



The Torch

The official newsletter for State of Indiana employees

October 2026

Greetings from the Governor

- Watch Governor Braun's latest [video message](#) to State employees.
- Sign up for the Governor's weekly newsletter, [here](#).



Important change to State employee MFA process

Article by Indiana Office of Technology

The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) will permanently retire the Voice Phone Call option for Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) at the end of 2026. After Dec. 31, 2026, **Voice Call will no longer work for login verification, and you will**

lose access to State systems until another MFA method is set up.

Because phone calls are vulnerable to number theft, interception, and spoofing, all employees must switch to secure options like Okta Verify or FIDO/Yubikey Security Keys. If you already use

one of these, you're all set. If **you currently rely only on Voice Call, you must update your MFA method now.** [View instructions.](#)

For more help, please contact the IOT Helpdesk or submit a [ServiceNow ticket](#).

Attend a RMBA education session and learn about your options

Article by Indiana Public Retirement System

Many State employees are eligible to make an election regarding their [Retirement Medical Benefits Account \(RMBA\)](#) participation during the State's Open Enrollment period, but what is the RMBA? Why does it matter? And how might your RMBA election impact your financial future?

INPRS is offering virtual and in-person education regarding these

changes, so you have the support you need as you consider your options. During these sessions, INPRS's Retirement Services Consultants and Hoosier START representatives will be available during virtual and in-person education opportunities.

- [Register for an education session](#)
- [Meet with a Hoosier START retirement specialist.](#)

**TAXES.
HEALTHCARE.
RETIREMENT.
INVESTMENTS.**

Understand your
unique situation
before making your
RMBA election.

The Torch is published monthly by the Indiana State Personnel Department and is available online at on.in.gov/TheTorch.

Want more content?

Check out the State of Indiana on LinkedIn and Facebook and @WorkForIndiana on X and Instagram.

Have a story?

Submit your story ideas to: spdcommunications@spd.in.gov

Behind the Flag: A look at the 238 steps behind a Statehouse tradition



Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

If you have ever visited the Indiana Statehouse, there is a good chance you have seen the American flag flying high above the building. Behind that daily

symbol of pride is Tony Brooks from the Indiana Department of Administration. Tony was recently recognized [in an article by WTHR](#) for his commitment to keeping the Statehouse grounds welcoming, well maintained and ready for visitors each day.

Tony has worked for the State of Indiana for 11 years. He first discovered his passion for outdoor work while employed at the Indiana School for the Deaf, where he realized he enjoyed being outside more than indoors. That inspiration led him to apply for a role as a grounds laborer with the State,

and he has since advanced through several positions, including grounds foreman and maintenance foreman.

Part of Tony's work includes climbing 238 steps each day to reach the Statehouse roof and raise the American flag. He says he stays motivated because he enjoys working outdoors through all seasons and appreciates having tasks that change each day. He operates a variety of equipment, has a few favorites, and values the hands-on nature of his work. "I like doing different tasks every day, that's how I never get bored," Tony shares.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month (October)

Article by Indiana Office of Technology

The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) is celebrating Cybersecurity Awareness Month by offering a variety of new resources and activities! Highlights include:

2026 Cybersecurity Awareness Month toolkit for State employees: [This toolkit](#) is your guide to Cybersecurity Awareness Month activities and resources throughout October. Each week

features a unique theme, practical training modules, and engaging content designed to strengthen cybersecurity skills for state employees and their families. Access new training modules, including the comedic "Little Fish" series and the acclaimed "Inside Man" drama, both available in SuccessFactors Learning.

Free IMAX watch party: Co-hosted with the White River State

Park, featuring an Inside Man screening on Indiana's largest screen—Tuesday, Oct. 27, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets are required at the door. Register here: wrsp.in/InsideMan. If you'd like to host a virtual or in-person Inside Man Watch Party for your staff, contact awareness@iot.in.gov.



Make your next move this National Retirement Security Month

Article by Indiana Office of State Comptroller

October is National Retirement Security Month — an ideal time to take a simple step toward greater retirement confidence. Whether it's increasing contributions, adding a beneficiary, or exploring planning tools and resources, every move helps strengthen your long-term strategy. Ready to move forward? Visit the Hoosier START [resource center](#) to explore tools that can help you build your strategy and move forward with confidence.



Upgrade to Calm Health



Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

Exciting news: Your Calm app benefit has been upgraded to Calm Health — a new way to support your mental and physical wellbeing. The Calm Health app, available through the Optum Employee Assistance Program

(EAP), provides much of the same content as the Calm app, plus evidence-based programs and personalized recommendations to help you feel your best. You'll find resources that help you build skills for managing stress, support sleep, adopt new habits and find greater wellbeing — all at no cost to you. Reminder, access to the Calm app ends Oct. 1, 2026.

For more information and details about how to get started with Calm Health, [click here](#).

Tobacco use & your health: What you should know

Anthem  Join Anthem for an informative webinar designed for State of Indiana members to explore the different forms of tobacco and nicotine, how they can affect the brain and body, the risks of secondhand smoke, and the health benefits that can come from quitting. You'll also learn about supportive resources and

tools available if you're thinking about making a change.

Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. ET

- [Join via Teams](#)

Thursday, Oct. 8 at noon ET

- [Join via Teams](#)

Come learn, explore your options, and discover resources that can help support a healthier future.

Onsite flu shot & vaccine clinics



The best protection against the flu is to get a flu vaccine every year before the flu season starts. Since influenza viruses change over time, it is important to get a shot every year. To make it easy to get your flu shot, vaccine clinics will be held at many state facilities across Indiana this fall. The flu vaccine will be available at these clinics and can be administered at the same time.

Employees are encouraged to register in advance to receive their vaccinations during an onsite clinic. While walk-ins may be accepted, they cannot be guaranteed. [Register for an onsite vaccine clinic](#).

Employees and spouses eligible for the [Wellness Rewards Program](#) can earn \$25 in Wellness Rewards per eligible vaccine received.

Time for a vision exam

Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

Keeping your eyes healthy is a key part of staying well. Routine exams give providers a chance to spot issues early and help prevent long-term vision loss. Eye exams can also help identify early signs of diabetes, high blood pressure and other common health conditions, giving you valuable information about your overall well-being.

It is recommended that adults have

an eye exam each year. For State health plan members, an annual vision exam with dilation costs \$10 at an in-network provider. [View the list of in-network retail chains](#) to find a location that's most convenient to you.

In addition to the exam, the plan allows for frames every two calendar years and lenses, including contact lenses, every calendar year. For frames, the plan has a \$150 allowance with a \$25



standard lenses co-payment when using an in-network provider. [Learn more about the State's Vision Plan](#).

Learn how to earn [\\$50 in Wellness Rewards](#) by completing an eye exam.

Thank you for participating in the Pulse Survey!



Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

Thank you to every State employee who took time to complete this year's Pulse Survey. In total, 14,792

individuals completed the 2026 Pulse Survey, representing 49.2% of State employees. The overall statewide Pulse Score was 3.81/5, matching the 2025 Fall score.

The full results of the Pulse Survey have been shared with agency leadership teams through dashboards which help leaders recognize trends and begin identifying and discussing

opportunities for improvement. Over the coming weeks, agencies will receive guidance and resources to support conversations around the results from their HR Director.

Thank you again for your participation, partnership, and continued service to the State. Your voice truly matters, and your engagement helps shape a better workplace for all.

PeopleSoft life event functionality paused during Open Enrollment

Article by Indiana State Personnel Dept.

Please note that the PeopleSoft functionality allowing you to initiate changes to your health and life plan coverage based on qualifying life events, such

as birth, adoption, marriage, or divorce through Employee Self Service (ESS) will not be available to employees during the Open Enrollment season between **Oct. 23, 2026 – Nov. 23, 2026**.

To update life events during this time, please contact the INSPD Benefits Hotline Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET at 317-232-1167 or 1-877-248-0007 (toll-free) or SPDBenefits@spd.IN.gov.

IDVA to host Veterans Resource Fair Nov. 5 at IGC-S

Article by Indiana Dept. of Veterans Affairs

The [Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (IDVA) will host a Veterans Resource Fair Thursday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Indiana Government Center South Atrium. This event will support State employees who are still serving in the military, those who are veterans, and employees who know a veteran.

Representatives will be on-site to assist with navigating state and federal benefits, filing disability claims, explaining available healthcare services, and connecting individuals with specialized veteran support organizations.

IDVA is actively seeking to partner with other Indiana state agencies for this event. This fair offers a premier platform for your agency to educate the veteran community and State employees about the unique services, benefits, programs, and career opportunities your department provides. If your agency is interested in hosting an informational table or partnering with IDVA for this event, please contact the IDVA Outreach Director, Laura McKee, (Lamckee@dva.in.gov).



October events at the Fairgrounds

Article by IN State Fairgrounds & Event Center

October brings food, family, community to the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center.

The World Food Championships return Oct. 15-18, bringing more than 300 chefs and culinary teams from around the world to Indianapolis. Experience live cooking competitions, tastings, demos, music, & family activities.

On Oct. 31, the Fairgrounds celebrates the 30th Annual Safe Night Halloween from 5-7 p.m. More than 3,000 children & families are expected for this free community tradition for kids 12 & under.

For World Food Championships tickets and more information, visit IndianaStateFair.com.