

Thoughts on Technology, the Internet  
By Rep. Mike Pence

---

The history of mankind is littered with great inventions-the internet being chief among them. The printing press of our generation, it has revolutionized the way information is processed and delivered.

Among the innumerable ways in which the internet has contributed positively to our society, what sticks out most to me as a public official is transparency. Never before has there been such potency to the dissemination and deconstruction of information and it has fostered greater accountability and accessibility. If public scrutiny is sunlight, then the internet has taken on the role of magnifying glass.

Americans have grown accustomed to getting breaking news in real time and expect institutions, companies and public figures alike to have robust and significant presences online. And with advances in new media, the opportunities for expanding online have proliferated.

On balance, I believe this has been a positive addition to the public square.

In fact, I have embraced the world of online technology and new media because I believe it is a natural extension of my firm belief in the freedom of information and the empowerment of an informed citizenry. That's why I've always made it a priority to make my website more than just a stagnant and unwieldy site proffering little information that is timely or useful. I was the first Member of Congress to have a blog on my official website, I am active on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. In fact, I just unveiled this week a new and improved website ([www.mikepence.house.gov](http://www.mikepence.house.gov)) that I believe to be a website of the next generation.

My motivation is more than an interest in new media, or a fascination with technology-it is driven by my desire to serve the people of Indiana better. They deserve to know not only what I am doing on Capitol Hill, but they should also have a convenient place to find out information on things that can be of direct benefit to them-from pressing matters of casework dealing with

federal agencies to information on places of interest to visit in Washington, DC.

I invite all Hoosiers-young and old-to visit my website, follow me on Twitter ( [@RepMikePence](#) ), become a Facebook friend and watch me on

[YouTube](#)

; and I invite them to utilize the tools they have through those means to contact me, to let me know what's on their minds and how I can serve them better-I read all my mail, no matter how it arrives into my inbox. The free exchange of ideas and opinions is what makes our national experiment in democracy the dynamic and unprecedented success that it is.

The culture and attitude that I have tried to instill and foster in my office in Washington as well as my offices in Anderson, Muncie and Richmond is one of service-and that extends to my online office as well. As technology will inevitably develop, the people of Eastern Indiana can rest assured that my online outreach and accessibility will develop with it. However, as important as the internet and new media are-what I hope will be the unchanging hallmark of my service in public life is a thoughtful and principled approach to the issues that matter to the people of the Sixth Congressional District of Indiana.