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## Ketzenberger to head fiscal policy group

### *Star report*

Indianapolis Star business columnist John Ketzenberger is leaving the newspaper to become president of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute, a private organization that conducts research on issues from property tax reform to state spending.

Ketzenberger, 45, one of Indiana's best-known business journalists, has written a business column three days a week since joining the Star in 2005. His final column will run on Sept. 13.

"John brought a strong voice to our business coverage and had great contacts in the business community," said Dennis Ryerson, editor and vice president of the Star. "He was able to tell the story beneath the headlines."

Ketzenberger said he will miss reporting news. "But I don't see this as a huge change in my career," he said. "I will still be gathering information, distilling it, and getting it out to the public."

The institute, founded in 1987, is best known for its non-partisan research on complex fiscal topics, such as education reform and property tax reform. Its reports, which are researched by outside contractors, are often quoted in public debates as a source of unbiased research.

In his new position, Ketzenberger will be responsible for managing research projects and overseeing a \$250,000 annual budget. He said he will be responsible for boosting membership, which spans business groups, universities and unions. The group's membership has slipped from more than 200 a decade ago to about 15 today. He will be the institute's only paid employee.

In addition to writing a business column for the Star, he is a panelist on "Indiana Week in Review," a political roundtable program that airs on public television stations around the state. He is often interviewed by radio and television stations seeking explanation and commentary about the state's business and economic news.

"John knows the players and issues around the state," said Steve Rahn, vice president and associate general counsel for Lincoln Financial Group and chairman of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute. "He will be able to reach out to our diverse audiences and help spread our message and drive membership."

Before coming to the Star four years ago, Ketzenberger was managing editor of the Indianapolis Business Journal, Indiana bureau chief of Gannett News Service and statehouse bureau chief of the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.

Ketzenberger, who lives in Indianapolis, graduated from Ball State University in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. Ketzenberger's wife, Jolene, is the food writer for the Star's Taste section.

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