



## The Arc of Indiana 2016 Election Guide

The Arc of Indiana's 2016 Election Guide is part of the statewide effort to help families, people with developmental disabilities, caregivers and providers register to vote and be engaged in the 2016 elections. Our role is not to endorse candidates or tell you how to vote. Our role is to provide you with information and resources so that you can be an informed voter.

The Election Guide includes statements from major candidates for national and state office, including U.S. Senate, Governor of Indiana, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Statements from Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were also requested. At press time, no statement had been received from Donald Trump. Candidates were asked to respond to this question:

**"People with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) want to be active members of the community who are valued and provided opportunities to receive an education, have a job and live a full life. How will you use your office to support and advance issues important to people with I/DD, their families and the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who work with them."**

Their responses, as well as photos submitted by their campaigns, are included in the guide.

On pages 8 and 9 of the guide you will find important information on registering to vote, voter id requirements, absentee voting and accessibility for voters with disabilities.

As Election Day nears, we encourage you to seek out opportunities to meet your candidates for state and federal office and talk with them about issues important to you and your family. No matter what the issue is, you have the right to know where candidates stand to help you decide how you will cast your vote.

**Following are questions on major topic areas of concern that you may choose to ask your candidates:**

### Employment

The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is nearly 80% although many people with disabilities want to work and can work. What will you do to create opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to job training and careers that will increase independence?

### Public Transit

Accessible transportation continues to be a major barrier for people with disabilities to get to work, as well as medical appointments. What would be your plan to address the need for increased mass transit that people with disabilities could utilize?

### Managed Care

There are a lot of conversations taking place regarding managed care for people with disabilities. What would be your priorities and/or goals for a managed care system?

### Medicaid Reimbursement Rates/DSP Crisis

There is currently a shortage of qualified Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to provide personal, critical care to people with disabilities. Indiana's current Medicaid reimbursement rates for most services provided to people with disabilities were recently restored to the rates of 2010 (they had been cut significantly over the last 10 years). These rates do not allow community providers to hire qualified, dedicated staff. People with disabilities are seeing high turnover of the people who provide very personal care. What would you do to address the crisis we are facing in the shortage of DSPs across the state?

### Education

K-12 education for students receiving special education services is critically important as it paves the way for a future filled with independence. What would your administration do to ensure that students receiving special education services have every opportunity to be successful in school with the needed resources that helps them earn a high school diploma, be fairly tested and learn aside their peers?

### Guardianship/Supported Decision Making

Too often parents rush into guardianship although the person with a disability is capable of making many decisions on their own. Supported Decision Making is an alternative to guardianship that allows people with disabilities to remain in charge of their own decisions but allows them access to support should they want it. What would you do to make sure that families have alternatives in supporting their children with I/DD to help them maintain independence while getting some support they need in making important decisions?

### Crisis

Unfortunately, the need for crisis intervention exists. Indiana currently does not have a crisis system in place for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities who also have a mental health issue. When people have a crisis situation too often the emergency room or police are our only options. What would your administration do to help provide services for people in crisis situations who have co-existing conditions?

We hope you find this guide informative and helpful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

The Arc of Indiana  
317-977-2375 • 800-382-9100  
[thearc@arcind.org](mailto:thearc@arcind.org)



# John Gregg

## Democratic Candidate, Governor



The issues that people with I/DD face are too often overlooked. A Gregg/Hale administration will work for ALL Hoosiers. Our door will always be open – to listen and learn about how we can make Indiana a more welcoming place for people with I/DD. This campaign is focused on inclusivity, and we will make sure that all stakeholders have a seat at the table.

What follows is only a few of many issues that deserve greater attention. First, we need to make sure that Direct Support Professionals are paid a competitive, living wage, so that we can address the massive turnover rate, which is around 70% annually. A person's home should not be a revolving door of different caregivers. We need wages that will professionalize DSPs and draw-in high-quality applicants. We also need to reinstate funding for the DSPs Project that was discontinued in 2010, which gave DSPs training in best practices, and provided opportunities for skill advancement through certification from Ivy Tech and other community colleges.

Next, a large part of our vision for Indiana deals with educational opportunities. Indiana needs to increase and streamline our workforce training, so that we can more easily build and retain a skilled labor force. People with disabilities are a part of this, with too many people relegated to the sidelines. That's something we need to change desperately. We must make sure that students with I/DD are able to receive high school diplomas, with more options available in order to fulfill necessary requirements. We need federal and/or state legislation that makes it illegal to pay people with I/DD less than minimum wage. And we need more institutions such as The Arc's teaching hotel in Muncie, The Erskine Green Training Institute. This first in the nation program gives individuals with disabilities a chance to better themselves, their communities, and obtain a long-term, fulfilling job.

*The issues that people with I/DD face are too often overlooked.*

A Gregg/Hale administration will also support self-advocacy and supported decision making. We must make sure that the wishes of people with I/DDs are always taken into consideration. We will work with The Arc and the Department of Adult Protective Services to make sure that the rights and wishes of individuals are protected and supported.

Furthermore, the state of Indiana spends less on adult protective services than the city of Indianapolis spends on animal control. That's a travesty. The average casework load of DCS is 12, yet adult services is over 300. Some elderly Hoosiers and adults with disabilities are never seen. There are even instances of people "collecting" the lonely that have nobody else in order to cash in their social security and disability checks. As caregivers and baby boomers age, these problems will only grow. Christina Hale and I will make this a priority, as we must protect those Hoosiers who cannot protect themselves.



# Eric Holcomb

## Republican Candidate, Governor



*It is important that we continue to develop and deliver services that provide all Hoosiers real avenues to self-sufficiency and self-reliance.*



It is my conviction, one shared by all Hoosiers, that people with disabilities are unquestionably valued members of our communities and certainly ought to have the very same opportunities available to them as anyone else to live full lives. This Administration and the Legislature took significant steps last session to give these individuals and their families more robust tools to offset certain expenses they incur without putting their benefits at risk. The ABLE tax advantage savings accounts, managed under the Treasurer of State, are tax free and can be used for education, housing, healthcare, and even employment training.

This important step built a framework that begins to give Hoosiers with disabilities greater flexibility and independence while allowing them to maintain other critical resources on which they currently rely. As this program unfolds, I look forward to supporting it fully to ensure that the complete scope of its intent is realized and the maximum number of Hoosiers can utilize it.

Additionally, I'm looking forward to working alongside my team at the FSSA's Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services to better align existing resources and bridge connections between Hoosiers with disabilities and local vocational rehabilitation counselors. This is an important aim of the Employment First initiative, and it is one I will continue to champion when I am Governor. Any Hoosier who wants to work ought to have the chance to find employment, and I will ensure that agency-level programming is in tune with community-level needs when it comes to helping these individuals identify opportunities.

It is important that we continue to develop and deliver services that provide all Hoosiers real avenues to self-sufficiency and self-reliance. Allowing people to direct more of their own tax dollars into services they know to be important gives them greater control over their own lives, and ensuring that programs are reaching Hoosiers where they live is critical to their sustainability. I look forward to supporting innovative programs like these and building upon their successes.



# Evan Bayh

## Democratic Candidate, United States Senate



*It is my hope that we can work together as Hoosiers to protect the rights of the I/DD community and help provide its members with greater opportunities.*

Throughout my career in public service, the needs and concerns of Hoosiers with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been a priority for me. As your Governor, I implemented the First Steps program, which guaranteed early intervention services for infants and toddlers with special needs and served over 4,000 children per year.

I made consumer-focused care a centerpiece of my agenda, launching the Hoosier Assurance Plan to bolster community-based care, improve access to mental health services, and ensure greater accountability through the development of provider profiles. I initiated and expanded Medicaid waivers to serve the aged and disabled, children with autism, and medically fragile children in their own homes and communities, rather than in hospitals and institutional settings.

As your Senator, I fought for legislation to protect the civil rights of individuals with disabilities. I was proud to co-sponsor the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008, which restored broad protections for members of the disabled community, and the Family Opportunity Act of 2003, which provided middle class families with the opportunity to purchase health care coverage under Medicaid for their children with disabilities.

Additionally, I authored the Spina Bifida Health Care Program Expansion Act, which provides comprehensive health coverage for children born with spina bifida due to paternal exposure to Agent Orange during military service. I also co-sponsored Rosa's Law, which changed all references in federal law relating to "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability."

However, I realize that there is still more work to be done, and I will continue my work as an advocate for people with disabilities as your Senator. Access to affordable, quality health care is a priority for individuals with I/DD and their families, and I will work to support Medicaid and community-based health care services.

I will stand up for measures that ensure that individuals with I/DD have access to educational opportunities and mentorship programs, and push for employment programs that provide support during the transition period, job counseling and training. I will also fight for measures to protect Social Security, ensuring that this vital social safety net remains in place for years to come.

It is my hope that we can work together as Hoosiers to protect the rights of the I/DD community and help provide its members with greater opportunities.



# Todd Young

## Republican Candidate, United States Senate



*I've created legislation to improve the way in which we attack social problems. The Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act directs funding to social programs that can show they are improving people's lives.*

My wife Jenny and I have four beautiful children. We want for them what every Hoosier wants: a good education, safety and security, and the chance at a good job and a bright future. I'm running for United States Senate to ensure that all Hoosiers have that same chance.

As I've traveled the state campaigning, nothing has encouraged me more than seeing Hoosiers coming together to affect change in their communities. I'm inspired by their acts of selflessness and generosity, and as your United State Senator, I would like to create an environment where individuals and charitable organizations can do even more.

I've created legislation to improve the way in which we attack social problems. The Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act directs funding to social programs that can show they are improving people's lives. This legislation will lead to a better-informed social policy and ultimately improve outcomes through rigorous evaluation. Rather than measuring our compassion by how much we spend, Social Impact Partnerships reward what works based on evidence.

One of the best features of this concept is the focus on encouraging more charitable giving. Under this system, when an individual invests into a social program that meets certain success benchmarks, the government pays the investor a return. So instead of investing on Wall Street to make money, Hoosiers will be incentivized to



invest in effective social programs to make a difference.

There are several programs currently operating that are already succeeding in their mission. RecycleForce, based out of Indianapolis, runs a workforce training program to equip formerly incarcerated individuals with the skills needed to thrive.

Another program already succeeding is Nurse-Family Partnership, run by Goodwill Industries of Indiana. Nurse-Family Partnership connects low-income pregnant women with registered nurses who provide proper pre-natal and post-birth care. Since the program's implementation, ninety percent of these mothers' babies were born at

healthy weights, and two-thirds of mothers who were smokers had quit.

Under this system, Direct Support Professionals and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have more options and more confidence that the programs that are offered can produce results.

In my short time in Congress, I have sought to work in a bipartisan fashion to address the issues. I hope you allow me to continue to craft unique and innovative solutions to some of society's most dire issues as your next United States Senator.



## October 11

Deadline to register to vote or to transfer your registration to a new address.

## October 12

First day a voter may cast an absentee ballot in person at the county clerk's office or satellite office.

| October 2016 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN          | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|              |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| 2            | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| 9            | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 16           | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 23           | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| 30           | 31  |     |     |     |     |     |

## October 31

Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot to vote by mail. The request must be received by the county clerk's office by 11:59 p.m.

## October 20

First day that a voter who is confined to his or her home, voter with a disability, or a voter who is a caregiver can vote absentee at his or her residence.

## Voter Identification Requirement

Indiana law requires that voters show a government issued photo ID, with an expiration date, when they go to the polls to vote. Accepted government IDs include:

Valid Driver's License

State Identification Card

Valid Passport Issued by the U.S. State Department

Valid U.S. Military Identification Card

If you do not have a photo ID, you can go to any Bureau of Motor Vehicles office/License Branch to obtain a photo ID.



# How to Vote Absentee

## Absentee In-Person Voting/Early Voting

All registered voters in Indiana are eligible to vote “absentee in-person” (also called “Early Voting”) at their county election board office beginning Wednesday, October 12 and ending Monday, November 7 at 12:00 noon.

## Absentee Voting by Mail

Applications to vote absentee by mail must be received by the county election board by October 31, 2016. Absentee ballots must be received at the post office by noon on Election Day, November 8, 2016.

Registered voters can apply to vote absentee if:

- You expect that you will not be in the county where you live on Election Day.
- You have a disability.
- You are age 65 or older.
- You are scheduled to work the entire time the polls are open.
- You will be confined due to illness or injury.
- You will be caring for an individual confined due to illness or injury.
- Your religion prevents you from voting while the polls are open.
- You are a member of the military or a public safety officer.
- You will have official election duties outside of your voting precinct.

## Absentee Voting at Home

Voters who expect they will be confined due to illness or injury, voters who expect they will be caring for a person who is confined at a private residence on Election Day, and voters with disabilities who believe their polling place is not accessible can vote “absentee-by-traveling board.” Contact your county election board to make this request by noon on Monday, November 7, 2016.

**Absentee Voting Applications are available at: [www.in.gov/sos/elections](http://www.in.gov/sos/elections).** If you do not have access to the Internet, call information or look in the blue pages of the phone book to find the number for your County Clerk/County Election Board.

**Absentee voters are NOT required to show or provide a photo ID when they submit their absentee vote.**

## November 8 Election Day!

Polls are open for voting from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Remember to bring a government issued photo ID that has an expiration date.

Remember, if you are voting absentee by mail, your absentee ballot must be received at the post office by noon on November 8th.

| November 2016 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN           | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|               |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 6             | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13            | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20            | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27            | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |



## November 7

Noon deadline to vote absentee in person at the county clerk's office; deadline for voters who are disabled and voters who are caregivers to request to vote at home.

## Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) requires at least one accessible voting machine be placed in each polling place in addition to making the facility physically accessible.

If you have a complaint about accessibility at your polling location, call the Hoosier Voter Hotline to report the issue at 866-IN1-VOTE (866-461-8683). You can also call Indiana Disability Rights at 800-622-4845.

# Glenda Ritz

## Democratic Incumbent, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Since 2012, I have been your Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction. As a licensed special education teacher, I am committed to ensuring that people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities receive an education to support their goals of having a job and living a full life. Below is an update on the promises I made to you in The Arc of Indiana's 2012 *Election Guide*.

- **Support early learning.** Under my direction, the Department of Education has worked to support our public preschool special education programs and to expand our public preschool programs for all children. Learning standards have been completed and more high-quality preschool programs have been created as a result of our efforts working with the Family & Social Services Administration.
- **Monitor services and streamline the process of Individual Education Plans.** The Department has streamlined IEP technology and is currently taking steps to address the needs for those students who earn a Certificate of Completion. Additionally, our efforts to support the work of local districts and educators has lead to significant improvement in student performance and graduation rates for students with disabilities.

Because of sustained efforts in this area, after years of being labeled as "needs assistance" by the federal Department of Education, Indiana's Office of Special Education now ranks top in the nation under the new, more rigorous national accountability system.

- **Provide high quality training and professional development for teachers.** The Department works closely with higher education pre-service training programs and we provide professional development to teachers in partnership with INSOURCE. In 2015, I established a bipartisan *Blue Ribbon Commission* to address Indiana's teacher shortage. As part of this work, we recently received a 5 million dollar grant to partner with the IU Center for Teacher Quality to address the teacher shortage in special education.
- **Increase the opportunities for graduation and career pathways.** During my first term, I expanded Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses in our high schools, achieving a 95% graduation rate among those who participated. As I visit schools around the state, I

see firsthand students with disabilities taking advantage of these opportunities that can lead them to fulfilling jobs. The Department is working towards individualized graduation plans for all students.



- **Work with community agencies to identify and increase support for families.** I developed the Outreach for School Improvement during my first year in office, and it has expanded each year to now include a Systems of Care Coordinator for the state. This individual is focused on identifying community supports and removing barriers to ensure families can access community supports. We have started our work in Austin, Indiana and plan to take this level of support statewide.
- **Support legislation that improves public policy and funding.** I work closely with The Arc of Indiana to promote legislation. In the last session, I supported the law that was passed to ensure all students, including those with disabilities, have access to all diplomas offered in the state. Current legislative support focuses on replacing the ISTEP test with a new individualized student-centered testing system.

Please visit *Imagine 2020* at [glendaritz.com/Imagine2020](http://glendaritz.com/Imagine2020) to see my vision for all of Indiana's children. I look forward to future work with The Arc of Indiana to make the possibilities become realities.

*As I visit schools around the state, I see firsthand students with disabilities taking advantage of these opportunities that can lead them to fulfilling jobs.*





# Jennifer McCormick

## Republican Candidate, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction



I began my career as a special education teacher nearly twenty years ago. Working with students who have intellectual and other developmental disabilities has always been dear to my heart. I first began working with students with special needs when I was in high school. That experience ignited my passion to work with this special population. Even today, as the Superintendent of Yorktown Community Schools, I am very involved with our special education program. It is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job, and special education continues to be a passion of mine.

The Indiana Department of Education has a great responsibility to help support students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities as well as their families, teachers, paraprofessionals and therapists. The IDOE must work in partnership with each group and provide quality, meaningful tools and resources so students receive what they need in order to succeed. The IDOE should foster a teamwork approach with stakeholder groups in which everyone is focused on individual student success.

Good communication will be of the upmost importance. The Office of Special Education must also be supported by the Indiana Department of Education so it can function at its best.

The IDOE must provide schools with essential professional development opportunities that focus upon student equity and access. Equity and access are two important keys for improving student success. The passage of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will allow for a greater focus on student outcomes. For example, it will provide flexibility related to alternative assessments. Lastly, assessment literacy should be provided as a core professional development piece as individual student data helps to guide quality instruction and programming. Understanding data is critical as it is used for decision-making purposes related to each student.



*The passage of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) will allow for a greater focus on student outcomes.*



# Hillary Clinton

## Democratic Candidate, President of the United States



*We should acknowledge how the disabilities community has played such an important role in changing things for the better in our country.*

Last year, in speaking about the Americans with Disabilities Act, I noted that the ADA made our country more inclusive, our economy stronger, and our society fairer. This landmark law opened educational opportunities, expanded transportation, ensured equal access to public buildings and outlawed employment discrimination on the basis of disability. The ADA enables people with disabilities to participate more fully in their communities and live more inclusive lives.

We should acknowledge how the disabilities community has played such an important role in changing things for the better in our country.

As president, I will:

- **Work to fulfill the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act.** I am committed to realizing the promise of the ADA and continuing to expand opportunities for the more than 50 million Americans living with a disability—because we’re stronger together.
- **Expand support for Americans with disabilities to live in integrated community settings.** Many people with disabilities are denied the choice to receive at-home care and support services. I will fight to pass Senator Schumer’s “Disability Integration Act” so that

Americans with disabilities who are receiving long-term services and supports have the option to do so in home – and community-based settings whenever possible.

- **Ensuring that every child, no matter his or her background, can get a high-quality education.** Under existing law, school districts must provide students with disabilities a free, appropriate public education. I will fight so that students with disabilities are safe, empowered, and learning at school.
- **Improve access to competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.** People with disabilities have the same right to work at a job that pays them minimum wage or more, in a place where they will interact with non-disabled individuals, and with the same opportunities for promotion as workers without disabilities. I will fight to eliminate the subminimum wage, increase access to competitive integrated employment, and ensure that a fair day’s work earns a fair day’s pay for all Americans.

- **Break down barriers to voting.** Twenty-six years after enacting the ADA, many people with disabilities continue to face barriers to voting. I will fight to ensure that people with disabilities have a full and equal opportunity to vote.
- **Expand Social Security by counting the hard work of family caregivers and giving them the benefits they deserve.** Family caregivers provide \$470 billion per year in unpaid care—hard, essential work that benefits our entire economy. But when Americans take time off to care for a relative, they do not earn credits toward Social Security retirement benefits. I will fight for tax relief and Social Security expansion for the millions of families caring for loved ones with chronic illnesses or disabilities.
- **Provide tax relief to family members who care for elderly relatives, including those with disabilities.** I will offer a 20 percent tax credit to help family members offset up to \$6,000 in caregiving costs for elderly family members, allowing caregivers to claim up to \$1,200 in tax relief each year.

Statements were requested from both presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. At press time no statement had been received from Donald Trump. If it is received at a later date, we will post it on our website at [www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org).