INDIANA: The Hoosier State

Fun facts & games

Distributed by State Representative

Earl L. Harris Jr.

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What is a Hoosier?

Hoosier is the nickname given to residents of Indiana. No one has been able to trace the exact origin of the word, but historians believe its use dates back at least 160 years. Here are a few of the popular theories about where the word came from:

One story says when visitors knocked on the door of a pioneer’s cabin in Indiana, the cabin’s owner would respond, ”Who's yere?” From this frequent response, the story claims Indiana became the ”Who's yere,” or Hoosier, state.

A theory offered by Governor Joseph Wright (served 1849-1857) says the word Hoosier came from the Indian word for corn: ”hoosa.” Workers from Indiana taking corn to New Orleans came to be known as ”hoosa men” or Hoosiers. Unfortunately for this theory, a search of Indian vocabularies failed to reveal any such word for corn.

Another story explains there was once a man named Hoosier employed on the Louisville and Portland Canals who preferred to hire workers from Indiana. His employees were called ”Hoosier's men” and eventually the name spread to include all people from Indiana.

The theory with the most evidence to support it, however, says “Hoosier” was used in the 1800s in the South to describe people who lived in the woods or the hills. The word is believed to come from the Anglo-Saxon word “hoo,” which means hill. Settlers moving from the South to the Ohio Valley brought the word with them and used it to describe the people they encountered living in southern Indiana. Later, “Hoosier” evolved to include any person living in Indiana.
INDIANA was the 19th state admitted into the Union. The name “Indiana” was chosen by Congress in 1800. It means “the land of the Indians.”

The Indiana State Seal shows a pioneer woodsman chopping a tree while a buffalo runs across the plains.

Indiana State Flower: Peony

Indiana State Capital

Vincennes was the first territorial capital from 1805 to 1813 following the creation of the Indiana Territory.

Corydon followed Vincennes as capital from 1813 to 1825, and was the capital when Indiana became a state in 1816.

Indianapolis became the capital in 1825. The statehouse was built in 1888.
Indiana State Tree:  
Tulip tree

Indiana State Stone:  
Indiana limestone

Indiana State Nickname:  
The Hoosier State

Indiana State Song:  
“On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away” by Paul Dresser

Indiana State Motto:  
The Crossroads of America

Indiana State Bird:  
Cardinal

The Indiana State Flag, adopted in 1917, has 19 gold stars and a gold torch on a blue background. The torch represents liberty and enlightenment with the rays reflecting far-reaching influence. The stars in the outer circle represent the 13 original states, while the inner circle is for the five states next admitted to the Union. The star above the torch stands for Indiana, which was the 19th state.

Indiana State Insect:  
Say’s Firefly became Indiana’s state insect in 2018. Thomas Say, an entomologist, first described the firefly, which is native to the state, while living in New Harmony, Indiana, in 1826.
William Henry Harrison was born in Virginia in 1773 to Benjamin Harrison, whose signature is on the Declaration of Independence. William was governor of the Indiana Territory for 12 years until 1840 when he became president of the United States. William Henry Harrison died in 1841.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1740, John Gibson was acting territorial governor twice during Harrison's administration when the governor was called away on military duty, finishing out Harrison's term after he resigned in 1812. Gibson then filled in until Thomas Posey, who was elected in March 1813, was able to take office in May of that year. Gibson was active in Indiana's negotiations with Native Americans. He died in 1822.

Born in Virginia in 1750, Thomas Posey was appointed as governor of the Indiana Territory in 1813, following Harrison's resignation. He died in 1818 after a long military and political career.

Jonathan Jennings was the first governor elected after Indiana became a state. He was born in New Jersey in 1784. He served in Congress for six years and helped frame Indiana's constitution. He died in 1834.

Ratliff Boon was lieutenant governor under Jennings, and served out Jennings' unexpired term as governor. He was born in 1781 and had a long political career, which included 12 years in Congress. He was also lieutenant governor under William Hendricks.

A lawyer and politician, William Hendricks was born in Pennsylvania in 1782. He established The Eagle, Indiana's second newspaper, in 1812. He resigned as governor in 1825 to serve in the U.S. Senate, where he remained until 1837. William Hendricks died in 1850.

James Brown Ray fulfilled Hendricks' unexpired term before being elected twice as governor of Indiana. A lawyer and politician born in Kentucky in 1794, Ray utilized his administration to begin construction on Michigan Road, and the Wabash and Erie canals. He died in 1848.

Noah Noble was born in Virginia in 1794. A businessman, military man and politician, he served two terms as governor. He died in 1844.

Lieutenant governor under Noble, David Wallace was born in Pennsylvania in 1799. He was a lawyer, politician and military man, as well as the father of Lew Wallace, author of Ben Hur. David Wallace died in 1859.

Samuel Bigger was a lawyer and politician born in Ohio in 1802. He was defeated in his bid for re-election in 1843. Bigger died in 1846.
James Whitcomb, Democrat
Dec. 6, 1843 - Dec. 26, 1848

Born in Vermont in 1795, James Whitcomb established the Indiana Hospital for the Insane, the Indiana Asylum for Education of Deaf and Dumb, and the Indiana Institute for the Blind. He resigned as governor in 1848 to serve in the U.S. Senate, where he served until his death in 1852.

As lieutenant governor under Whitcomb, Paris Chipman Dunning finished out Whitcomb's unexpired term. Dunning was born in North Carolina in 1806. He died in 1884.

Joseph Albert Wright was elected governor in 1849, and in 1852 was re-elected to a four-year term under the state's new constitution. Born in Pennsylvania in 1810, he served in the U.S. Senate from 1862-63. He died in 1867.

After serving as lieutenant governor under Wright, Ashbel Parsons Willard was elected governor. The lawyer and politician was born in New York in 1820. He was the first Indiana governor to die in office; he died in 1860.

Abram Adams Hammond, Democrat

Only 2 days after taking office, Henry Smith Lane resigned the governorship of Indiana to become a U.S. Senator. A lawyer born in Kentucky in 1811, he helped form the Republican Party. Lane died in 1881.

As Lane's lieutenant governor, Oliver Perry Morton finished the term as governor when Lane resigned. Morton was born in Salisbury, Ind., in 1823, making him the first native Hoosier governor. He won a second term and resigned in 1867 to become a U.S. Senator. He died in 1877.

Conrad Baker was born in Pennsylvania in 1817. He was lieutenant governor during Morton's second term, finishing it when Morton resigned. After that, Baker was elected governor on his own. He died in 1885.

Thomas Andrews Hendricks was born in Ohio in 1819. A lawyer and member of the Democratic Party, he was elected vice president of the United States in 1884. He died in that office in 1885.

A farmer, James Douglas Williams was nicknamed “Blue Jeans” because he always wore denim suits. He was born in Ohio in 1808 and served 31 years in the legislature. Williams also briefly served in Congress before being elected governor of Indiana. He died in office in 1880.
Governors of Indiana

Isaac Pusey Gray, Democrat
Nov. 20, 1880 - Jan. 10, 1881
and
Jan. 12, 1885 – Jan. 14, 1889

Isaac Pusey Gray was lieutenant governor under Williams and served out Williams’ term after he died. Gray was elected governor on his own in 1884. Born in Pennsylvania in 1828, he became minister to Mexico in 1893 and died in 1895.

Albert Gallatin Porter, Republican
Jan. 10, 1881 - Jan. 12, 1885

Born in Lawrenceburg, Ind., in 1824, Albert Gallatin Porter served four years in Congress and four years as Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury before being elected governor. He served as minister to Italy from 1889 to 1892. He died in 1897.

Alvin Peterson Hovey, Republican
Jan. 14, 1889 - Nov. 23, 1891

Alvin Peterson Hovey was a lawyer and military man. He held various positions in state and national government before being elected governor. He was born in Indiana in 1821 and died in office in 1891.

James Atwell Mount, Republican
Jan. 11, 1897 - Jan. 14, 1901

James Atwell Mount was born in Indiana in 1843. He served in the state senate before being elected governor. He died in 1901.

Winfield Taylor Durbin, Republican
Jan. 14, 1901 - Jan. 9, 1905

Winfield Taylor Durbin was born in Lawrenceburg, Ind., in 1847. He served in the Spanish-American War before being elected governor. He died in 1928.

James Frank Hanly, Republican
Jan. 9, 1905 - Jan. 11, 1909

James Frank Hanly was a school teacher, laborer and lawyer born in Illinois in 1863. He served in the state senate and as a U.S. Congressman before being elected governor. He joined the Prohibition Party in 1916 and ran for president. He was killed in an auto accident in 1920.

Thomas Riley Marshall, Democrat
Jan. 11, 1909 - Jan. 13, 1913

Thomas Riley Marshall served two terms as vice president under Woodrow Wilson. Born in North Manchester, Ind., in 1854, he died in 1925.

Samuel Moffett Ralston, Democrat
Jan. 13, 1913 - Jan. 8, 1917

Born in Ohio in 1857, Samuel Moffett Ralston was elected governor after two unsuccessful attempts at political office. He was later elected to the U.S. Senate. Because of ill health, he was forced to withdraw from his campaign for the presidency in 1924. He died in 1925.
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James Putnam Goodrich was a lawyer and activist born in Winchester, Ind., in 1864. He served as governor through World War I. He later lost his bid for the presidential nomination to Warren G. Harding, who appointed Goodrich an emissary to Russia. Goodrich died in 1940.

Warren Terry McCray served on various state boards before being elected governor. Financial problems forced his resignation in 1924, and he was sent to prison for mail fraud until President Hoover granted him a full pardon. McCray was born in Kentland, Ind., in 1865 and died in 1938.

As lieutenant governor under McCray, Emmett Forrest Branch served out McCray’s term after he resigned. Born in Martinsville, Ind., in 1874, Branch served in the legislature during World War I and the Spanish-American War. He died in 1932.

Scandals involving the Ku Klux Klan and accusations of bribery clouded Edward L. Jackson’s governorship. Born in Howard County, Ind., in 1873, Jackson was a lawyer and served in World War I. After his term, he grew apples, raised cattle and resumed practicing law. He died in 1954.

The start of the Great Depression marks Harry Guyer Leslie’s term as governor. He was able to reduce taxes, however, as well as cut government spending. Born in West Lafayette, Ind., in 1878, Leslie founded an insurance company after completing his governorship. He died in 1937.

Paul Vories McNutt was dean of the Indiana University Law School before being elected governor. He was later appointed as ambassador to the Philippines. A lawyer who served in World War I, McNutt was born in Franklin, Ind., in 1884. He died in 1955.

Maurice Clifford Townsend was elected governor after serving as lieutenant governor under McNutt. Born in Blackford County, Ind., in 1884, it was his idea to paint school buses yellow as a safety precaution. In 1946, he lost a bid for the U.S. Senate to William Jenner. He died in 1954.

Henry Frederick Schricker was the first governor to serve two four-year terms. Born in North Judson, Ind., in 1883, Schricker was a state senator as well as lieutenant governor under Townsend. He died in 1966.

Born in Columbia City, Ind., in 1893, Ralph F. Gates was a lawyer who served in World War I. After his term as governor, he continued to practice law, remained active in state politics and was Republican National Committeeman from 1947 to 1961. He died in 1978.

A lawyer born in Brazil, Ind., in 1909, George N. Craig held the rank of lieutenant colonel in the European Theater during World War II. His political career waned as a result of scandals involving highway construction contracts during the mid-1950s. He died in 1992.
Governors of Indiana

Harold W. Handley, Republican

After serving in World War II and the state senate, Harold W. Handley was elected lieutenant governor under Craig and then elected governor himself. During his term, he lost a bid for a U.S. Senate seat. His trademark was a blue polka dot bow tie. He died in 1972.

Matthew E. Welsh, Democrat
Jan. 9, 1961 - Jan. 11, 1965

A Navy veteran of World War II, Matthew E. Welsh was a U.S. attorney and state senator prior to his term as governor. He was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1912, and, after completing his governorship, maintained a law practice in Indianapolis until his death in 1995.

Roger D. Branigin, Democrat

Roger D. Branigin was born in Franklin, Ind., in 1902. He was a lawyer and served in World War II. He was defeated by Handley in his first attempt to become governor in 1956. He practiced law in Lafayette, Ind., until his death in 1975.

Edgar D. Whitcomb, Republican

Born in Hayden, Ind., in 1917, Edgar D. Whitcomb authored *Escape from Corregidor*, a book about his Air Force experiences during World War II. After the military, he practiced law in North Vernon, Ind., until he was elected Indiana's secretary of state in 1966 and then governor in 1968. He lost a U.S. Senate nomination to Richard Lugar in 1976. He resides in Seymour, Ind.

Otis R. Bowen, M.D., Republican

Otis R. Bowen was the first Indiana governor to be elected to serve two consecutive four-year terms after legislation allowed it. Born in Rochester, Ind., in 1918, he was a physician in the Army Medical Corps during World War II. Prior to his governorship, he was a member of the House of Representatives for 14 years. He lives in Bremen, Ind.

Robert D. Orr, Republican

Prior to his win by a record margin in 1980, Robert D. Orr served in the state senate for four years and as lieutenant governor under Bowen. He was born in Evansville, Ind., in 1917. He died in 2004.

Evan Bayh, Democrat

Evan Bayh was the youngest governor ever elected in the United States. He received national recognition for education reform and early childhood development programs. He was re-elected in 1992 with the largest percentage of the vote, 63 percent, in modern history. He was born in Terre Haute, Ind., in 1955. Evan Bayh went on to serve as a U.S. senator from 1998-2010.

Frank O'Bannon, Democrat

Governor Frank O'Bannon was born in 1930 in Louisville, Ky. Prior to his lieutenant governorship under Bayh, O'Bannon served in the state senate for 18 years. O'Bannon died in office at age 73 after suffering a severe stroke.

Joe Kernan, Democrat
Sept. 13, 2003 - Jan. 10, 2005

Governor Joe Kernan was born in 1946. A native of South Bend, Ind., he graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1968 and served in the United States Navy. He was mayor of South Bend from 1987 until he became lieutenant governor in 1997. He was sworn in as governor on Sept. 13, 2003, following the death of then-Governor Frank O'Bannon.
Governors of Indiana

**Mitch Daniels, Republican**

Governor Mitch Daniels graduated from Princeton University in 1971 and earned a law degree from Georgetown University in 1979. From January 2001 to June 2003, Daniels served as the nation's budget director for President George W. Bush. At that time, he resigned to return to Indiana.

**Mike Pence, Republican**

Governor Mike Pence was born June 7, 1959, in Columbus, Ind. He graduated from Hanover College in 1981, and earned his law degree from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 1986. Prior to being elected governor, Pence served in the U.S. House of Representatives for Indiana’s 2nd (2001-2003) and 6th (2003-2013) congressional districts. He served one term as governor and went on to be elected Vice President of the United States in 2016.

**Eric Holcomb, Republican**
Jan. 9, 2017 - present

Governor Eric Holcomb was born May 2, 1968, in Indianapolis. He graduated from Hanover College in 1990, and served in the United States Navy for six years. Prior to being elected governor, Holcomb served as Indiana’s 51st Lieutenant Governor.
Unscramble the names of the historically significant Hoosiers described here and use them to fill in the blanks in the sentences. Each name on the list down the right side will be used only once.

1. TEBROR LELLSAA
In 1679, French explorer __________ __________ became the first known white man to visit Indiana.

2. OTSBIS ed NINECNSEV
Francois-Marie __________ __________, a French agent among the Miami Indians, built the first fort on the lower Wabash River. The fort became the city of Vincennes.

3. TOHNNJAA ENGNSIJNI
was the first governor elected after Indiana became a state in 1816.

4. HANYOTN EWNA
General __________ __________ and his troops defeated the Miami Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. Fort Wayne was named in his honor.

5. ANEV YABH
In 1992, __________ __________ was re-elected as governor of Indiana after receiving 63 percent of the vote, the largest percentage in modern history.

6. YNOJHN PŁAESDEP
Before he died in Fort Wayne, Ind., __________ __________ traveled the nation giving away seeds and seedlings of apple and other fruit trees.

7. ILILMAW NEHRY RISOHANR
__________ __________ served as the first governor of the Indiana Territory. He later became the president of the United States.

8. ELACB SLIML
After helping to bring about education reform in Indiana in 1852, __________ __________ created the Indiana State Teachers’ Association.

9. EWL LLACAWE
A well-known military official and author, __________ __________ wrote Ben Hur. He was born in Brookville, Ind., to a prominent local family. His father, David, was governor of Indiana from December 1837 to December 1840.

10. YENHR EANL
__________ __________ was the first Republican to be elected governor.

11. AHMTOS IYELR HAMLASLR
After serving as governor of Indiana from 1909 to 1913, __________ __________ was elected vice president under Woodrow Wilson.

12. NIBMAJEN ORARHINS
William Henry Harrison’s grandson, __________ __________, was elected 23rd president of the United States.
13. AJEMS TMHBWOC ERLIY

Nicknamed the Hoosier Poet, _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ gained fame for a poem he wrote, but claimed it was written by Edgar Allan Poe.

14. REVOLI RERYP NORMTO

_______ _______ _______ was the first native Hoosier to become governor of Indiana.

15. ASJME UADSLOG IMLSWIAL

_______ _______ _______ was governor from 1877 to 1880. His nickname was “Blue Jeans,” because he always wore suits made of denim.

16. NRECFSAA ULCSOM

As a young girl, _______ _______ _______ _______ was kidnapped by Indians. She was found 60 years later by a fur trader living as an Indian with the tribe who took her. There is a state park near Peru, Ind., named for her.

17. REGAD MIHWOTB

Before becoming governor in 1969, _______ _______ _______ _______ wrote Escape from Corregidor about his experiences in World War II.

18. OSTI OBEWN

_______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ was, from 1973 to 1981, the first governor of Indiana to be elected to serve two consecutive four-year terms.

19. OCLE TREPOR

_______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ was an Indiana native who wrote music for productions such as Kiss Me Kate and Night and Day.

20. RKNFNAONOBN

_______ _______ _______ _______ _______ was governor of Indiana from 1997 until his death in 2003.

21. ICRE MOHLOBC

_______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ is currently serving as governor of Indiana.

Johnny Appleseed
Evan Bayh
Otis Bowen
Benjamin Harrison
William Henry Harrison
Eric Holcomb
Jonathan Jennings
Henry Lane
Robert LaSalle
Thomas Riley Marshall
Caleb Mills
Oliver Perry Morton
Frank O’Bannon
Cole Porter
James Whitcomb Riley
Frances Slocum
Bissot de Vincennes
Lew Wallace
Anthony Wayne
Edgar Whitcomb
James Douglas Williams
Indiana fun facts Crossword Puzzle

Directions:
Fill in the blanks using the clues given below. All of the answers can be found in this booklet.

ACROSS
1. Indiana’s state bird
3. A resident of Indiana is called a ______.
4. Indiana’s first state capital
5. The _____ tree is Indiana’s state tree.
9. Congress coined the name “Indiana” in 1800; it means “land of the _____.”
11. Governor from 1997-2003, Frank ______

DOWN
1. Indiana’s state motto is “The ______ of America.”
2. Indiana’s state stone is Indiana ______.
6. Legislators propose bills that could become _____.
7. Indiana’s state flower
8. Indiana’s state capital
10. Indiana’s first territorial capital

14 Indiana: The Hoosier State – Fun facts & games
How a Bill ...

Bill Introduction
The first step in creating a law is for a representative or senator to write the bill. Then the bill is read by its author in its chamber of origin.

First Reading
The bill is presented to the House or the Senate. Then the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate (depending on its chamber of origin) assigns it to a committee.

Committee Reading
The committee’s responsibility is to decide what is good about a bill and talk about any changes that could improve the bill. Anyone can attend a committee meeting to discuss his or her likes or dislikes about a bill. After the meeting, the members report back to the House or Senate. If the committee does not vote or votes against the bill, it cannot become law.

Second Reading
When the bill is brought before the House or Senate for a second reading, legislators have the opportunity to ask for amendments to the bill. The senators or representatives may or may not get what they ask for.

Third Reading
Next, the full chamber of origin will discuss the bill. Then legislators will vote to pass or defeat the bill. A majority of at least 51 votes are needed for the bill to pass in the House; 26 votes in the Senate. If the bill passes, it is sent to the other chamber and the process starts over. Both chambers must complete this process before a bill can become a law.

After passing in both chambers, the bill goes to (top of facing page):
Conference Committee

After the bill has been considered by both chambers, one of three things can happen:

1. The bill can be approved without changes.

2. The bill can be changed in the second chamber. If this happens, it must be returned to the first chamber so the changes can be approved. If at least 51 representatives or 26 senators agree to the changes, the bill goes on to the governor. However, if the majority of the original chamber disagrees with the amendments, the bill is sent to a conference committee. A conference committee is made up of two representatives and two senators. The four legislators attempt to combine the two different versions of the bill so they all agree. If they can agree, a conference report is then voted on by both the House and the Senate. If both chambers approve the amended bill, it is sent to the governor. If the chambers do not approve the amended bill, it cannot become a law.

3. The second chamber defeats the bill by vote in committee, by vote of the entire chamber or by not voting on it at all.

The Governor

Once the bill reaches this point, the governor can either sign the bill into law, veto the bill or do nothing. If the governor does not act on the bill within seven days, the bill automatically becomes law without a signature.

Veto Override

Even if the governor vetoes a bill, it can still become law if 51 representatives and 26 senators vote to override the governor’s veto.

Once the bill passes all of these steps, it ...
## Statehouse Glossary

- **amendment** – a change made in a bill or constitution
- **assembly** – a group of people gathered together for a common purpose; the General Assembly is the annual meeting of the House and the Senate
- **bill** – a draft of a law presented to the House or the Senate
- **caucus** – a meeting of the members of a political party; the General Assembly is comprised of a democratic caucus and a republican caucus
- **chamber** – a room where the House or the Senate meets
- **committee** – a group appointed by the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate to discuss legislation
- **constituent** – a person living in the district represented by an elected official
- **democrat** – a member of the Democratic Party, one of the two major political parties
- **governor** – the chief executive of a state in the United States of America
- **House** – House of Representatives; one of the two branches of the legislature
- **legislature** – the law-making segment of government
- **President of the Senate** – leader of the Senate; in Indiana, this is the lieutenant governor
- **representative** – a member of the House of Representatives
- **republican** – a member of the Republican party, one of the two major political parties
- **resolution** – a formal statement of a decision by the House or the Senate
- **rotunda** – a large round room with a high ceiling; the center of the Statehouse
- **Senate** – one of the two branches of the legislature
- **senator** – a member of the Senate
- **session** – a meeting of the House or the Senate
- **Speaker of the House** – the leader of the House of Representatives
- **sponsor** – a person who assumes responsibility for another person or group; for example, a senator may sponsor a bill in the Senate on behalf of a representative who authored it
- **Statehouse** – Indiana’s capitol building
- **veto** – a governor’s choice to reject a bill passed by both the House and the Senate
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ANSWERS
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Benjamin Harrison
Eric Holcomb
Jonathan Jennings
Henry Lane
Robert LaSalle
Thomas Riley Marshall
Caleb Mills
Oliver Perry Morton
Frank O’Bannon
Cole Porter
James Whitcomb Riley
Frances Slocum
Bissot de Vincennes
Lew Wallace
Anthony Wayne
Edgar Whitcomb
James Douglas Williams
ACROSS
1. Indiana’s state bird
3. A resident of Indiana is called a _______.
4. Indiana’s first state capital
5. The _____ tree is Indiana’s state tree.
9. Congress coined the name “Indiana” in 1800; it means “land of the _____.
11. Governor from 1997-2003, Frank ____

DOWN
1. Indiana’s state motto is “The _____ of America.”
2. Indiana’s state stone is Indiana ______.
6. Legislators propose bills that could become _____.
7. Indiana’s state flower
8. Indiana’s state capital
10. Indiana’s first territorial capital

Indiana fun facts crossword puzzle
Indiana Statehouse word search

GOVERNOR
REPRESENTATIVE
SENATOR
INDIANA
ROTUNDA
BILL
CHAMBER
COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT

LAW
VOTE
DEMOCRAT
REPUBLICAN
ASSEMBLY
SESSION
CAUCUS
SPEAKER
RESOLUTION

VETO
SPONSOR
STATEHOUSE
LEGISLATURE
HOUSE
SENATE
CONSTITUENT
AMENDMENT
DISTRICT