

THE INDIANA CITIZEN’S CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE: SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATE DIEGO MORALES

The [2021 Indiana Civic Health Index](#) and other reports consistently show Indiana in the Bottom 10 for voter turnout. What is your reaction to this?

Answer: History has seen voter turnout is largely candidate and issue driven. That is why you will see a higher turnout for presidential elections and a lower turnout for midterm elections. As the next Indiana secretary of state, my job will be to educate voters on the importance of state and local elections, so Indiana doesn’t have that drop in turnout.

Some states have adopted the following measures to increase turnout. Which, if any, do you favor, and why?

- no excuse absentee voting?
- automatic voter registration?
- same-day voter registration?
- longer voting hours?
- making Election Day a state holiday?

Answer: The measures that have been adopted with the goal to increase voter turnout have seldom worked. Voter turnout is largely candidate and issue driven. If we are talking about measures that increase the flexibility of voting, Indiana already has a month of early voting, a robust mail-in voting system with multiple excuses to vote by mail, and a 12-hour Election Day. Indiana is in a good place and it comes down to voters choosing whether or not to get out and vote.

How healthy is civic literacy in Indiana? What would you do, as secretary of state, to improve Hoosiers’ civic literacy?

Answer: Our educators are doing a great job with the resources they have available. There was recently a commission that looked into this specific issue. As secretary of state, I will consider those findings and evaluate if there are any workable policies that can be executed through the office.

What is “ballot security” and what, if anything, should Indiana do to safeguard it?

Answer: Ballot security includes the safeguards that are in place to ensure several things:

- A person who intends to vote is who they say they are.
- Said person is the one casting their own ballot.
- Every eligible vote is counted.

For in-person voting, Indiana has a very secure process and there are safeguards in place. Indiana was the first state in the nation to pass a photo ID law. I believe that policy needs to be expanded to include mail-in voting.

Is voter fraud a concern for you? If so, please give an example of voter fraud in Indiana.

Answer: When discussing elections, voter fraud is always an issue. Indiana recently had a case in Knox County where a voter pled guilty after voting multiple times in person. Counties moving to electronic pollbooks will largely eliminate the possibility to this type of fraud. Once a vote has been cast it becomes increasingly more difficult to prove instances of fraud. My job as the next Indiana secretary of state is to ensure there are safeguards and redundancies at every step of the voting process.

Do you believe Joe Biden was legitimately elected U.S. president?

Answer: I've been asked this so many times. I tell you this, Joe Biden is the legitimate president. He's in the White House. I did not vote for him, and I maintain that he's doing a horrible job, and I would not vote for him.

[A recent study](#) found Indiana ranks 51st for the strength of its campaign finance laws. As chief election officer, what changes, if any, would you make to those laws?

Answer: Indiana's campaign finance laws are fair and transparent for all parties involved. If there were any changes that need to be made, I would refer that to the Indiana General Assembly.

A [Tufts study](#) that came out right before the 2020 election showed Indiana with a steep drop in 18-19 year-old registrants from 2016. What would you do to promote registration and turnout among the youngest Hoosier voters?

Answer: As stated before, voter turnout is largely candidate and issue driven. Still, as the next Indiana secretary of state I will look at our voter registration and voter turnout campaigns and how they can be adapted for the next generation of voters.

Do you think the ways the congressional, state House and state Senate maps have been drawn inhibits voter turnout? If so, how would you address this as secretary of state?

Answer: The process of redistricting is a legislative function, and it will stay that way. The Indiana General Assembly has done a fantastic job making the redistricting process fair and transparent.

Do you think some Indiana elective offices should be appointed or, if elected, be nonpartisan? If so, which ones?

Answer: I defer to the Indiana General Assembly on this issue.

10. Should the secretary of state, who oversees elections, be elected on a partisan basis (as is now the case)? Why or why not?

Answer: I defer to the Indiana General Assembly on this issue.