable to violence.

Ban the “Gay and Trans Panic” Defense

Policy Initiative:

Prohibit using a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity as a justification or mitigating factor for violence.

Why This Matters:

Prejudice is never an excuse for harm; banning this defense affirms equal justice under the law.

Law Enforcement Body & Dash Cameras

Policy Initiative:

Provide state funding for body-worn and dash cameras with clear accountability standards.

Why This Matters:

Transparency protects civil rights, deters misconduct, and builds trust with marginalized communities.

Decriminalize Marijuana & Establish Medical Cannabis

Policy Initiative:

Decriminalize possession of up to two ounces of marijuana and establish a comprehensive medical cannabis program.

Why This Matters:

Criminalization disproportionately harms LGBTQIA+ people, while medical access improves health outcomes and dignity.

Universal Background Checks

Policy Initiative:

Require background checks for all firearm purchases, including private sales.

Why This Matters:

Common-sense protections reduce gun violence and protect vulnerable communities.

Healthcare

Hoosier Freedom for Medical Privacy Act

Policy Initiative:

Restore healthcare freedom by repealing Indiana's abortion ban and bans on gender-affirming care for youth and incarcerated individuals, and by protecting medical decisions from political interference.

Why This Matters:

Government intrusion into healthcare disproportionately harms transgender people, women, and low-income Hoosiers by denying lifesaving, evidence-based care.

Modernize Indiana's HIV Criminal Laws

Policy Initiative:

Align HIV-related criminal laws with current medical science, eliminate stigmatizing penalties, and support effective prevention, testing, and treatment strategies.

Why This Matters:

Outdated laws fuel stigma, discourage testing, and undermine efforts to end Indiana's HIV epidemic—especially harming LGBTQIA+ communities and people of color.

Protect Access to IVF and Fertility Care

Policy Initiative:

Protect the right to access IVF, safeguard providers' ability to offer care consistent with medical standards, and ensure insurance coverage without interference.

Why This Matters:

Many LGBTQIA+ families rely on assisted reproduction to build families; restricting IVF threatens reproductive freedom and family stability.

Ban Conversion Therapy

Policy Initiative:

Ban conversion therapy statewide and repeal SB 350, which prevents licensing boards from disciplining providers who engage in this harmful practice. Recognize conversion therapy and similar practices as professional malpractice, subject to appropriate disciplinary action by licensing boards.

Why This Matters:

Conversion therapy is medically discredited and linked to increased depression, trauma, and suicide among LGBTQIA+ youth. It violates basic standards of care and ethical practice, and no licensed professional should be permitted to engage in practices that cause harm under the guise of treatment.

Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis**Policy Initiative:**

Recognize racism as a public health crisis and require state agencies to assess and address health disparities caused by systemic discrimination.

Why This Matters:

LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers of color experience compounded health inequities that must be addressed to improve outcomes and save lives.

Declare Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis**Policy Initiative:**

Recognize gun violence as a public health crisis and fund evidence-based prevention strategies.

Why This Matters:

LGBTQIA+ people—especially transgender individuals—face elevated risks of gun violence, suicide, and hate crimes.

Declare Indiana's Mental Health System a Public Health Crisis**Policy Initiative:**

Invest in accessible, culturally competent, and affirming mental health services statewide.

Why This Matters:

LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers face disproportionately high rates of mental health challenges, and gaps in care leave families without support.

Pro-Democracy Election Reforms

No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Policy Initiative:

Permanently allow no-excuse absentee voting.

Why This Matters:

Expanded access protects voters facing health, safety, work, or transportation barriers.

Automatic Voter Registration

Policy Initiative:

Automatically register eligible Hoosiers at age 18, with opt-out provisions.

Why This Matters:

Removes barriers that disproportionately affect young, low-income, and transgender voters.

Independent Redistricting Commission

Policy Initiative:

Establish a citizen-led, nonpartisan commission to draw legislative district boundaries only in the years immediately following each decennial U.S. Census.

Why This Matters:

Independent, census-based redistricting helps ensure every Hoosier's vote carries equal weight by creating fair maps that reflect communities rather than political interests.

Clean Elections / Public Financing

Policy Initiative:

Provide public grants to candidates who limit private fundraising.

Why This Matters:

Reduces special-interest influence and elevates everyday Hoosier voices.

Restore Student Voting Access

Policy Initiative:

Repeal SB 10 and restore college student IDs as valid voter identification.

Why This Matters:

Protects young voters' access to the ballot and strengthens democracy.

Census-Based Redistricting**Policy Initiative:**

Require legislative redistricting to occur once every ten years immediately following the decennial U.S. Census.

Why This Matters:

Redistricting should reflect population changes—not political opportunity. Limiting redistricting to once every ten years and only in the years immediately following the decennial U.S. Census promotes stability, transparency, and public confidence in representative democracy while preventing unnecessary mid-decade redistricting.

Protect Indiana's Open Primary System**Policy Initiative:**

Preserve Indiana's open primary system and oppose efforts to establish a closed primary election system that restricts voter participation.

Why This Matters:

Greater voter participation leads to a stronger democracy. Maintaining Indiana's open primary system helps remove barriers to participation and encourages more Hoosiers to engage in the electoral process.

Economic Justice**Living Wage for All Workers****Policy Initiative:**

Raise Indiana's minimum wage to a living wage that reflects the real cost of living, especially for transgender and LGBTQIA+ workers who face wage gaps and job discrimination.

Why this matters:

Economic security is essential to safety, stability, and dignity.

Affordable Housing Access

Policy Initiative:

Expand access to safe, affordable housing and strengthen tenant protections, particularly for LGBTQIA+ people disproportionately impacted by housing instability and homelessness.

Why this matters:

Housing discrimination and instability remain major barriers for LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers.

Support Small Businesses & Nonprofits**Policy Initiative:**

Strengthen small businesses and nonprofits—including LGBTQIA+-led organizations—through fair access to capital, technical assistance, and workforce protections.

Why this matters:

Inclusive economic growth depends on supporting community-based institutions.

Universal, Affordable Child Care**Policy Initiative:**

Ensure access to affordable, inclusive child care for all families, including LGBTQIA+ parents and caregivers.

Why this matters:

Child care access supports working families and economic mobility.

Affordable, Accessible Health Care**Policy Initiative:**

Expand access to affordable, culturally competent health care that meets the needs of transgender and LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers.

Why this matters:

Health disparities persist due to discrimination and lack of coverage.

Affordable & Inclusive Infrastructure & Utilities**Policy Initiative:**

Invest in affordable, accessible infrastructure—including utilities and public transportation—that supports low-income and marginalized communities statewide.

Why This Matters:

Basic infrastructure is foundational to economic and community stability.

Inclusive Paid Family & Medical Leave

Policy Initiative:

Establish a comprehensive, inclusive paid family and medical leave program that guarantees all Hoosier workers—regardless of family structure, gender identity, or employment type—time off to care for themselves or loved ones without financial hardship.

Why This Matters:

Paid leave supports family stability, improves health outcomes, and ensures LGBTQIA+ individuals and diverse families are not left behind in accessing essential care and economic security.