



For Immediate Release

May 18, 2016

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**The Indiana Commission for Women releases report on Women as Political Candidates**

INDIANAPOLIS (November 17, 2014) –The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) has published *Women as Political Candidates: 2016 Primary Status Report*, based on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Primaries. The report can be accessed at: [www.in.gov/icw](http://www.in.gov/icw).

As part of ICW's ongoing *Hoosier Women Lead* initiative, the report focuses on female candidates in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the Indiana General Assembly. Eight women competed for Indiana's nine U.S. House District Seats, including six Republicans and two Democrats. In state-level political races, fifty-eight women competed for Indiana General Assembly Seats, including thirty-nine Democrats and nineteen Republicans. Looking ahead to the November General Elections, five women will compete in four U.S. House District races, including Indiana's two incumbent Congresswomen, Representatives Susan W. Brooks (5<sup>th</sup>) and Jackie Walorski (2<sup>nd</sup>). At the state level, forty-nine women will compete for seats in the Indiana General Assembly in November.

In ICW's *Hoosier Women Speak* initiative, women's leadership, particularly in policy and decision-making offices, was identified as one of the top five priority areas. According to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, Indiana currently ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the country based on the number of women serving in the state legislature. ICW monitors women's progress as leaders with an emphasis on local, county and state government levels and has provided a benchmark of women's status in the state legislature since 2008. In addition, ICW began collating statistics on women at all levels of government in Indiana in 2012. To view these reports, visit: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2415.htm>.

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*About the Indiana Commission for Women (ICW):*

The mission of the Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) is to understand the needs of Indiana women and their families, and to work strategically both within government and in our communities to help bring about positive solutions. ICW is committed to the full participation of women in all aspects of society in order to make Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family. For more information, visit: [www.in.gov/icw](http://www.in.gov/icw).