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# DODEN FOR INDIANA WHITE PAPER: INDIANAPOLIS CAPITAL ZONE

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## Public Policy:

Indianapolis Capital Zone

## Problems to Solve:

Indianapolis is uniquely positioned as both Indiana's capital city and as the state's economic engine. Marion County is responsible for 25% (\$81.2 billion) of Indiana's entire annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and ranks 1st of 92 counties. To put this in context, Lake County ranks 2nd and produces just 6.6% (\$21.8 billion) of Indiana's total GDP.<sup>1</sup>

As a matter of long-term strategy, as Indianapolis goes, so goes the state of Indiana. Today, Indianapolis is struggling to keep up with two basic functions of local government - public safety and infrastructure.

As a result, a variety of challenges have manifested - a perception that downtown is not as safe as it once was, panhandlers who harass residents and visitors alike, and the inability to maintain safe and drivable roads.

At the same time nationally, law enforcement officers feel undermined by public officials and policy ideas that would make it more difficult for them to do their jobs.

Vital state government facilities, personnel, and historic assets are located throughout Indianapolis and owned by the people of Indiana. The Statehouse, the State Fairgrounds, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on Monument Circle, White River State Park, and the Indiana State Museum, are just a few of many examples that together represent millions of dollars of state-owned assets. State government has a responsibility to ensure the integrity and safety of not just these facilities, but the people who work in them and live nearby, in addition to the 29 million annual visitors to Indianapolis.<sup>2</sup>

This situation pits our campaign's philosophy of local control against the reality that our capital city is heading in the wrong direction. We must get Indianapolis back on track. To do this, we will increase state government financial and human capital support for Indianapolis, thus augmenting local efforts to achieve the results all Hoosiers deserve - a safe and accessible capital city.

## Doden for Indiana Plan:

Indianapolis should be safe for all, with high-quality infrastructure that other cities want to emulate.

As Governor, we will enhance the state's support on three fronts by establishing the following:

1. An infrastructure Capital Zone encompassing the Mile Square in downtown Indianapolis.
2. Enhanced policing across Indianapolis through a partnership between the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and the Indiana State Police (ISP).
3. Support for our law enforcement officers and new prosecutorial tools aimed at removing violent criminals from the streets of Indianapolis.

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross Domestic Product by County, 2020: <https://www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/lagdp1221.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Visit Indy, 2019: <https://www.visitindy.com/about-us/>

We are optimistic that these measures will help forge a positive and active partnership between the city of Indianapolis and the state of Indiana that improves the quality of life for its residents and for all who visit.

First, the state of Indiana will bear the burden of exclusive jurisdiction over infrastructure within the Mile Square. We define “infrastructure” as above-ground roads, bridges, sidewalks, and trails. Responsibility for planning, construction, and payment of this infrastructure will rest with the state of Indiana to provide a high-quality product for all.

Second, so long as the public perceives Indianapolis as dangerous and unsafe, policing within Marion County will be enhanced through a partnership between the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) and the Indiana State Police (ISP). In cooperation with IMPD, ISP officers will be asked to increase their presence in high crime areas of the county. Separately, ISP officers will be available upon call by the Governor to provide active support in Marion County (or any city when it is deemed necessary).

Third, we will back our law enforcement and enforce the rule of law to take violent criminals off the streets. We will establish and support a prosecutor review board composed of elected prosecuting attorneys that oversees a special prosecutor unit within the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC). This new unit will provide for special prosecutor appointments, increase the number of qualified special prosecutors, and exercise concurrent criminal jurisdiction with a prosecuting attorney if authorized by the prosecutor review board. This approach creates a system of accountability so that a rogue prosecutor does not unilaterally ignore the laws of our state.

#### **Implementation Process:**

With respect to infrastructure, we will establish a Capital Zone fund, administered by the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA), which will be composed of a proportional share of Indianapolis road funding that currently flows from the state, along with state funds and any applicable federal funds that are secured. Project planning will be performed in collaboration among the IFA, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW).

To enhance crime prevention and policing, we will work with both ISP and IMPD to determine the specifics, such as the number of ISP officers assigned to Marion County and the most effective manner in which to form a strong and effective partnership, including the recruitment of more ISP personnel.

#### **Desired Outcome of Policy:**

This policy aims to reduce significantly crime downtown, increase public safety throughout Marion County, and ensure high quality and robust downtown infrastructure that enables families, workers, and visitors to enjoy our capital city’s amenities without worrying about their safety.

#### **Projected Impact:**

Achieving a safe and accessible capital city will increase confidence in its viability, attracting more visitors, residents, and employers. This will boost the perception of Indianapolis generally and will ensure that our capital city also remains a major economic engine for the next generation of Hoosiers.