

Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative  
**Description, Mission, and Goals**

**Description**

The Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative (ILOHI), founded by House Bill 1100 of the 120th General Assembly (2017), is an ongoing oral history project to record the history of the Indiana General Assembly from 1978 to the present from those who experienced it first-hand. Building on the work of *The Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly, 1816-1978*, the oral histories of Indiana state legislators will not only provide a new history of the IGA and its members but will also reveal the modern political and legislative processes that help shape our state. The ILOHI strives to provide a primary source collection that highlights the ways in which Indiana has changed over the course of the last four decades and the lawmakers' contributions towards and responses to this evolution. By sharing the history of the IGA and its influence on the people, processes, and institutions of the state, we can begin to more fully understand the role of Indiana in a national and global context.

**Mission**

The Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative's mission is to conduct, transcribe, preserve, and make publicly accessible oral histories with state legislators in order to better understand Hoosier political history.

**Goals**

- Conduct thorough oral history interviews with state legislators detailing their lives, experiences, achievements, and struggles in the Indiana General Assembly and in Indiana politics as public servants.
- Transcribe each oral history interview and make it publicly available.
- Provide legislators biographical information to the Legislative Services Agency for their biographical database.
- Preserve the audio file and transcript of each interview with the project archive and the Indiana State Library.
- Create a user-friendly online archive and website to house and make publicly available the interviews and transcripts as well as relevant and thematic excerpts about topics of public and historical interest.
- Develop curriculum and/or resources for teachers to integrate oral history materials in classrooms at different levels throughout the state.
- Provide public outreach programming utilizing the oral histories.

Please contact me to set up an interview!

**Dr. Michella Marino**

Office: 317-233-8940; Cell: 812-599-4126

[mmarino@history.in.gov](mailto:mmarino@history.in.gov)

## ILOHI INTERVIEWEES

| NAME                  | INTERVIEW DATE              | INTERVIEW LENGTH | PARTY, CHAMBER      |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Morris Mills          | 28-Aug-18                   | 2:02:50          | R, Senate           |
| William Vobach        | 4-Sep-18                    | 1:57:30          | R, House            |
| Gene Snowden          | 14-Sep-18                   | 1:18:17          | R, Senate           |
| Robert Garton         | 25-Sep-18                   | 3:44:54          | R, Senate (Pro Tem) |
| Spencer Schnaitter    | September 27 & Oct. 2, 2018 | 8:56:29          | D, House            |
| Bob Meeks             | 11-Oct-18                   | 2:36:08          | R, Senate           |
| Virginia Blankenbaker | October 17 & 23, 2018       | 4:55:39          | R, Senate           |
| Earline Rogers        | 29-Oct-18                   | 2:17:44          | D, House, Senate    |
| Anthony Miles         | 9-Nov-18                    | 2:29:22          | R, House            |
| Choice Edwards        | 30-Nov-18                   | 1:20:02          | R, House            |
| William Roach         | 4-Dec-18                    | 1:55:18          | D, House            |
| Tom Wyss              | 17-Dec-18                   | 3:23:26          | R, Senate           |

| Oral History Project Budget Proposal   | 2017-18             | 2018-19             |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| FTE/Benefits   | \$60,140.00         | \$61,342.80         |
| PTE  | \$18,000.00         | \$18,000.00         |
| Seat charges & telephones  | \$3,000.00          | \$3,000.00          |
| Travel to conduct histories  | \$5,000.00          | \$5,000.00          |
| *Transcription service   | \$5,000.00          | \$5,000.00          |
| Advisory board per diem, 2 meetings annually, 8 members (IGA per diem as of 12/15 = \$159) | \$2,544.00          | \$2,544.00          |
| Promotion  | \$5,000.00          | \$5,000.00          |
| Equipment/software/supplies  | \$11,000.00         | \$3,000.00          |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>\$109,684.00</b> | <b>\$107,886.80</b> |

\*Note: Transcription costs via vendor: \$375 per two hour interview (25 double-spaced pages per hour, usually transcription rate is \$7.50 a page. So, \$7.50 X 50 pages=\$375). If we do 12 interviews a year that'd be \$4,500 for transcription cost.

| ISI's 3% Reserve          | 2017-18             | 2018-19             |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Operating (14120) | \$79,026.00         | \$79,026.00         |
| Statewide (14150)         | \$38,232.00         | \$38,232.00         |
| <b>Totals</b>             | <b>\$117,258.00</b> | <b>\$117,258.00</b> |

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6771**

**BILL NUMBER: HB 1100**

**NOTE PREPARED: Apr 9, 2017**

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT: Oral History Project Advisory Committee.**

**FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Lehman**

**FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Messmer**

**BILL STATUS: Enrolled**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:  GENERAL  
 DEDICATED  
 FEDERAL**

**IMPACT: State**

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires the Historical Bureau to establish and maintain an oral history of the General Assembly. It requires the director of the Historical Bureau to employ a qualified historian to conduct and preserve interviews of members of the General Assembly. It requires the Historical Bureau to: (1) share information with the Legislative Services Agency upon request; and (2) submit a report to the Legislative Council on the status of the oral history of the General Assembly before July 1, 2018, and upon request thereafter. The bill also establishes an advisory committee to advise the Historical Bureau in establishing the oral history.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2017.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Historical Bureau:* This bill will increase expenses for the Historical Bureau by requiring that the agency maintain an oral history of the General Assembly. A project coordinator and either a graduate intern or part-time contractor would likely need to be hired, with total annual expenses of about \$67,000 to \$78,000. There would also be transcription costs of about \$4,500 annually. In-state travel costs could be about \$3,000 annually.

*Oral History Project Advisory Committee:* This committee would consist of 8 members: 4 legislators and 4 members appointed by the Governor. Members of the committee would be eligible for the same per diem and mileage reimbursement provided to legislative and lay members of interim study committees. Expenses for the committee would be paid from appropriations made to the Indiana State Library and the Historical Board. The committee would be staffed by the Indiana Historical Bureau.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**