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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE BOWEN CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS' HOOSIER SURVEY FINDS STRONG  
SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN AND INDECISION ON RIGHT-TO-  
WORK**

**INDIANAPOLIS – (December 15, 2011)** – Today The Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University unveiled the results of the 2011 Hoosier Survey at the Bingham McHale Legislative Conference. The fourth annual Hoosier Survey identified Indiana residents' top priorities for state government action during the coming year.

Most notably, the survey found that while Republican leadership in next year's General Assembly support Right-to-Work, they have yet to convince all adult Hoosiers. Nearly half of respondents (48 percent) are undecided on the Right-to-Work issue, and those who took a position, are nearly split with 27 percent supporting and 24 percent opposing the legislation.

"The 2011 Hoosier Survey results show that the Right-to-Work issue is not settled in the minds of Hoosiers," said Dr. Ray Scheele, co-director, The Bowen Center for Public Affairs. "Neither side has closed the sale."

In contrast, a majority (56 percent) of Hoosiers support a statewide ban on smoking in public places. Support for the ban carries across all regions of the state, with residents of Southern Indiana expressing the highest level of support at 62 percent. Support in the Northern and Central counties also were strong at 55 percent.

"A statewide smoking ban has failed in the past because of disagreement over what establishments, if any, should be exempt," said Dr. Scheele. "Some legislators have suggested different ways to overcome this obstacle but clearly there is widespread public support for a statewide prohibition."

These are just two key findings reported in the 2011 Hoosier Survey by The Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University. Additional survey findings included:

- Thirty-three percent of Hoosiers support expanding the use of school vouchers for charter and private schools while 37 percent oppose the extension.
- Job creation continues to be the number one priority for Hoosier residents with 78 percent saying legislators should put this item at the top of the legislative agenda.
- Hoosiers are willing to pay more for some services like fire protection and schools, but prefer cuts in service to tax hikes in support of other areas such as jails, parks and government operations.

About half of Hoosiers have an unfavorable view of the Affordable Care Act but they overwhelmingly support key provisions of the act, including making coverage more affordable, ensuring coverage for everyone and providing coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

- Hoosiers with medical insurance are more likely to visit a physician than the uninsured. While the insured are more likely to visit a physician than the uninsured, they also are more likely than the uninsured to have visited an Emergency Room for medical care in the last 12 months.
- Governor Daniels' approval rating stands at 58 percent, a slight increase from last year, while the General Assembly's approval has dipped by ten points to 39 percent.

The complete 2011 Hoosier Survey results were reported by The Bowen Center for Public Affairs at the 20th Bingham McHale Legislative Conference on Thursday, December 15, at the Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis. The poll was conducted by The Bowen Center for Public Affairs with interviewing completed by Princeton Research International. A random sampling of 607 Indiana households were interviewed November 14 – 17, 2011 using both cell phones and land lines. The Hoosier Survey has a -plus or minus 4.4 percent margin of error.

The Bowen Center for Public Affairs partnered with Ball State's Global Health Institute this year to look at opinions about recent health care legislation and the delivery of health care services in Indiana. These results also were presented at the conference.

For more information about the Hoosier Survey or The Bowen Center for Public Affairs, visit [www.bsu.edu/bowencenter](http://www.bsu.edu/bowencenter) or call (765) 285-8982.

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***We are accepting requests for copies of the complete survey results and Bowen Center interviews at this time. Please let us know if you are interested in either.***

**About The Bowen Center for Public Affairs**

Founded in 2007, The Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University empowers people who want to participate in their communities. The Bowen Center for Public Affairs offers expert and practical viewpoints on the operation of local and state governments. For more information about The Bowen Center for Public Affairs, visit [www.bsu.edu/bowencenter](http://www.bsu.edu/bowencenter) or call (765) 285-8982.

**About The Hoosier Survey**

The Hoosier Survey was conducted by the Bowen Center for Public Affairs and the Global Health Institute in conjunction with Princeton Research Associates International of Princeton, New Jersey. The survey was conducted by telephone, both cell and landline, among a random sample of Hoosier adults over the age of 18 from November 14 – 27. Six hundred seven respondents completed the survey, yielding a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.