

Daily Legislative Update – Post Election Edition

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Election Day has come and gone and the Indiana General Assembly has begun to take shape as the legislative session rapidly approaches. As is tradition with every election, there were fireworks in some districts, while several incumbents reclaimed their seats in the State House. Early voting numbers ballooned in comparison to the 2016 General Election and that trend continued on Tuesday, as Hoosiers descended upon churches and fire stations across the state. Indiana Republicans will reconvene in January holding yet another supermajority in both chambers, with Democrats taking just 2 seats in the House and 1 in the Senate. This will allow Republican leadership to pass legislation with little to no participation from those across the aisle.

Although it wasn't the "Blue Wave" that some may have hoped for in the state, it is worth mentioning one race that marked a historical victory for Indiana's LGBT community. Democratic candidate J.D. Ford narrowly beat out incumbent Sen. Mike Delph in Indiana's 29th district, becoming our state's first openly gay lawmaker. Ford, who was defeated by Delph in 2014, framed his campaign around raising the minimum wage, increasing funding for public schools, and helping to fight against the ever-growing opioid crisis within our state.

The highly contested U.S. Senate race between incumbent Democrat Joe Donnelly and Republican Mike Braun finally came to an end last night with Braun winning in a fairly relaxed fashion (Braun 52.9%, Donnelly 43.2%). Political analysts viewed this race as the Hoosier State's referendum on President Donald Trump's first 2 years in the White House. With that said, Indiana voters spoke loud and clear; they support our nation's leader. Challenging times lay ahead though for Braun and other Congressional Republicans, as Democrats have now taken control of the U.S. House for the first time in eight years.

With elections in the rear view, state officials will now shift their attention to the upcoming session that will include passing a balanced budget and several other social and fiscal issues.

Lawmakers will return to Indianapolis on November 20th for Organizational Day where leadership will lay out each chamber's legislative priorities. Stay tuned for more updates as we move closer to the 2019 Legislative Session!

General Information

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