

# 2020 Election Guide



The Arc of Indiana's 2020 Election Guide is part of the statewide effort to help families, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, caregivers and providers register to vote and be engaged in the 2020 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 information from the candidates for president and governor of Indiana, and information about congressional candidates. You will also 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 reach out to candidates for state and federal office to learn what their position is on issues important to you and your family.

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

## COVID-19

COVID-19 has changed so much – from personal finances, to health, to services, and to state and federal budgets. Following the election, what steps will you take to address the impact of COVID-19, including a new stimulus package, ensuring a vaccine is readily available, and addressing the impact of COVID-19 on providers of services and those they care for, as well as the economic impact on individuals.

## Community Living

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) do not want to live in institutions. They want to live in their communities. Many families and people with I/DD need home and community based services, funded through Medicaid, to provide the supports they need to live in the community. What is your position on Medicaid funding for home and community based services?



## Direct Support Professionals

Direct support professionals (DSPs) help people with disabilities live in the community. But DSPs do not get paid an adequate wage for their work due to low Medicaid reimbursement rates. There is a critical shortage of qualified DSPs to provide personal, critical care to people with disabilities. What would you do to address this ongoing crisis?

## Employment

The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is nearly 80% although many people with disabilities want to work and can work. The impact of COVID-19 has made issues people with disabilities face in gaining and maintaining employment even more difficult. What will you do to create opportunities for people with disabilities to have access to job training and careers that will increase independence?

## 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 you 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?

## 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?

## 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)

# Dr. Woody Myers

## Democratic Candidate, Governor

Hoosiers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) deserve a government that empowers them to fully participate in their communities as active, valued members. A Myers-Lawson administration will work with individuals, advocates, the business community, and the legislature to ensure people with I/DD have the support and resources they need.

Our administration will work tirelessly to support and advance the issues important to people with I/DD, their families, and Direct Support Professionals. We will:

- Ensure oversight of Indiana's LTC and group homes, including significant representation by advocates for people with I/DD, and work with facilities to implement best practices.
- Expand efforts for students with disabilities to work and build a career after school, including advance post-secondary training.
- Work with the public and private sectors to expand opportunities for meaningful and sustainable work for more people with disabilities – so that they have the resources and support needed to live more independently and fully participate in their communities.
- Build upon achievements in education by increasing representation on the State Board of Education and other state boards more representative of people with I/DD and advocates.
- Ensure state buildings meet accessibility standards and provide alternative communication as requested, in the format preferred, such as ASL interpreters, audio



loops, real-time captioning, Braille, and electronic format. Additionally, implement implicit bias training for all state employees so that they better understand the issues facing Hoosiers with I/DD.

- Increase the availability of accessible housing options beyond “minimum standards.”
- Work to increase wages for Direct Support Professionals so that their pay reflects the importance of the work they do.

- Use Medicaid incentives to address acute and preventative care to ensure wellness in people with I/DD.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share our vision for the future for Indiana and specifically for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. As Indiana's Commissioner of Health, I valued the input and advice of The Arc of Indiana and will do so even more as Governor, along with my Lt. Governor running mate, Representative Linda Lawson.



# Eric Holcomb

## Republican Candidate, Governor

Supporting Hoosiers with disabilities is an issue that Governor Holcomb and Lt. Governor Crouch are passionate about. Lt. Governor Crouch has been a champion of Hoosiers with disabilities throughout her entire career in public service and her passion for this issue continues to have a tremendous impact on the approximately 100,000 Hoosiers with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

The very first bill governor Holcomb signed into law was one that provided more transportation options for students with disabilities. He also signed landmark legislation that supports the independence of Hoosiers with disabilities and created the taskforce for assessment of services and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Lt. Governor Crouch chaired this taskforce.

Crouch's task force report outlined recommendations for the administration and General Assembly to further improve services for Hoosiers with disabilities. The recommendations provide information on existing services, identifies gaps in services and proposes recommendations that will not only improve services and support, but will also promote greater community opportunities for Hoosiers with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The entire report may be found on the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's website [in.gov/fssa](http://in.gov/fssa).

Governor Holcomb also appointed a special education teacher to the Indiana State Board of Education, ensuring that an expert, with a passion for special-needs children, will contribute to the development of statewide education policy for years to come.

In a personal favorite moment of his first term, Governor Holcomb invited DeKalb County's Special Olympic gold medal winning Team Indiana to the

governor's residence to officially open, and play the first basketball game, at the new, full-length basketball court the governor installed at the residence.

In his 2020 State of the State Address, Governor Holcomb said "We won't overlook anyone who is aspiring to be successful. That includes Hoosiers with disabilities, who seek to live and work in a safe,

affordable and accessible environment." For the Holcomb-Crouch team, this isn't just a line from a speech, this is an issue they've delivered on over the last four years and will, hopefully, continue to work on for the next four. Governor Holcomb and Lt. Governor Crouch know that a more inclusive Indiana improves the quality of life for all Hoosiers.





**October 5**

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

**October 6**

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

October 2020						
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 22**

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 15**

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 before an absentee voter board.

**Important!**

If you are voting by absentee ballot, apply for your ballot and return it ASAP!

**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 or local voting center beginning Wednesday, October 6 and ending Monday, November 2 at 12:00 noon.

## Absentee Voting by Mail

Applications to vote absentee by mail must be received by the county election board by October 22, 2020. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 3rd and will be counted in the election results, so long as they are received on or before November 13th. However, voters are urged to mail absentee ballots as soon as possible.

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 2, 2020.

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 866-IN1-VOTE (866-461-8683).

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

## November 3 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 by the county election board by noon on election day.** Don't delay! Return your ballot ASAP.

November 2020						
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 2

Noon deadline to vote absentee in person at the county clerk's office or local voting center; 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.

## Joe Biden Democratic Candidate, President



The following information on Vice President Joe Biden's disability platform is provided on the Biden presidential campaign website, [joebiden.com/joes-vision](https://joebiden.com/joes-vision)

Vice-President Biden's disability platform notes that he will, "Work with the disability community to build a stronger, more expansive middle class so that

everyone—regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or disability—can find a place. That means amending our laws, policies, and culture to ensure full inclusion of the 61 million individuals with disabilities in the United States in all parts of our society."

Vice-President Biden's platform notes that he will work to:

- Ensure full inclusion of people with disabilities in policy development
- Aggressively enforce the civil rights of people with disabilities
- Guarantee access to high-quality, affordable health care, including mental health care
- Provide affordable, accessible, and integrated housing
- Expand access to home and community-based services and long-term services and supports in the most integrated setting appropriate to each person's needs and based on self-determination.
- Expand competitive, integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Protect and strengthen economic security for people with disabilities.

- Ensure that students with disabilities have access to educational programs and support they need to succeed, from early interventions to post-secondary education.
- Expand access to accessible, integrated, and affordable housing, transportation, and assistive technologies and protect people with disabilities in emergencies.
- Advance global disability rights.

Extensive information is provided at [joebiden.com/disabilities/#](https://joebiden.com/disabilities/#)

Additional information that may be pertinent to the disability community can be found on the campaign website at [joebiden.com/joes-vision](https://joebiden.com/joes-vision).

- Caregiving and Education Workforce
- Full Participation and Equality for People With Disabilities
- Essential Workers
- Education Beyond High School
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Health Care
- K-12 Education
- Housing

## Donald Trump Republican Candidate, President



As we go to press, President Trump has not released a disability platform. If information is released at a later date, we will share this on our website, [arcind.org](https://arcind.org).

The following information can be found on President Trump's campaign website, [donaldjtrump.com](https://donaldjtrump.com), when you search for "disability" via the campaign website's "accomplishments"

search engine:

- 1.6 Million Americans Exit the Food Stamp Program – 12.21.17
- President Trump Signs the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 into Law – 08.23.17
- The Department of Labor announced \$2 million in funds for disability policy development and technical assistance centers to help employers recruit, retain, and advance employees with disabilities. – 04.22.19

Additional information that may be pertinent to the disability community can be found on the campaign website at [promiseskept.com](https://promiseskept.com)

- Economy and Jobs
- Regulation
- Law and Justice
- Government Accountability
- Health Care
- Social Programs
- Education

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Department of Health

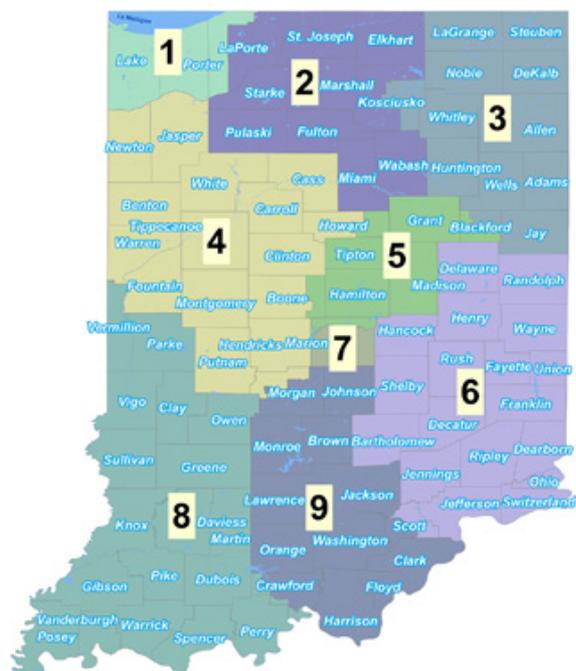
and Human Services (HHS) compiled some of the achievements under President Trump to "empower, support, and protect Americans with disabilities, made possible by work at HHS, by our partners in state and local government, and by advocates and Americans with disabilities." Achievements noted include:

- Defending Rights and Supporting Critical Needs During COVID-19
- Preventing Discrimination in Human Services
- Improving Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) in Medicaid
- Establishing a Task Force to Boost Employment for Americans with Disabilities
- Providing Funding to Support a National Consortium to Build Upon Existing Efforts to Embed I/DD Content Into Medical and Allied Health Schools Curriculum
- Expanding Research on Disability Issues

Extensive information can be found on the HHS website at:

[hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/24/fact-sheet-trump-administration-accomplishments-empower-americans-disabilities.html](https://hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/24/fact-sheet-trump-administration-accomplishments-empower-americans-disabilities.html)

# Indiana Congressional Candidates



Voters will elect nine candidates to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from each of the state's nine congressional districts. Learn about your candidates by visiting their candidate websites.

\* *Incumbent*

## First District

Frank J. Mrvan (D) [mrvanforcongress.com](http://mrvanforcongress.com)

Mark Leyva (R) [markleyva.com](http://markleyva.com)

## Second District

Patricia (Pat) Hackett (D) [pathackettforcongress.com](http://pathackettforcongress.com)

Jackie Walorski (R) [standwithjackie.com](http://standwithjackie.com)

## Third District

Chip Coldiron (D) [coldiron4congress.com](http://coldiron4congress.com)

Jim Banks (R) \* [jimbanks.us](http://jimbanks.us)

## Fourth District

Joe Mackey (D) [joe4hoosiers.com](http://joe4hoosiers.com)

Jim Baird (R) \* [electjimbaird.com](http://electjimbaird.com)

## Fifth District

Christina Hale (D) [haleforcongress.com](http://haleforcongress.com)

Victoria Spartz (R) [spartzforcongress.com](http://spartzforcongress.com)

## Sixth District

Jeannine Lee Lake (D) [jeannineleelakeforcongress.com](http://jeannineleelakeforcongress.com)

Greg Pence (R) \* [gregpenceforcongress.com](http://gregpenceforcongress.com)

## Seventh District

André Carson (D) \* [andrecarson.com](http://andrecarson.com)

Susan Marie Smith (R) [susanmariesmith.com](http://susanmariesmith.com)

## Eighth District

E. Thomasina Marsili (D) [hopein8.com](http://hopein8.com)

Larry D. Bucshon (R) \* [bucshonforcongress.com](http://bucshonforcongress.com)

## Ninth District

Andy Ruff (D) [andyruff.org](http://andyruff.org)

Trey Hollingsworth (R) \* [votefortrey.com](http://votefortrey.com)



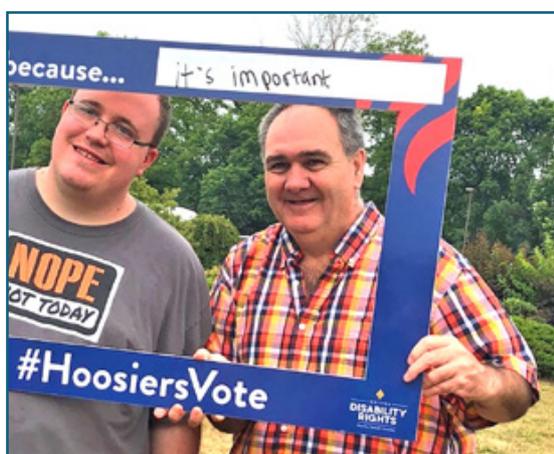
## Voting Information

**Indiana Secretary of State**  
[indianavoters.in.gov](http://indianavoters.in.gov)

**The Arc US**  
[thearc.org](http://thearc.org) - Civic Action Center

**The Arc of Indiana**  
[arcind.org/our-programs/public-policy-advocacy](http://arcind.org/our-programs/public-policy-advocacy)

**Indiana Disability Rights**  
[in.gov/idr](http://in.gov/idr) - Hoosier Vote



## Indiana State House and Senate Candidates

Voters will elect candidates to serve in the Indiana House of Representatives and State Senate.

You can find information about candidates at:

[ballotpedia.org/Indiana\\_State\\_Senate\\_elections,\\_2020](http://ballotpedia.org/Indiana_State_Senate_elections,_2020)  
[ballotpedia.org/Indiana\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_elections,\\_2020](http://ballotpedia.org/Indiana_House_of_Representatives_elections,_2020)