

Your vote. **THEIR FUTURE.**

A Marion County Voter Guide for Youth and Families



1375 West 16th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202 www.mccoyouth.org



About Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY)

For more than 30 years, Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY) has worked to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families across Marion County through community and systems change. As a leading intermediary organization, MCCOY connects partners, strengthens youth-serving organizations, elevates youth voice, and advocates for policies that support the well-being of young people and families. MCCOY’s work spans key issues including education, juvenile justice, violence prevention, child care, mental health, family stability, and supporting the youth-serving workforce.



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About your voter guide



This guide is non-partisan.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, MCCOY is prohibited from endorsing or opposing political candidates or parties. Our role is to provide nonpartisan voter education by helping voters understand the responsibilities of elected offices, identify the candidates seeking those positions, and learn about the priorities and issues highlighted by each campaign.



Marion County focus.

This guide focuses on elected offices that represent Marion County residents at the national, state, and local levels. To compile this information, we reviewed candidate websites, news coverage, public interviews, and other publicly available sources. We have also highlighted information that may help voters understand how candidates' stated priorities could impact youth and families in the communities they serve.

Guide updates



This guide is a living resource and will be updated as additional campaign information becomes available. Our team will make every effort to keep the information current, accurate, and reflective of publicly available candidate updates.

If you are aware of new campaign information, corrections, or updates that should be considered for inclusion, please contact MCCOY's advocacy team. Your feedback helps us ensure voters have access to the most accurate and helpful information possible.



Be informed.

Our goal is not to tell you how to vote, but to provide you with the information you need to make informed decisions that reflect your own values and priorities. We have worked to keep this guide neutral, factual, and accessible so that every voter can approach Election Day with confidence.

An informed electorate is essential to a healthy democracy, and understanding who is running for office—and what those offices do—is an important step in making your voice heard.

What you'll learn from this guide:

- **What each elected office does** and how the decisions made by those officials affect youth, families, and communities throughout Marion County.
- **How government leaders influence services and opportunities for children and families**, including areas such as education, public safety, health, economic stability, and community well-being.
- **How elected officials impact the youth-service profession**, including policies, funding, and programs that support young people and the organizations that serve them.
- **Who the candidates are for each office**, including their backgrounds, qualifications, and experiences.
- **What each candidate's priorities are** and how they say they will use their position to support youth and families if elected, helping you make informed decisions when casting your ballot.

We encourage you to bring this guide with you to the polls as a resource while casting your ballot.

Whatever choices you make, we hope this guide helps you feel informed, prepared, and empowered to participate in our democracy.



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National Level Elections



U.S. House of Representatives

There are 9 U.S. House seats up for election for all of Indiana. Marion County makes up Indiana's 7th Congressional district and voters that live here will have the chance to vote on their U.S. House representative this November.

U.S. House Representatives write and vote on federal laws, determine federal spending priorities, and advocate for their district in Congress. They influence policies on healthcare, education, jobs, immigration, public safety, and federal investments in local communities.

Indiana's 7th Congressional district includes the following Marion County townships: Pike, Washington, Lawrence, Wayne, Center, and Warren.



7th Congressional District Candidates



carsonforcongress.com

André Carson

Incumbent



Party: Democrat

Age: 51

Occupation: Elected official

Terms: 2008–present, U.S. Representative

Focus on youth and families: Carson has spent 17 years securing federal funding for Indianapolis youth services, early childhood education, and after-school programs. He hosts an annual Youth Opportunities Fair and has fought for affordable healthcare, childcare, and nutrition assistance for working families.

Top priorities: Lowering costs, infrastructure, healthcare access, education equity, and public safety reform.



mcauleyforthe7th.com

Patrick McAuley



Party: Republican

Age: 29

Occupation: Real estate broker; former U.S. Senate staffer

Focus on youth and families: McAuley supports expanding trade and technical career paths for young people who skip college. He ties housing stability and affordability directly to family well-being.

Top priorities: Affordability, public safety, housing stability, career pathways, and job growth.



lpin.org

James Sceniak



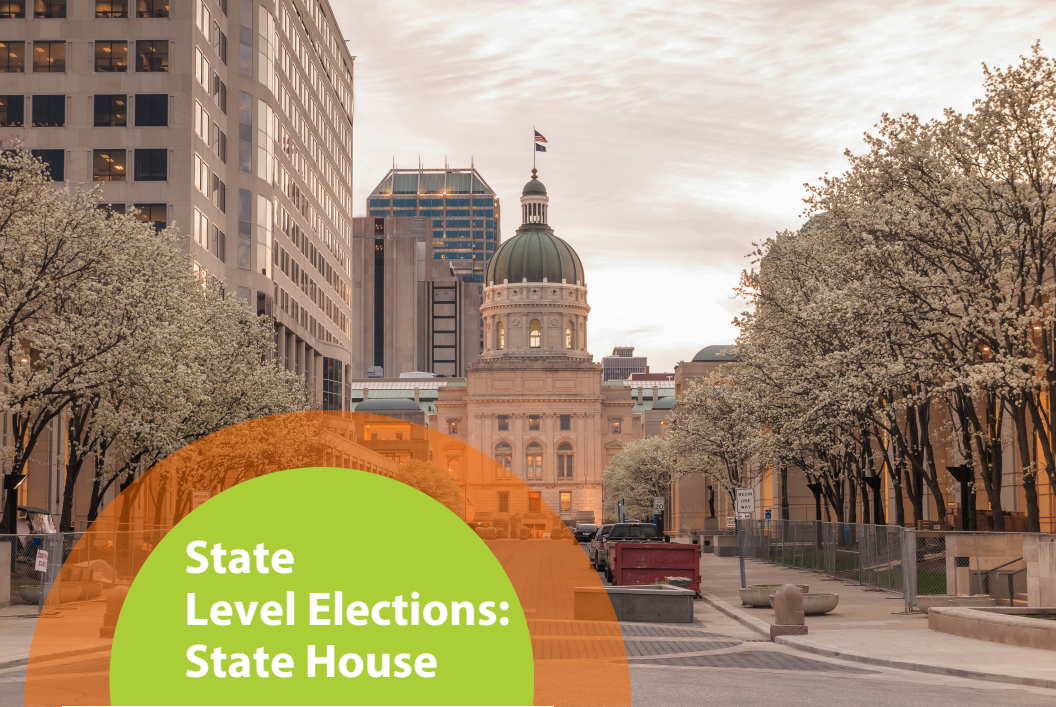
Party: Libertarian

Age: 37

Occupation: Lead registered behavioral therapist (specializing in autism)

Focus on youth and families: Sceniak works daily with autistic children as a behavioral therapist — his most direct connection to youth. He argues that cutting inflation and federal spending delivers the biggest relief to struggling families.

Top priorities: Reducing inflation, cutting federal spending, free market economy, border reform, and Second Amendment rights.



State Level Elections: State House



Indiana House of Representatives

Within and surrounding Marion County, Indiana House Representative seats are up for election on districts 32, 87, 88, 89, and 90. The specific candidates on your ballot depend on your home address and assigned legislative district.

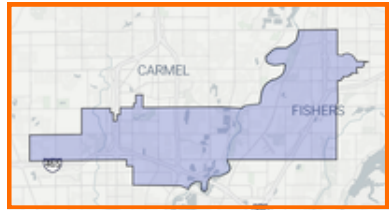
Indiana State Representatives help write state laws, approve the state budget, and make decisions on issues such as education, healthcare, public safety, infrastructure, and economic development.

Find your State House District



State House Candidate, District 32

House District 32 includes: portions of northern Marion County (Washington and Clay Townships) and southern Hamilton County.



wilburnforindiana.com

Victoria Garcia Wilburn

Incumbent and Unopposed



Party: Democrat

Age: 43

Occupation: Associate Professor, Indiana University–Indianapolis (occupational therapy)

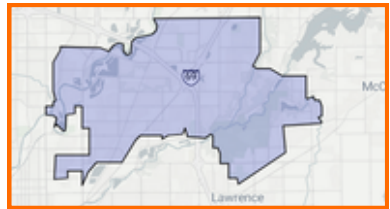
Terms: 2022-present, Indiana House (District 32)

Focus on youth and families: Wilburn has a professional background in health care, disability services, and community-engaged research. In the legislature, she has championed mental health initiatives, including legislation providing mental health and resiliency training for public safety professionals. She frequently highlights support for children, families, and individuals with disabilities.

Top priorities: Mental health, disability advocacy, community health, workforce development, and policies supporting children and families.

State House Candidate, District 87

House District 87 includes portions of northeast Indianapolis, including parts of Lawrence and Washington Township.



careyhamilton.com

Carey Hamilton

Incumbent and Unopposed



Party: Democrat

Age: 53

Occupation: Climate-tech executive

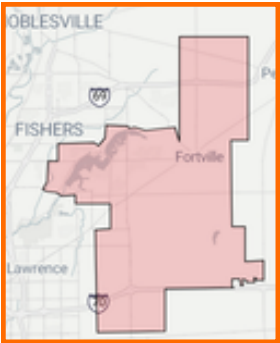
Terms: 2016-present, Indiana House (District 87)

Focus on youth and families: Hamilton frequently advocates for public education, environmental health, transportation safety, and quality-of-life issues affecting families. As a parent and longtime public policy leader, she often frames legislation around creating healthier communities and opportunities for future generations.

Top priorities: Environmental sustainability, clean energy, public health, government ethics, and support for working families.

State House Candidates, District 88

House District 88 portions of northeast Marion County (primarily the Lawrence area), along with parts of Hamilton, Hancock, and Madison counties.



chrisjeter.com

Chris Jeter

Incumbent



Party: Republican
Age: 46
Occupation: Attorney (partner, Massillamany & Jeter LLP); U.S. Navy Reserve JAG officer
Terms: 2020-present, Indiana House (District 88)

Focus on youth and families: Jeter has emphasized educational choice, parental rights, and policies aimed at strengthening family stability. His legislative work has often centered on government reform and education issues impacting Indiana families.

Top priorities: Education policy, government accountability, election integrity, fiscal responsibility, economic development, and public safety.



stephaniejocum.com

Stephanie Jo Yocum



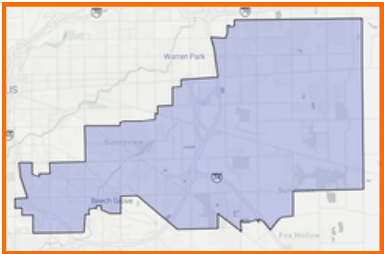
Party: Democrat
Age: 43
Occupation: VP, Playworks; Chair, Serve Indiana

Focus on youth and families: Yocum has highlighted public education, family economic security, and community investment. She leads a national nonprofit that improves the health & well-being of young children through play. Her campaign messaging emphasizes ensuring children have access to strong schools and safe communities.

Top priorities: Public education, affordable housing, reproductive freedom, economic opportunity, and community investment.

State House Candidates, District 89

House District 89 includes portions of southeast Indianapolis, encompassing parts of Franklin, Perry, and Warren Townships.



mitchgore.com

Mitch Gore

Incumbent



Party: Democrat
Age: 34
Occupation: Captain, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Terms: 2020-present, Indiana House (District 89)

Focus on youth and families: Gore's work in law enforcement and community development has shaped his focus on public safety, violence prevention, and creating safer neighborhoods for children and families. He frequently discusses community-based solutions to crime and improving opportunities for young people.

Top priorities: Public safety, violence prevention, community development, workforce opportunities, and government accountability.



[ballotpedia.org/
Drew_Weingarten](http://ballotpedia.org/Drew_Weingarten)

Drew Weingarten



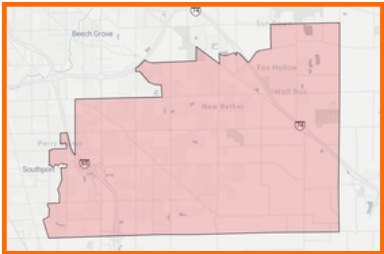
Party: Libertarian
Age:
Occupation: Business professional/entrepreneur

Focus on youth and families:

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.

State House Candidate, District 90

House District 90 includes the southeastern portion of Marion County, primarily covering parts of Franklin and Perry Townships on Indianapolis's south and southeast sides.



irelandforindiana.com

Andrew Ireland

Incumbent and Unopposed



Party: Republican

Age:

Occupation: Attorney at Scopelitis

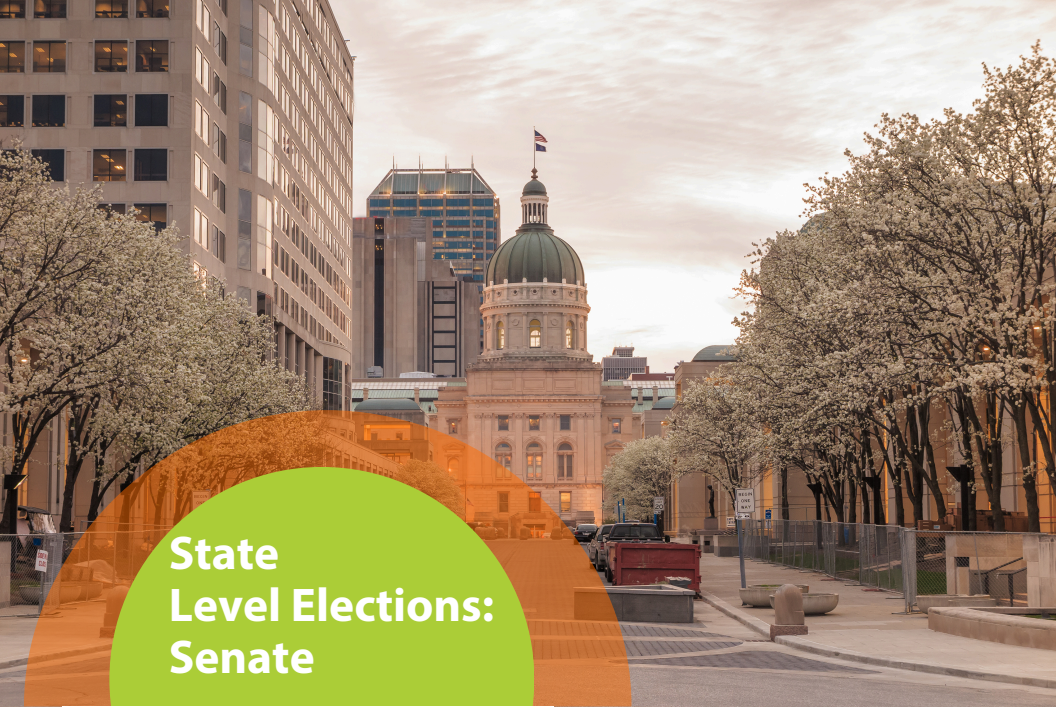
Terms: 2024-present, Indiana House (District 90)

Focus on youth and families: Ireland serves on the House Education committee. He has emphasized economic opportunity and reducing the cost burden on working families. His campaign generally focuses on policies intended to promote financial security and job growth.

Top priorities: Fiscal responsibility, economic development, workforce growth, public safety, and limited government.

Find your State House District





State Level Elections: Senate



Indiana State Senate

Within and surrounding Marion County, Indiana State Senate seats are up for election in Districts 29, 31, and 46. The specific candidates on your ballot depend on your home address and assigned legislative district.

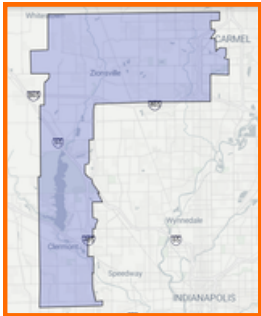
Indiana State Senators write and vote on state laws, approve the state budget, and confirm certain state officials appointed by the governor. State Senators play a key role in determining funding priorities for education, healthcare, public safety, and infrastructure.

Find your State Senate District



State Senate Candidates, District 29

Senate District 29 includes portions of northwest and west Indianapolis, along with portions of Carmel in Hamilton County and Zionsville in Boone County.



ruck4senate.com

John Ruckelshaus



Party: Republican
Age: 65
Occupation: Business executive
Terms: Former Indiana House member (1990–1992) and Indiana Senator (2016–2020)

Focus on youth and families: Ruckelshaus has historically emphasized education, workforce development, and policies aimed at strengthening economic opportunities for Indiana families. He supports the the dignity of life and seeks to empower parents and ensure they have a strong voice in their children’s education

Top priorities: Economic development, workforce readiness, fiscal responsibility, government efficiency, and long-term economic growth.



kristinamoorhead.com

Kristina Moorhead



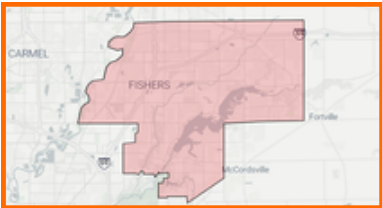
Party: Democrat
Occupation: Deputy director of the Indiana Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning

Focus on youth and families: Moorhead’s campaign has emphasized public education, affordable childcare, healthcare access, and policies intended to support working families. Her messaging frequently focuses on creating opportunities for children and strengthening community resources.

Top priorities: Public education, healthcare access, affordability, reproductive healthcare protections, and economic opportunity for working families.

State Senate Candidates, District 31

Senate District 31 includes portions northeast Marion County and southern Hamilton County, including parts of Lawrence, Geist, and Fishers.



Juanita Albright



Party: Republican
Age: 58
Occupation: Physician; President of the Hamilton Southeastern School Board

Focus on youth and families: Albright's experience as both a physician and school board president gives her a direct connection to children and families. She highlights education, school safety, parental involvement, and healthcare affordability as central issues affecting Indiana families. She frequently discusses decisions impacting students, educators, and working parents.

Top priorities: Lowering property taxes, fiscal responsibility, maintaining high academic standards, school safety, parental rights, affordable healthcare, and support for working families.



Kerry Forestal



Party: Democrat
Age: 68
Occupation: Marion County Sheriff; former U.S. Marshal for Southern Indiana

Focus on youth and families: Forestal's campaign emphasizes public safety, violence prevention, affordable childcare, and reducing costs for working families. His experience in law enforcement has shaped a focus on safe schools, community safety, and evidence-based violence prevention programs that impact youth and families.

Top priorities: Public safety, safe schools, lowering healthcare and childcare costs, government accountability, violence prevention, and affordability for working families.

State Senate Candidate, District 46

Senate District 46 includes much of the near east side, downtown, and southeast portions of Indianapolis, including neighborhoods such as Irvington, Fountain Square, Garfield Park, and Warren Park.



allissaimpink.com

Allisa Impink

Unopposed



Party: Democrat

Age:

Occupation: Director of Statewide Community Engagement, Women’s Foundation of Indiana

Focus on youth and families: Impink centers much of her platform on strengthening public education, supporting educators, improving housing stability, and ensuring families have access to opportunity. As a parent, she frequently frames policy through the lens of what families need to thrive.

Top priorities: Fully funding public education, affordable housing, housing stability, healthcare access, and affordable child care

Find your State Senate District



Secretary of State



maxforindiana.com

Max Engling



Party: Republican

Age: 39

Occupation: Central Indiana regional director and adviser to U.S. Senator Jim Banks

Focus on youth and families: Engling's campaign prioritizes secure elections, less government, and supporting small businesses.

Top priorities: Conservative election reforms, close Indiana primaries, stop business fraud, ensure citizen-only voting, support small businesses and entrepreneurs, and increase government transparency. He has been a Republican congressional staffer in D.C. and worked in agriculture with Beck's Hybrids.

Beau Bayh



Party: Democrat

Age: 33

Occupation: Attorney; former U.S. Marine Corps Infantry Captain

Focus on youth and families: Bayh's campaign focuses primarily on government accountability, election integrity, and restoring trust in public institutions. He frequently emphasizes public service, civic engagement, and creating a government that works for future generations. His background includes military service, law, and public policy.

Top priorities: Election integrity, government accountability, ethics reform, reducing corruption, protecting voting access, and restoring trust in state government.



gregballard.com

Greg Ballard



Party: Independent

Age: 71

Occupation: Former Mayor of Indianapolis;
retired U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant colonel

Focus on youth and families: Ballard's public record includes support for neighborhood development, public safety, and civic engagement. His current campaign is focused primarily on election administration and government reform rather than youth-specific policy.

Top priorities: Government reform, election administration, transparency, and independent leadership.



lauriforliberty.com

Lauri Shillings



Party: Libertarian

Age: 55

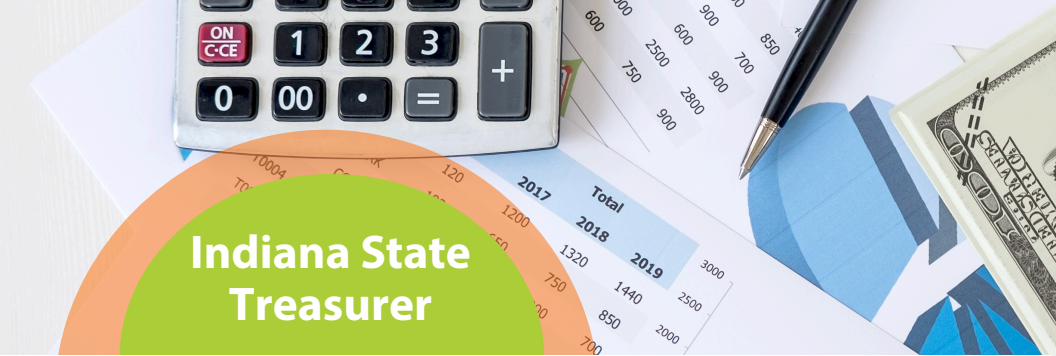
Occupation: Creative Director at University of
Indianapolis and small-business owner

Focus on youth and families: Shillings believes that Hoosiers deserve a Secretary of State who serves the people, not political parties. Her campaign focuses on restoring trust in elections, protecting Hoosier voters, and modernizing the services Indiana businesses rely on every day.

Top priorities: Limited government, individual freedoms, election administration reform, and reducing government bureaucracy.

What is the Secretary of State?

The Indiana Secretary of State is responsible for "maintenance of state records and preservation of the state seal." They also charter new businesses, regulate the securities industry within Indiana, run state elections and provide a number of services to the state's automobile dealers.



Indiana State Treasurer

The Treasurer of State upholds fiduciary responsibilities while investing and safeguarding public funds, overseeing the management of the state's financial assets, and providing accurate and timely funding to state and local stakeholders.



danielelliott.org

Daniel Elliot

Incumbent



Party: Republican

Occupation: Software engineer, Morgan County Council Member and President of the Morgan County Redevelopment Commission

Terms: 2023-2026. Indiana State Treasurer

Focus on youth and families: Elliott prioritizes education savings and school choice, to help families save for college, technical school, and apprenticeships through Indiana529. He supports parents ability to customize their children's education through scholarship accounts.

Top priorities: Infrastructure development for local communities, economic development, government transparency, and supporting conservative values.



kebeforindiana.com

Coumba Kebe



Party: Democrat

Age: 31

Occupation: Healthcare executive, entrepreneur, and public health professional

Focus on youth and families: Kebe prioritizes public education and outreach so more families can access programs that help them save, invest, plan for higher education, and build financial security. She is also focused on issues such as workforce participation, aging populations, childcare access, and healthcare affordability.

Top priorities: Transparency, accessibility, responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and long-term planning that helps strengthen Indiana's future.



Indiana Comptroller of State

The Indiana Comptroller of State serves as the chief financial officer of the government of Indiana. They maintain all State accounts such as state employee compensation and tax money distribution.



eliseforcomptroller.com

Elise Nieshalla

Incumbent



Party: Republican

Occupation: President of the Boone County Council and President of the Indiana County Councils Association

Terms: 2023-2026

Top priorities: Defend conservative values, keep Indiana great for business and families, lead the call from states to address the national debt, end investments in China and ESG, and make government more efficient.



[www.facebook.com/
Bailey4Indiana](https://www.facebook.com/Bailey4Indiana)

Jessica Bailey



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Porter County Circuit Court Clerk

Top priorities: Transparency and accountability for tax-payers, independent fiscal oversight, government efficiency, and servant leadership.



[ballotpedia.org/
John_Schick](https://ballotpedia.org/John_Schick)

John Schick



Party: Libertarian

Occupation: Business consultant and former state Libertarian Party treasurer

Top priorities: Fiscal oversight, independent fiscal analysis, low taxes, limited government, and deregulation.

State Public Question:

Bailable Offenses and Substantial Risk Standard Amendment

Provide for the denial of bail when the accused is found to pose a substantial risk to another person.



This measure would change the Indiana Constitution to allow judges to deny bail to certain people accused of crimes if they are considered a serious danger to others or the community.



A "Yes" vote would allow judges to deny bail when there is strong evidence that the person committed the crime and the person is considered a substantial risk to public safety.

Supporters of this amendment have stated it will increase public safety, provide more accountability, and decrease crime.

"(Offenders) need to be held without an immediate release until intervention can occur through the courts, and then they need to be held accountable in their sentencing with those crimes."

- Rick Snyder, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) leader



"Today... every criminal defendant is authorized to be released on bail, unless it is determined for treason, even if (they are) a substantial risk to the public. This amendment would change that to allow anyone who's deemed a public safety threat to be held indefinitely."

-Rep. Chris Jeter, State Representative District 88 (R-Fishers)

"This resolution moving forward is a great step toward ensuring our communities are protected from those who pose a threat."

-Sen. Eric Koch, State Senator District 44 (R-Bedford)



A "No" vote would keep the current constitutional rules for bail and would not make this change.

Opponents to this amendment have raised concerns about the lasting effects of detention, decreasing judge's right of discretion, jail overcrowding, the loss of a presumption of innocence, and violations of due process protections.



"It (detention) can cost someone their job, their housing, and even custody of their children. Even when charges are dismissed or a person is found not guilty these harms cannot be undone."

-Samantha Bresnahan, ACLU of Indiana

"The proposal would substantially hinder the presumptively innocent person's right to prepare a complete defense, to hire counsel of their choosing, and to have a fair trial."

-Mike Cunningham, Chair of IN State Bar Association Criminal Justice Section



"It's not based on the charge — it's based on the person, which makes this even more egregious. If you don't think there are some judges out here that may have bias in their community of certain people, then you haven't been to court in Indiana."

-Sen. Greg Taylor, State Senator District 33, (D-Indianapolis)

State Public Question:

Indiana Residency Requirements for City and Town Court Judges Amendment



This measure would change the Indiana Constitution to set residency requirements for city and town court judges



A "Yes" vote would require city and town court judges to live either in the county where their court is located or in a neighboring county.

Supporters say that this change would remedy a significant shortage of judges and lack of access to legal services, especially in rural areas of Indiana.



"Lawyers who could later serve as judges have become increasingly scarce in more rural areas of the state. With older lawyers retiring and not enough new ones to replace them, rural communities are limited when it comes to legal services."

-State Rep. Michael Aylesworth, State Representative District 11 (R-Hebron)

"According to an American Bar Association study, there are only 2.3 lawyers for every 1,000 Hoosiers, ranking Indiana 43rd compared to other states. Nearly half of Indiana's 16,000 lawyers are located in or around Indianapolis, limiting rural communities' access to legal services."

-Statement made by the Indiana Statehouse Republican Caucus



A "No" vote would keep the current constitutional rule that city and town court judges must live in the city or town where the court is located.

Critics could argue it weakens local accountability, though no formal opposing statements have emerged.



Marion County Offices

Marion County Assessor

The Assessor's Office is primarily an administrative office, but its work affects property taxes that help fund schools, libraries, public safety, and local government services used by children and families.



Joseph P. O'Connor

Incumbent and Unopposed



Party: Democrat

Age: 53

Occupation: Marion County Assessor; career property assessment professional

Terms: 2010-present, Marion County Assessor

Top priorities: Fair and accurate property assessments, property tax administration, reassessment oversight, taxpayer appeals, GIS/property records management, and maintaining assessment equity across Marion County.

Marion County Auditor

The Marion County Auditor plays a significant role in county finances, payroll, budgeting, and property tax administration that support schools, public safety, parks, libraries, and other services used by children and families.



Myla A. Eldridge

Incumbent and Unopposed



Party: Democrat

Age: 61

Occupation: Marion County Auditor

Terms: 2023-present, Marion County Auditor

Top priorities: Fiscal oversight, county financial management, government transparency, public accountability, voter engagement, and efficient delivery of county services.

Marion County Clerk of Circuit Court

The Marion County Clerk oversees election administration and maintains court records, including many cases that directly affect families such as child custody, child support, guardianship, adoption, and protective orders. While the office does not provide direct youth services, it plays an important role in ensuring families can access the courts, legal protections, public records, and the democratic process efficiently and fairly.



Kate Sweeney Bell

Incumbent



Party: Democrat

Age: 54

Occupation: Marion County Clerk

Terms: 2023-present, Marion County Clerk

Top priorities: Election accessibility, election security, government transparency, modernization of county services, voter participation, and efficient administration of court and election functions



Robbin Stewart



Party: Republican

Age: 65

Occupation: Retired attorney

Top priorities: Election administration, poll worker training, election oversight, and government operations. Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Marion County Prosecuting Attorney

The Marion County Prosecutor leads the office responsible for prosecuting criminal cases and plays a significant role in shaping how the justice system responds to youth violence, child abuse, domestic violence, and crimes affecting children and families. Through decisions about charging, diversion programs, victim services, and community safety initiatives, the office can influence youth outcomes, family stability, and public safety throughout Marion County.



ryanmears.com

Ryan Mears

Incumbent



Party: Democrat
Age: 40
Occupation: Marion County Prosecutor; attorney
Terms: 2019-present, Marion County Prosecutor

Focus on youth and families: Mears has emphasized violence prevention, diversion programs, restorative justice, gun violence reduction, and support for crime victims. His office has expanded efforts aimed at addressing the root causes of crime, including initiatives focused on youth intervention, community violence prevention, and reducing recidivism. He frequently frames public safety as a public health and community well-being issue affecting children and families.

Top priorities: Violent crime reduction, gun violence prevention, diversion and restorative justice programs, victim services, community-based public safety strategies, and criminal justice reform.



philipfoust.com

Philip Foust



Party: Republican
Occupation: Attorney; former prosecutor

Focus on youth and families: Foust has emphasized a traditional public safety approach centered on prosecution of violent offenders, accountability, and enforcement of criminal laws. His campaign argues that stronger prosecution can improve neighborhood safety and create safer environments for children and families.

Top priorities: Public safety, prosecution of violent crime, accountability for offenders, support for law enforcement, and reducing repeat offenses.

Marion County Recorder

The Marion County Recorder maintains official records of property ownership and real estate transactions, helping ensure accurate documentation of homes, mortgages, liens, and other property-related records. While the office does not directly serve youth, its work supports housing stability, homeownership, and property rights—factors that can significantly affect the economic security and well-being of children and families.



Facebook: @faithforrecorder

Faith James Kimbrough

Incumbent and Unopposed



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Marion County Recorder
Terms: 2023-present, Marion County Recorder

Top priorities: Accurate record keeping, modernization of public records systems, transparency, customer service, and protecting property records.

Marion County Sheriff

The Marion County Sheriff serves as the county's chief law enforcement officer, overseeing the county jail, court security, warrant service, and key public safety functions. The office has a direct impact on children and families through its role in community safety, responses to domestic violence, interactions with youth involved in the justice system, pretrial detention practices, and efforts to reduce crime and violence in neighborhoods across Marion County.



kelviswilliams4sheriff.com

Kelvis Williams

Unopposed



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Deputy Sheriff

Focus on youth and families: Williams oversees the Marion County Jail, warrant service, court security, and county law enforcement operations. His office plays a direct role in community safety, violence reduction, domestic violence response, and interactions with justice-involved youth and families. Williams has emphasized public safety, community trust, and collaborative approaches to reducing crime.

Top priorities: Public safety, violence reduction, community partnerships, jail operations, officer recruitment and retention, and improving trust between law enforcement and residents.

Marion County Small Claims Court, Lawrence Township Constable

The Lawrence Township Constable provides security for Small Claims Court, serves court documents, and carries out certain law enforcement duties. While the position has limited direct involvement with youth services, it can affect families through court proceedings involving housing, debt, evictions, protective orders, and other civil matters that may impact family stability and economic well-being.



Tracey Cantrell

Unopposed



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Captain, Lawrence Police Department

Top priorities: Court security, service of legal process, public safety, and efficient court operations.

Marion County Small Claims Court, Lawrence Township Judge

Small Claims Court Judges hear and decide civil cases involving disputes under \$10,000, including landlord-tenant issues, property damage claims, debt collection, and contract disputes. While the court does not typically handle youth-related matters directly, its decisions can affect family stability, housing security, and financial well-being, all of which influence outcomes for children and families.



Kimberly Bacon

Incumbent and Unopposed



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Lawrence Township judge

Terms: 2025 - present, Lawrence Township judge

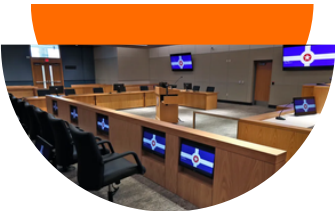


Small Claims Bio

Top priorities: Fair and impartial administration of justice, access to the courts, efficient case resolution, and ensuring litigants receive a fair hearing.



Marion Superior Court Judges



Fifteen incumbent judges will appear on the ballot in November for voters to decide whether each judge will be retained for another term.

The Marion Superior Court has jurisdiction over all criminal cases, civil issues and family case types filed in the county.

- The court’s criminal division handles all criminal charges filed by the prosecutor’s office such as misdemeanors, D felony/Level 6, major felony, domestic violence, and drug-related matters.
- The court’s civil division handles general civil cases, probate, and environmental cases.
- The court’s family division handles juvenile case types and domestic relations matters.



Judge Richard M. Blaiklock

Family Division



Judge Marshelle Broadwell

Family Division



Judge David Certo

Civil Division



Judge Angela Davis

Criminal Division



Judge P.J. Dietrick

Civil Division



Judge Kurt Eisgruber

Civil Division



Judge Geoffrey Gaither

Family Division



Judge Ryan Gardner

Family Division



Judge Melanie Kendrick

Family Division



Judge Christina Klineman

Criminal Division



Judge Patricia McMath

*Superior Court 33
(Evictions, Ordinance
Violations, Traffic)*



Judge Timothy Oakes

Civil Division



Judge James Osborn

Criminal Division



Judge Marc Rothenberg

Criminal Division



Judge Phillip Sheward

Family Division

Marion County Superior Court judges are **nonpartisan**. They are appointed through Indiana's merit-selection process rather than elected as Democrats or Republicans, and voters decide only whether to retain them in office. Therefore, there is no official party affiliation for these judges.



Marion County School Board elections

Marion County School Boards

School boards are locally elected bodies that help guide the direction of public education in their communities. In Marion County, school boards make important decisions about district priorities, budgets, policies, academic programs, and the overall experience of students, families, and educators. Because school board members have a direct impact on how local schools are governed and how resources are used, school board elections are an important opportunity for voters to learn about candidates and the vision they have for the future of education in their community.

**Please note that this voter guide reflects publicly available candidate information as of July 6, 2026. School board candidates were only recently released. Information on those candidates remains limited at this time. We encourage you to check back frequently for the most current details.*

Indianapolis Public Schools

District 2



Bryan Duarte



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Assistant professor at the Purdue University College of Education

Top priorities: Accountability of public schools and fiscal stability



Hasaan Rashid

Incumbent



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Utility Pipe Sales and Founder of Brendon Park Live Music Festival

Terms: March 2026- present

Top priorities: Student literacy and quality charter expansion



Loren Eugene Heger



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Managing Principal at FNEX

Top priorities: Streamline operations and grow enrollment



Hope Duke Star

Incumbent



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Children's services manager at Dayspring Center

Terms: 2023-present, current board president

Top priorities: Expanding opportunities for students, mental and emotional health, collaboration with the community and families, and creating pathways to lifelong success



Derek Redelman



Party: Independent

Occupation: Consulting firm owner and senior fellow at the Sagamore Institute

Top priorities: Boost academic performance and enrollment



Daqavise D. Winston



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Teacher at MSD Warren Township

Top priorities: Balancing long-term sustainability and improving student's outcomes



Chris Bultman



Party: Democrat

Age:

Occupation: Regional director of external affairs at Concept Schools

Top priorities: high-quality public education, bettering student's outcomes, and improving fiscal health



Nicole Carey

Incumbent



Party: Democrat

Age:

Occupation: Founder and CEO of consulting and research firm Convergence Global

Terms: 2023-present, current board vice president

Top priorities: high-quality public education and financial sustainability



Yuri Smith Sr.



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Runs nonprofit Y2G Indy, Indy's Inner City Chess Club and works with Global Prep Academy

Top priorities: Engage families and community members in district decisions



Pearl Taylor



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Licensed professional stylist, coach, and youth mentor; also a Freedom Readers Fellow with RISE Indy

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Heather Houston



Party: Independent

Occupation: instructional coach, special education license at Liberty Grove schools

Top priorities: Rebuild trust between schools, families, and the community



Angelia Lois Moore

Incumbent



Party: Democrat

Occupation: finance manager for the City of Indianapolis

Terms: 2023-present

Top priorities: Communication and transparency, quality school options, strategic planning



Alexander S. Nyirendah



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Vice Chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party and the Director of the Marion County Board of Voter Registration

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Sacha Nicole Sharp



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Assistant professor of medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine

Top priorities: Sustainable IPS that produces high-achieving students, reducing corporate interests in city education



Brian Downard

Incumbent

Party: Non-Partisan
Terms: 2024-present

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Tiffani Flick



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Hornet Park Community Center
Director

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Jannis King

Incumbent



Party: Independent
Occupation: President of Beech Grove Public School
Board and part-time substitute teacher
Terms: Over 10 years

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Madison West

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Director of Government Affairs with
Torchbearer Public Affairs

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Randi Berryman

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Founder of Protect Decatur Township

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Teresa A. Burns

Party: Non-Partisan

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Judith Collins

Incumbent



Party: Republican
Occupation: Secretary of MSD Decatur Township
School Board
Terms: Over 10 years

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Dale Henson

Incumbent



Party: Republican
Occupation: Executive Director Indiana Fire Chiefs
Association
Terms: Current President of MSD Decatur Township
School Board

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.

MSD of Decatur Township, Cont. *Three At-Large Seats are on the ballot*



Steve Jacobi

Party: Non-Partisan

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Patrice Johnson

Party: Non-Partisan

Occupation: Owner and CEO at Agent Score Report
- Insurance Services

Top priorities: Support for teachers, transparency, and focus on students, families, and the township's future.



Chase Lyday

Incumbent



Party: Republican

Occupation: Real Estate Broker

Terms: Board Vice President of MSD Decatur Township

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Kristyn D. Stoddard



Party: Independent

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Komal (Komal Kaur) Chohan



Party: Independent
Occupation: President of Umeed-Hope and Volunteer Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Franklin College

Top priorities: Student support, strong schools, and involving student voices.



dawndownerforschoolboard.com

Dawn Downer

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Works to support early education, specifically pre-k and preschool students

Top priorities: Advancing student outcomes, financial responsibility, community involvement, transparency, safety, and academic growth.



Antonio DeWayne Key, Sr.



Party: Democrat

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Tim McVey



Party: Republican
Occupation: Substitute bus driver for Franklin Township and district manager for Simply Self Storage

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Christopher Williams



Party: Republican

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.

Franklin Township Community Schools

Northeast District



Zachary Smith Howard

Incumbent



Party: Republican

Occupation: Director of State Relations at Indiana University

Terms: President of Franklin Township School Board, member 2019-present

Top priorities: Preparing students for life after graduation, student growth, and building renovations without raising taxes

Franklin Township Community Schools

Southeast District



Matt Morgan

Party: Republican



Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Larry J. Walker

Incumbent



Party: Republican

Occupation: President and CEO of Timberwood Custom Homes

Terms: 2018-Present

Top priorities: School safety, classroom discipline, and closely monitoring the school budget



mariabertramcartagena.com

Maria Bertram Cartagena

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Corporate leader, small business owner, and bilingual community advocate

Top priorities: Creating opportunities, strong academics, family engagement, and fiscal transparency



Jessica Dunn

Incumbent
Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Executive Director of Enrichment Programs at IPS

Top priorities: Hiring and retaining staff, access to mental health support, and equitable education opportunities



Larry Brown

Party: Non-Partisan
Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Craig J. Willey

Party: Non-Partisan
Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Chris Lewis

Incumbent



Party: Republican

Occupation: Chief Technical Advisor within the Energy Division of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Division

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Brianna Bible



Party: Democrat

Occupation: Entrepreneur, Community Outreach Coordinator for Center Township Trustee of Marion County Indiana

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Lee Shively

Incumbent



Party: Independent

Occupation: Educator in Marion County Public Schools

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Alonzo Anderson

Incumbent



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Firefighter for Monroe County
Terms: 2018-present

Top priorities: Stabilizing the district’s finances, caring for its teachers, transparency, and improving the district’s climate and culture



Wayne Moore

Incumbent



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Senior pastor of Olivet Missionary Baptist Church
Terms: 2022-present

Top priorities: Rebuilding the district’s relationship with the community



Sherie Latoya Scott



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Chief Executive Officer and founder of the Education Toolkit, Former Director of Schools for the state of Indiana

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Terry A. Webster, Sr.

Incumbent



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Pastor at Nu Corinthian Baptist Church
Terms: 2018-present

Top priorities: School safety, staffing the district with excellent educators, and ensuring the district is a thriving community



Terri Amos

Incumbent

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Educator for IPS
Terms: 2014-present, current President of the Warren Township School Board

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Rachel M. Burke

Incumbent

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Board Treasurer for the Jane Pauley Community Health Center and the State Legislative Coordinator for Indiana PTA
Terms: 2018-present

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Jerry Crites

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Assistant Director of Facilities at MSD of Warren Township

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Samantha Douglas

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: President of the Far Eastside Community Council, Secretary of IDAAC-Indy, and a Democratic Precinct Committeeperson in Warren Township

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Kevin S. Humphrey Sr.

Incumbent

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Former U.S. Marine, U.S. Postal worker, football coach for Warren High School
Terms: 2022-present, current Vice President of the Warren Township School Board

Top priorities: Protect, educate, and invest in children and ensure their future success by providing them with a solid academic foundation



Steve "Coach" Tutsie



Party: Independent
Occupation: Assistant Head Coach and Special Teams Coordinator for Marian University Football Team

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.

MSD of Washington Township

At-Large



Leslie Bowles

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Vice President of Development at VOW for Girls

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Jayia McCray

Party: Non-Partisan

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.

MSD of Washington Township

District 2



Jocelyn Sisson

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Teacher and Tutor at North Central High School

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Brandon Bowman

Incumbent



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Operations manager for a mechanical service company
terms: 2015-present, current President

Top priorities: Strengthen the community and help students pursue excellence.



Mikeal Gordon

Incumbent



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Purchasing manager at Newjac Industrial
Terms: 2025-present

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Raimeka Graham

Incumbent



Party: Democrat
Occupation: Educator and Principal of Deer Run Elementary
Terms: 2020- present

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.



Benjamin Wakefield

Incumbent

Party: Non-Partisan
Occupation: Pastor at Lynhurst Baptist Church
Terms: 2019-present

Top priorities: Publicly detailed policy proposals have been limited.

Indianapolis Public Question:

Tax increase to support Indianapolis district and charter schools



The referendum asks voters to approve a four-year property tax increase to provide additional operating funds for public schools in the IPS boundary, including traditional IPS and charter schools. It marks the first major funding decision by the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation, a new state-created entity responsible for coordinating certain financial and operational functions across Indianapolis public schools.



A "Yes" vote would approve the additional property tax levy for four years which would provide approximately \$87.8 million annually for public education in the IPS boundary, provide new operating funds to both IPS schools and eligible charter schools, help maintain staffing, student services, and educational programs, and reduce—but not eliminate—the budget pressure facing IPS.

Supporters argue the measure represents an investment in Indianapolis students and helps stabilize a public education system serving tens of thousands of students.



A "No" vote would reject the property tax increase leaving IPS and charter schools operating without this additional local funding source. A failed referendum would likely require IPS to make deeper budget reductions, which could affect staffing, programs, services, and school operations.

Opponents argue that taxpayers should not be asked to pay more until schools demonstrate stronger financial management and that the referendum creates concerns because tax dollars would also flow to charter schools.



This referendum is a developing issue and no formal statements in favor or against have yet been made. This voter guide will be updated once more public comments have been published.



Register to Vote

While registering to vote online is easiest and fastest, you can also download a printable registration form that you can fill out and mail in to your county voter registration office. Download a registration form at IndianaVoters.IN.gov.

To register, you must:

- Have a valid Indiana Driver's License or Indiana State Identification Card.
- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the next general, municipal or special election.
 - Note: A 17-year-old may register and vote in the primary election if the voter turns 18 on or before the next general or municipal election!
- Have lived in your precinct for at least 30 DAYS before the next general, municipal, or special election.
- Not currently be imprisoned after being convicted of a crime.



All voter registrations must be submitted no later than 29 days before the election in which you plan to vote.

Go to: IndianaVoters.IN.gov



What to Expect on Voting Day

1

Make a Voting Plan

Before Election Day, decide when and where you will vote. Consider inviting friends or family to vote with you.

Find your polling location and early voting sites at [IndianaVoters.IN.gov](https://www.IndianaVoters.IN.gov).

2

Bring a Valid Photo ID

Indiana voters must present an acceptable photo ID.

Examples include:

- Indiana driver's license
- U.S. passport
- Military ID
- Indiana BMV-issued photo ID

Your ID must:

- Include your photo
- Have your name (matching your voter registration)
- Be issued by the U.S. government or the State of Indiana
- Be current or expired after the date of the last general election

3

Research Your Ballot

Learn about the candidates and offices on your ballot before you vote.

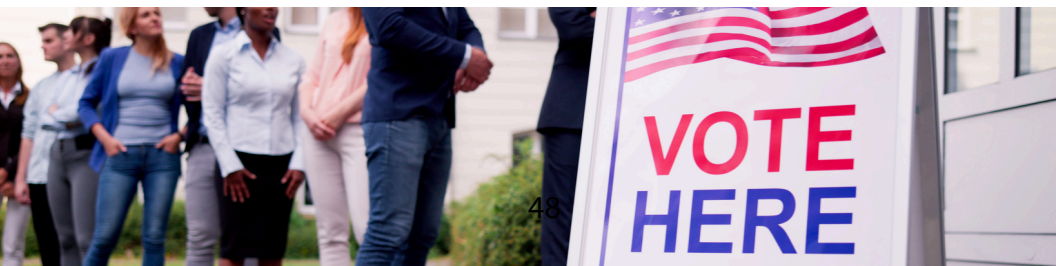
Understanding who is running and what those positions do can help you make informed decisions.

4

Arrive Prepared

Polling places can be busy, especially before and after work or school. If possible, vote early to avoid longer lines and enjoy more flexibility.

If you encounter a long wait, be patient—your vote matters.



5

Check In and Vote

When you reach the front of the line, a poll worker will verify your ID and check you in. Having your ID ready can help speed up the process.

If there is a problem locating your voter registration, ask for a provisional ballot. Election officials will provide instructions for verifying your eligibility so your vote can be counted.

6

Complete Your Ballot

Carefully read all instructions before marking your ballot. If you have questions or need assistance, poll workers are available to help.

7

Submit Your Ballot

After completing your ballot, follow the instructions to cast it and ensure it is counted.



Celebrate!

Pick up your "I Voted" sticker and encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to vote, too. Every vote helps shape the future of your community.



Get Involved!



Currently too young to vote?

Make the pledge to register to vote. Provide your phone number and you will be texted on your 18th birthday to make sure you have registered to vote!

www.vote.org/pledge-to-register



Work the Polls

Even if you are too young to vote, if you are at least 16 years old, you can still serve as a poll worker during elections, where you can even get paid!

www.indy.gov/activity/apply-for-a-poll-worker-position



Show Up

If your schedule permits, try and go to the places where important decisions are being made: Attend town hall meetings and school board meetings or testify in committee hearings at the Statehouse.



Join a Campaign

Even if you are too young to vote you can still work on the campaign of someone you support. Find more information directly on the campaign website of that candidate!

Other voter resources



Vote 411

All the election information you need, available in English and Spanish. Check your voter registration, find your polling place, learn about candidates, and more. Brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

www.vote411.org



Ballot Ready

Your go-to source for nonpartisan election information. Register to vote, explore the entire ballot, find your polling place, and more, all in one place.

www.ballotready.org



VoteMate

VoteMate is a free, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit using responsible AI to make voting more accessible, understandable, and actionable. Built for voters, not politics, VoteMate is designed to support more informed participation by delivering clear, trustworthy election information when and where voters need it most.

<https://votemate.io/>