

Diversity Roundtable
Achieving a Culture that Values Diversity
Greater Lafayette Commerce
Thursday, April 2, 2026
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
The Arts Federation (TAF) and Zoom

Agenda

Impacting Change in Issues of Diversity and Inclusion

DiversityTippecanoe.org

1. Welcome/Introductions – **Barb Clark** (5 minutes)
 - a. Please put your name and affiliation in the Chat
 - b. Please put any announcements you may have in the Chat
2. Program – Update on GLC, Mikel Berger, President and CEO, and Jeremy Lemus, Manager of Latino Business Initiatives. (Amy Sundell) 60 min
3. Hot Topics – if time available Barb Clark (15 min)
 - a. Change in format
 - b. Submission of questions is encouraged
 - c. Today's questions: Now that the Legislative Session has concluded for 2026, how do you feel about these bills?

Indiana Senate Bill 285 (SB 285), often referred to as the "Housing Matters" bill, is a controversial piece of legislation aims at prohibiting unauthorized camping, sleeping, or long-term shelter on public property.

Key details regarding the bill in the 2026 session include:

- **Criminalization of Homelessness:** The bill makes it a **Class C misdemeanor** for individuals to camp, sleep, or establish long-term, unauthorized shelter on state or local public property.
- **Process:** After a warning, individuals sleeping outside could be charged, leading to potential fines, tickets, or up to 60 days in jail.
- **Prohibition on Local Policies:** The bill prevents local governments from adopting or enforcing policies that prohibit the enforcement of public camping bans.
- **Civil Action:** It authorizes the Attorney General, as well as residents or business owners, to bring civil action against political subdivisions that fail to enforce these prohibitions.
- **Effective Date:** This provisions passed and is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2026.

FAILED: Indiana House Bill 1359 (2026 session) aimed to change election procedures by enabling counties to scan ballots earlier while simultaneously reducing the in-person early voting period from 28 days to 16 days. The bill, which also proposed using unique identifiers for ballots, failed to move forward in the Senate as of February 24, 2026, following public opposition.

Key details about the 2026 proposed HB 1359:

- **Reduced Voting Window:** The bill proposed cutting the early, in-person absentee voting period from 28 days down to 16 days, ending at noon the day before Election Day [LegiScan](#).
 - **Ballot Scanning Changes:** It allowed for ballots to be scanned starting on the first day of early voting rather than waiting.
 - **Unique Identifiers:** The bill authorized, and then later removed, provisions allowing election officials to print unique, voter-connected identifiers on ballots, allowing them to retract a ballot if a voter was deemed ineligible [Votebeat](#).
- Status:** The bill was heavily criticized for restricting voting access and failed to advance by the deadline

4. Announcements – Barb Clark (5 min)

- a. TAF Craft Beer Festival – April 16th at Tippecanoe County Parking Garage, 201 Columbia St.
- b. GLIBE Corporate Luncheon – April 21st 11 am, at Courtyard by Marriott.
- c. April 3rd – VOTE411.org will go live for the primary election
- d. April 6th – last day to register to vote for primary election
- e. April 7th – first day of early voting for primary election

5. Future Topics – **Sana Booker** (5 minutes)

- a. May 7 - Brainstorming of new topics (Barb Clark)
- b. June 4 – HIV Pathways, Nathan McBurnett (Christopher Munt)
- c. July 2 – Social Service and Outreach Teams from Law Enforcement agencies in Lafayette, W. Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County. Devon Moore, MSW, LCSW, Social Service & Crisis Response Specialist will coordinate. (Sheila Rosenthal). Sana Booker will facilitate.