

Weekly Newsletter

Indiana's Embarrassingly Low Voter Participation



The number of people registering to vote and the number of registered voters staying away from the polls in Indiana are troubling. In 2022, out of 50 states and Washington, D.C., Indiana ranked 50th for voter turnout and 40th for voter registration. What's driving this?

These are the top reasons Hoosiers stay home on voting day:

- Living in a district where a particular party always wins
- A lack of compelling candidate choices
- Concerns over election integrity
- Voter apathy spurred by too many elections



I have solutions for improving voter turnout by addressing each of these issues. And I can tell you why YOUR vote is critical.

In districts that largely lean toward one party, voters may feel as if the contests are already decided. This happens when redistricting by both parties creates areas where there is a concentration of one party.

A lack of compelling candidates can also keep people from heading to the polls, especially in primary races. It's expensive to run a campaign, and good potential candidates with fresh ideas are often left out of a race due to funding shortfalls. I am in favor of wider ballot access for underdog candidates, which would create more competition, more choices, and more exciting races.

Weekly Newsletter #2

Voter apathy is another problem, partially spurred by too many elections. Being bombarded with campaign ads every year turns some folks off rather than motivating them to vote. In Indiana, most Republicans and Democrat candidates are selected by primary races and only a few are selected at their party conventions. Eliminating primaries and their cost to the taxpayers would also eliminate their contribution to voter apathy.

Not wanting to take the time is another reason for voter apathy. I would support making election day a holiday or voting on Saturday to make voting more convenient and to highlight the importance of elections.

In recent years, concerns about election integrity have also kept people from voting. Electronic voting machines tied to the internet make some people distrust the process, and it sparks concerns about manipulation. I would support third-party election auditors that operate under data protection rules, with safeguards that protect voters' privacy and protect their information from being shared or used for future campaigns.

We can create a better system. In the meantime, the reasons to vote outweigh any weaknesses our current system may have. If you live in a district where your party is likely to win, it's still important to vote. A close election emboldens the losing party; whereas a win by a huge margin sends the message to the other party that the voters overwhelmingly oppose the policies their candidates want to implement.



If you live in a district where your party is not expected to win, your vote is even more important! A close election sends the message to the winning party that a large number of voters in their districts don't approve of their policies. This can help constrain elected officials from implementing policies that would result in backlash from constituents.

Be sure your voice is heard this November in this highly consequential election. You can vote by mail-in ballot, at an early voting site, or on election day.

Use this link to register and/or check your voter status: https://indianavoters.in.gov/?ref=voteusa_en

REACH OUT
FOR A CHAT

Let's chat!

LET'S DO
SOMETHING-
TOGETHER

John@johnschmitzforcongress.com ~ 317-650-7011

johnschmitzforcongress.com