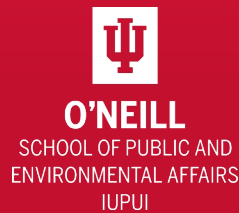


# 2021 INDIANA CIVIC HEALTH INDEX™



# ABOUT THE PARTNERS

## **INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST**

One of seven campuses of Indiana University, IU Northwest is located in metropolitan Northwest Indiana, approximately 30 miles southeast of Chicago and 10 miles from the Indiana Dunes National Park. We are proud to be the most diverse IU campus. Our purpose is to enhance the quality of life of the most diverse, urban, industrialized region of the state. The campus engages with the community in high-quality teaching and scholarship and partners with communities to impact and promote social, economic, and cultural development. Indiana University Northwest students are inspired and empowered to be active citizens, who apply their knowledge to transform their communities and the world. Working together as a community, Indiana University Northwest serves as a premiere resource to advance the educational, social, civic and economic well-being of the people of Northwest Indiana and beyond.

## **INDIANA BAR FOUNDATION**

The Indiana Bar Foundation continues to inspire and lead change to improve civic education and legal assistance for all Hoosiers. Our vision is to be the premiere statewide charitable organization and trusted partner advancing civic literacy and the legal system. Throughout its 70-year history, the Foundation has been a national leader in the development and implementation of civic education programs. Through a grant from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Agency, the Foundation will implement a statewide initiative focused on housing stability legal services.

Supporting the Indiana Civic Health Index with our partners is another example of the Foundation's commitment to expanding civic education and being a catalyst for expanding our support of civil legal assistance services.

## **INDIANA CITIZEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC. (ICEF)**

ICEF is a strictly nonpartisan 501(c)(3) dedicated to providing unbiased information that will assist Hoosier voters in casting an informed ballot. Operating online as *The Indiana Citizen*, ICEF aspires to promote increased registration and turnout connected to a digital platform that permits access to a wealth of information about officeholders, candidates and issues.

## **THE CENTER FOR REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT-INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

The Center on Representative Government was established in January 1999. It developed out of Lee Hamilton's recognition during his time in the U.S. House of Representatives that the public should be more familiar with Congress' strengths and weaknesses, its role in our system of government, and its impact on the lives of ordinary people every day. The Center seeks to inspire young people and adults to take an active part in revitalizing representative government in America. To that end, the Center offers multiple resources, programs, and projects that foster an informed electorate that understands our system of government and participates in civic life.

## **INDIANA SUPREME COURT**

The Indiana Supreme Court is the highest appellate court in the state and the court of last resort on the interpretation of Indiana's laws, its constitution, and the safeguards expressed in the state's bill of rights. The Indiana Supreme Court is asked to consider over 800 cases each year. It issues opinions in over 70 cases a year. In addition to deciding cases, the Court establishes procedures for all trial courts in the state and sets the standards of conduct for Indiana attorneys and judges. Its administrative functions are overseen by a single Office of Judicial Administration.

## **INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS**

IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis) is known as Indiana's premier urban research and health sciences institution and is dedicated to advancing the intellectual growth of the state of Indiana and its residents through research and creative activity, teaching, learning, and community engagement. Nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report, Forbes and other notable publications, IUPUI has nearly 30,000 students enrolled in 17 schools, which offer more than 400 degrees. IUPUI awards degrees from both Indiana University and Purdue University.

## **O'NEILL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

The Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI prepares students to address the issues of modern society in ways that more traditional schools overlook. Founded in 1972, the O'Neill School was the first school to combine public management, policy, and administration with the environmental sciences. It remains the largest public policy and environmental studies school of its kind in the United States, with programs on both the IUPUI and IU Bloomington campuses.

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP**

The National Conference on Citizenship is a congressionally chartered organization dedicated to strengthening civic life in America. We pursue our mission through a nationwide network of partners involved in a cutting-edge civic health initiative and innovative national service project, and our cross-sector conferences. At the core of our joint efforts is the belief that every person has the ability to help his or her community and country thrive.



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## FOREWORD

This fifth edition of the Indiana Bar Foundation’s Indiana Civic Health Index (INCHI) takes stock of Indiana’s successes and shortcomings during the past decade and defines action steps to ensure Indiana becomes a national leader in civic health. In this latest INCHI we examine three election cycles – six elections during 10 years – and analyze trends during that time. The insights gained by examining Hoosiers’ participation in civic life from 2010 to the present will inform and inspire citizens and leaders alike to build a culture of civic engagement enhancing our economic, social, and political well-being.

Building on the recommendations outlined in the 2019 Indiana Civic Health Index, section one of the report details progress in advancing civic education in schools and promoting citizen participation in the election process, two goals that are profoundly intertwined. Studies show a consistent and robust relationship between school experiences with voting education and civic participation later in life.<sup>4</sup> As cornerstones of representative democracy, civic education and participation are crucial to advancing our civic health.

The second section of the report continues the review of Indiana’s performance on an array of civic health indicators. Drawing on earlier analyses and incorporating the newest data, we examine ten years (2010-2020) of Indiana’s civic activity, identifying areas of strength as well as opportunities for improvement. We hope this unique overview will further stimulate discussion and inspire a renewed commitment to advancing our civic health. Strengthening Hoosiers’ civic health will require a concerted effort of all stakeholders interested in supporting citizen participation in its many forms; the result will be a more vibrant, successful, and engaged Indiana and nation.

2011

2015

2017

2019

2021





# INTRODUCTION

The story of Indiana's civic health is a reflection of the value that Hoosiers' place on social and political connectedness. The INCHI examines who we are and how we engage in civic life so central to our identity as citizens, states, and a nation. In 2021, it appears that the answers to these questions are ever more compelling as we reimagine our collective future and recommit to the idea of "E Pluribus Unum" – out of many, one.

The 2021 INCHI provides insight into the past, present, and future. This fifth edition of the INCHI examines the 10 years from 2010 to 2020. The insights gained from a decade in review will enable stakeholders -- e.g., citizens and policymakers -- to make informed decisions on the steps needed for Indiana to be a national leader in civic health. We see, for example, how we positively transformed our civic habits and enhanced civic health commitments. These positive outcomes, combined with a decade of acquired knowledge and a deepening commitment to advancing Indiana's civic health, inspire us to look forward. This edition will address remaining, albeit significant, challenges as we strive for more robust and meaningful expressions of civic knowledge and action in Indiana.

The 2011 INCHI, the first of five reports focused on Indiana's civic health, initiated a decade-long comprehensive examination of civic health indicators, including community involvement and voter registration and turnout. The initial snapshot of how Hoosiers conduct their civic lives revealed things Indiana did well and those requiring significant improvement, including Indiana's low ranking (48) on voter participation. Leaders in the state shared the results of the INCHI in a series of community forums engaging residents in discussions that would set the stage for additional research and, ultimately, action. As reported in 2015, 2017, and 2019 INCHI reports, the civic health indicators continued to reveal the need for substantial improvement in civic education and civic participation. As a result, in 2019, two recommendations for action were formulated and shared with Hoosiers across the state. The approach -- sharing the civic health data analysis with and obtaining input from stakeholders -- generated informed and relevant recommendations.

## RECOMMENDATION #1

"To continue to promote civic engagement, we propose convening a civic education task force to study methods of instruction, programs, and educational outcomes to improve civic education opportunities for all ages and prepare specific policy recommendations to improve civic education opportunities and programs in Indiana."

## RECOMMENDATION #2

"As we head toward the 2020 elections, Indiana should aspire to increase voting turnout substantially, with the goal of moving from the Bottom 10 to the Top 10 of states."

The 2019 recommendations resonated throughout the state. Almost immediately following the release of the recommendations, Hoosiers moved into action. In the short period from 2019 to the present, we took action and realized improvements, despite the economic, social, and health crises we are experiencing as a nation. Our institutional commitment to civic engagement, specifically civic education, inspired collective action and reaped success. However, much remains to be understood and improved at the level of individual action. Pressing questions, such as why Indiana remains, 10 years later, at the bottom of all states in both voter registration and voting behaviors require a closer examination.

In the 2021 INCHI, we review our progress and discuss unanswered questions to stimulate deeper commitments from citizens and policymakers alike.<sup>2</sup>

## What is Civic Health?

Civic health is a measure of how active citizens engage in their communities. This societal checkup, much like an individual's physical checkup, keeps us on a path of improving our civic health by taking stock of our challenges, charting a course for improvement, and celebrating our successes. The INCHI is one way Indiana actively seeks to improve our understanding of how we engage and educate and inspire residents, including leaders, to exchange ideas and take actions that improve the well-being of our communities.

Civic health reflects our beliefs, values, and actions related to the idea of community well-being/public good. It is related to and is supported by civic learning that takes place in a variety of activities, including

- **Volunteering**
- **Participation in community decision-making processes (council hearings, etc.)**
- **Learning from multiple and diverse sources of news to formulate an opinion on public policy**
- **Letters to the editor**
- **Belonging to civic service organizations, including religious institutions**
- **Philanthropic support and engagement**
- **Political engagement with political parties, election processes, ballot initiatives, and advocacy<sup>3</sup>**

This report examines Hoosiers' activities and views in three key areas of civic health:

- **Voting and Voter Registration**
- **Social and Community Connectedness**
- **Civic Awareness and Action**

The analysis continues to acknowledge our differences and similarities while highlighting our strengths and reframing our obstacles as opportunities. We gain a closer look at our neighbors – their political, social, and civic views and actions -- so we can better realize our potential for civic leadership not only in our local communities but as a state.

The report shows that on some measures of civic health, Hoosiers exceed the national average; however, on others, our performance leaves room for significant improvement if we wish to be a model for other states. We hope to improve awareness and inspire action in our communities by sharing what we have learned.



## Why is Civic Health Important?

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Hoosiers care about the communities they live in, and they work to improve the world around them. In so doing, these citizens practice civility when faced with differences of opinion. We strengthen our civic health when we find common ground. The benefits of active, constructive civic engagement also spill over into other critical areas of our lives.

### Economic and Community Development

Civic engagement supports economic and community development.<sup>4</sup> Participating in civic activities can develop the skills, confidence, and attractive habits sought by existing and potential employers. Economic transactions, i.e., purchases and sales, and innovation require high levels of trust among people. Civic engagement is strongly correlated with trust. When high levels of trust exist, there are fewer obstacles to conducting efficient and equitable transactions. In addition, when we engage, we build connections to one another and create the social capital needed to keep residents invested in the well-being of their communities.<sup>5</sup>

### Health and Well-Being

Our physical, psychological, and behavioral health and well-being are closely connected to our civic health. Recent studies, including those conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Rand Corporation, document the impact of civic engagement, including voting, volunteering, and participating in civic organizations, as a potential necessary driver for increasing awareness of unhealthy conditions and addressing these community challenges.<sup>6</sup> Solid social connections combined with civic participation support the creation of shared values, including making health a shared value.<sup>7</sup>

### Democracy and Representative Government

Citizens are central to governance and representative democracy. Today, there are worrying signs that U.S. democracy is declining<sup>8</sup>, including downward trends in the U.S. electoral confidence, government transparency, and increasing levels of corruption.<sup>9</sup> The state of our civic health will determine if citizens continue to respond to and improve the many public policies that affect their daily lives. The effectiveness of many public policies is connected to the responses of citizens, businesses, government, and nonprofits the policies are meant to serve. Citizens working together, sharing viewpoints, and communicating with democratic institutions can not only reduce inefficiencies and errors, but they will also build habits that will ensure that democracy survives.<sup>10</sup>

Civic health reflects our commitment to democracy and is related to our economic and physical/psychological health. It is interconnected, either directly or indirectly, to all aspects of our daily lives. Studies such as this underscore the importance of examining our civic health to build a better democracy and build better lives.



## INDIANA: A Look at Who We Are

- **Indiana is growing.** Indiana is the 17th largest state in population and is growing. Since 1990 the state's population has grown steadily from 5.5 million residents to nearly 6.8 million residents in 2020.<sup>10</sup> We are retaining residents and attracting new residents. Our ranking has dropped from 15th in the 2010 census.
- **Indiana's people are diverse.** The 2020 census shows a growing diversity, with one-quarter of Hoosiers identifying as part of a minority race or ethnic group, up from 19% in 2010.<sup>11</sup>
- **Indiana is aging.** Like many states in our nation, the population of the State of Indiana is aging. By 2030, one of every five people living in Indiana will be 65 or older.<sup>12</sup>
- **Hoosier income levels vary.** The median household income of Hoosiers in 2020 was \$66,360. U.S. median household income in 2020 was \$67,521.<sup>13</sup> The poverty rate in 2019 was 11.9% and among children aged 15 and under the rate is 15.1%.
- **Indiana's educational attainment is equivalent to the national average.** Eighty-nine percent (89%) of adult Hoosiers possess a high school degree or higher. A little more than one fourth (27%) of adult Hoosiers possess a bachelor's degree or higher.
- **Indiana's economy is diversified.** Five sectors contribute to almost 40% of the Indiana Gross Domestic Product, including manufacturing and agriculture. Another 15 sectors complete the economic picture and are increasingly contributing to economic growth and prosperity.
- **This snapshot of who we are – a growing state that supports economic diversification while recognizing the significant opportunities to reduce poverty and expand educational opportunity -- sets the context for the report.** The ways that we respond to our challenges will define our outcomes. The 2021 INCHI, as its predecessors, moves us closer to creating a more civically engaged state.





**“For our democracy to succeed, we need to teach each new generation how to become informed and engaged citizens.”**

-Former Congressman Lee Hamilton (D-Indiana)

*(October 6, 2021 – Comments on Congress)*



# **PART I – AN UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

## RECOMMENDATION #1

“To continue to promote civic engagement, we propose convening a **civic education task force** to study methods of instruction, programs, and educational outcomes to improve civic education opportunities for all ages and prepare specific policy recommendations to improve civic education opportunities and programs in Indiana.”

In the two years since this initial recommendation was issued in the 2019 Indiana Civic Health Index, much progress has been made in advancing civic education opportunities in Indiana. The work to advance recommendation #1 started with the Indiana Bar Foundation creating the Civic Education Task Force in early 2020. The task force studied methods of instruction, programs, and educational outcomes to improve civic education opportunities for all ages and prepared specific policy recommendations in its final report ([Indiana Civic Education Task Force Report](#)) released in November 2020.

The Civic Education Task Force members were leaders in Indiana in the fields of education, government, business, and nonprofit sectors. Throughout 2020, task force members heard testimony from national, state, and local experts about the most effective pedagogy and practices in civic education. These task force meetings, and the outside research provided an overview of Indiana’s civic health areas that could be improved upon, leading to the recommendations developed.

This report laid out recommendations for actionable policy steps to improve civic education in Indiana. These recommendations were split into two phases to help guide their future implementation; however, these recommendations were created to be considered holistically and complementary to the others. Several of the recommendations from the report have been accomplished during 2021, while others remain outstanding but continue to serve as worthy goals to advance civic education in Indiana.

### Phase One Recommendations (2021-2023)

#### CIVICS CERTIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALS

**Establish a democracy-certified school program similar to that found in other states and modeled after the Indiana STEM certification program to encourage a holistic approach and improvement in civic education.**

**Establish a recognition program to recognize teachers, students, administrators, and schools for showing good outcomes in civic learning.**





The first subcategory of phase one recommendations from the task force aimed to showcase excellence in civic education in a similar way that excellence in other subjects or athletics is honored. Through the implementation of a democracy-certified school program and a recognition program to showcase outstanding achievement in civic education, educators and students would be driven to produce and maintain exceptional results in civic education. The recommendations report suggests adaptation of current awards given in other fields to be relevant civic education awards, like the suggested 'youth citizen of the year' award for student excellence.

The Democracy Certified Schools program is centered around the idea of creating an environment for democratic ideals to thrive. Students' first interaction with democracy comes through the form of school. This interaction should be a positive one that inspires students to strive to be engaged, informed citizens rather than disillusioned with democratic processes.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Department of Education, public/private partnerships, and school districts should provide more quality opportunities and resources for teachers to seek professional development in civics.**

Through consultation with educators at all levels throughout the state of Indiana, the Foundation's Civic Education Task Force concluded that teachers are not given the opportunity to attend high-quality professional development workshops due to a lack of funding or the opportunity not existing. Professional development is potentially the most crucial element when considering how to improve the overall quality and standard of education across the board and thus improve Indiana's civic health. More knowledgeable teachers give better outcomes to their students.

Data from [Indiana Civic Education Task Force Survey](#)<sup>14</sup> conducted by the Civic Education Task Force and the Indiana Bar Foundation reinforces the need for quality professional development. In-service workshops are some of the more accessible professional development opportunities for educators seeking improvement. Considering how few educators, only 8.96% of educators from all grade levels surveyed, indicated that they had been offered any in-service workshops, there is a significant opportunity to fill this gap.

Technology can provide high-quality professional development opportunities for Indiana educators. In the increasingly electronic and interconnected world, hybrid professional development with resources supplied by a national, state, or local organization is likely the quickest, most cost-effective, and far-reaching way to deliver high-quality professional development in civics.

## STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL INTERACTION

**Invigorate and expand the communities of practice around civic education.**

**Create opportunities for education and community partnerships.**

**Ensure that policies and practices related to school administration and culture reflect democratic ideals.**

**Prioritize youth engagement in democratic processes.**

Community and school interaction are foundational elements of quality civic education, as students learning to become active and involved members of the community is a fundamental goal of civic education. Simulations of democratic processes or the opportunity for student involvement in fundamental democratic processes invigorates civic learning. Civic education does not live in the isolated vacuum of a classroom. Instead, it should be practiced in real life and simulations of actual democratic occurrences. The recommendations here are about utilizing existing connections and systems and creating ways to increase potential student involvement.

Indiana's overall civic health is made better by positive interaction between schools and their communities. The creation and expansion of opportunities by community stakeholders for students to interact with their community and learn the purpose of the institutions around them will be invaluable for these students as they transition to adulthood.

## CREATION OF CIVIC EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION

**Create a sustaining group or forum focused on promoting and improving civic education.**

This recommendation comes from a desire to maintain the importance of civic education at the forefront when considering education policy. This goal was realized upon the passage and signing into law in 2021 of Indiana House Bill 1384 authored by Representative Anthony Cook; this bill requires the state to develop civic education standards no later than July 1, 2022, and establishes the Indiana Civic Education Commission. The 15-member commission, comprised of community leaders, educators, nonprofit representatives, and government officials with bipartisan representation, has been assigned the following duties: (1) Discuss and review the most up to date information regarding best practices, pedagogy, and policy for civics education; (2) Make recommendations and provide guidance for statewide implementation of the recommendations established by the 2020 Indiana Civic Education Task Force and any other recommendations established by the commission; (3) Make, as applicable, recommendations to the general assembly, the state board, and the department regarding civics education.

This Civic Education Commission will continue the work of the Civic Education Task Force, taking these proposed recommendations, giving them traction in policy-making decisions, and working to implement these recommendations at the statewide level. As mentioned in previous editions of the Indiana Civic Health Index, Indiana wishes to remain a leader in introspective and thoughtful examinations of civic health. This Commission will help Indiana achieve this goal and maintain that status.



## Phase Two Recommendations (2024-2026)

### STANDARDS REVISION

**Craft revised State Standards with the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework as the basis, with the consultation of civic learning experts and advocates.**

**Increase civics course requirements at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.**

Indiana has social studies standards in which civic education is encapsulated yet overlooked. The aforementioned House Bill 1384 mandated the establishment of standards solely for civic education. The Civic Education Task Force Report recommends that these standards be aligned with the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework to modernize Indiana's civic education policies when they go into effect on July 2, 2022.

House Bill 1384 also addressed the second recommendation in the standards revision category:

Beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2023-2024 school year, each school corporation, charter school, and state-accredited nonpublic school shall require each student of the school corporation, charter school, or state-accredited nonpublic school to successfully complete in grades 6, 7, or 8, one (1) semester of a civics education course.

Creating and delineating a dedicated civic education course in middle school is an important step to relieve a significant concern of Indiana educators. Civic education has been marginalized compared to other school subjects in the amount of class time afforded. A stand-alone, semester-long course in middle school is crucial to the civic health of Indiana as the earlier years in education are where the foundations of knowledge are laid in the aims of producing an informed citizenry.

Elementary school educators in Indiana would greatly benefit if this trend were to apply to earlier grades. Elementary educators responding to the task force survey reported teaching civics once or twice a month for 20 minutes at a time. This result further reinforces the need for more civic education in all grade levels, including elementary school.

### PRE-SERVICE TEACHER CONTENT

**Increase civics/political science course requirements for pre-service teachers to obtain licensure and a degree.**

Professional development is crucial to the practicing educator. However, strong background knowledge and understanding of the content should exist even before the teacher enters their classroom. The course requirements for civics and political science vary drastically across Indiana teacher colleges, meaning some social studies educators graduate with little knowledge of civics. Pre-service teachers should have a more rigorous set of course requirements to increase equitable opportunity in civic learning throughout Indiana. Equality in teachers and their abilities statewide provides equality in the opportunity to succeed for the students. Teachers demonstrated a sincere desire and genuine interest in teaching civics effectively; they just were not adequately equipped for the task at hand. The gap in preparation is a problem for educators. Teachers do not feel trained sufficiently to teach the subject matter before entering the classroom. In addition, they do not have the opportunity to learn effective teaching methods once they are teaching.



Indiana Bar Foundation President & CEO Charles Dunlap speaks about HB 1384 to the Indiana House of Representatives



## ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

**Indiana should ensure that authentic assessments are utilized to address the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that make up a comprehensive preparation for civic life.**

Throughout their study of the best practices and methods of teaching civics, the Civic Education Task Force learned of the validity of authentic assessments. This style of assessment model, like the kind seen in *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* or Model UN, gives teachers a better understanding of the students' knowledge of the content taught and its real-world applications. Perfecting pedagogy is only helpful if a metric accurately measures how effective those teaching methods are for the student's understanding. Progress in teaching methods needs assessments that can show the effect of the improvements in pedagogy on student understanding. Civic experts, national and local, should be consulted in developing and implementing these assessments. An accurate assessment is as essential as effective social studies standards in producing high-quality learning experiences and a healthy democratic society in Indiana.

## CIVIC PROJECT GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

**Require that all students complete a civics project by the completion of the 5th and 8th grades.**

**Link this civics project graduation requirement with the employability skills component (project-based, service-based, and work-based learning experience) of the graduation pathway requirements set for 2024.**

This recommendation is vital for fostering the foundational knowledge of civics that all students need to be a part of a healthy citizenry. Completing a civics project before the 5th and 8th grades provides an early opportunity for young Hoosiers to become involved in civic affairs. Fostering a greater understanding for the younger students will help make them engaged citizens when they are adults.

The graduation pathways requirements are a great way to tie in the civic project graduation requirement at the high school level. The three options: project-based learning, service-based learning, or work-based learning, could be satisfied through civic education, providing an effective way to incorporate increased civic education opportunities into existing Indiana policy. The graduation pathway requirements are an excellent example of the holistic nature of these recommendations. Students overall are not having their civic knowledge tested to see if they have gained understanding and do not know what the barometer for success in civics is. This civic project could solve many problems in Indiana's current civic education climate.



## A FUTURE FOR INDIANA'S CIVIC PARTICIPATION: RECOMMENDATION #2

“As we head towards the 2020 elections, Indiana should aspire to increase voting turnout substantially, with the goal of moving from the Bottom 10 to the Top 10 of states.”

In contrast to the enormous and tangible progress made toward implementing Recommendation #1, the data reported in this 2021 INCHI show Indiana's turnout ranking falling in the Bottom 10 of states from 41st in 2016 to 46th in 2020.

When Hoosiers were questioned through the U.S. Census Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement project in November 2020, 61.0% said they had just voted in the general election. This compares to 58.3% in November 2016, thus a 2.7% percentage point increase, but a growth of almost 5%.

In comparison, residents in the top 10 states reported turnout averaging 75.2% in 2020. The average turnout across the top 10 states in 2016 was 69.5%, a 5.7% percentage point increase, but a growth of more than 8%.

How Indiana could increase turnout yet drop in its national ranking is underscored by official turnout reports. According to the Indiana Secretary of State's General Election Turnout and Registration report, a record number of Hoosiers - 3,068,625 - voted in the 2020 general election. This compares to 2,807,676 in 2016, therefore a 9.3% increase. Such an increase might be characterized as “substantial” but for a bigger turnout surge nationwide.

The national turnout increase was much more significant - 15% - from 139 million in 2016 to 160 million in 2020. There are many theories on why Indiana's record turnout did not match the rest of the country's. The most frequently mentioned fall broadly into two categories:

- **The absence of contested elections**
- **Election administration policy choices**

Consistently, surveys of non-voters show some version of “My vote doesn't matter” as the most frequently cited excuse for not voting. Indeed, 24.8% of non-voting Hoosiers surveyed for this INCHI said, “Not interested, felt my vote wouldn't make a difference.”

Even the most disengaged Hoosier could predict which presidential candidate was likelier to win Indiana's 11 electoral votes in 2020. The race for governor—typically a driver of turnout—was essentially uncontested. There was no United States Senate race. The outcomes of most Congressional, State Senate, and State House of Representatives races were pre-determined to favor one party or the other in 2011 when the Indiana General Assembly enacted district maps after the last redistricting effort based on the 10-year census report. One-third of candidates for the Indiana Senate and House had no opponent.

[READ: An Evaluation of the Partisan Bias in Indiana's 2011 Congressional and State Legislative Districting Plan](#)

It must be noted that the decennial drawing of maps to favor the party then in power has been used by Indiana Republicans and Democrats alike. Attempts to create an independent redistricting advisory entity have never succeeded in Indiana.

The maps signed into law in October 2021--maps that will control who votes in which elections every two years for the next ten years--are likely to perpetuate uncompetitive races and depress turnout unless the two major political parties recruit and support opposing candidates who will help voters believe their votes matter.

## Election administration policy choices

Indiana ranks among states with the most restrictive voting laws. For example, only 17 states with in-person voting have a 12-hour in-person voting period. The Indiana General Assembly was among the first to adopt a voter I.D. law, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2020, Indiana was one of only five states not to permit no-excuse absentee voting in November, despite the bipartisan support of its use in the primary, which was moved from May to June.

## Policy choices made by states with consistently high voter turnout

States which consistently rank in the top 10 for turnout have made policy choices never enacted in Indiana.

To analyze what policy choices have been enacted in the top-performing states in voting and registration, we looked at the states that have consistently performed in the top tier of states over the last ten years. Since 2010—the first year we presented data—the following seven states have ranked in the top 10 for turnout most often. They are presented in alphabetical order.

### Comparing Indiana's Civic Health to Other States Across the Country

	Automatic Voter Registration	Same-day Voter Registration	Unrestricted Absentee Voting	Election Day Voting Hours Exceeding 12 Hours	Redistricting Process	Mail-In Voting	Time Off Requested?
<b>COLORADO</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Legislative/Congressional Redistricting Commission	Y	Y, 2 hours
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	Y	N
<b>IOWA</b>	N	Y	Y	Y	Non-Partisan Staff (Legislative Services)	Y	Y, 3 hours
<b>MAINE</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	State Legislature (advised by Maine Apportionment Commission)	N	N
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	N	Y	Y	Y	State Legislature	N	Y
<b>OREGON</b>	Y*	N	Y	Y	State Legislature	Y	N
<b>WISCONSIN</b>	N	Y	Y	Y	State Legislature	Y	Y, 3 hours
<b>INDIANA</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>State Legislature</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>





## **PART II – TEN YEAR REVIEW OF CIVIC HEALTH DATA**



# VOTER REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT: A DEEPER DIVE

Indiana’s national rankings on voter registration and voter turnout indicate significant room for improvement. Indiana places consistently in the lower third of all states on voter registration and the lowest 10% of all states for voting.

## Why all this attention to Indiana’s voter turnout ranking?

Our state’s persistently low ranking for voter turnout is a kind of civic Rorschach test. Broadly speaking, the same information typically evokes one of two responses:

The first category represents Hoosiers who believe that engaged, informed voters always make their way to the polls. In their view, additional efforts to increase turnout are, by definition, an attempt to bring out voters who are not already sufficiently motivated to register, get informed, and cast a ballot.

The second category are Hoosiers who worry that low turnout might yield election outcomes that citizens do not accept, especially in an era when the credibility of elections officials is under attack. Consider the possible repercussions of meager turnout and a very close election, which is more likely to occur in a local midterm or municipal election.

The 2020 elections debunked the idea that higher turnout favors Democrats. In a year of record turnout, Hoosier Republicans picked up three State House of Representatives seats, held a fiercely contested U.S. House seat, won the two statewide races overwhelmingly, and carried the state for their presidential candidate with more votes than 2016.

The Indiana Civic Health Index will continue to highlight Indiana’s registration and turnout rankings with the hope the information will spur Indiana’s policymakers, the political parties, and candidates to invest in increased voter registration, access to candidate information, and higher turnout.

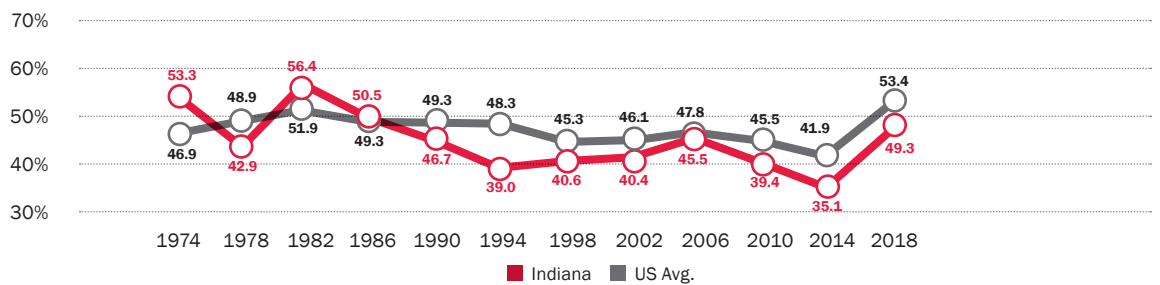
## Historical Perspective: 1972 to 2020

Let us examine a more extended period, i.e., the last 45 years. We will see that Indiana’s voter registration and turnout rates once exceeded the national average at points in history.

### Voter Turnout

Specifically, Indiana’s voter turnout rate slightly exceeded national rates for most midterm elections between 1974 and 1986. After 1986, Indiana’s midterm voter turnout fell below the national average, where it remains today.

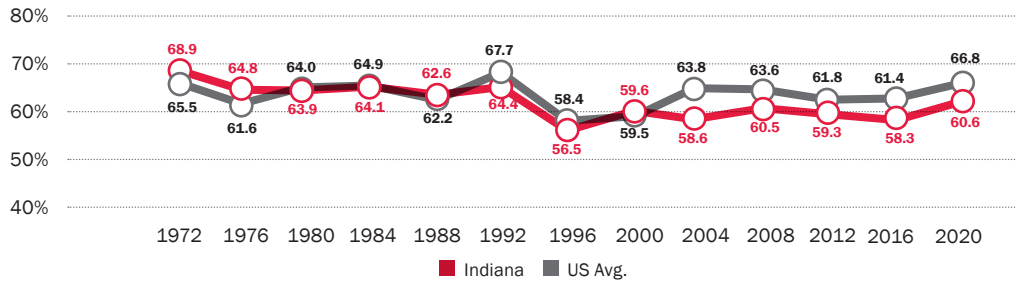
**Chart 1. Indiana Voter Turnout During Midterm Election Years 1974 - 2018**



The highest rate of midterm election turnout (56.4%) occurred in 1982 and was followed by many years of lower participation rates, including a 35.1% rate occurring in 2014 - the lowest in the 44 years. In 2018, the voter turnout rate surged to 49.3%, an increase of 14.2% over the 2014 rate. This increase in voter turnout moved Indiana from 47th in 2014 to 43rd in 2018. Despite the improvement in rank, Indiana remained in the bottom 15% of all states on the measure of voter turnout.

Chart 2 reveals a pattern of below national average voter participation rates in Presidential year-elections in the 45 years since 1972. Indiana's voter turnout rate fell below the national average during six (6) of the ten (10) election years, approximated the national average in two (2) election periods, and exceeded the national average in 1972 and 1976 only.

**Chart 2. Indiana Voter Turnout During Presidential Election Years 1972 - 2020**



## Overview of Voting Trends

Voter turnout and registration percentages increased during the decade in midterm and presidential elections. However, compared to other states, Indiana rank showed less significant gains.

- **In midterm election years, voter turnout rates went from 39.4% in 2010 to 49.3% in 2018, and Indiana’s rank rose from 48 to 43.**
- **In midterm election years, Indiana’s voter registration rates went from 65.1% in 2010 to 65.3% in 2019, and Indiana’s rank moved from 43 to 37.**
- **In presidential year elections, voter turnout rates went from 59.3% in 2012 to 60.6% in 2020, but Indiana’s rank fell from 38 to 46.**
- **In presidential year elections, Indiana’s voter registration rates moved from 71.3% in 2012 to 69.3% in 2020, a decline of 2%, and Indiana’s rank fell from 37 to 39.**

## 2010- 2018 Midterm Elections

During the past decade, Indiana’s midterm elections reported low voter turnout. Compared to other states, Indiana consistently ranked in the lowest 20% of all states on voter turnout. Midterm elections in 2010 saw a 39.4% turnout rate and a rank of 48 out of 50 states. A 10% increase in voter turnout over 2010 rates raised Indiana’s ranking from 45th to 43rd.

In 2018, Indiana ranked 43rd in midterm voting turnout, which placed the state again in the lowest 20% of all states. Voter registration ranking also improved over this period. While the rates of voter registration during midterm elections remained virtually constant at 65%, Indiana’s rank moved from 43rd to 37th. This result suggests that Indiana registration rates and voting rates, while low, realized gains compared to a few states in the country. Data from the 2018 midterm elections show that while there was an improvement in registration and turnout, the state remained in the bottom 10 of all states.

**Chart 1. Voting and Registration in Midterm Election Years in Indiana**

	MIDTERM ELECTION YEARS					
	2010		2014		2018	
	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION</b>	43rd	65.1%	30th	64.9%	37th	65.3%
<b>VOTING</b>	48th	39.4%	47th	35.1%	43rd	49.3%

## 2012 - 2020 Presidential Elections

A similar pattern is observed for presidential election years spanning 2012 to 2020. As Chart 2 shows, Indiana’s rankings for voter turnout place the state in the lowest 20% of all states, once again. The trend in voter turnout ranks during presidential election years is downward, unlike the positive trend in Indiana’s rank during midterm elections from 2010 to 2018. Indiana’s highest voting turnout rank occurred in 2012 (38th). In 2016, Indiana’s rank fell to 41st, and in 2020 the voting turnout rank fell again to 46th in the nation. The rankings provide insight into how well Indiana performs relative to other states. To better understand Indiana voter behaviors, we also look at voting turnout rates. Voting turnout rates remained relatively steady during presidential election years, averaging 60%. This suggests that Indiana failed to keep pace with increasing voting turnout rates in other states, reducing rank.

Voter registration in presidential election years 2012, 2016, and 2020 also remained relatively constant. The 2012 data revealed a 71.3% voter registration rate. Voter registration rates in 2016 and 2020 were nearly identical, reported at 68.8% and 69.3%, respectively. It is also important to note these registration rates place Indiana in the bottom 25% of all states.



**Chart 2. Voting and Registration in Presidential Election Years in Indiana**

	PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEARS					
	2012		2016		2020	
	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION</b>	37th	71.3%	40th	68.8%	39th	69.3%
<b>VOTING</b>	38th	59.3%	41st	58.3%	46th	60.6%

**Voter Registration and Turnout and Related Factors: Age, Education, and Income**

A closer look at factors related to voting and voter registration rates suggests that these behaviors differ by age group, residents’ educational attainment, and household income level during the presidential election years. Charts 3, 4, and 5 show that the rates of eligible voter participation increase with age, educational attainment, and household income levels.

**Chart 3. Age and Voting in Indiana**

	Age of Voter						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
<b>VOTING (2012)</b>	36.4%	44.5%	52.4%	68.2%	71.6%	76.2%	69.6%
<b>VOTING (2016)</b>	43.0%	50.2%	59.7%	60.2%	63.7%	68.4%	66.6%
<b>VOTING (2020)</b>	38.8%	52.8%	58.0%	58.6%	71.1%	77.8%	70.8%
<b>REGISTRATION (2012)</b>	48.2%	57.7%	68.6%	74.7%	78.6%	79.9%	78.7%
<b>REGISTRATION (2016)</b>	57.6%	62.5%	69.0%	68.2%	73.3%	77.0%	79.0%
<b>REGISTRATION (2020)</b>	48.3%	64.8%	68.8%	67.8%	76.0%	81.4%	78.9%

In Indiana, among 65 to 74-year-olds, 77.8% voted in the 2020 Presidential Election compared with 48.2% of 18- to 24-year-olds. The voter turnout rate rose over 2012 levels for all but two age groups – the 45-54 and the 55-64 age groups.



**Chart 4. Educational Attainment and Voting in Indiana**

	Educational Attainment			
	Less than HS Diploma	High School Diploma	Some College	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
<b>VOTING (2012)</b>	28.5%	53.7%	66.7%	81.4%
<b>VOTING (2016)</b>	23.1%	49.8%	66.9%	80.0%
<b>VOTING (2020)</b>	**	51.1%	69.2%	79.7%
<b>REGISTRATION (2012)</b>	41.5%	64.4%	77.9%	86.9%
<b>REGISTRATION (2016)</b>	33.3%	62.4%	77.1%	86.0%
<b>REGISTRATION (2020)</b>	**	63.0%	77.1%	84.8%

\*\*Sample size was too small

Voter registration and participation increase considerably with educational attainment. This result holds in all presidential election years reviewed. In Indiana, 79.7% of eligible voters with a bachelor's degree or higher turned out in the 2020 Presidential Election, a percentage virtually identical to 2016 (80%). On the other hand, 23.1% of those with less than a high school diploma voted in 2016.

In 2020, voter registration rates were highest among those with a bachelor's degree or higher (84.8%), followed by those with some college (77.1%) and those attaining a high school diploma (63%). Estimates of voter registration and voting rates for those with less than a high school diploma were not available for 2020.

**Chart 5. Income Level and Voting in Indiana**

	Income Level			
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 or more
<b>VOTING (2012)</b>	45.5%	60.8%	59.9%	73.5%
<b>VOTING (2016)</b>	47.1%	58.4%	57.1%	69.4%
<b>VOTING (2020)</b>	50.3%	61.5%	55.5%	68.7%
<b>REGISTRATION (2012)</b>	59.3%	70.2%	66.8%	81.5%
<b>REGISTRATION (2016)</b>	61.6%	68.0%	66.5%	77.9%
<b>REGISTRATION (2020)</b>	59.5%	72.2%	66.3%	74.6%

When household incomes are higher, Indiana's voter registration and turnout rates are higher. This result held for each presidential election since 2012. Voting and voter registration rates increased in two-income categories; those households making less than \$35,000 and those households earning \$35,000 to \$49,999 a year. Voting rates increased from 45.5% to 50.3% for those earning less than \$35,000 and voter registration rates increase from 70.2% to 72.2% among those making \$35,000 to \$49,999 between 2012 and 2020.

# INDIANA: CIVIC HEALTH PAST AND PRESENT

Indiana’s participation in the Civic Health Index during the past 10 years is strong evidence of interest in our civic well-being over time. In Indiana, the past reveals room for improvement and celebration.

## Key Findings

Like that of the nation, Indiana’s civic health reflects the changing preferences and behaviors of the citizenry. A comparison of the indicators for Indiana and the United States revealed changes in the types and frequency of behaviors, leading to civic gains in some areas and losses in others.

## Social and Community Connectedness

Community involvement is a broad indicator of civic health. Hoosier’s sense of community drives us to connect locally, explore differences, express our views and contribute to the well-being of our friends, family, and neighbors.

Our engagement in civic life speaks to our commitment to our families and sense of community. Engagement fosters new and enriches existing relationships, where we share ideas and engage in dialogue. We volunteer, we join groups, and we help our neighbors. Indiana ranks in the top half of all states in all of these ways. Chart 6 summarizes the areas of Hoosier’s excellence in community and social connectedness.

Since 2010, Hoosiers’ social and community connectedness has improved.

- **Volunteering rates increased from 26.1% to 34%. Indiana’s rank moved from 32 to 18.**
- **Two indicators, talking with neighbors and doing favors for neighbors, revealed improvements in participation and rank.**
- **Hoosier’s rate of membership in groups of any kind fell during the decade but compared to other states, Indiana’s participation rank improved from 22 to 17.**
- **Donations to charitable or religious organizations led to an increase in rank, from 45 to 33, and more Hoosiers donated in 2020 (50.6%) than in 2010 (45.6%).**



**Chart 6. 2010-2020 Civic Health Indicator Trends Summary**

<b>CIVIC HEALTH INDICATOR</b>	<b>2020 Percent Engaged (Rank)</b>	<b>2010 Percent Engaged (Rank)</b>	<b>Change in Rank</b>
<b>Social and Community Connectedness</b>			
<b>Volunteering</b>	34.0% (18th)	26.1% (32nd)	14
<b>Talk with or spend time with neighbors</b>	28.6% (35th)	34.8%** (50th)	15
<b>Do favors for neighbors</b>	12.3% (17th)	13.5% (43rd)	26
<b>Group membership</b>	32.7% (17th)	36.6% (22nd)	5
<b>Donation to charitable or religious organizations</b>	50.6% (33rd)	45.6% (45th)	12
<b>Civic Awareness and Action</b>			
<b>Discussing politics, social, or local issues - family (question changed)</b>	34.8% (28th)	21.6% (48th)	20
<b>Discuss politics with neighbors</b>	7.3% (32nd)	21.6% (48th)	16
<b>Posting on the internet frequently about social or political views</b>	7.5% (12th)	5.9%** (45th)	33
<b>Contacting public officials</b>	10.4% (31st)	10.6% (32nd)	1
<b>Voting in the local elections</b>	48.0% (45th)	n/a	n/a
<b>Donate to a political organization</b>	5.8% (37th)	n/a	n/a
<b>Attend a public meeting</b>	9.6% (37th)	7.4% (44th)	7
<b>Voting and Voter Registration</b>			
<b>Voting (2012 and 2020)</b>	61.0% (46th)	59.3% (38th)	8
<b>Voter Registration</b>	69.3% (39th)	71.3% (37th)	2



## Civic Awareness

A deeper investigation into indicators of civic awareness reveals the need to improve our connections with and participation in civic and political institutions. While we excel in our family connections and actively engage with neighbors and groups, our engagement with public leaders and local elections does not speak to our ability to connect, assist, and participate civically.

In Chart 7, multiple indicators of civic awareness point to a populace not actively engaged with public officials, Hoosiers contribute minimally to political organizations, and have limited exposure to the media.

For most civic awareness and action indicators, Hoosier's rates of participation and the state's national ranking improved. Yet, Indiana ranked in the lower 50% of all states for all but one indicator.

- **Approximately 7.5% of Hoosiers post their views on social, political, or local issues on the internet, Indiana ranks 12th in the nation on this indicator of civic awareness.**
- **More Hoosiers attended public meetings in 2020 (9.6%) than in 2010 (7.4%)**
- **Hoosiers' contact with local officials largely remained unchanged during the decade, with an average of 10.5% of residents connecting at the local level**

If we look closer at residents' engagement with local officials, we see that as educational attainment and household income levels change, so do residents' contact rates. Among those with a bachelor's degree or higher, slightly more than one-fifth (20.8%) contacted or visited a public official early in the decade. In contrast, Hoosiers with a high school degree contacted officials at a rate of 8.5%, less than half that of college graduates. By 2020, we see this gap narrowing. Contact with public officials fell to approximately 14% for college graduates, while a more significant percentage (10.3%) of those with high school diplomas contacted local officials by 2019.

**Chart 7. Educational Attainment and Contacting Public Officials in Indiana**

	Educational Attainment			
	Less than HS Diploma	High School Diploma	Some College	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
<b>CONTACTED OR VISITED A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (POOLED 2010, 2011, 2013)</b>	2.4%	8.5%	15.2%	20.8%
<b>CONTACTED OR VISITED A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (2017)</b>	n/a	7.8%	15.8%	26.7%
<b>CONTACTED OR VISITED A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (2019)</b>	n/a	10.3%	13.0%	13.8%

Hoosiers' contact rates with public officials also vary by income level, but the gap appears to have narrowed over the past decade. In the early part of the decade, those with the highest incomes contacted public officials at a rate of 16.6%, while those with the lowest income levels contacted public officials at a rate of 6.25%, more than 10% lower. In 2020, the rates rose for those reporting incomes of \$35,000 or less and fell for those reporting incomes of \$75,000 or more. The gap in participation thus narrowed to 6.4%.

**Chart 8. Income Level and Contacting Public Officials in Indiana**

	Income Level			
	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 or more
<b>CONTACTED OR VISITED A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (POOLED 2010, 2011, 2013)</b>	6.2%	12.9%	13.9%	16.6%
<b>CONTACTED OR VISITED A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (2017)</b>	7.5%	8.5%	13.2%	19.3%
<b>CONTACTED OR VISITED A PUBLIC OFFICIAL (2019)</b>	7.6%	9.7%	6.8%	14.0%

## CONCLUSION

When we first embarked on producing the Indiana Civic Health Index, a committed group of stakeholders from across the state sought to better understand how Hoosiers connected to their communities and government. We were inspired by the words of Congressman Hamilton and former Chief Justice Shepard, who in the 2011 INCHI stated, “When grave threats have presented themselves in generations gone by, the American response has been bolstered by a deep belief that our future together will be bright if the many elements of our diverse society manage to unite for the good of the whole.” The journey began with examining U.S. Census data. We sought to answer critical questions related to civic health, such as, what does history tell us about Hoosier voter turnout, registration, and volunteering in our communities? The 2011 INCHI revealed both successes and challenges in our state’s civic health.

A state tour sharing the results led to more questions. How are we different, and how are we similar in our engagement and civic participation patterns? Are there factors that can provide more insight into these similarities and differences? The 2017 INCHI took a deeper dive into the data and revealed again that Hoosier’s excelled in demonstrating our social connectedness in rural, urban, and suburban communities across the state. However, voting and voter registration participation remained low.

The data and analysis reported in the 2017 INCHI spurred more dialogue and strengthened Indiana’s commitment to civic engagement. The 2017 INCHI results revealed that while there may not be one formula best suited to all areas of civic health in Indiana, a commitment to excellence is demonstrated best by continuous improvement. Hoosier’s living in all geographic areas participated in civic life in meaningful and valued ways.

Forging ahead the 2019 INCHI discussed both differences and similarities in civic participation across age groups, income, and education levels. Examining these factors lays the groundwork for developing recommendations for action in two areas: voting and civic education. The work expanded to include action recommendations based on the analysis performed since 2011. The recommendations included forming a State of Indiana Civic Education Task Force to develop a plan for advancing civic education in the K-12 environment. The State of Indiana embraced this action recommendation, formed a task force, and produced a report detailing the next steps. The INCHI initiative garnered state recognition and action in less than ten years.

Today, the Indiana Civic Health Index takes a retrospective approach to examining the state of our civic health and reports on the concrete actions taken to address our challenges. We can decisively conclude that a continuing and ever more pressing challenge is connecting citizens to the democratic processes of voting. One way to accomplish this goal is to embrace and support civic education. However, there are multiple avenues that we can pursue if we wish to be a model of democratic participation. A decade later, Indiana remains dedicated to achieving, succeeding, and inspiring other states in their quest to achieve a bright future and unite for the good of the whole.

# APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS

## CIVIC HEALTH

Civic health reflects the degree to which citizens participate in their communities, from local and state governance to interactions with friends or family. Civic health also relates to the overall well-being of neighborhoods, communities, states, and the nation.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic engagement is the act of working with local institutions and fellow residents to promote meaningful actions, movements, and relationships within a community or population. This can take many forms, from voter registration rates to talking politics with friends or family and from trusted local businesses to participating in community groups. Some measures of civic engagement are political, some are social, and some are individual, but each reflects something important about a community's civic health.

## SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Social connectedness is a series of interactions between friends, families, and neighbors, such as eating dinner with friends or family and trusting your neighbors.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement refers to the ways people interact with fellow residents beyond their friends, family, and immediate neighbors. These actions include group membership, charitable giving, volunteer rate, and attending public meetings.

## POLITICAL ACTION OR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Political action and participation refer to the ways people influence local government and public institutions, including voting in state and local elections, contacting public officials, discussing politics, and buying or boycotting goods to reflect political opinions.

## CONFIDENCE IN INSTITUTIONS

Confidence in institutions refers to the degree to which residents believe that various local institutions, including public schools, media, and corporations, will do what is right.



## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> CIRCLE, “Youth Who Learned about Voting in High School More Likely to Become Informed and Engaged Voters,” August 31, 2020, accessed October 9, 2021, from <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/youth-who-learned-about-voting-high-school-more-likely-become-informed-and-engaged> See also: David E. Campbell (2019): What Social Scientists Have Learned About Civic Education: A Review of the Literature, *Peabody Journal of Education*, DOI: 10.1080/0161956X.2019.1553601
- <sup>2</sup> The findings presented are based on an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Estimates are from the CPS Volunteering Supplement, Voting/Registration Supplement, and the Civic Engagement Supplement.
- <sup>3</sup> 2020 New Hampshire Civic Health Index, citing Vinnakota, R. (November, 2019). From Civic Education to A Civic Learning System: A Landscape Analysis and Case for Collaboration, [https://rbw.civic-learning.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CE\\_online.pdf](https://rbw.civic-learning.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CE_online.pdf)
- <sup>4</sup> National Conference on Citizenship. (2013). Civic Health and the Economy.
- <sup>5</sup> Dubowitz, T., C. Nelson, S. Weiland, J. Sloan, A. Bogart, C. Miller & A. Chandra. (2020). Factors related to health civic engagement: results from the 2018 National Survey of Health Attitudes to understand progress towards a Culture of Health, *BMC Public Health*, 20. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-020-08507-w>
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- <sup>9</sup> Marcel, Mario. (2015). 6 reasons citizen engagement is key to development, *World Economic Forum*
- <sup>10</sup> Kinghorn, M., “The drivers of Indiana’s population growth since 2010,” accessed December 1, 2021, from <https://www.incontext.indiana.edu/2021/july-aug/article1.asp>
- <sup>11</sup> Kinghorn, M., “Census results show Indiana’s growing diversity,” accessed December 4, 2021, from [www.ibrc.indiana.edu/ibr/2021/fall/article1.html](http://www.ibrc.indiana.edu/ibr/2021/fall/article1.html)
- <sup>12</sup> Strange, R., “Indiana’s elderly populations projected to climb sharply,” accessed December 2, 2021, from [www.incontext.indiana.edu/2018/july-aug/article2.asp](http://www.incontext.indiana.edu/2018/july-aug/article2.asp)
- <sup>13</sup> Statista, “Median household income in the United States in 2020, by state,” accessed December 2, 2021, from [www.statista.com/statistics/233170/median-household-income-in-the-united-states-by-state](http://www.statista.com/statistics/233170/median-household-income-in-the-united-states-by-state)
- <sup>14</sup> Indiana Bar Foundation, “2020 Indiana Civic Education Task Force: Recommendations Report,” accessed October 10, 2021 from <https://inbf.org/Portals/O/Uploads/CETF Recommendations Report Final.pdf?ver=2020-11-13-145844-447>





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The Foundation also thanks the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) and the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) for their leadership and support of this INCHI and promoting citizenship nationwide.

Without the contributions and support of Indiana University Northwest, including Chancellor Ken Iwama and Dr. Ellen Szarleta, the Indiana Civic Health Index would not have been possible.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

Unless otherwise noted, findings presented in this report are based on the National Conference on Citizenship's (NCoC) analysis of the U.S. Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Any and all errors are NCoC's own. Volunteering and Civic Engagement estimates are from CPS September Volunteering/Civic Engagement Supplement from 2019 and voting estimates from 2020 November Voting and Registration Supplement.

Using a probability selected sample of about 150,000 occupied households, the CPS collects monthly data on employment and demographic characteristics of the nation. Depending on the CPS supplement, the single-year Indiana CPS sample size used for this report ranges from 344-976 (volunteering/civic engagement supplement) and to 1,383 (voting supplement) residents from across Indiana. This sample is then weighted to representative population demographics for the district. Estimates for the volunteering and civic engagement indicators (e.g., volunteering, working with neighbors, making donations) are based on U.S. residents ages 16 and older. Voting and registration statistics are based on U.S. citizens who are 18

and older (eligible voters). When we examined the relationship between educational Attainment and engagement, estimates are based on adults ages 25 and older, based on the assumption younger people may be completing their education.

Because multiple sources of data with varying sample sizes are used, the report is not able to compute one margin of error for Indiana across all indicators. Any analysis that breaks down the sample into smaller groups (e.g., gender, education) will have smaller samples, and therefore the margin of error will increase. Furthermore, while helpful in benchmarking, national rankings may be small in range, with one to two percentage points separating the state/district ranked first from the state/district ranked last.

It is also essential that our margin of error estimates is approximate, as CPS sampling is highly complex, and accurate estimation of error rates involves many parameters that are not publicly available.

# CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

## State and Local Partnerships

NCoC began America's Civic Health Index in 2006 to measure the level of civic engagement and health of our democracy. In 2009, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act directed NCoC to expand this civic health assessment in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the US Census Bureau.

NCoC now works with partners in more than 30 communities nationwide to use civic data to lead and inspire a public dialogue about the future of citizenship in America and to drive sustainable civic strategies.

### STATES

#### Alabama

University of Alabama  
David Mathews Center for Civic Life  
Auburn University

#### Arizona

Center for the Future of Arizona

#### California

California Forward  
Center for Civic Education  
Center for Individual and Institutional Renewal  
Davenport Institute

#### Colorado

Metropolitan State University of Denver  
The Civic Canopy  
Denver Metro Chamber Leadership  
Campus Compact of Mountain West  
History Colorado  
Institute on Common Good

#### Connecticut

Everyday Democracy  
Secretary of the State of Connecticut  
DataHaven  
Connecticut Humanities  
Connecticut Campus Compact  
The Fund for Greater Hartford  
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund  
Wesleyan University

#### District of Columbia

ServeDC

#### Florida

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship  
Bob Graham Center for Public Service  
Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government

#### Georgia

Georgia Family Connection Partnership  
Georgia Municipal Association

#### Illinois

McCormick Foundation

#### Indiana

Indiana University Center on Representative Government  
Indiana Bar Foundation  
Indiana Citizen Education Foundation, Inc.  
Indiana Supreme Court  
Indiana University Northwest  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

#### Kansas

Kansas Health Foundation

#### Kentucky

Commonwealth of Kentucky, Secretary of State's Office  
Institute for Citizenship & Social Responsibility,  
Western Kentucky University  
Kentucky Advocates for Civic Education  
McConnell Center, University of Louisville

#### Maryland

Mannakee Circle Group  
Center for Civic Education  
Common Cause-Maryland  
Maryland Civic Literacy Commission

#### Michigan

Michigan Nonprofit Association  
Michigan Campus Compact  
Michigan Community Service Commission  
Volunteer Centers of Michigan  
Council of Michigan Foundations  
Center for Study of Citizenship at Wayne State University

#### Minnesota

Center for Democracy and Citizenship

#### Missouri

Missouri State University  
Park University  
Saint Louis University  
University of Missouri Kansas City

University of Missouri Saint Louis  
Washington University

#### Nebraska

Nebraskans for Civic Reform

#### New Hampshire

Carsey Institute  
Campus Compact of New Hampshire  
University System of New Hampshire  
New Hampshire College & University Council

#### New York

Siena College Research Institute  
New York State Commission on National and Community Service

#### North Carolina

Institute for Emerging Issues

#### Ohio

Miami University Hamilton Center for Civic Engagement

#### Oklahoma

University of Central Oklahoma  
Oklahoma Campus Compact

#### Pennsylvania

Center for Democratic Deliberation  
National Constitution Center

#### South Carolina

University of South Carolina Upstate

#### Texas

The University of Texas at Austin  
The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life  
RGK Center for Philanthropy & Community Service

#### Virginia

Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier  
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

### ISSUE SPECIFIC

#### Latinos Civic Health Index

Carnegie Corporation

#### Veterans Civic Health Index

Got Your 6

#### Millennials Civic Health Index

Mobilize.org  
Harvard Institute of Politics  
CIRCLE

#### Economic Health

Knight Foundation  
Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS)  
CIRCLE

## CITIES

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### **Atlanta**

Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta

### **Greater Austin**

The University of Texas at Austin  
RGK Center for Philanthropy and  
Community Service

Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life  
Leadership Austin

Austin Community Foundation  
KLRU-TV, Austin PBS  
KUT News

### **Chicago**

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### **Kansas City & Saint Louis**

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### **Seattle**

Seattle City Club

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Center for Democracy and Citizenship  
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