



Help Hoosiers Now!

RATEPAYER RELIEF PLAN

*Legislative policies that
will promote fairness,
accountability and
cost affordability for
all Hoosiers.*



DECEMBER 2025



RATEPAYER RELIEF PLAN

Hoosiers are paying some of the highest energy bills in the Midwest, and nearly nine out of 10 of Indiana residents said in a recent poll they are concerned about rising utility costs, with 57% reporting they are very concerned. Families, seniors, renters, small business owners—everyone is feeling the pain.

This package provides legislators with policies they can take action on immediately, listed in order of how quickly they will affect Hoosiers. Each policy has a clear consumer benefit and will provide much-needed relief at a time when inflation and economic concerns are top of mind across our state and nation.

QUICK REFERENCE: POLICY BY POLICY

- Establish a Low-Income Discount Rate
- Prohibit Summer Shutoffs for LIHEAP Households
- Reform IURC Approval Over Mergers and Acquisitions
- Limit Utility Profit Rates (Rate of Return = Cost of Capital)
- Ban Rate Recovery for Lobbying, Politics and Public Relations
- Repeal or Reduce Cost Trackers
- Authorize Community Energy
- Elect or Require Confirmation of IURC Commissioners
- Review Data Center Policies and Impacts to Ratepayers
- Require Large Industrial Users to Participate in Efficiency Programs
- Statewide Siting Reform



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POLICY: ESTABLISHING A LOW-INCOME DISCOUNT RATE

This policy provides relief to those most in need, especially those on fixed incomes, by establishing a required discount rate for each investor-owned utility for qualifying low-income ratepayers. The IURC would be in charge of setting and approving the discount rate, which could be based on a target percent of income burden, such as 3-4% of a household's monthly income.

What this means for your bill: direct discounts tied to need → keeps lights on without penalty pricing.

POLICY: PROHIBIT SUMMER SHUTOFFS FOR LIHEAP HOUSEHOLDS

This legislation was introduced in 2024 and would prevent an electric or gas utility from terminating residential electric or gas service for an individual who is eligible for and has applied for assistance from the state's home energy assistance program. State law currently prevents shutoffs for unpaid bills from December 1 through March 15 but not during the summer.

What this means for your bill: fewer reconnection charges + prevents people from falling into deeper debt because offices are closed.

POLICY: REFORM IURC APPROVAL OVER MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Right now, our public utilities can be bought or merged with other companies with very little independent oversight. Reforming the IURC's jurisdiction concerning any merger or acquisition of our public utilities or their parent companies increases transparency and potentially limits financial consequences on consumers.

What this means for your bill: prevents utilities from shifting risky acquisition costs onto households.

POLICY: LIMIT UTILITY PROFIT RATES (RATE OF RETURN = COST OF CAPITAL)

This policy requires that the IURC set a utility's rate of return equal to its cost of capital.

What this means for your bill: caps monopoly profit margins → directly restrains cost increases.



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POLICY: BAN RATE RECOVERY FOR LOBBYING, POLITICS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Under this policy, the IURC may not authorize utility rate recovery for activities related to lobbying, legislative action, political activities, charitable giving, trade association expenses, litigation and investor relations. It also requires utilities to file annual reports related to those activities and directs the IURC to make those annual reports public.

What this means for your bill: you stop paying hidden pass-throughs for utility political influence campaigns.

POLICY: REPEAL OR REDUCE COST TRACKERS

Cost trackers directly increase electric bills by allowing utility companies to adjust rates to recover costs outside of standard rate cases. Fluctuations are passed on to consumers. Repealing or reducing these trackers would provide more stability in monthly bills and require utilities to go through the rate case process to pass along these costs.

What this means for your bill: ends automatic cost pass-throughs → more scrutiny before costs are added to your bill.

POLICY: AUTHORIZE COMMUNITY ENERGY

Community energy answers rising energy demand by quickly deploying eligible energy-generating resources close to where power is needed. Families, businesses and other utility customers can voluntarily subscribe to receive credit on their utility bill for a share of the power produced.

What this means for your bill: renters and households that can't embrace their own energy solutions can access cheaper power options.

POLICY: ELECT OR REQUIRE CONFIRMATION OF IURC COMMISSIONERS

This policy would require that IURC commissioners be elected, either by district or at-large, or require legislative confirmation of the Governor's appointments. Currently, all five commissioners are appointed by the Governor without legislative confirmation.

What this means for your bill: decisions become accountable to voters → downward pressure on allowed utility costs.



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POLICY: REVIEW DATA CENTER POLICIES AND IMPACTS TO RATEPAYERS

Data centers can be massive energy and water users/consumers. The added energy demand everywhere is causing energy bills to spike because large users are trying to buy all the energy they can get without waiting for new supply to be built. Indiana should revisit its policies to make sure our state, local communities, and Hoosier households thrive, not buckle, under the AI boom.

What this means for your bill: avoid water and energy cost shift + make sure local communities get all of the tax dollars.

POLICY: REQUIRE LARGE INDUSTRIAL USERS TO PARTICIPATE IN EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

This policy requires the biggest energy users—factories, large manufacturers, big data facilities—to participate in and help pay for utility-led energy efficiency programs. Requiring the largest energy users to do their part means overall system demand goes down and utilities don't need to build as much expensive capacity.

What this means for your bill: reduces system-wide demand → lowers long-term generation and transmission cost pressure.

POLICY: STATEWIDE SITING REFORM

Statewide siting reform would replace Indiana's county-by-county patchwork with a clear, uniform process that gives developers and their community partners certainty. A predictable, statewide framework would set a single standard for responsible development while preserving local input on design and mitigation. This would speed up timelines, unlock private capital and ensure low-cost, clean generation can actually get built.

What this means for your bill: Solar and wind are among the cheapest energy sources; being able to quickly bring new projects online means more energy will be available at a lower cost.