



Chamber PAC Marks 20 Years of Political Involvement

For the past two decades the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's political action arm, Indiana Business for Responsive Government (IBRG), has been a key player in the Indiana political environment. The political action committee was created to aid in the election of candidates to the Indiana General Assembly whose legislative voting records and/or positions on business-related legislation would enhance the Indiana legislature's commitment to a favorable business and economic climate. Since 1990, IBRG has endorsed over 800 candidates for the Indiana House and Senate who have represented these values. With an overall success rate of 85%, the 2010 election cycle was the most successful yet with nearly 91% of endorsed candidates winning election.

The majority of these endorsements have been for incumbents who have consistently supported the policies leading to job creation and economic development. This has included leaders like State Representative Dan Leonard (HD-50) who faced a difficult primary challenge in 2008 and State Senator Jim Merritt (SD-31) who ran one of his toughest reelection campaigns this last election.

IBRG has also made endorsements in situations involving new candidates. These include open seat and challenger races to incumbents. This is where IBRG often becomes most involved, focusing the financial and staff resources in just a handful of races. Helping Rebecca Kubacki defeat incumbent State Representative Bill Ruppel in the Republican primary election and assisting Bob Heaton over the last two election cycles in securing the House District 46 seat are just two recent examples of this type of involvement. Indeed, it could be said the Chamber's greatest political impact can be found in the 35 anti-business incumbents of the Indiana General Assembly the organization through IBRG has helped to defeat over the last twenty years. Again, 2010 proved to be a strong year on this front giving us ten of these victories with two coming from the primary election.

The results of these targeted efforts are clear. When comparing the voting records of the defeated incumbents with those endorsed candidates who have replaced them, the average has gone from 47% to 84% in favor of a pro-jobs, pro-economic development agenda.

As we move into the next decade of Indiana politics, the Indiana Chamber and IBRG are situated to make even greater gains for Indiana employers and employees. The battles will undoubtedly involve different districts and candidates, but IBRG with its 20 year foundation will be a leader in the effort to keep Indiana moving forward.

For more information about the Indiana Chamber's political efforts please visit www.ibrg.biz