



2026 Indiana Election Legislation Summary

Prepared by the Indiana Election Division

This document summarizes the election-related legislation that passed the Indiana General Assembly and became law in 2026. Bills may be obtained by contacting the Legislative Information Center at 200 West Washington Street, Room 230, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2731; (317) 232-9856, or by downloading documents from the General Assembly's website at www.iga.in.gov.

This document is intended to serve as an overview of information concerning Indiana election laws. Although the Election Division makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this document, **where your legal rights are involved, do not rely on this document. Instead, review the law yourself or consult with your attorney.**

The 2026 Regular Session of the Indiana General Assembly enacted the following election-related bills and joint resolutions:

Public Law 4-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 3): Constitutional Amendment Ballot Language
Public Law 5-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 12): Prohibition of Ranked Choice Voting
Public Law 7-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 25): School Board Candidates
Public Law 12-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 112): Candidacy Documents
Public Law 18-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1019): Constitutional Amendment Ballot Question
Public Law 47-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 233): Powers and Duties of the Election Commission
Public Law 68-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 113): Election Matters
Public Law 76-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1033): Various Judicial Matters
Public Law 77-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1038): Gaming Matters
Public Law 99-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1377): Straight Ticket Voting
Public Law 164-2026 (Senate Enrolled Joint Resolution 1): Constitutional Amendment Concerning Bail

The following bills made other amendments (generally technical, but some substantive) to election statutes or areas that affect election law:

Public Law 23-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1088): Technical Corrections
Public Law 40-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1161): Local Government Matters
Public Law 91-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1302): Various Labor and Safety Matters
Public Law 94-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1343): Public Safety Matters
Public Law 97-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1360): Access to Public Records

Public Law 101-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1423): Indianapolis Public Education Corporation

Public Law 109-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 80): Code Publication

Public Law 134-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 270): Township Mergers

Public Law 139-2026 (Senate Enrolled Act 291): Court Security

Public Law 157-2026 (House Enrolled Act 1210): Department of Local Government Finance

BALLOTS, FORMS, AND ELECTION MATERIALS

Straight Ticket Party Voting Instructions

Beginning in 2027, straight ticket voting instructions will no longer include that a voter has to vote for individual candidates for an at-large (or vote for more than one) office. Instead, if a voter uses the straight party device found on the November ballot, this selection option will apply, and a vote will be applied to each party's candidate for that office. However, if a voter decides to "scratch" or make an individual mark for any at-large office where you can vote for more than one candidate, then the straight party selection will not apply. (Note: straight party devices do not apply to school board elections. This change in law does not affect any at-large school board race.)

(HEA 1377 § 2, 8, 10; Effective Date: January 1, 2027; Citations affected IC 3-11-2-10, IC 3-11-13-11, IC 3-11-14-3.5)

At-Large Offices to be Placed on the Ballot with Other Offices in Same Unit of Government

Beginning in 2027, an at-large vote for more than one office is no longer to be placed after all partisan elected offices and before any school board offices. Instead, those offices are to be placed on the ballot with all other offices from the same unit of government according to IC 3-11-2-12.

(HEA 1377 § 3; Effective Date: January 1, 2027; Citations affected IC 3-11-2-12.4)

Voting Instructions for Vote for More Than One School Board Offices

Beginning in 2027, after the title and before the first candidate for a school board office where more than one candidate can be elected, the following voting instructions must be provided:

For Hand Counted Traditional Paper Ballots

"To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office."

For Optical Scan Ballot Cards

"Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office."

For Direct Record Electronic (DRE) Electronic Voting Systems

“Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.”

(HEA 1377 § 4, 8, 10; Effective Date: January 1, 2027; Citations affected IC 3-11-2-12.9, IC 3-11-13-11, IC 3-11-14-3.5)

Ranked Choice Voting Prohibited

An election conducted in Indiana may not be determined by ranked choice voting. A candidate may not be nominated for or elected to an office by means of ranked choice voting.

(SEA 12 § 2; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-5-4-16[NEW])

Placement of Candidates for School Board Office on Ballot

The names of candidates for a school board office must be grouped together in the following order:

1. The major political party whose candidate received the highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state at the last election is listed first.
2. The major political party whose candidate received the second highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state is listed second.
3. All other political parties are listed in the order in which their candidate for secretary of state finished in the last election and after the parties listed in 1 and 2.
4. If a political party did not have a candidate for secretary of state in the last election or a nominee is an independent candidate, the party or candidate is listed after the parties described in 1-3.
5. If more than one political party or independent candidate qualifies to be on the ballot, then the parties, candidates, or tickets are listed in the order in which the first candidate within a particular party or an independent candidate filed its petition of nomination under IC 3-8-6-12.

Example: A Green Party candidate files on May 19, 2026, an Independent candidate files on May 21, 2026, and another Green Party candidate files on May 27, 2026. The Green Party candidates are grouped together, since there is more than one candidate who filed as a member of that party. The county then lists the two Green Party candidates alpha by surname within the Green Party group. Next, the Independent candidate is listed.

6. The name of a candidate who selected on their petition of nomination that they do not wish to state that they are affiliated with a political party or are an independent candidate is placed after the candidates listed in 1-5, if applicable.

7. A space for write-in voting is placed after the candidates listed in 1-6, if required by law. The name of a write-in candidate may not be listed on the ballot.

If there is more than one (1) candidate for a grouping described in 1-8 above for a school board office, the candidates shall appear in the order established by this subsection and within the grouping, in alphabetical order according to surname.

(SEA 25 § 1-3; Effective Date: February 4, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-11-2-6, IC 3-11-13-11, IC 3-11-14-3.5)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Administratively Disbanding Campaign Finance Committee by Indiana Election Commission

The Indiana Election Commission may administratively disband a campaign finance committee that has filed a statement of organization with the Indiana Election Division if the election division determines:

1. The committee has not filed a campaign finance report (CFA-4) during the previous calendar year.
2. The committee has never filed a CFA-4 report or the last report the committee filed shows cash on hand in an amount that does not exceed \$1,000.
3. The election division has attempted to contact the committee:
 - a. by United States mail during the previous calendar year to provide notice of upcoming deadlines to file a CFA-4, but the communication has been returned by the United States Postal Service due to an unknown or insufficient address; or
 - b. by email, if the committee provided an email address to the election division, but the email was returned as undeliverable.

(SEA 233 § 1-2; Effective Date: March 3, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-9-1-12, IC 3-9-1-12.5[NEW])

Campaign Finance Violation Fines by Indiana Election Commission Set to Specific Dollar Amount

Fines that can be assessed by the Indiana Election Commission for certain campaign finance violations are set at a specific dollar amount and repeals the option for the Commission to fine at a lesser amount.

(SEA 233 § 3; Effective Date: March 3, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-9-4-16)

CANDIDATES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

Marion Superior Court Judge Appointed in the Same Year Office is Up for Retention

An individual appointed to fill a vacancy on the Marion Superior Court during the same year the vacating judge's term would otherwise expire will serve a term that will expire on December 31 of the sixth full year following the newly appointed judge's appointment.

(HEA 1033 § 6; Effective Date: March 4, 2026; Citations affected IC 33-33-49-13.2)

Marion Superior Court Judge Retention Interview Requirement

Before a Marion Superior Court judge is eligible to stand for retention for another six-year term in office, the judge must appear, in person, before the Marion County Judicial Nominating Committee to permit the Committee to determine if the judge's suitability to continue to hold judicial office. If the judge does not appear before the Committee, then the Committee shall provide notice to the Marion County Circuit Court Clerk that the judge's retention question may not be printed on the general election ballot.

Before a Marion Superior Court judge can file a statement requesting a retention question be placed on the ballot to allow the judge to serve another term in office, the judge must notify the Marion County Judicial Nominating Committee that the judge wishes to be retained in office and provide the Committee with a written statement describing the judge's qualifications and suitability to continue to hold judicial office. After reviewing the written materials, the Committee shall promptly schedule an in-person hearing to consider the written materials and interview the judge.

A judge is presumed suitable to continue to hold office if at least nine members of the Committee vote in the affirmative that the judge is suitable. If the Committee does not find the judge is suitable to continue in office, then the judge's retention question may not be printed on the general election ballot, and the judge will leave office at the end of their term. A new judge will be selected according to IC 33-33-49-13.4. The Committee shall provide notice the Marion County Circuit Court Clerk of their decision whether the judge is suitable or not suitable to continue holding office.

(HEA 1033 § 7, 9-10; Effective Date: March 4, 2026; Citations affected IC 33-33-49-13.3, IC 33-33-49-13.4, IC 33-33-49-13.7, IC 33-33-49-13.8[NEW])

DEFINITIONS

“Ranked Choice Voting”

In the Indiana Election Code, the term “ranked choice voting” refers to a system of voting that:

1. allows a voter to rank each candidate on a ballot for a particular office in an order of preference; and
2. tabulates each ballot in multiple rounds following the elimination of a candidate; until a single candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

(SEA 12 § 1; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-5-2.1-87.5[NEW])

LOCAL ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Sending Official Precinct Level Results to Election Division Electronically

Beginning in the November 2026 general election, a county election board must send their official precinct level election results through the precinct level election results module in SVRS for each candidate, office, and public question not later than noon, fourteen (14) days after the election. If the official election results of an election are revised following a recount or election contest, each county election board affected by the recount or contest must revise the votes cast for each candidate, office, and public question in each precinct not later than 14 days after the certification of the revised election results is made by a court or the Indiana Recount Commission. Previously, counties could enter summary level results and attach a copy of their precinct level results to their CEB-9 election report form submitted through SVRS. Counties will no longer be able to utilize the summary results option and must enter precinct level results by hand or through mapping and upload.

(SEA 113 § 1; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-6-5-17)

Reorganization and Merger of Certain Townships

In 2027 and 2028 certain township governments that are assigned a certain number of points by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) will be required either to consolidate with a municipality that is located in most of the township's boundaries or merge with another township in the same county. The former township government will be dissolved at the end of the consolidation and merger process.

(SEA 270 § 1-15; Effective Date: March 5, 2026; Citations affected IC 36-1.5-4-4.5[NEW], IC 36-1.5-4-13, IC 36-1.5-4.1[NEW], IC 36-6-1.5-5, IC 36-6-1.5-6, 36-6-1.5-8, IC 36-6-1.5-12, IC 36-6-1.6[REPEALED], IC 36-6-1.7[NEW], IC 36-6-4-21[NEW], IC 36-6-5-1, IC 36-6-5-5, IC 36-6-6-2.1, IC 36-6-6-3, IC 36-6-6-4)

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Defenders and Indiana National Guard Military Police Force Covered Under Restricted Address Law

An individual employed as a full time public defender in a county, maintains a full-time equivalent caseload as a court appointed contractual or hours public defender, the state public defender, state deputy public defender, and a chief public defender as well as a member of the Indiana National Guard military police force (while exercising police powers in accordance with IC 10-16-23-3) may apply to have their home address restricted from disclosure on a “public property database website” maintained by a county, municipality, or township government. SVRS is not included in the definition of “public property database website” as it is owned and maintained by the State of Indiana.

(HEA 1161 § 10-11; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 36-1-8.5-2, IC 36-1-8.5-4.4[NEW])

(HEA 1343 § 85; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 36-1-8.5-4)

Publication of Notice

An officer of a political subdivision, such as a county, that is required to publish notice must do so in one or more of the following forms of media:

1. Publication in any of the following forms of a newspaper:
 - a. A print edition newspaper that is published in or circulates within the political subdivision specified in the statute.
 - b. An electronic edition published by the newspaper within the political subdivision.
2. Publication in any of the following forms of a locality newspaper (defined in IC 5-3-1-0.2):
 - a. A print edition locality newspaper that circulates within the political subdivision specified in the statute.
 - b. An electronic edition published by the locality newspaper circulated within the political subdivision
3. Publication on a political subdivision website under IC 5-3-5.

(HEA 1210 § 1-5, 22-25; Effective Date: July 1, 2027; Citations affected IC 3-11-1.5-18, IC 3-11-13-22, IC 3-11-13-41, IC 3-11-14.5-2, IC 3-12-3.5-8, IC 5-3-1-1.5, IC 5-3-1-1.6[REPEALED], IC 5-3-1-2, IC 5-3-1-4[REPEALED])

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/REFERENDUMS

Northeast Indiana Casino Gaming Referendum

The county election boards in Allen, DeKalb, and Steuben County shall place the following public question on the November 2026 general election ballot:

“Shall inland casino gambling be permitted in (insert the name of the county)?”.

The public question shall be placed on the ballot as provided in IC 3-10-9 and certified as provided in IC 3-10-9-3.

The circuit court clerk of each county shall certify the results of the election to the Indiana Gaming Commission and the Department of Revenue.

A person who holds a casino gaming license or has an interest in an entity holding a casino gaming license commits a Level 6 felony if the person gives any property, as defined in IC 35-31.5-2-253, to a member of a precinct committee (precinct committeeman or vice committeeman) to induce that member to do any act or refrain from doing any act with respect to the approval of the referendum.

(HEA 1038 § 6, 10; Effective Date: March 4, 2026; Citations affected IC 4-33-6-19.5[NEW], IC 4-33-10-2.5)

Indianapolis Public Schools Referendum Authority Transferred to Indianapolis Public Education Corporation

Beginning April 1, 2026, the power to certify a controlled project public question referendum, school tax levy public question referendum, and school safety tax levy public question referendum for placement on the ballot is transferred from the Indianapolis Public School Board of Commissioners to the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation.

(HEA 1423 § 7, 16; Effective Date: March 4, 2026; Citations affected IC 6-1.1-20-0.3[NEW], IC 20-46-1-0.5[NEW], IC 20-46-9-0.5[NEW])

Public Question Language for School Tax Levy Referendum Certified by Indianapolis Public Education Corporation

When the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation seeks to place a school tax levy referendum on the ballot the following public question language must be used:

“Shall the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation increase property taxes paid to the Indianapolis Public Schools school corporation and participating charter schools for no more than _____ (insert the number of years immediately following the holding of the

referendum) years for the purpose of funding _____ (insert a brief description of the purposes) by imposing a property tax rate that does not exceed _____ (insert property tax rate) and results in a maximum annual amount that does not exceed _____ (insert maximum amount of annual levy)? If this operating referendum public question is approved by the voters, for a median residence of _____ (insert the Indianapolis Public Schools school corporation's median household assessed value, rounded up to the next fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)), the property's annual property tax bill would increase by _____ (insert dollar amount, rounded up to the next whole dollar) per year. (If, in the previous five (5) years, the Indianapolis Public Schools school corporation has conducted an operating referendum public question, the following shall also be included in the ballot language.) The most recent operating referendum public question proposed by the Indianapolis Public Schools school corporation was held in _____ (insert year) and _____ (insert whether the measure passed or failed).”

(HEA 1423 § 17; Effective Date: March 4, 2026; Citations affected IC 20-46-1-9.5[NEW])

PUBLIC RECORDS

Retention Period for Election Materials and Ballots

Election materials including cast ballots and provisional ballots, a detachable recording unit or compartment used to record a ballot cast on a DRE electronic voting system, and all data recorded on an electronic poll book must be kept by the circuit court clerk for thirty-four (34) months after the election. This supersedes the federally required twenty-two (22) month retention period after a federal election. This applies to all election materials and ballots from the November 2023 municipal election and May 2024 primary election in the possession of the circuit court clerk January 1, 2026, when the law change took effect.

(SEA 113 § 2; Effective Date: January 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-10-1-31.1)

Online Portal to Make Public Records Requests

A public agency may establish and maintain an electronic portal for submission of public records requests that:

1. incorporates Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart (CAPTCHA) or an equivalent mechanism for ensuring that a requestor is a human;
2. requires verification of a requestor's physical address;
3. indicates to the public agency whether the requestor is a resident of Indiana; and
4. automatically tracks and reports submissions suspected to be automated or to have originated from known sources of phishing or data scraping.

A public agency must respond to the request made through the electronic portal within seven (7) days of receiving the request.

“Data scraping” is defined as use of an automated system to extract data from websites and other Internet accessible sources. “Phishing” is defined as a method of obtaining information through fraud in which the sender of a communication intentionally misrepresents the identity of the sender in order to induce the recipient of the communication to (1) divulge the information to the sender; or (2) take an action that allows the sender access to the information.

(HEA 1360 § 1-2, 4, 7; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 5-14-3-2, IC 5-14-3-3.3[NEW], IC 5-14-3-4.4, IC 5-14-3-9)

Denial of Public Records Request Suspected to be Data Scraping or Phishing

A public agency may decline to respond to a public records request that is submitted to the public agency if one or more of the following apply:

1. The public agency suspects the request to be data scraping or phishing activity.
2. The public agency suspects that responding to the request electronically may:
 - a. expose the public agency's electronic systems or data to unauthorized access or alteration; or
 - b. otherwise jeopardize the security of the public agency's electronic systems or data.

Not later than seven (7) days after a public agency receives a public records request to which the public agency declines to respond because of data scraping, phishing, or security matter described above, the public agency shall notify the Public Access Counselor of the request and the reason why the public agency declined to respond to the request.

A public agency must also report to the Public Access Counselor, through a standardized mechanism established by the Counselor, any public records request received by the public agency that is suspected by the public agency of being automated, data scraping, or phishing activity.

(HEA 1360 § 2, 8, 12; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 5-14-3-3.3[NEW], IC 5-14-3-11[NEW], IC 5-14-4-10)

Deny Public Records Request for Ongoing Litigation

A public agency may deny a public records request if the request is:

1. made by a person that is a party to pending or ongoing litigation; and
2. duplicative of a discovery request made by the person in the pending or ongoing litigation.

(HEA 1360 § 3; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 5-14-3-4)

Public Record Fee for Out of Indiana Residents and Out of State Entities

A public agency may collect a supplemental fee for processing public records request submitted by non-Indiana residents or out-of-state entities. The fee:

1. must be reasonably related to the cost of fulfilling the request; and
2. may not exceed \$0.25 per page and \$25 per hour of staff time spent processing the request.

The public agency must waive this supplemental fee if the public agency finds that the public records request serves the public interest.

(HEA 1360 § 5; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 5-14-3-8)

Giving Priority to Fulfilling Public Record Requests from Indiana Residents and for Civic, Journalistic, Academic, or Personal Use

A public agency may give priority in fulfilling public records requests to (1) Indiana residents; and (2) requests submitted for civic, journalistic, academic, or personal use. Requests identified as originating from out-of-state entities or automated systems may be delayed as necessary to prevent disruption of core agency functions and subject the out of state supplemental fee in IC 5-14-3-8(n).

(HEA 1360 § 6; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 5-14-3-8.1[NEW])

Redaction of Judge's Personal Information on Copies of Candidate and Campaign Finance Forms Post on Government Websites

A “protected individual” or the Office of Judicial Administration on behalf of the protected individual may submit a written request to a public agency to prevent publication of personal information on the Internet, social media, or social network that is available to the general public or remove the protected individual’s personal information from an existing publicly accessible website, social media, or social network.

The written request must be sent by certified mail or email and contain sufficient information to confirm that the person subject to the request is a protected individual and a description of the document, posting, other publication containing the personal information that is sought to be removed. A request from the Office of Judicial Administration that certified that the person is a protected individual is considered sufficient information.

Not later than one (1) day after receiving a request the public agency must acknowledge receipt of the request. The public agency must, as soon as practicable, take necessary action to ensure that the personal information of the protected individual is not published or not later than three (3) days after receipt of the request, remove all personal information of the protected individual from the Internet, social media, or social network under the public agency’s control.

A protected individual or the Office of Judicial Administration may bring a civil action against a public agency for not taking steps to prevent the protected individual’s personal information from being posted on a website, social media, or social network controlled by the public agency or timely remove the personal information already posted on the

website, social media, or social network. The prevailing party in the civil action may recover:

1. actual damages;
2. declaratory relief;
3. injunctive relief; and
4. costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

A court may also award punitive damages if the court finds that the defendant public agency willfully refuses to remove the personal information of a protected person.

A protected individual refers to a:

1. current or retired:
 - a. Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court;
 - b. judge of the Indiana Court of Appeals;
 - c. judge of the tax court;
 - d. judge of a circuit court;
 - e. judge of a superior court;
 - f. judge of a probate court;
 - g. judge of a municipal court;
 - h. judge of a county court;
 - i. judge of a city court;
 - j. judge of a town court;
 - k. judge of a small claims court;
 - l. a judge pro tempore, senior judge, temporary judge, or any other individual serving as judge in an action or a proceeding in an Indiana court;
 - m. bail commissioner;
 - n. magistrate;
 - o. master commissioner;
 - p. probate commissioner; or
 - q. referee;
2. current or retired:
 - a. Justice of the United States Supreme Court;
 - b. federal court judge; or
 - c. federal court magistrate;domiciled in Indiana; and
3. spouse, child, or dependent who resides household as an individual described in 1 and 2.

Personal information of a protected individual including all of the following:

1. A home address.
2. A home telephone number.
3. A mobile telephone number.
4. A personal electronic mail address.
5. A Social Security number.
6. A driver's license number.

7. A federal tax identification number.
8. A credit or debit card number.
9. A bank account number.
10. A license plate number or a unique identifier of a vehicle.
11. A birth or marital record.
12. Date of birth.
13. A home address displayed on any of the following:
 - a. Voter registration or property tax information.
 - b. Election and campaign finance reports.

Note: While this new procedure would require the redaction of a protected person's personal information from copies of candidate, election, voter registration, and campaign finance forms posted on a state or county website, this law does not permit the information to be redacted from the original filed form requested by a public records request or for the information to be made confidential in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS).

(SEA 291 § 1; Effective Date: March 5, 2026; Citations affected IC 33-23-19[NEW])

STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Indiana Election Division to Publish Precinct Level on Election Results Website

The Indiana Election Division must promptly publish precinct election results on a website maintained by the election division. The election results published must be downloadable in a format that can be imported into standard spreadsheet computer software.

Note: IED maintains election results counties enter for the current election at indianavoters.com/election results. Historical election results are accessible from the indianavoters.com home page. Beginning November 2024, all counties are required to enter and publish precinct level results that are downloadable first on the current election page and later on the historical election results archive.

(SEA 113 § 1; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-6-5-17)

UPDATING OR CORRECTING REFERENCES IN STATE LAW

Repeal and Update of Election Code Definition

The definition of “Uniformed services” is repealed in the old chapter of election code definitions (IC 3-5-2) and updated in the current election code definition chapter, IC 3-5-2.1.

(SEA 80 § 1-3; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-5-2-49.3[REPEALED], IC 3-5-2.1-100)

Technical Corrections

Corrects spelling, grammar, and other technical errors.

(HEA 1088 § 2-6, 285; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-5-2.1-16, IC 3-5-8-4, IC 3-8-2.5-7, IC 3-11-13-11, IC 3-11-14-3.5, IC 36-3-4-4)

Removal of Cross References to Repealed Statutes

Cross references to repealed statutes in the state’s child labor law are removed.

(HEA 1302 § 1-2; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-6-6-39; IC 3-11.5-4-23)

VOTING SYSTEMS AND ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS

Straight Ticket Voting for At-Large, Vote for More Than One Offices

Beginning in 2027, the straight party voting option will apply to at-large, vote for more than one office, except for school board offices (i.e. county council at-large, township board, city council at-large, town council at-large). If a voter votes a straight party ticket for candidates of one political party and the voter votes for any individual candidate for an office where more than one candidate may be elected then the voter's straight party ticket vote will not apply to that office and only the votes for the individual candidates the voter selected on their ballot will be counted.

(HEA 1377 § 1, 5-7, 9, 11-15; Effective Date: January 1, 2027; Citations affected IC 3-11-2-9, IC 3-11-7-4, IC 3-11-7.5-10, IC 3-11-11-10, IC 3-11-13-14, IC 3-11-14-14.5, IC 3-12-1-5, IC 3-12-1-7, IC 3-12-1-8, IC 3-12-1-15)

VOTER REGISTRATION

Candidate Notice of Withdrawal to be Used to Update Voter Registration Address

Whenever an individual files a notice of withdrawal where the candidate lists an address that is different from the address in the individual's voter registration record, the individual's signature on the notice of withdrawal constitutes a request to the county voter registration office that the address on the individual's voter registration record be the same as the address the individual uses on the notice of withdrawal.

The notice of withdrawal means a document on which an individual:

1. withdraws as a candidate or nominee;
2. provides notice that the individual:
 - a. will not accept a nomination;
 - b. is no longer a candidate; or
 - c. does not wish the individual's name to appear on the ballot as a candidate;
3. provides a written statement under IC 3-8-7-20, where a candidate has been nominated more than once for the same office at the same election, requesting that the individual's name be printed as nominated by petition, convention, subsequent petition, or subsequent convention; or
4. provides a written election under IC 3-8-7-21 of which nomination the individual will accept.

(SEA 112 § 1; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected IC 3-5-7-6.3[NEW])

INDIANA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Limitations on the Right to Bail

In 2023 and 2025 the General Assembly adopted a joint resolution proposing to amend Article 1, Section 17 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana to change the standard for who is eligible for bail after being charged with a crime. The amendment would allow the court to restrict bail to a person charged with a crime when the accused poses a substantial risk to any other person or the community. An offense other than murder or treason shall not be bailable if: (1) the proof is evident or the presumption strong; and (2) the state proves by clear and convincing evidence that no release conditions will reasonably protect the safety of any other person or the community.

This proposed amendment has been agreed to by the 123rd and 124th General Assembly. Therefore, the next step to amend the state constitution is to submit the proposed amendment to the state's voters for ratification. The amendment will take effect if ratified by a majority of the state's voters voting on the amendment as a public question on the ballot at the November 3, 2026, general election.

The text of the public question will read as follows:

"Public Question #1

Currently, under the Constitution of the State of Indiana, a person charged with murder or treason is not entitled to be released on bail if the proof is evident or the presumption strong. Shall the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to provide that a person charged with an offense other than murder or treason is not entitled to bail if:

- (1) the proof is evident or the presumption strong; and
- (2) the state proves by clear and convincing evidence that no release conditions will reasonably protect the safety of any other person or the community.

(This question concerns Article 1, Section 17 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana.)"

(SEJR 1)

(SEA 3 § 1; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected Noncode)

Residence for Town and City Court Judges

In 2023 and 2025 the General Assembly adopted a joint resolution proposing to amend Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana to allow a judge of a city or town court to live in the county where the court is located or the bordering Indiana county that is the closest Indiana county to the city or town in which the court is located, calculated by measuring the shortest distance from the city or town limits to the county line.

This proposed amendment has been agreed to by the 123rd and 124th General Assembly. Therefore, the next step to amend the state constitution is to submit the proposed amendment to the state's voters for ratification. The amendment will take effect if ratified by a majority of the state's voters voting on the amendment as a public question on the ballot at the November 3, 2026, general election.

The text of the public question will read as follows:

“Public Question #2

Shall the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to permit the judge of a city or town court to reside in: (1) the county in which the court is located; or (2) the bordering county closest to the city or town in which the court is located? (This question concerns Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana.)”

(HEA 1019 § 1; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected Noncode)

(SEA 80 § 283; Effective Date: July 1, 2026; Citations affected Noncode)