

**INDIANA**  
**Winner: Republicans**

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In the past, Republican Presidential candidates in the general elections have walked away being victorious. The state of Indiana has voted Republican more times than not in almost every past general election but as the country screams for change, so too is the state of Indiana, according to state polls. This year, the state does not appear to have any plans on changing the "status quo" and vote Democratic in the general election regardless of which Democratic candidate wins the nomination. The Republican Party will surely come out swinging to keep the support of constituents and hold true to what the recent polls show as John McCain being behind ahead of both Barack Obama by as much as 10% and Hillary Clinton by not so much, only 3% roughly as 7% of voters were still undecided as of February 2008 (Survey USA, 2008)

Provided there is no upset in the upcoming general election, the Republican Party can once again count on the vote to be counted in their favor. The Democratic Party does not stand to win based on the State's demographics. The state is made up of a population with 86% white, with minorities making up the remaining population including 8.7% African American or Black, and Native Americans, Asians and other minorities combined make up the remaining 5.3% according to the U.S. Census Bureau. While 85% of the population has graduated High School, only 21.7% have gone on to earn BA degrees from Colleges or higher (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006). Of the states total population, about 80% of them are registered voters and just over half of them, 58%, actually turning out to vote in the last election in 2004 (Secretary of State: Elections Division, 2004). With just over 15% of the population being a minority group of one class or another, would in most cases vote Democratic. The Republican Party has been able to win the State's electoral votes in the general election for over half a century. In fact, there has only been one election (1948) in the last 60 years in which the Democratic Party even came close to winning the state. In 2004, President George W. Bush won the state by 59.9% and in 2000 he carried it away winning 56.7% of the votes and its electoral votes that came along with it (Leip, David. 2008).

Other offices besides the President have a great chance at going either way. For example, in the Senate elections, the Republicans won by 87% of the vote in 2006, but just two years before that they lost to the Democrats who won by 61.7%. The Democrats who were able to win in the House of Representatives in 2006 by another 61%, lost out in the year 2004 to the Republicans as they had for the 14 years prior. In the year 2004, the Gubernatorial election was also won by the Republican Party by 53.2% of the votes while on the state level, in 2006 the Democrats won the State House winding up with 51 seats and the Republicans with 49 seats. In 2004, both the State House and State Senate were won by the Republican Party (Leip, David. 2008).

Polls taken in late February tell a different story than more other polls taken as recent as March 31, 2008. In February, the polls showed that of 499 Indiana voters, just barely over half of them, 51%, said they would vote for John McCain when having to make a choice between him and Hillary Clinton, 42% said they

would vote for Clinton while 7% were still undecided. When voters were asked if they had to vote today, would they choose McCain or Barack Obama, McCain supporters left as much as a 10% gap between the two, with McCain with 50% and Obama with only 40%. Each of the polls had a margin of error of +/- 4.5% (Survey USA Election Poll, April 2008). However, despite all of what recent polls show, the past has always been the best prediction of the future. That said, the state of Indiana has been voting Republican for the last 60 years and this year will pan out to be no different.

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