



2023 General Election: Voter Education Guide Indianapolis



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Election Basics & Voter Guide Policy

You have the right to vote in an Indiana election if:

- You are both a U.S. citizen and a resident of Indiana
- You will be at least 18 years of age by the election date, **November 7, 2023**
- You are not currently in prison after being convicted of a crime
- You have lived in the precinct where you vote for at least 30 days prior to the election
- You are registered to vote

The following Voter Guide policy was shared with both Mayoral candidates before receiving their responses:

- The Candidate Questionnaire was sent to both Indianapolis Mayoral Candidates from both the Democratic and the Republican party
- Candidates replies are printed without editing or verification
- Candidates are listed in no particular order



What to Know Before Going to the Polls

Who is on your ballot?

- Based on your address, you will have different different district City Council Candidates to choose from
- Mayoral Candidates and At-Large City Council Candidates will be on everyone's ballots
- Use this guide to make an informed decision about your Indianapolis Mayor's race based on their answers to a few questions about key parts of our community
- To find more information about your Indianapolis City Council Candidate races, go to <https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/meet-the-candidates-for-indianapolis-city-county-council>
- You can go to indianavoters.in.gov to find out:
 - What district you live in
 - Your closest early voting site, and election day voting site location
 - Voting site hours
 - Who will be on your ballot or a "sample ballot"
 - Check your voter registration status

What do I bring with me?

- A valid ID issued by the State of Indiana or the federal government

Questions Sent to Both Mayoral Candidates

1. **Qualifications:** Why do you believe you are qualified to be the next elected Mayor of Indianapolis?
2. **Agenda:** What are your top 3 agenda items to address in Indianapolis if you are elected as Mayor?
3. **School Safety:** The national rise in school shootings has parents, school districts, and law enforcement agencies looking for ways to ensure schools are safe. Do you believe school safety is an issue of concern in Indianapolis? If so, what would be your plan to address these concerns?
4. **Inclusion:** The Marion County Muslim community is historically an immigrant community with limited political engagement. Organizations like IMAN have worked hard to increase voter and political engagement within the Muslim community. How do you see your role in increasing participation from groups like the Muslim community in city government and various decision making processes?
5. **Housing & Cost of Living:** With the rise of inflation and increased cost of living, do you believe there is a housing issue in the city of Indianapolis? If so, what would be your plan to address the cost of living expense increase?





Jefferson Shreve

Republican

Indianapolis Mayoral

Candidate

Qualifications:

Indianapolis is on the wrong track. We are not better off today than we were eight years ago when Mayor Hogsett took office. Eight is enough — and it's time for a change. I've spent my career as a business executive. Just out of college, I founded Storage Express, growing it from the ground up into the largest self storage company headquartered in Indiana. I grew it into a nearly billion dollar enterprise. I also served twice on the City-County Council. Indianapolis is a big, complex organization. I have both the executive business experience and municipal government experience to put our city back on the right track.

Agenda:

My top priorities relate to curbing the violent crime in our city. Fully staffing IMPD is priority one. We're down more than 320 police officers. We have 120 fewer officers than when Joe Hogsett took office. I'll hire a Public Safety Director, a position all modern mayors (except Joe Hogsett) have had. And I'll work to ensure we get violent offenders and illegal guns they carry off our streets.

School Safety:

School safety is an issue of importance to all of us. My mother worked for 30 years as an elementary school librarian. My sister is an elementary school teacher. I've released a public safety plan focused on curbing the violent crime in Indianapolis, and gun violence is a major concern. I'll hire a public safety director who will work every day on public safety in Indianapolis, including in our schools. I have also proposed working with our state's general assembly to give Indianapolis home rule when it comes to laws like raising the age to purchase a firearm to 21, banning assault weapon sales in Marion County and reinstating permitting requirements for the concealed carry of firearms. And, I'll triple the funding for our city's clinician-led response team.

Inclusion:

I would love to work with our city's Muslim community to ensure they feel represented by and in our city government. The Muslim community, along with many other communities, are currently not represented in the Hogsett administration. I will aim to make my administration as diverse and inclusive as our city. I'll also bring back programs like Mayor's Night Out and mayor's breakfasts that give members of the Muslim community the opportunity to meet with me and share their ideas and concerns.

Housing & Cost of Living:

Indy needs more affordable housing — and better quality housing. At its core, we have a supply and demand issue. If we increase the supply of quality housing to meet the demand, prices will come down. We need to clear a pathway for investors to create quality housing in our city. It's too difficult right now under the Hogsett administration. The city has put up too much red tape, too much bureaucracy — and it's driving developers away. Under my administration, I'll make it easier to work with the Department of Metropolitan Development and Business & Neighborhood Services — to accelerate the increase in supply to meet demand. When supply catches up with demand, housing cost growth is sure to level out.





Joe Hogsett

Democrat

Mayoral Candidate

Indianapolis

Qualifications:

As the Mayor of Indianapolis, I've had the privilege of serving our great city for the past seven years. During my time as Mayor, I have focused on investing in public safety, improving our infrastructure, and building a stronger future for our children. Throughout the pandemic, I have worked tirelessly to steer Indianapolis through this challenging time while promoting equity for all residents. Now, as I seek a third term as Mayor, I am committed to delivering on the promises that were delayed by the pandemic. I will continue to prioritize public safety, expand affordable housing options, champion high-impact programs for our young people, and invest in critical infrastructure projects that will improve the quality of life for all Indianapolis residents.

My experience, training, and background have prepared me to lead our city through any challenge that may arise. I am dedicated to serving the people of Indianapolis and ensuring that our city remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Agenda:

In my next term, my top focuses are prioritizing public safety and safer neighborhoods, investing in our infrastructure, and building a better future for our children. I will work to continue reducing crime with my \$150 million violence reduction strategy, implement a \$1.2 billion infrastructure plan without raising taxes, and expand high-impact programs for our young people such as Indy Achieves, Circle City Readers, and Project Indy. These are programs aimed at promoting education, workforce development, and youth employment opportunities in the Indianapolis community.

School Safety:

In 2021, we took aggressive action to combat the pandemic-fueled rise in violence through a \$150 million violence reduction strategy. Our three-year strategy includes hiring new police officers, investing in modern policing technology, supporting grassroots organizations, hiring peacemakers to prevent violence, and investing in mental health. One year later, Indianapolis had the largest single-year decrease in criminal homicides in IMPD's history and saw a reduction in overall crime. Additionally, we know we must provide our children with something to do - whether it's offering pathways to employment or opportunities to find a new hobby or passion. That's why I started Project Indy, which has connected over 15,000 young people with job opportunities. Lastly, I am proud to support programs like City Connects that is putting counselors in schools to systemically address out-of-school challenges so kids can focus on learning.

Inclusion:

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate program is a vital initiative aimed at strengthening community engagement and serving as a direct bridge between our neighborhoods and the Mayor's Office. Our dedicated MNAs attend neighborhood and organization meetings, actively listening to residents' concerns and priorities. They ensure that local voices are heard, which is essential for shaping policies that reflect the needs of our diverse communities.

Indianapolis has always been a city that welcomes all, and I am committed to making it even more inclusive. As Mayor, my role is to ensure that all Indianapolis residents have a seat at the table. I look forward to collaborating with organizations like IMAN to foster civic engagement and make Indianapolis a more inclusive city for everyone.

Housing & Cost of Living:

From day one, we have prioritized investing in our neighborhoods to ensure that as Indianapolis grows, it remains affordable for all price points. We're working on rapidly increasing the supply of affordable housing while also implementing measures to ensure that renters and homeowners are able to remain in their homes. From 2020 to 2022, we subsidized over 3,100 affordable units across Marion County, and we're just getting started. With American Rescue Plan funds, my administration continues to expand our affordable housing toolbox and programs to spur the creation of multi-family housing, homeownership opportunities, rental assistance, and homeowner repairs.

This January, we launched Vacant to Vibrant, our administration's new affordable housing program created to develop affordable homeownership and rental opportunities with city-owned properties in the Near Northwest, Martindale-Brightwood, and Near Eastside neighborhoods. We also worked with the Indianapolis City-County Council to pass property tax relief for homeowners to reduce the impact of higher assessed property values. Because of this, 90% of Marion County homeowners received a credit on their May 2023 property tax bill.





Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network strives to provide an organized, educated, and amplified Muslim political voice, advocating for positive civic and political changes in the state of Indiana.

Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network urges all Muslims registered to vote, to vote by **November 7th, 2023.**

Sign up to our newsletter below to stay up to date on events and advocacy efforts.



Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network



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