



Indiana State Teachers Association ADVOCATE

Volume 46, Issue 2

Fall 2016

Vote Your Profession

See the Voter Guide

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Professional
Development** Page 7

Our kids. Our schools. Our future.

Delegates to Elect ISTA Treasurer at ISTA RA

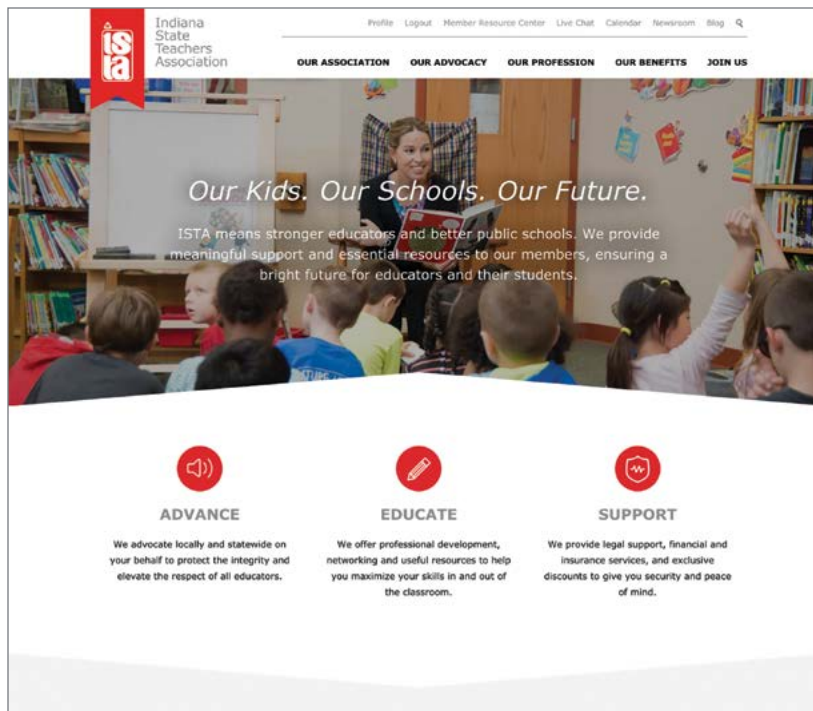
At the 2017 ISTA Representative Assembly April 22, delegates will elect a new ISTA treasurer. If you are interested in running for this position, you must notify the Interim Executive Director Betsy Daise no later than Oct. 21 for your campaign statement to appear in the winter issue of the *Advocate*.

Candidates must complete and return the officer candidate forms to the executive director no later than March 1, 2017. The officer candidate forms and more information can be found at ista-in.org/governing-documents. Submit forms to Betsy Daise at edaise@ista-in.org.

New ISTA Website Launched

The ISTA website has been redesigned to better meet member needs. You can still find all of your ISTA information at ista-in.org. The redesigned website features you, our members, improved navigation and streamlined content. We look forward to hearing from you to continue innovating the website. A survey will be distributed this fall requesting your input and thoughts on the new website and its features.

If you have any questions about the website, please contact communications@ista-in.org.



ISTA ADVOCATE

Volume 46, Issue 2, Summer 2016

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The Indiana State Teachers Association *Advocate*, 150 West Market Street, Suite 900, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2875, is the official publication of the Indiana State Teachers Association, the state level of the United Education Profession. The content of the Association's publications will be consistent with its mission, strategic objectives, and policies.



PURPOSE, MISSION, AND VALUES

PURPOSE

To advocate for and advance the interests of Indiana's students, educators, and public schools.

MISSION

The Indiana State Teachers Association is a professional association organized to sustain quality public education, improve students' educational opportunities, and advance the professional status of educators.

VALUES

INTEGRITY: Demonstrated by ethical behavior, professionalism, and commitment to stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP: Demonstrated by vision, progressive advocacy, and the resolve to be an inspiration to the future.

FAIRNESS: Demonstrated by a diverse and inclusive professional community that values its democratic, equitable, and empathetic culture.

COLLECTIVE ACTION: Demonstrated by the power of a unified voice, collaborative action, and mutual support.

Get Out the Vote

You hear it every election cycle, "Vote. It's really important." Well, this year I have the same message; however, it is even more critical for educators to vote their profession this November — more than any election I can recall.

More than 90 percent of kids in Indiana attend public schools; so, why do our elected leaders keep funneling money away from them? We need advocates in the Statehouse who understand what's at stake for educators and the kids we serve. We deserve respect and all kids deserve the best education. Yet, the failed education "reform" policies have only weakened the education system.

Indiana now leads the nation in taxpayer-supported private school vouchers. Failing charters continue to deplete resources for public schools. It's time to realign our priorities and refocus on public education.

This election is the first step.



Teresa Meredith

So, vote. Our kids can't vote. Let's be their voice.

Here's what you can do to support Hoosier kids this November.

- Participate in a get out the vote drive.
- Educate your friends and family on the stakes of this election.
- Volunteer on a campaign of your choice.
- Work a shift at the polls on Election Day.
- Vote your profession.

In this issue of the *Advocate*, we have profiled several statewide candidates that are pro-public education. We outline their records on education policy and offer you some insights into how they would represent educators in the Statehouse and beyond.

For more information on candidates, please visit ipace-in.org/voterguide.

We need elected officials who will stand up to corporate special interests, halt the privatization of public education, increase transparency for "education reform" programs, acknowledge the professional expertise of educators, and most importantly, look out for our kids. We need change, and with your vote, change will happen on Nov. 8!

What Can You Do to Make a Difference in November?

EDUCATE
family and
friends.

VOLUNTEER
on a
campaign.

VOTE
your
profession.

On pages 4 – 6, you will find a voter guide, where to vote and voting requirements.

Statewide Candidates Committed to Public Education

The Indiana Political Action Committee for Education (I-PACE) has prepared a voter guide of I-PACE recommended candidates. These candidates have pledged to protect public education and support public school educators and kids. Here, we've highlighted the statewide I-PACE endorsed candidates. **For a complete look at the local candidates in your area, visit ipace-in.org/voterguide.** See page 6 for more details on how to use the I-PACE voter guide.



John Gregg, Governor

As governor, John Gregg will work with Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz to support our community-based public schools. He will work hard to adequately fund our public schools, better compensate teachers and reinstate the authority of the elected state schools' chief. Gregg will create an advisory group of professional educators to review proposed legislation that may impact our public schools.

- As Speaker of the Indiana House, not a single voucher bill passed under his leadership. Gregg will oppose any further efforts to expand the program.
- He supports a moratorium on the further expansion of charter schools until an independent study evaluates the effectiveness of current charter schools.
- Gregg understands the value of collective bargaining and will support the restoration of collective bargaining for all wage-related matters and student-learning conditions, as well as extending bargaining rights for education support professionals.
- As a legislator, Gregg guided passage of Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) and 13th checks for retirees, and he will fight for a COLA as governor to help maintain retiree purchasing power.



Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Since being elected Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2012, Glenda Ritz has been a strong voice at the Indiana Statehouse for our community-based public schools and kids. Her statewide advocacy for our profession has been a breath of fresh air during a period in which public teachers and support professionals came under attack.

- Upon coming into office, Ritz re-directed the Indiana Department of Education's focus from seeking private company takeovers of public schools to helping struggling schools turn-around their performance. In its first year, Ritz's Outreach Division of School Improvement transitioned 103 D and F schools to schools improving and excelling to A, B and C grades.
- Ritz has long advocated for the end of Indiana's high-stakes standardized test, ISTEP, and is now working with a panel of stakeholders to replace it with a student-centered assessment that provides quicker and more meaningful feedback on student performance.
- Ritz fought to decouple ISTEP scores from teacher evaluations for the 2014 – 15 school year, as well as hold schools and districts harmless on A – F accountability grades due to abnormally low ISTEP scores resulting from a new test.
- Ritz came to this office with a student-centered agenda. She created the Hoosier Family of Readers program, which has distributed thousands of free books and provided free access to online books to Hoosier families.
- Ritz has been a member of ISTA for more than 30 years and was president of her local association for 15 years.



Evan Bayh, U.S. Senate

Evan Bayh, candidate for U.S. Senate, is dedicated to improving federal support for public education. As governor, Bayh created the 21st Century Scholars program, which



offers income-eligible Hoosier students up to four years of paid tuition at an eligible Indiana college of university if all program guidelines are met. The program has helped at least 30,000 low-income students earn a college degree. Bayh has worked to increase the college tuition tax deduction, and protect and increase financial aid programs – initiatives thousands of college-bound students depend on.

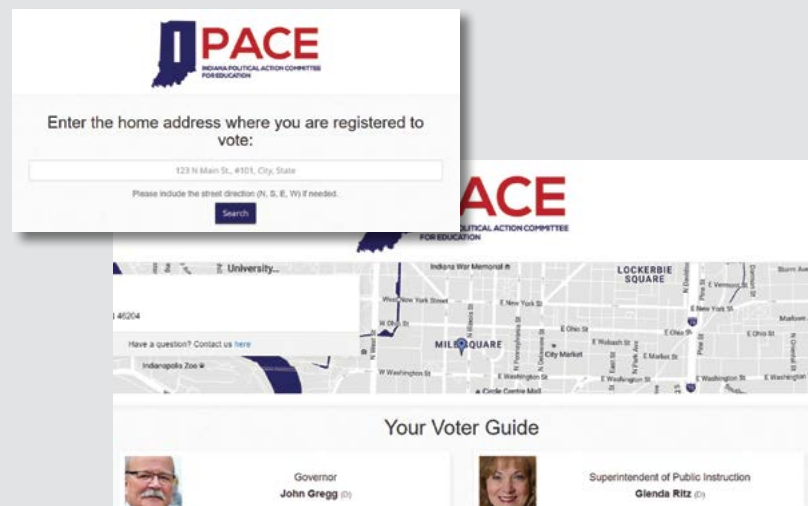
- Bayh supports the reduction of federally-mandated, high-stakes standardized tests and opposes their use to determine teacher evaluations.

- As senator, he will support holding charter schools to the same standards of transparency and accountability as all other public schools.
- He opposes federal, private school voucher and tuition tax credit programs and will fight to protect funding for public schools.
- Bayh believes all public school employees should have the right to bargain collectively. While governor, he gave bargaining rights to all state employees.

- As governor, Bayh created the Step Ahead program, which provided a statewide comprehensive, seamless service delivery system for early childhood education – from birth to 13 years of age.
- As senator, Bayh will support the expansion of early childhood education to all pre-K families.
- Bayh believes the federal government should encourage states to enforce equity in allocating resources, so that all kids, no matter their ZIP code, have the same opportunities.

I-PACE Voter Guide

For the November election, I-PACE is launching a new digital, mobile voter guide. The voter guide can be found online at ipace-in.org/voterguide. Enter your voter registration address to see a list of I-PACE endorsed candidates in your area, who will appear on your ballot. These are candidates who have committed to supporting public education in Indiana. Share this link with friends and family. Every Hoosier voter should know which candidates are looking out for educators and kids!



Be Prepared at the Polls Reminder on Voter ID Laws

Your polling place will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Remember, as long as you are in line by 6 p.m., you have the right to vote.

Indiana residents are required to present a government-issued photo ID before casting a ballot at the polls on Election Day. Your photo ID must meet four criteria to be acceptable for voting purposes. It must:

- Display your photo.
- Display your name, and the name must conform to your voter registration record.
- Display an expiration date and either be current or have expired sometime after the date of the last General Election (including Military IDs with expiration dates of "INDEF").
- Be issued by the State of Indiana or the U.S. government.

In most cases, an Indiana driver's license, Indiana photo ID card, military ID or U.S. passport is sufficient. A student ID from an

Indiana state school may only be used if it meets all of the four criteria specified above. A student ID from a private institution may not be used for voting purposes.

If you encounter problems at your polling location or are challenged by a poll worker, it is important to remember that you should make every effort to vote on a voting machine. Voting using a provisional ballot should be a last resort.

Vote!

**Election Day is
Tuesday, Nov. 8.**

**Verify your polling
location, registration
status and other
voting related
information at
indianavoters.com.**



Have You Planned Your Professional Development for the Year?

We've got you covered!

ISTA members attend professional development events at little or no cost. Visit ista-in.org/events to learn more and register.

Oct. 28 – 29

ISEA Fall Conference | Horizon Center | Muncie
The Indiana Student Education Association (ISEA) hosts this conference for its members, which includes college and university students pursuing degrees in education.

Nov. 18 – 19

ESP Conference | Drury Inn & Suites Northeast | Indianapolis

Education support professionals (ESP) are invited to attend this conference targeting the unique issues facing ESPs.

Feb. 17 – 18

Advocacy Conferences | Northern: Swan Lake Resort | Southern: French Lick Resort

This conference invites all members to learn how to advocate for your profession and your students.

March 3 – 4

Good Teaching Conference | Indianapolis

By teachers, for teachers – this conference aims to support excellent teaching and learning practices.

June 13 – 17

Summer Conference | Sheraton at Keystone Crossing | Indianapolis

This conference is for new and experienced members looking to learn more about the association.

Want to pursue National Board Certification or attend other professional development conferences? ISTA's got you covered there, too! Check out the ISTA and ISTA Foundation scholarships and grants available to members at ista-in.org/scholarships-awards. Applications are due annually on March 1.



Let the PRC Bring the Professional Development to You!

The ISTA Professional Resource Center (PRC) offers a variety of conferences throughout the year, but did you know the PRC will host a professional development workshop at your local association?

These one to two-hour Teaching Cafés are led by qualified training facilitators at no cost to your local. It serves as a great member benefit for current members and a recruitment tool for those considering membership.

Visit ista-in.org/PRC for a complete list of course offerings and how to request a Teaching Café for your local.

ISTA in Action



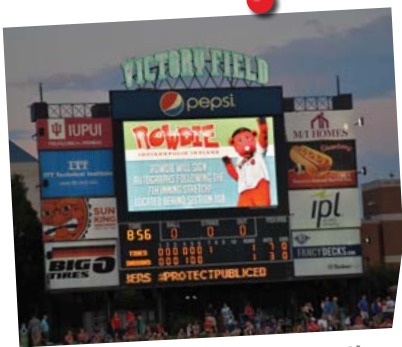
ISTA members rallied to protest the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) annual meeting in Indianapolis.



Let's make some noise! Public education advocates interrupt ALEC's annual meeting.



ALEC has supported the passage of anti-public education bills in the Statehouse. ISTA members say, "No more!"



ISTA celebrated public education night at Victory Field.



Left to Right: Pamela Moreland-Haviland and Hilda Kendrick-Appiah wave from right field seats.



Left to Right: Dan Haskell, Nathan Schnellenberger and John Comer take a seventh inning stretch.



The 2016 outgoing board members were honored at a dinner during the July board meeting. Thank you for your service!



ISTA President Teresa Meredith gives Dana Hauser a raffle prize at the Spencer Owen Education Association's back-to-school meeting.



Angela Hogwood participated in the Hamilton Heights Classroom Teachers Association's membership meeting in August.