

# 2019 INDIANA CIVIC HEALTH INDEX™

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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

Attorneys and judges of the Indiana Bar Foundation are committed to strengthening access to justice and increasing education about the rule of law. The Foundation serves the public with various educational and scholarship programs about the U.S. Constitution, American history, the legal system and the judicial process, including We the People, Indiana High School Mock Trial, the U.S. Senate Youth Program, and the Indiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council. It also aids those Hoosiers in need by funding 12 pro bono programs and other legal aid serving persons in poverty seeking legal assistance and advice.

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

ICEF is a strictly nonpartisan, start-up 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 fourth edition of the Indiana Civic Health Index seeks to connect findings to action steps as we build on our successes and address our challenges. In this latest “report card” we are able to look at two election cycles – over an eight-year period – and analyze trends over time. We hope that the insights gained by examining Hoosiers’ participation in civic life, from 2010 to the present, will inform our future work as we continue to build a culture of civic engagement that enhances our economic, social, and political wellbeing.

Unlike past editions of the Indiana Civic Health Index, this edition includes two specific recommendations for future action. The two recommendations, presented in the final section of the report, outline strategies for expanding and improving civic education programs and opportunities, as well as improving voting rates in Indiana. These two goals are crucial to advancing the state of our civic health. They are also deeply intertwined with one another, hence the need to design an integrated approach to addressing the complex nature of advancing our civic health. We believe that we have sufficient evidence from previous reports and other research to suggest that by focusing on these two areas, civic education and voting, significant improvements to Indiana’s civic health will result. This will require a concerted effort of all stakeholders interested in supporting citizen participation in its many forms; the result of which will be a more vibrant, successful, and engaged Indiana and nation.

In the fourth edition of the Indiana Civic Health Index, two specific recommendations for future action are presented.



## Executive Summary

When we recognize the contributions of all Hoosiers to our overall civic health, we broaden and deepen our understanding and connections. The data in this report reveals the patterns of our civic engagement and the commitment of Hoosiers to building a civically engaged Indiana. During the period of analysis, our performance relative to that of other states has improved in key areas, including measures of working with neighbors and attending public meetings. These civic actions speak to our need to connect to our communities, and to government. In other areas, we identify our opportunities for demonstrating a renewed commitment to improving our civic health including voting and voter registration.

The Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplements can examine Indiana’s performance compared to that of other states. Indiana’s voter turnout ranking has consistently placed the state in the bottom tier. In the 2012 and 2016 presidential election years, Indiana’s voter turnout rates resulted in a rank of 38 and 41, respectively. In the 2010, 2014, and 2018 midterm election years, Indiana ranked 48th, 47th, and 43rd, respectively, on voter turnout. Voter registration rates during this period were also low in comparison to other states. Indiana consistently placed in the bottom half of all states. The highest rank achieved on voter registration during this period was the rank of 37th, occurring both in 2012 and 2018. These results make clear that on these measures of civic participation, i.e., voter turnout and registration, continued dialogue and clear actions will be critical to building civic engagement and securing the future of Indiana’s civic health.<sup>1</sup>

Our challenge and our hope is to devise ways to improve our civic health, build on our unique strengths and interests, and act to build stronger communities. This report provides additional information that can be used to continue our collective effort to move Indiana into a position of leadership – striving to be among the top 10 of all states. Moving from the bottom 10 to top 10 will require a focused effort, but we are confident Indiana can rise to the challenge.

# INTRODUCTION

A look at our civic health is a look at our public life – how we interact with one another, with our communities and with the government.<sup>2</sup> The original Indiana Civic Health Index (CHI) was published in 2011. Four years later, in 2015, we continued to demonstrate our commitment to continuing the conversation regarding our attitudes and actions in the civic arena. The 2015 CHI explored more deeply the impediments to civic participation and the resources that can be harnessed to further strengthen our civic commitments. Indiana's dedication to civic health continues today, in the face of an ever-changing landscape. In the 2017 CHI, Indiana's voter turnout and voter registration results from the 2016 national election were reported. In this report, we explored emerging trends related to our civic mindset. Midterm election data (2018) on civic indicators is included in this fourth edition. This unprecedented examination of civic health trends over eight years is a vehicle for stimulating conversations and motivating a deeper commitment to action from citizens and policy makers alike with the goal of improving our individual lives and our communities.<sup>3</sup>

## What is Civic Health?

**Indiana leads the nation in the thoughtful examination of civic health.** Since 2010, organizations in the state have come together to prepare the Indiana Civic Health Index on four occasions. Civic health is a measure of how actively citizens engage in their communities. The Indiana CHI is one way that the State of Indiana actively seeks to understand the status of our civic health and educate and inspire citizens, including leaders, to engage in dialogue and actions that improve the well-being of our 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 focus of this report is to take a closer look at how our civic health has changed over time with a particular focus on voter turnout and registration. We seek to raise important issues and questions that will determine our progress toward more active civic participation in all areas including community and political involvement, to ensure that the needs of individuals, the community, and the state are met and we strengthen and sustain a civic culture that reflects our belief in the democratic process.

One way that we can look at our civic challenges and plan for our progress is to examine our involvement in a wide variety of civic activities. This report examines Hoosiers' participation in and views on community-based, political, and voting-related activities. Promoting understanding and reinforcing the value of authentic civic engagement in our communities lies at the heart of our efforts to take stock of our civic health. While the data cited in this report does not capture the ways we are divided in our dialogue, it does provide information on our differences and similarities which can be useful to promoting understanding. We get a closer look at our neighbors – their political, social, and civic views and actions when we examine patterns of civic activity by education and income levels, as well as age and geographic area of residence.

There are many ways to be “actively engaged.” Surely volunteering, staying informed of current events, and voting are among some of the important ways we can be engaged. Other activities such as running for office, interacting with neighbors, and attending a religious service are also important and information on our engagement in these activities provides us with an indication of how involved individuals are with their communities.

On some measures of civic health, Hoosiers do better than the average American, however on others we see there is room for improvement. To continue our journey of improving our civic well-being in our communities we are examining changes in Hoosier civic health, both positive and negative, that occurred over the last four to five years. In sharing these changes, we can improve knowledge and inspire action in our communities while demonstrating our commitment to engaged citizenry.

## Why is Civic Health Important?

Engaged citizens are the foundation of a well-functioning democracy. They get involved. They understand the world around them. They care about their communities and work to improve them. In so doing, these citizens practice civility when faced with differences of opinion. When we are informed and recognize our differences (and similarities) we are taking the first steps toward a dialogue that is both substantive and factual, while simultaneously promoting civic health. Retired Congressman Lee Hamilton notes:



**Lee H. Hamilton**

**In a democracy, it is not enough just to let politicians set the rules of engagement.**

*As citizens, we need to know how to cultivate our own skills: to stay informed, volunteer, speak out, ask questions, make discriminating judgments about politicians and policies, and improve our neighborhoods and communities.*

*And we need to know the values that underlie productive civic dialogue: mutual respect and tolerance; the humility to know that sometimes we're wrong; the honesty to keep deliberations open and straightforward; the resolve to surmount challenges whatever the obstacles; and, of course, the civility that allows us to find common ground despite our disagreements."*<sup>4</sup>

Our civic health is strengthened when we find common ground. Hoosiers often participate in civic life in similar ways, as this report will show. Across income, race, and educational differences our shared belief in the public institutions anchors our civic engagement. Indiana is currently ranked 10th in the nation on this measure of civic engagement. Our confidence in these institutions signals that we value our economic system, believe in the importance of education, and acknowledge the role of the media. Studies, such as this report, point to the importance of examining our civic health not only for the purpose of building a better democracy but also for building civility.

### 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 trusting 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 defined as 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.



## INDIANA: Civic Health Past and Present

Indiana's participation in the Civic Health Index over the past eight years is strong evidence of interest in our civic well-being over time. Our past is a touchstone from which we build our future. In Indiana the past reveals room for improvement as well as celebration. In this section we provide an overview of our strengths and challenges relative to the nation as a whole. Voter registration and turnout, past and present, is consistently ranked well below the national average while in many community-related activities, e.g., volunteering and giving, membership in groups, Hoosiers participate in rates higher than the national average. In subsequent sections we take a deeper dive and explore similarities and differences among our civic activities over time.

### Voter Registration and Turnout: An Overview

Indiana's national rankings on voter registration and voting turnout indicate there is significant room for improvement. This trend of placing in the lower half of all states on both indicators of civic health is persistent since 2010. For example, in 2010, a midterm election year, the state ranked 43rd in voter registration and 48th in voting turnout. In 2014, the state was ranked 30th in voter registration and 47th in voting turnout. Data from the 2018 midterm elections show that while there was improvement in both registration and turnout, the state remained in the bottom ten of all states on these indicators. As Table 1 shows, these rankings differ little between midterm and presidential election years, and in fact, Indiana's rank fell from 37th in 2012 to 40th in 2016 in voter registration, and from 38th to 41st in voting turnout.



Photo provided by IUPUI

**Table 1. Voter Registration and Voting in Indiana: Comparison from 2010-2018**

	MIDTERM ELECTION YEAR						PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEAR			
	2010		2014		2018		2012		2016	
	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate
VOTER REGISTRATION	43rd	65.1%	30th	64.9%	37th	65.3%	37th	71.3%	40th	68.8%
VOTING	48th	39.4%	47th	35.1%	43rd	49.3%	38th	59.3%	41st	58.3%

## Community and Political (Non-Electoral) Involvement: An Overview

Indiana's residents are active participants in their communities engaging at high rates in a variety of volunteer, family, group, and nonelectoral activities. It is our sense of community that drives Hoosiers to connect locally, explore their differences, express their views, and contribute to the wellbeing of the friends, family, and neighbors. In all of these ways, Indiana ranks in the top half of all states. Exploring these strengths is the first step toward enhancing our civic health. The next step is to identify ways to leverage our skills and talents to connect and contribute to the larger whole, including our state and the nation. We can creatively build on our local identity to further progress at all levels. Given our high levels of engagement in a variety of activities, we also can serve as a model for others to follow. Table 2 summarizes the areas of Hoosier excellence in community and political engagement.

**Table 2. Indicators of Community and Political Involvement.**

		2017		2013 <sup>1</sup>	
INDICATORS		Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate
POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT	Posting views on social, political and local issues on the Internet/Social Media	2	10.5%	14	8.8%
	Frequently read, watch or listen to news or information about social, political, local issues	8	80.0%	n/a	n/a
	Voted in last local election	20	55.3%	n/a	n/a <sup>2</sup>
	Contacted or visited a public official	24	13.0%	30	11.1%
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Group Participation	11	34.3%	20	40.2% <sup>3</sup>
	Frequently hear from/spend time with friends and family	12	87.7%	4	83.9%
	Frequently discuss political, social or local issues with friends and family	12	44.1%	18	30.4%
	Frequently talk/spend time with people of different racial, ethnic or cultural background	17	58.5%	n/a	n/a
	Donations to political organizations (\$25 or more)	18	9.5%	n/a	n/a
	Volunteering	20	34.9%	22	28.7%
	Frequently do favors for neighbors	25	10.3%	25	12.7%

<sup>1</sup> Volunteering data was obtained from the 2015 Current Population Survey Civic Engagement Supplement. All other data was obtained from the 2013 Supplement.

<sup>2</sup> In 2017, the question related to voting behaviors was modified. The 2017 question asks respondents to indicate, with a yes or no, if they voted in the last election. Prior to 2107, respondents were asked if they voted in local elections and at what frequency, i.e., always, sometimes, rarely and never. Data reported for 2016 cannot be compared to that collected in the 2017 CPS.

<sup>3</sup> Nationally, group participation rates fell. The declining national rate resulted in a higher rank for Indiana despite Indiana's lower rate of group participation.

It is clear that becoming informed and sharing our views on social, political, and local issues is important. Hoosiers rank second in the country in our online participation directed at posting views in these areas. We are the 8th ranked state, with 80% responding that they frequently read, watch, or listen to news and information on social, political and local issues. According to the 2013 CPS Supplement, our confidence in most media (57.7%) exceeds the national average (55.0%).

In the area of community involvement our interests are diverse. We participate in groups (ranked 11th), engage with friends and family (12th), spend time with people of different backgrounds (17th), donate to political organizations (18th), volunteer (20th) and help our neighbors (25th).



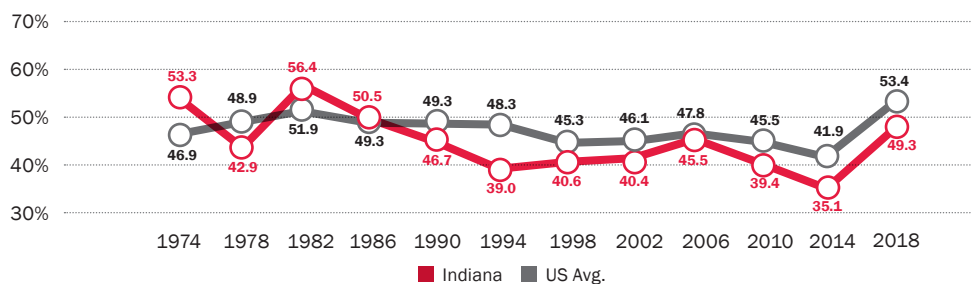
# INDIANA'S CIVIC HEALTH: *A Deeper Dive*

## Voter Registration and Turnout

Most recently, in the 2016 Presidential Election and the 2018 midterm elections, Indiana's rankings for voter registration and turnout placed the state in the bottom third of all states. By looking at 44 years of registration and turnout data we can begin to put in context our current status.

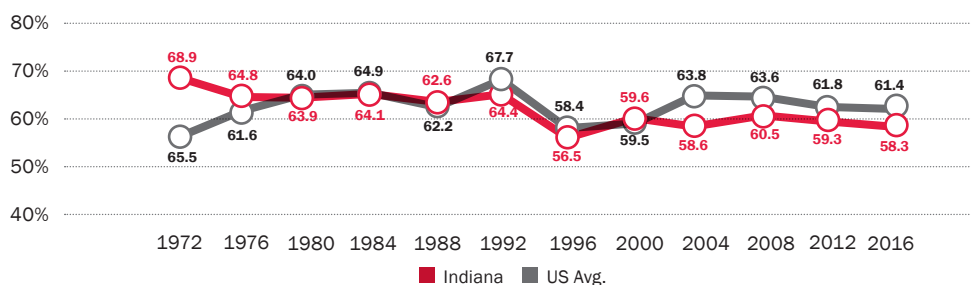
Charts 1 and 2 provide insight on long-term trends in voter turnout in the State of Indiana. The data shows the following: (1) Indiana's rate of voter turnout slightly exceeded national rates for most midterm elections between 1974 and 1986, (2) after 1986 Indiana's midterm voter turnout fell below the national average and remains so 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. It should be noted that 2014 was a year in which there was no U.S. Senate race at the top of the ballot. Most recently, in 2018—with a contested Senate race at the top of the ballot-- the voter turnout rate surged to 49.3%, an increase of 14.2% over the 2014 rate. However, this marked increase in voter turnout only moved Indiana from a rank of 47th in 2014 to 43rd in the nation in 2018, due to the record mid-term turnout across the country.

**Chart 2. Indiana Voter Turnout During Presidential Election Years 1972 - 2016**



In the most recent Presidential election year (2016), Indiana ranked 41st, placing in the lower 25% of states. Approximately 58% of all eligible Hoosiers came to the polls in the 2016 elections compared to 61.4% of all eligible Americans. Chart 2 reveals a declining average voter turnout rate over time. Indiana's voter turnout rate was the highest (68.9%) in 1972, exceeding the national average of 65.5%. In 2016, Indiana's voter turnout rate was 58.3%, lower than the national average of 61.4%.



## 37th

Indiana ranked 37th in voter registration during the 2018 midterm elections, at 65.3%.

The main reason given by Hoosiers for not voting in the 2016 Presidential election was that they “didn’t like the candidates or campaign issues.” This was also the primary reason given at the national level. One-quarter of all respondents (eligible voters) nationally and 22.4% of Hoosiers (eligible voters) chose this as the main reason they did not vote. In 2018, a mid-term election year, most respondents chose a different reason for not voting – time. Approximately 24% of Indiana’s eligible voters indicated that they were too busy, and/or there was a conflict in work or school schedules. The second most popular reason (18.5%) was the lack of interest and the feeling that their vote would not count.

Indiana’s civic health can also be examined by looking at voter registration rates and national rankings. The state’s voter registration rate in 2018 was slightly below the national rate: 65.3% of eligible Hoosiers registered to vote compared to 66.9% nationally. Table 3 reveals that since 2010, Indiana voter registration rates have improved in midterm election years and remained stable during Presidential election years.

**Table 3. Indiana Voter Registration**

National Rank and Rate	2018	2016	2014	2012	2010
Rank	37	40	30	37	43
Rate	65.3%	68.8%	64.9%	69.2%	65.1%

Given Indiana’s rankings, it is valuable to understand why Hoosiers choose not to register to vote. In 2018, the main reasons given by Hoosiers for not registering were lack of interest/involvement in the election/politics and missing the registration deadline. When combined, these two reasons accounted for almost 50% of the respondents who did not register to vote in 2018, with 42.6% citing lack of interest in the election or no involvement with politics and 16.1% citing failure to meet registration deadlines. Another 4.6% indicated they did not know where or how to register and 3.9% cited permanent illness or disability as a reason for not registering to vote.

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 Presidential election years. Tables 4, 5, and 6 show that the rates of eligible voter participation increase with age, educational attainment, and household income levels.

**Table 4. Voting and Registration by Age Group in Indiana**

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Voting (2012)	36.4%	44.5%	52.4%	68.2%	71.6%	76.2%	69.6%
Voting (2016)	43.0%	50.2%	59.7%	60.2%	63.7%	68.4%	66.6%
Registration (2012)	48.2%	57.7%	68.6%	72.7%	78.6%	79.9%	78.7%
Registration (2016)	57.6%	62.5%	69.0%	68.2%	73.3%	77.0%	79.0%

In Indiana, among 65 to 74-year-olds, 68.4% voted in the 2016 Presidential Election compared with 43% of 18- to 24-year-olds. However, among the latter age cohort, the rate of voter turnout rose roughly 7% from 36.4% in the 2012 Presidential Election.

**Table 5. Voting and Registration by Educational Attainment in Indiana**

	Less than High School	High School Diploma	Some College	Bachelor's or Higher
Voting (2012)	28.5%	53.7%	66.7%	81.4%
Voting (2016)	23.1%	49.8%	66.9%	80.0%
Registration (2012)	41.5%	64.4%	77.9%	86.9%
Registration (2016)	33.3%	62.4%	77.1%	86.0%

Voter registration and turnout rates increase considerably with educational attainment. In Indiana, 80% of eligible voters with a bachelor's degree or higher turned out in the 2016 Presidential Election, compared to 23.1% of voters with less than a high school diploma.

**Table 6. Voting and Registration by Income Level in Indiana**

	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 or more
Voting (2012)	45.5%	60.8%	59.9%	73.5%
Voting (2016)	47.1%	58.4%	57.1%	69.4%
Registration (2012)	59.3%	70.2%	66.8%	81.5%
Registration (2016)	61.6%	68.0%	65.5%	77.9%

Voter registration and turnout rates increase as household income rises. However, only among households making less than \$35,000 annually was there an increase in registration and voting between the 2012 (45.5%) and 2016 (47.1%) Presidential Elections.



## Community Involvement

Community involvement is a broad indicator of civic health. There are many ways for Hoosiers to participate in their communities, whether they are rural, urban, or suburban. Some of the ways to engage in civic life include joining an organization, volunteering, and developing social connectedness that comes from spending time with family and neighbors. Our engagement in civic life speaks to our sense of community. It also speaks to the ways that we contribute to and value our communities. It is through community involvement that we develop new and enrich existing relationships, by sharing ideas and engaging in dialogue. We join groups, volunteer, and connect with one another as community and state residents and as citizens of our country.

### Social Connectivity

Social connectivity, already strong in 2011, has shown even more improvement over time. Our families are central to our lives, as is evidenced by the percentage of Hoosiers who said they eat dinner with their family a few times a week or more. Almost 93% of Hoosiers are connected to their families in this way, exceeding the national average of 87.8%. In addition, over the course of the past six years, Indiana's rank among states also improved. In 2010, the state was ranked 17th in the nation. Currently, we are ranked 3rd in the nation.

Our civic engagement networks also include our friends and neighbors. In 2017, 44.1% of all Hoosiers frequently discussed political, societal, or local issues with family or friends, above the national average of 39% and leading to a rank of 12th. We get to know those who differ from us and we frequently do favors for our neighbors. Our level of engagement in these activities places the state in the top half of all states. The rate at which we help our neighbors has not changed significantly over the years, indicating the strong value we place on contributing to our community even as times change, e.g., technology, economic conditions, etc. The rate at which we trust our neighbors also improved over time. In 2011, the state ranked 31st in trusting our neighbors and in 2016 we were ranked 26th. Trust rose in urban and suburban communities and fell slightly in rural communities, where the largest percentage (75.2% in 2016) of the residents expressed trust in their neighbors. Trust increases with educational attainment. Pooled estimates of trust in neighbors from 2013 show the highest level of trust among those with bachelor's degrees or higher and the lowest levels (54.1%) among those with high school diplomas. These differences point to the value of education as a contributor to civic health.

### Group Associations

In all types of communities, urban, suburban, and rural, Hoosiers participate in groups as a form of civic engagement. In 2016, 40.2% of all Hoosiers participated in at least one group regardless of where they live, an increase of 3.6% over 2011 participation rates. They are, on average, more likely than other Americans to be part of a civic or service organization and attend church. In fact, Indiana residents' participation in all but one form of group, i.e., sports and recreation, increased over 2011 participation rates.

**Table 7. Group Membership in Indiana**

Group Types	2016	2011	Percentage Change
School Group, Neighborhood/Community	11.3%	13.3%	-2.0%
Service or Civic	10.9%	7.6%	+3.3%
Sports or Recreation	8.8%	6.8%	+1.9%
Religious Institutions	24.1%	21.3%	+2.8%
Other	5.8%	4.6%	+1.2%

# 12th

Indiana ranked 12th in the nation with 44.1% frequently discussing political, societal or local issues with family or friends.

Rural areas have slightly higher rates of participation in service or civic associations than those in urban areas, while suburban dwellers participated at the highest rates in religious institutions at 21.9%.

The 2017 Civic Engagement Supplement examined group association in ways different from the previous supplement. In the newest version of the supplement group participation, as opposed to group membership, was reported. Overall, in 2017, 34.3% of Hoosiers participated in groups. This rate was higher than the national rate of 27.1%. Of those participating in groups, 60.4% engaged with groups that meet wholly in person and 3.2% engaged with groups that meet wholly online. Another 36.4% of Hoosier group participants engaged with groups that had at least some online activity. Connecting with groups that have at least some online presence is an emerging form of community involvement.



Photo provided by IUPUI

## Volunteering and Social Interactions

Hoosiers donate time and talent to hospitals, religious organizations, schools, homeless shelters, food banks and other organizations.<sup>5</sup> Since 2010, volunteering rates have fluctuated little, ranging from a low of 27.3% in 2011 to a high of 34.9% in 2017. The consistent level of volunteerism cuts across rural, suburban and urban communities. For example, in 2017, volunteering occurred at a rate of 33.1% in urban areas, 38.8% in suburban areas and 40.0% in rural areas. Prior year percentages are similar. Rates of volunteering do differ by income and employment levels. Volunteer participation rates for those whose incomes exceed \$75,000 (51.9%) are more than double those whose incomes fall below \$35,000 (17.6%). Members of the labor force volunteer at a rate of 37.5%. Those not in the labor force volunteer at lower rate of 32%.

Other indicators of community involvement include talking or spending time with people of different racial, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds, and frequently discussing issues with friends and family and working with neighbors. Indiana's racial, ethnic and cultural diversity has increased over the past 20 years even as the pace of growth in several of the state's large racial and ethnic groups has slowed.<sup>6</sup> In 2017, slightly more than 58% of Hoosiers frequently talk or spend time with people of different racial ethnic or cultural backgrounds.

Frequently discussing issues with friends and family is an activity of 44.1% of respondents. Almost 63% of all Hoosiers participate in these discussions with some frequency, thus more than half of Indiana residents engage in this form of civic engagement. It is a way for friends and family to share information on local, social, and political concerns and supports the democratic process.

We also actively work with our neighbors to do something positive for our communities. While Indiana's rate of collaborating to improve communities is lower (18.5%) than that of the nation (20.9%), Hoosiers can and do take action. In 2017, 24.4% of rural residents worked with neighbors while 19.7% and 19.3% of urban and suburban residents respectively engaged in this activity.

## Political (Non-Electoral) Involvement

Political involvement was highest among Indiana residents living in suburban communities. Buying products/services and using the internet to express public opinions all occurred more frequently among those living in the suburbs. In only one area of political involvement (contacting or visiting public officials) was the rate of involvement higher in urban areas than in suburban areas.

In 2013, Indiana ranked 30th in the percentage of residents who reported contacting or visiting a public official at any level of government, with a rate of 11.1%, while the national rate was 10.8%. In 2018, Indiana's rank moved to 24th and the rate of participation increased to 13.0%. Residents thus reached out to public officials more frequently in 2018 than in 2013.

In Indiana, pooled rates (2010-2013) of civic participation among citizens increase with both educational attainment and household income. Among citizens with a bachelor's degree or higher, slightly more than one-fifth contacted or visited a public official (20.8%). The rates of participation dropped to 2.4% among Indiana residents who have not graduated from high school. Similarly, in 2017, those individuals earning a bachelor's degree or higher participated at a higher rate in nonelectoral activities than those with a high school diploma or some college. Table 8 shows that the rates of participation in 2017 were also higher than the pooled rate for 2010-2013 for those with college experience.

**Table 8. Political Involvement by Educational Attainment in Indiana (25 years and older)**

	Less than High School	High School Diploma	Some College	Bachelor's or Higher
Non-Electoral Participation: Contacted or Visited Public Official (pooled 2010, 2011, 2013)	2.4%	8.5%	15.2%	20.8%
Non-Electoral Participation: Contacted or Visited Public Official - 2017	n/a	7.8%	15.8%	26.7%

Differences among households were observed by income level as well. Table 9 summarizes these differences in Hoosiers' contact with public officials. Among households making less than \$35,000 annually, 6.2% contacted or visited a public official as revealed by the pooled rates from 2010 to 2013. This rate rose to 7.5% in 2017. Roughly 17% of citizens from households making \$75,000 or more contacted or visited a public official (16.6%) in 2010-2013 while 19.3% of those earning more than \$75,000 participated in this activity in 2017. In all but one income category (\$50,000-74,000) the rates of participation rose over time.

**Table 9. Political Involvement by Income Level in Indiana**

	Less than \$35,000	\$35,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 or more
Nonelectoral participation: contacted or visited public official? (pooled 2010, 2011, 2013)	6.2%	12.9%	13.2%	16.6%
Nonelectoral participation: contacted or visited public official - 2017	7.5%	8.5%	13.2%	19.3%



# Confidence in Public Insitutions

The Current Population Survey asks about people’s levels of confidence in three major social institutions—corporations, the media, and the public school system. Overall, Indiana is above the national average with regard to residents’ confidence in public institutions. Specifically, Hoosiers’ confidence in corporations and the media ranks highly when compared to the national average.

Hoosiers ranked 8th in the nation in their confidence in corporations in 2016 with 70% of residents responding that they had “most” or “all” confidence in corporations. This figure is 5.5% higher than the 2016 national average of 64.5% and represents a rise of 1.6% from the most recent estimates.<sup>8</sup>

Although there was an overall drop in our confidence in the media, Indiana still ranked 18th in the nation in that category in 2016. Almost 58% of Hoosiers in 2016 identified as having “most” or “all” confidence in the media, exceeding the national average by 2.7%. Additionally, the decline in confidence in the media was not as sharp in Indiana as it was nationally (when comparing the pooled estimates to the 2016 data). Indiana experienced a 2.5% decrease in confidence in the media, whereas the nation as a whole encountered a 3% decrease.

Hoosiers’ confidence in public schools did not exceed the national average. The pooled estimates from 2013 to 2015 showed that 85% of Hoosiers surveyed had a level of “most” or “all” confidence in public schools. This was 1.1% behind the national average of 86.1% for those combined years. However, the drop-off was not as severe in this state as it was nationally. In 2016, 84.4% of those surveyed in Indiana had “most” or “all” confidence in public schools. That number was a tenth of a percent behind the national average of 84.5% resulting in a rank of 34. The data also reveals interesting differences across geographic lines, as well as by age, level of education, and family income.

The geographic differences require careful examination. For example, confidence in all three forms of public institutions declined in urban areas from 2012 to 2016. Meanwhile, suburban dwellers showed notable increased levels of confidence for all three institutions. Rural respondents had the highest levels of confidence in public institutions overall, but data revealed an improved confidence in corporations and decreased confidence in public schools and media during this time.

**8th**  
Indiana ranked 8th in confidence in corporations in 2016, with 70% of residents responding that they had “most” or “all” confidence in corporations.

Table 10. Confidence in Public Institutions by Geography

	2012 Urban	2016 Urban	2012 Suburban	2016 Suburban	2012 Rural	2016 Rural
Confidence in Corporations	64.2%	62.1%	65.4%	68.0%	73.3%	75.1%
Confidence in Media	63.1%	55.0%	58.7%	59.7%	71.5%	68.1%
Confidence in Public Schools	82.9%	77.7%	80.5%	83.1%	94.8%	93.4%

The data also shows that confidence in public institutions varied by age and education level. In general, the 35 to 44 age group consistently expressed the highest or near highest level of confidence in corporations, the media, and public schools in 2012 and 2016. Those aged 25 to 34-year had the lowest level of confidence in corporations. An examination of confidence levels by educational attainment revealed that only those Hoosiers with a bachelor’s degree or higher had higher levels of confidence in corporations, the media, and public schools in 2016 than they did in 2012. Those individuals with some level of college, in fact, had noticeable decreases in confidence levels for all three. Most notable were there dramatic losses in confidence in both the media (from 73.2% in 2012 to 57.9% in 2016) and in public schools (89.3% in 2012, down to 83.4% in 2016). Those with a high school diploma were at or near the bottom in their confidence levels for all three public institutions surveyed. There was no data available for those with less than a high school education.

Finally, the relationship between family income and confidence in institutions proved noteworthy. Only one group stated that their confidence levels in all three forms of public institutions improved during the period from 2012 to 2016: those whose family income was greater than \$75,000. Every income group besides those with family incomes exceeding \$75,000 saw decreases in their confidence levels in both the media and public schools from 2012 to 2016.

## DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Civic participation is a reflection of many different influences and conditions. It is important to note that differences in civic participation also can be observed across geographic and educational lines. Recognizing and understanding these differences, as well as similarities, will assist us as we design and implement inclusive strategies for improving civic engagement.

From 2012 to 2016, the data reveals that urban areas experienced positive change in the volunteering, working with neighbors, and attending public meetings. In rural areas, charitable giving rose 1.8% during the same time period. The gains in suburban areas were minimal. All indicators of volunteering and giving in suburban areas declined with the exception of volunteering which rose by 0.3%. While improvements did occur in particular geographic areas, Indiana's overall ranking on these indicators, suggests that there is much work to be done. The highest participation rates in these categories occurred in suburban areas, and never exceeded a third of the population. On a positive note, the findings also show that Hoosier communities strongly value charitable giving and believe in supporting our public well-being, despite our differences and unique socio-economic and geographic experiences.

We must also raise awareness and ask questions related to voting and voter registration. While the national average for voting and voter registration was lower in 2016 than in 2012, the decline in Indiana was more than twice that of the nation in both forms of civic engagement. Improvements were seen in voting and voter registration rates among younger voters, however, participation among those over 44-years-of-age generally declined.

**Table 11: Civic Health Indicators: Community Trends<sup>9</sup>**

		2012 Urban	2016 Urban	2012 Suburban	2016 Suburban	2012 Rural	2016 Rural
VOLUNTEERING & GIVING	Volunteering	26.4%	27.0%	32.6%	32.9%	27.7%	27.2%
	Attending Public Meeting	9.1%	9.5%	8.1%	8.1%	6.2%	4.8%
	Working with Neighbors	10.1%	11.8%	8.4%	5.4%	4.6%	5.9%
	Charitable Giving	53.4%	50.4%	68.5%	63.9%	38.2%	40.0%
VOTING	Voting	59.1%	54.7%	65.1%	63.1%	50.3%	57.1%
	Registration	69.5%	64.9%	74.3%	72.9%	60.0%	71.5%

Sources: Volunteering and Giving ((CPS 2013 September Volunteering Supplement, 16+); Voting and Registrations ((CPS 2012 November Voting and Registration Supplement, 18+ Citizens); Interactions with Neighbors (CPS 2013 November Civic Engagement Supplement, 18+); Communication with Family and Friends ((CPS 2013 November Civic Engagement Supplement, 18+); Political Involvement (CPS 2013 November Civic Engagement Supplement, 18+); Group Membership (CPS 2013 November Civic Engagement Supplement, 18+ ); Confidence in Public Institutions, (CPS 2013 November Civic Engagement Supplement, 18+ )

## A Need for a Task Force to Study Ways to Improve Civic Education in Indiana

Civic education is one of the core principles that holds us together as a state and country by equipping us with the tools we need to be the informed and engaged citizens our democracy requires to function and thrive. Civic education serves as the “manual” for citizens to understand how they interact with their government at all levels, and indeed to know that there are different levels of government that each have unique roles and responsibilities. Just like learning to drive a car and understanding the rules of the road through a driver’s education class, quality civic education programs serve as the equivalent for learning the “rules of the road” to becoming a knowledgeable and engaged citizen.

Indiana’s own legendary statesman, retired Congressman Lee Hamilton, has often discussed the importance of civic education by reminding us that we are not born with this knowledge and appreciation for our system of government. It must be taught and instilled in each generation to preserve it for the future. It is a mission to which we must continuously dedicate ourselves.



Photo provided by the Indiana Bar Foundation

## Civic Education Programs in Indiana

Indiana’s most basic and wide-reaching level of civic education is what is required to be taught in our schools. This is reflected in the Indiana Academic Standards for Social Studies which were approved in 2014.<sup>10</sup> In Indiana, lessons related to civics and government as well as history are part of the teaching standards from Kindergarten to 12th grade. However, the specific required course in United States Government is a one-semester course generally taught in 11th or 12th grades. This course builds on the content from previous grades and is a requirement for most high school diplomas in Indiana.

There are specific civic education programs and opportunities available through various government and non-profit organizations and are used as part of the diverse set of curricula that teachers use to address the various required Indiana standards related to civic education. Programs and organizations from around the state promote civic education including the League of Women Voters, the Indiana Supreme Court’s “Courts in the Classroom” initiative which provides webcasts of oral arguments and materials for K-12 educators on the Indiana judicial system, the work of the Center on Representative Government at Indiana University which provides extensive free civic education resources to improve the public’s understanding of representative government, iCivics, High School and Collegiate Mock Trial and Moot Court, Model United Nations, the U.S. Senate Youth Program, the Indiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, the *We the People* program, and even the recently passed Indiana law that requires high schools to administer the United States Naturalization Test covering civic knowledge.

Even with these great programs throughout the state, there is still a lack of civic knowledge, understanding, and participation. The 2018 Brown Center Report on American Education’s inventory of state civics requirements found that statewide Indiana only incorporates one of the report’s defined methods of civic education.<sup>11</sup> The report found that while Indiana effectively used discussion of current events in civic education, it lacked service learning, simulations, and news media literacy instruction. This lack of effective civic education can be seen in the results of the 2018 Advanced Placement testing result in Indiana where only 25% of students scored a 4 or 5, the top score being 5, on the United States Government and Politics exam.<sup>12</sup>



## We the People – The Citizen and the Constitution

Of Indiana's many civic education programs one of the most notable is the *We the People* program, which is administered by the Indiana Bar Foundation statewide and by the Center for Civic Education nationwide. *We the People* is taught in many Indiana schools at the elementary, middle, and high school levels and satisfies many of the required teaching standards for those grade levels. Students study constitutional principles, contemporary constitutional issues, and evaluate positions surrounding relevant historical and current issues. Outside of the classroom, their hard work culminates in a simulated congressional hearing where students "testify" before a panel of judges.

Since 1987, Indiana's *We the People* program has had more than 200,000 student participants, and classes representing Indiana in the National Finals consistently place in the top 10 teams in the nation. These groups of students represent the future of our constitutional democracy and often have a lifelong passion for the principles discussed during their time in the *We the People* program.

Unlike other civic education programs, the *We the People* program has been the subject of extensive academic study and review about the effectiveness and impact of the program, including studies specifically done in Indiana schools. Findings of a 2014-15 study by Dr. Diana Owen from Georgetown University show that Indiana *We the People* students are much more likely to:

- Be inclined to participate in politics
- Respect the rule of law
- Follow politics and enjoy talking about government and politics
- Critically consume political news
- Be inclined to vote in presidential elections, local elections, and serve on a jury
- Believe that it is their responsibility to be involved in their community
- Feel that they could make their community better by working with others rather than individually
- Become more tolerant of opposing political ideas<sup>13</sup>

In the *We the People* program, students study constitutional principles, contemporary constitutional issues, and evaluate positions surrounding relevant historical and current issues.

*We the People* students highlight how important it is to educate and correctly interpret constitutional principles from freedom of speech and religion to how the court system functions. When we educate kids and teens about what their actual rights and responsibilities are, they're much more likely to stand up for themselves and to hold other people to those same standards.

Indiana's *We the People* program is one of the strongest in the nation because of the highly effective partnership between the Indiana Bar Foundation and the Indiana General Assembly, which has provided continued crucial support for the program.



Photo provided by the Indiana Bar Foundation

## A Need for a Task Force to Study Ways to Improve Civic Education in Indiana

In recent years many states have formed civic education task forces to examine their state's current policies and how to better provide civic education to promote informed and active citizens. In 2014, Illinois formed the Civic Education Task Force which looked at their policies and recommended requiring civic education in high school, revising Illinois Social Studies Standards, requiring a service-learning project in middle and high school, and involving students in the election process.<sup>14</sup> The 2014 Illinois task force led to the development of the Democracy Schools Initiative which recognizes and supports high schools that are dedicated to expanding civic learning using five common elements, including vision and leadership, curriculum, professional development, community engagement, and a respectful school climate. The California Civic Learning Task Force formed in 2013 came to similar conclusions including revising the California History-Social Science Contest Standards, including civic learning in state assessments, and working with community stakeholders to connect education to the community.<sup>15</sup>

### 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.

## A Need for Increased Voter Turnout in 2020

Many who have read our previous three reports have reacted with surprise and disappointment at Indiana's low rankings for voter registration and turnout. Such low rankings fly in the face of our perception—and some ratifying data in these reports—that Hoosiers are engaged citizens.

With a 2018 ranking of 43rd in voter turnout, once again we find our state ranked in the Bottom 10. A look at the Top 10 states shows Indiana would need to improve turnout by 20% to join their ranks. More specifically, it is estimated that a 20% increase would require approximately 500,000 additional voters in 2020.

We recommend that Indiana sets the goal of moving from the bottom tier of the rankings to the top tier. Achieving such a worthy—but certainly ambitious—goal will require the creation and implementation of the State's first concerted, nonpartisan, statewide campaign to encourage all eligible Hoosiers to register and vote. Every non-governmental organization which has supported the production of the Indiana Civic Health Index looks forward to working with likeminded individuals and organizations to make this goal a reality.

### 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.

## A Future for Indiana's Civic Health

If there is one overriding theme to take away from almost a decade of studying our civic health, it is that Indiana's commitment to civic engagement is unwavering.

Hoosiers of all income levels living in all geographic areas participate in civic life in meaningful and valued ways. Harnessing Hoosiers' energy and ideas, engaging in informed decision making and dialogue at all levels, and taking actions that support civic participation will ensure that all communities grow together.

By taking what we have learned and building upon our strengths, we can accomplish our goal. We recognize that one formula may not be best suited to all areas of civic health in Indiana and in that spirit recommend an aspirational goal and an opportunity to come together to determine how best to ensure it is accomplished. One thing is certain: with the Indiana Civic Health Index as a foundation for dialogue and action, we can enhance our civic lives.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Indiana Bar Foundation would like to thank retired Indiana Chief Justice Randall Shepard and the Indiana Supreme Court, retired United States Congressman Lee Hamilton and the Center on Representative Government at Indiana University, and former Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller. Their leadership has furthered the cause of civic education and engagement in Indiana.

We would also like to thank 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 Index and promoting citizenship nationwide.

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

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> National Conference on Citizenship, What is Civic Health.

<sup>2</sup> The findings presented here are based on 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> Lee Hamilton, "Let's Add Civility and Civic Skills to our Goals for the Year," Indiana University Center on Representative Government, accessed September 16, 2017 from <http://corg.indiana.edu/let%E2%80%99s-add-civility-and-civic-skills-our-goals-the-year>.

<sup>4</sup> IN.gov <http://www.in.gov/ofbci/volunteer/2407.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> IU Bloomington Newsroom, "Census estimates show Indiana growing more diverse, older," June 26, 2014., accessed June 28, 2019 from <http://archive.news.indiana.edu/releases/iu/2014/06/census-estimates-race-ethnicity.shtml>.

<sup>6</sup> McCann, Adam, "Most & Least Diverse States in America," Wallet Hub, September 18, 2018, accessed June 28, 2019 from <https://wallethub.com/edu/most-least-diverse-states-in-america/38262/>.

<sup>7</sup> Calculated from a combined dataset from 2013, 2014, and 2015 for the Volunteering Supplement).

<sup>8</sup> The U.S. Census urban area criteria were used to determine the urban, suburban and rural geographic areas. <http://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/reference/fedreg/fedregv76n164.txt>.

<sup>9</sup> The standards can be found here: <https://www.doe.in.gov/standards/social-studies>.

<sup>10</sup> The report can be found here: [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-Brown-Center-Report-on-American-Education\\_FINAL1.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-Brown-Center-Report-on-American-Education_FINAL1.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> The report can be found here: [https://www.in.gov/sboe/files/\(2018.11\)%20AP%20Report-FINAL.pdf](https://www.in.gov/sboe/files/(2018.11)%20AP%20Report-FINAL.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> The report can be found here: [https://www.in.gov/sboe/files/\(2018.11\)%20AP%20Report-FINAL.pdf](https://www.in.gov/sboe/files/(2018.11)%20AP%20Report-FINAL.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> The studies can be found here: <https://inbf.org/Educational-Programs/We-The-People/We-The-People-Research>.

<sup>14</sup> The report can be found here: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/il-civic-ed-task-force2014.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> The report can be found here: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/documents/cltffinalreport.pdf>.





## 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 2017 and voting estimates from 2018 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 369-1004 (volunteering/civic engagement supplement) and to 1,436 (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, national rankings, while useful in benchmarking, 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 important that our margin of error estimates are 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  
IU Center for Civic Literacy  
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

McCormick Foundation

### Kansas City & Saint Louis

Missouri State University  
Park University  
Washington University

### Miami

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship  
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation  
Miami Foundation

### Pittsburgh

University of Pittsburgh  
Carnegie Mellon University

### Seattle

Seattle City Club

### Twin Cities

Center for Democracy and Citizenship  
Citizens League  
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

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Former Governor of Florida

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