



FREEDOM & OPPORTUNITY AGENDA 2026

GOVERNOR MIKE BRAUN
STATE OF THE STATE 2026



AFFORDABILITY

Governor Braun has made affordability a central focus of his administration by focusing on increased wages, delivering historic property tax reform, cutting income taxes, freezing college tuition for all state universities, appointing new leadership to the OUCC and three new commissioners to the IURC that will be ratepayer-focused, and transforming the healthcare industry to be more patient-driven.

These actions have helped stabilize household costs, but the work is not finished. Hoosiers have made clear that while wages are rising, expenses continue to outpace them. Governor Braun remains committed to addressing “kitchen table” issues in the 2026 legislative session and beyond.

HOUSING & HOMEOWNERSHIP

Homeownership remains central to the American Dream and a critical pathway to economic mobility. Yet for many Hoosiers, rising prices and limited housing supply have put that goal further out of reach. The challenge is not demand, but supply—***new housing is not being built fast enough*** to meet the needs of growing communities.

Governor Braun supports a commonsense approach to housing affordability that focuses on **removing unnecessary and unpredictable regulations that increase costs and delay construction**. By modernizing and stabilizing housing regulations, the state can encourage **responsible growth, respect property rights, and restore affordability**—particularly for first-time buyers and working families.

ENERGY AFFORDABILITY

Energy costs have risen sharply over the past decade, creating a growing burden for families and businesses. Governor Braun believes affordability and reliability must go hand-in-hand. Working with the legislature, there is opportunity to take an approach that emphasizes **modernization of rate-setting practices, accountability for utilities, and expanded energy generation to meet future demand**.



HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY & ACCESS

Indiana's high health care costs remain a major driver of financial stress, with medical debt affecting a significant portion of Hoosier families. Governor Braun's health care agenda is centered on **restoring the patient as the primary decision-maker, increasing transparency, and fostering competition to lower costs.**

The administration supports a **comprehensive approach to medical debt**—preventing it through transparency and fair billing practices, while **protecting families from predatory collections.** At the same time, improving access to care, especially in rural communities, is essential to affordability. **Expanding training pipelines, strengthening workforce development, and improving care delivery models** will help ensure Hoosiers can access quality care close to home.

Improving health care quality is also critical to controlling costs. **Reducing administrative burdens on providers, modernizing prior authorization, and strengthening workforce standards** allow doctors to focus on patients—leading to better outcomes and more efficient care.

JOBS & WAGES

Economic development is about more than growth—it is about opportunity. Governor Braun's strategy focuses on creating high-paying jobs, empowering entrepreneurs, and ensuring that every region of the state can thrive. Under his leadership, Indiana has realigned its economic development efforts around regional collaboration, workforce upskilling, and entrepreneurship.

These reforms are delivering results. Incentivized jobs now pay higher wages at a lower cost to taxpayers, ensuring Hoosiers get more value for every dollar invested. Looking ahead, the Governor will continue to aggressively seek to grow the state, build a business environment that rewards innovation, support small businesses, and allow communities to shape their own economic future.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & WAGE GROWTH

A strong economy depends on a skilled workforce. Through initiatives like Power Up Indiana, the administration has encouraged employers to invest in their workers by providing training and raising wages. These efforts help Hoosiers advance in their careers while ensuring businesses have the talent they need to grow.

Expanding these opportunities will allow more workers to benefit from upskilling and higher wages, strengthening Indiana's competitiveness in advanced manufacturing and next-generation industries.

REDUCING BARRIERS TO GROWTH

Governor Braun brings a business mindset to government, recognizing that excessive red tape slows growth and discourages investment. **Modernizing permitting processes, streamlining environmental regulations, and improving transparency across state government** will make Indiana more navigable for entrepreneurs and job creators—without compromising safety or environmental stewardship.

IMPROVING BUSINESS CLIMATE

A predictable legal environment is essential for economic growth. Governor Braun supports **meaningful tort reform that addresses the cost of doing business in Indiana**, protects public safety while **reducing frivolous litigation** that functions as a hidden tax on small businesses. Ensuring fairness and consistency in the civil justice system helps protect jobs, encourage investment, and keep Indiana competitive.

EDUCATION

Nearly half of Indiana's state budget is invested in K-12 education, and Governor Braun believes those dollars must deliver strong results for students, parents, and taxpayers. Indiana has emerged as a national leader in education by embracing innovation, accountability, and school choice.

Building on recent successes in literacy and mathematics, the administration will continue focusing on outcomes—ensuring students are prepared for life, work, and civic engagement. An entrepreneurial approach to education allows schools to build on what works while continuously improving.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & STUDENT WELL-BEING

Improving focus in the classroom, strengthening civic education, and protecting children's mental health are central to educational quality. Governor Braun supports policies that **reduce distractions and promote responsible technology use** to ensure students develop the knowledge and skills needed to succeed.

SCHOOL CHOICE & EARLY LEARNING

Indiana's leadership in school choice has expanded opportunity for families across the state. **Universal access to choice scholarships** empowers every parent to select the best educational environment for their children, regardless of income or ZIP code. **Expanding early childhood options further strengthens this ecosystem**, supporting families and encouraging innovation in child care and early education.

SUPPORTING TEACHERS

High-quality schools depend on great teachers. Governor Braun has prioritized higher pay, classroom investment, and targeted recruitment. Going forward, supporting teachers means **improving benefits, reducing administrative burdens, and making it easier for qualified educators to teach in Indiana**. These steps help recruit and retain talent while keeping the focus on students.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is the foremost responsibility of state government. Hoosiers deserve safe communities, consistent enforcement of the law, and a justice system that is fair and effective. Governor Braun strongly supports law enforcement officers who risk their lives daily, while recognizing that broader policy reforms are needed to address emerging challenges.

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

Illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and inconsistent enforcement have strained local resources, undermined public safety, and hurt Hoosier wages. Governor Braun has prioritized cooperation with federal authorities and supports a **stronger state posture** on illegal immigration so that **all levels of law enforcement work together** to protect Hoosiers, **the rule of law is upheld**, and **Hoosier jobs and wages are safeguarded**.

ACCOUNTABILITY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONSISTENCY

A justice system that fails to hold violent and repeat offenders accountable erodes public trust. Governor Braun **supports amending the constitution to allow for preventative detention** along with meaningful safeguards **focused on violent offenders**.

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS WITH COMPASSION & ORDER

Homelessness affects both vulnerable individuals and the broader community. Governor Braun supports a **compassionate approach that addresses root causes while maintaining public order and safety. Encouraging connections to services, supporting local solutions, and setting clear expectations for the use of public spaces** help protect individuals in crisis and the communities around them.

