



Election Report

General Election 2022 – Statewide County Data

Compiled by the Voter Services Coordinating Committee

August 15, 2023


Introduction

- Most election data analysis focuses on the partisan political nature of our elections. As a non-partisan political organization, the League of Women Voters of Indiana focuses broadly on a citizen's right to vote and to vote in an informed manner irrespective of the specific candidate or party.
- While the state and counties publish a lot of election data, it's generally in the form of paper reports that are difficult to analyze. The data that each county publishes are in a different format and do not include the same information. This makes it very hard to understand or compare the voting practices and experiences among and between the counties.
- By compiling our data into a spreadsheet and making the spreadsheet public, we hope to foster a more transparent environment where both voters and election officials can easily see and understand how voting varies across the state.
 - The county-by-county source data are available in spreadsheet format for anyone to perform their own analysis.

Data Gathering and Notes

- Data for our spreadsheet and analysis were gathered from two sources:
 - CEB-9 reports submitted by every county to the Indiana Election Division.
 - A questionnaire created by the League to supplement information not provided in the CEB-9 report.
- Most counties were very responsive to our request for information. About 1/3 responded within the first 10 days.
 - All counties responded to the League questionnaire except for Lake and Hamilton.
 - Some counties left out data or did not collect it – in those cases the information has been left blank.
- We noted some issues in reconciling the information provided by the counties in their CEB-9 reports and their questionnaire responses. The total absentee vote and the CEB-9 often does not match the sum of the absentee voting methods that they reported on the questionnaire.
 - Our spreadsheet includes both the total absentee vote as reported to the state and the total absentee vote as reported on the League's questionnaire.

Summary Analysis

- Voter apathy as measured by non-voting rates is rampant – the 2022 election saw a minority of voters selecting the representatives for Indiana's 6.8 million people
 - Non-voters outnumber voters by nearly one million votes
- Problems with the election were virtually non-existent
 - Voter fraud referrals - .0003%
 - Voter harassment at the polls - .0004%
 - Poll worker harassment - .0003%

Lots of hype – no substance in Indiana
- Mail-in voting accounted for only 7.9% of the vote and is favored by both large and small counties
- Straight party-voting is very common with 44.5% of votes cast straight party
- No counties directly measure voter satisfaction
- Average maximum wait times to vote are shorter during early voting by 7 minutes

Recommendations

Voters

1. Take on the problem of non-voting. With nearly one million non-voters it's likely that every voter has at least one family member, neighbor or co-worker who doesn't vote. Voting is part of our civic life and responsibility. Please consider engaging with others to encourage them to vote.
2. Move from voting straight-party to voting for each candidate individually. Straight-party voting discourages the critical evaluation of each candidate based on that person's qualifications and policy positions. This can lead to uninformed or ill-considered choices, as voters may end up supporting candidates who don't align with their values or best represent their interests.
3. Whether your experiences at the polls are good or bad, let elected officials know. Make giving feedback to election officials about your voting experience part of your voting process.
4. Maintain and update your voter registration. The large number of register Indiana voters not voting, could, in part, be due to inaccurate voter registration rolls. Voters who move should update their voter registrations to their new addresses. Those who move out of state should cancel their Indiana voter registrations.

Recommendations

County Clerks and Boards of Registration

1. Implement voter satisfaction programs. Measuring and reporting voter satisfaction will help each county better understand if wait times are excessive, if adequate polling opportunities are available, if election technology is fast and easy to use. This is a staple practice of American business, and we believe it should be a common practice for local government as well.
2. Our data on voter fraud referrals and voter/poll worker intimidation should be used to build confidence with voters that problems with voting are exceptionally rare in Indiana. When problems do occur, county procedures and Indiana election laws are in place to effectively address the problems as they arise.
3. Communicate to voters that straight-party voting can and does result in down-ballot undervoting impacting multi-candidate races, school boards races, and public questions on the ballot.
4. Election cost data from each county is not a good basis for analysis or comparison. We don't believe there is any consistent definition, tracking or reporting of election costs that is shared by the counties.
5. To help increase voter turnout, we urge counties to consider ways to expand how voter information is shared with the public beyond the county's website. Educating voters will help facilitate greater voter participation. Examples of election information that could help voters: early in-person voting sites and hours; how to access and cast an absentee ballot or vote by traveling board; the voting schedule with deadlines; and how to register and update one's voter registration.

Recommendations

Legislators

1. Most states have abandoned straight-party voting. Overall, the drawbacks of straight-party voting lies in its potential to foster uninformed decision-making, exacerbate polarization, and undermine the principles of individual candidate evaluation, accountability, and accurate representation. Encouraging voters to carefully consider each candidate's qualifications, policies, and positions can lead to a more informed and representative democratic process. Establish a study committee to evaluate straight-part voting in Indiana and determine if the state should follow virtually every other state in the Union and cease this type of voting.
2. In light of Indiana's near absence of voting fraud or voter/poll worker intimidation, legislators should stop undermining voter confidence by saying or implying that these problems are rampant in Indiana or that legislation is needed to address such problems.
3. Legislators should consider mandating that the Indiana Election Division produce election data that is easy to access, read, and use to compare county to county voting data like what is currently being compiled on a voluntary basis by the Indiana League of Women Voters of Indiana. Legislators require accurate information to author bills that safeguard the integrity and the smooth running of elections, and facilitate voter access to expand voter participate.

Recommendations

League of Women Voters

1. Recognize non-voting as the most significant problem facing representative government in Indiana. Evaluate current education efforts and consider new approaches to reaching non-voters and motivate them to go to the polls.
2. Study the issue of straight-party voting to determine if we should develop a proposal to end straight-party voting in Indiana.
3. Encourage local election officials to adopt voter satisfaction metrics and reporting.
4. Each local League should make it a priority to educate voters as to how straight-party voting is impacting down-ballot races and public questions on their ballot. This is especially a issue for voters casting mail-in absent ballots.
5. Benchmark your county's election data with other similar counties to identify differences and opportunities for improvement.
6. Make the county election board aware of the LWVIN 2022 Election Report and how the county's voting statistics compare to other counties.
7. Share the 2022 Election Report with League members and other community stakeholders that have an interest in voter participation and the county's civic health.

Turnout and Voting Patterns

Top 15 Counties for Voter Turnout

County	Turnout Rate	Non-Voting Rate	Election Day Turnout	In-Person Early Voting Turnout	Mail-in Voting Turnout
Spencer	51.2%	48.8%	63.1%	27.4%	9.7%
Union	51.0%	49.0%	65.4%	27.8%	6.8%
Crawford	50.9%	49.1%	79.1%	0.0%	20.9%
Floyd	49.5%	50.5%	46.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Vermillion	49.1%	50.9%	75.9%	20.3%	3.3%
Whitley	48.5%	51.5%	69.0%	25.8%	4.8%
Perry	48.2%	51.8%	54.4%	39.0%	6.5%
Hamilton	48.1%	51.9%	59.2%	31.0%	9.8%
Posey	48.0%	52.0%	68.1%	27.0%	4.5%
Wabash	47.9%	52.1%	57.8%	35.4%	6.6%
Wells	47.9%	52.1%	63.5%	36.5%	3.8%
Harrison	47.5%	52.5%	76.3%	16.2%	7.4%
Brown	47.5%	52.5%	67.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Huntington	47.3%	52.7%	57.3%	37.5%	5.3%
Martin	46.8%	53.2%	71.4%	20.0%	8.5%

Bottom 15 Counties for Voter Turnout

County	Turnout Rate	Non-Voting Rate	Election Day Turnout	In-Person Early Voting Turnout	Mail-in Voting Turnout
Decatur	23.9%	76.1%	74.3%	74.3%	4.0%
Tippecanoe	32.2%	67.8%	53.4%	40.3%	6.3%
Marion	34.0%	66.0%	67.7%	22.0%	9.8%
Elkhart	35.2%	64.8%	71.5%	7.8%	7.8%
Dearborn	36.1%	63.9%	79.6%	20.5%	5.6%
Grant	36.4%	63.6%	69.3%	21.8%	8.8%
Vigo	36.5%	63.5%	45.3%	47.4%	6.7%
Clinton	36.5%	63.5%	62.8%	32.3%	37.2%
St. Joseph	36.9%	63.1%	69.3%	20.2%	10.4%
Lake	36.9%	63.1%	65.4%	28.2%	6.4%
Vanderburgh	37.1%	62.9%	54.1%	45.9%	10.1%
Clark	37.3%	62.7%	79.8%	12.9%	7.1%
Shelby	37.7%	62.3%	68.5%	27.1%	4.5%
Switzerland	38.0%	62.0%	38.8%	21.8%	33.4%
Fayette	38.1%	61.9%	64.9%	30.6%	4.5%

How Voters Vote

Registered Voters	4,778,077	
Voters That Voted	1,885,821	39.5%
Non-Voting Voters	2,892,256	60.5%
Vote by Mail Voters	148,936	7.9%
Early In-Person Voters	538,627	28.6%
Election Day Voters	1,199,840	63.4%

Top 15 Counties for Mail In Voting

County	Mail-in Voting Turnout
Clinton	37.2%
Switzerland	33.4%
Delaware	25.2%
Crawford	20.9%
Benton	20.6%
Scott	16.1%
Madison	11.3%
St. Joseph	10.4%
Vanderburgh	10.1%
Lawrence	10.0%
Marion	9.8%
Hamilton	9.8%
Spencer	9.7%
Grant	8.8%
Monroe	8.7%
Allen	8.6%

Top 15 Counties for Early In-Person Voting

County	In-Person Early Voting Turnout
Delaware	74.9%
Decatur	74.3%
Noble	66.2%
Wayne	48.1%
Hancock	47.5%
Vigo	47.4%
Cass	46.3%
Vanderburgh	45.9%
Miami	44.3%
Dubois	43.8%
Boone	42.5%
Blackford	42.0%
Tippecanoe	40.3%
Bartholomew	39.3%
Perry	39.0%
Johnson	38.7%

Straight Party Voting

Total Straight Party Votes Cast	840,528	
Republican	522,827	62.2%
Democratic	314,856	37.5%
Libertarian	2,845	.34%

Total Votes Cast	1,885,821	
Straight Party Votes	840,528	44.6%

Where Straight Party Voting is Most Popular

County	Straight Party R	Straight Party D	Straight Party L	Total Straight Party	Straight Party Voting Rate
Marion	52,611	101,276	952	154,839	69.1%
Dearborn	8,083	1,479	53	9,615	66.7%
Ripley	4,718	848	62	5,628	66.5%
Fountain	2,665	498	37	3,200	63.5%
Benton	1,292	225	12	1,529	61.0%
Fulton	2,656	603	29	3,288	59.0%
Warren	1,392	254	15	1,661	58.5%
Elkhart	19,088	6,794	114	25,996	58.2%
Porter	18,933	15,027	179	34,139	58.0%
Lake	31,616	43,603	28	75,247	55.2%
Switzerland	1,162	297	45	1,504	55.2%
Jasper	4,456	636	4	5,096	54.2%
Wayne	6,519	2,483	47	9,049	53.9%
Steuben	4,567	991	2	5,560	53.5%
Jackson	4,825	1,014	38	5,877	51.5%

Voting Capacity and Wait Times

	Hours
Early Voting Hours Offered by All Counties	31,028
Early Voting Hours Offered Outside of Workday Hours	3,690
Election Day Hours Offered by All Counties	1,104

	Minutes
Longest Average Wait Time for Early Voting	14
Longest Average Wait Time for Election Day Voting	21

No county reported measuring voter satisfaction.

Counties with Election Day
Maximum Wait Times > 30
Minutes

County	Longest wait time election day (in minutes)
Dearborn	120
Hendricks	120
Starke	120
Hancock	90
Bartholomew	60
Howard	60
Noble	60
Tipton	60
Franklin	45
Fulton	45
Johnson	45
Pulaski	45
Steuben	45
Wayne	45
Elkhart	40
DeKalb	30
Dubois	30
Greene	30
Jefferson	30
Knox	30
Kosciusko	30
Morgan	30
Putnam	30
Scott	30
Warrick	30

Counties with Early Voting
Maximum Wait Times > 30
Minutes

County	Longest wait time early voting
Greene	150
St. Joseph	120
Hendricks	60
Allen	45
Elkhart	45
Floyd	40
Vanderburgh	35
Boone	30
Dearborn	30
Dubois	30
Hancock	30
Jasper	30
Johnson	30
Morgan	30
Randolph	30
Starke	30

Voting Problems

Voting Fraud Referrals

County	Voter Fraud Referrals
Clark	1
Greene	1
Johnson	1
Tippecanoe	1
Tipton	1
Total:	5

Total Votes Cast: 1,885,821
 Voter Fraud: 6
 Voter Fraud Rate: 0.0003%

Voter Intimidation at the Polls

County	Voter Intimidation at the Polls
Franklin	yes
Howard	yes
Lawrence	Yes
St. Joseph	yes
Starke	yes
Switzerland	yes
Tippecanoe	Yes
Vanderburgh	Yes
Total:	8

Total Votes Cast: 1,885,821
 Voter Intimidation: 8
 Voter Fraud Rate: 0.0004%

Poll Worker Intimidation at the Polls

County	Poll worker intimidation
Allen	yes
Clay	yes
Fulton	yes
St. Joseph	yes
Tippecanoe	Yes
Vanderburgh	Yes
Total:	6

Total Votes Cast: 1,885,821
 Poll Worker Intimidation: 6
 Voter Fraud Rate: 0.0003%