



NORTHEAST INDIANA

Mayors' & Commissioners' Caucus of Northeast Indiana

MISSION & PURPOSE

Founded in 2012, the Mayors' & Commissioners' Caucus of Northeast Indiana is comprised of the mayors and commissioners of the 10 counties in the Northeast Indiana region.

The Caucus uses consensus-based decision making to reach agreement and relies upon cooperation and collaboration to address the region's complex issues. To this end, the Caucus provides a forum for the discussion of common issues and multi-jurisdictional challenges, and serves as a partner and sounding board for leaders from other sectors. The Caucus is a voice for regionalism in a time of growing awareness of the need for regional approaches.

On behalf of its members, the Caucus commits to:

- Develop consensus positions on key issues facing the region and advocate their adoption by other levels of government;
- Monitor policy at the local, regional, state and federal levels;
- Inform discussions and partner with private, non-profit and public sectors to implement change;
- Provide a forum for the resolution of differences among the region's jurisdictions; and
- Provide opportunities, through dialogue, for enhancing personal relationships and building trust among the region's municipalities.

ISSUES

The Caucus will focus on issues which cross geographic boundaries and benefit from regional approaches.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We, the Caucus, adopt the Code of Ethics put forward by the LEDO Council of the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership. We agree to abide by these behaviors in our interactions within the Caucus and within our individual counties.

GROUND RULES FOR CONSENSUS

The Mayors' & Commissioners' Caucus of Northeast Indiana adheres to a consensus model for decision making. In order to take a position or make a statement on behalf of the organization, we must have achieved a consensus among all of our members.

Consensus decision-making is a group decision making process that seeks the consent, not necessarily the agreement, of those present and the resolution of objections. Consensus is, first, general agreement, and second, group solidarity of belief or sentiment. Consensus-based decision-making is thus concerned with the process of reaching a consensus decision and the social and political effects of using this process. Consensus should not be confused with unanimity or solidarity.

There are times that we are not able to reach consensus and the Caucus remains quiet on an issue, but when we come to an agreement we are able to speak on behalf of our members with one voice. We pick our issues carefully and choose to focus on those that are truly important to the Northeast Indiana region.

Part of the genesis for the founding of the Caucus in 2012 was the increasingly clear reality that there are a number of pressing issues which no single jurisdiction has the resources or mandate to effectively address.

GROUND RULES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discussions are intended to be inclusive to elicit full participation and encourage creative thinking among peers.
2. Members are asked to listen carefully, respectfully and sympathetically to what others are saying and to avoid side conversations.
3. Members are encouraged to share their own views and experiences and work to gain insight from views different from their own.
4. If a member has a disagreement with another's position, they are asked to focus on the issue, not the person, and speak to him/her about it rather than to others.
5. Take risks – bring ideas to the table.
6. Keep your sense of humor (and lose your cell phone!).

STATEMENT

Given the above documentation, we, the undersigned mayors and commissioners of Northeast Indiana, affirm and adopt the founding documents of the Mayors' & Commissioners' Caucus of Northeast Indiana. We agree to use consensus-based decision making to reach agreement on complex issues and rely upon cooperation and collaboration with our peers to address the region's challenges. We adopt the Code of Ethics as committed to by the LEDO Council, Regional Partnership, Regional Workforce Investment Board and Regional Chamber and agree to abide by these behaviors in our interactions within the Caucus and within our individual counties and communities.