

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
SUBJECT: INDIANA STATEWIDE SURVEY: KEY FINDINGS
DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2025

Public Opinion Strategies conducted an Indiana statewide survey of 500 registered voters, completed via live telephone interviews (both landlines and cell phones). The survey was conducted December 4-7, 2025, and has a margin of error of $\pm 4.38\%$.

KEY FINDINGS

1. A majority of Hoosiers are not satisfied with the direction of the state.

A majority (52%) of Hoosiers believe things in Indiana are on the wrong track, compared to 36% who believe things in the state are going in the right direction. Further, a plurality of Hoosiers (43%) disapprove of the job Governor Mike Braun is doing, compared to 36% who approve of the Governor's job performance. Among independents, the Governor's approval is 21%-38%.

2. Groceries and everyday essentials are far and away the biggest strain on household budgets.

Fully 41% of respondents say rising costs for basic necessities have put the most pressure on their monthly expenses, more than double the share who cite housing costs (19%), utility bills (18%), or healthcare expenses (14%).

Gender and age differences reveal distinct budgeting pressures. Women are more likely than men to say that groceries and everyday essentials put the most pressure on their household budget (45% versus 38%). Middle-aged Hoosiers (45%) are also more likely than both younger (41%) and older (37%) voters to cite groceries as their top strain. Housing costs place more pressure on younger voters (26%), while seniors are the most likely to say utility bills are putting a strain on their household budget (29%).

3. Hoosiers place a strong priority on improving public health, both by helping residents manage chronic conditions and by increasing state investment in public health.

Fully 91% say helping Hoosiers manage ongoing chronic conditions such as diabetes or heart disease is important to improving public health, including an overwhelming 76% who say it is very important. Consistent with this emphasis, a majority (53%) believe government funding for public health should be increased, while just 19% think it should be decreased and 24% say it should stay the same.

4. *There is strong support for the Indiana state government doing more to protect hospitals across the state.*

Nearly three-quarters of all voters (73%) agree with the statement “The Indiana state government should do more to protect hospitals in our local communities,” including 45% who strongly agree. More than two-thirds of both Republicans and Democrats agree with the statement.

5. *Nearly 1-in-2 Hoosiers have heard about the state government’s plan to cut over \$1 billion dollars a year from Indiana’s Medicaid program.*

Fully 26% say they have seen, read, or heard “a lot” about the plan and another 22% say they have seen, read, or heard “some” about it.

6. *Fully 71% of Hoosiers oppose the plan to cut over \$1 billion from Indiana’s Medicaid program, including 57% who strongly oppose the plan.*

Just 23% support the plan, compared to 71% who oppose the plan. Majorities of Republicans, Independents and Democrats oppose the plan to cut over \$1 billion from Indiana’s Medicaid program. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of rural Hoosiers oppose the plan. And the more voters have heard about the plan, the more they are against it – among the 26% who have heard “a lot,” fully 85% oppose the plan, including 79% who strongly oppose it.

7. *Hoosiers are very concerned about the potential impacts of the plan to cut over \$1 billion from Indiana’s Medicaid program.*

Rural Hoosiers losing access (44% very concerned / 86% total concerned), local hospitals eliminating critical services (41% very concerned / 89% total concerned), overcrowding of emergency rooms (40% very concerned / 90% total concerned) and rural women losing access to OBGYNs (40% very concerned / 87% total concerned) are the top concerns Hoosiers have about the effects of this plan.

8. *Hoosiers express significant concerns about the state’s K–12 education system and whether it is preparing students for long-term success.*

Only one in four voters (25%) rate the overall quality of Indiana’s public schools as excellent or good, while 42% describe the system as average and a combined 27% rate it as poor. Confidence in student preparation is also relatively soft. Although 52% say they are confident Indiana’s public schools are preparing students for future success, that confidence is soft, driven almost entirely by the 46% who are only somewhat confident. Nearly as many residents (45%) are not confident, including almost one in five (18%) who are not confident at all.

9. *Hoosiers are most focused on strengthening the fundamentals of the K–12 system.*

When asked to identify the single most important priority for Indiana’s public schools, residents are most focused on strengthening college and career readiness (24%) and improving teacher pay and retention (22%). Early literacy also emerges as a key concern, selected by 17% as the top priority. Other issues, such as mental health services (11%), school safety (11%), and expanding Pre-K (7%), register notably lower as priorities.

10. *Indiana residents see road quality and maintenance as the state's most pressing infrastructure challenges.*

More than one in three Hoosiers (35%) say deteriorating local roads are the biggest problem where they live, far outpacing concerns about road construction delays (21%) or highway congestion (16%). This focus carries through to statewide priorities as well. When asked which infrastructure area should be the highest priority over the next decade, a clear plurality (41%) choose road and highway maintenance, well ahead of energy grid reliability (18%) or upgrades to water and wastewater systems (16%).

11. *Hoosiers lean toward supporting efforts to streamline infrastructure project approvals, though a substantial minority has reservations.*

When asked, a majority (54%) agree more with supporters who say that reducing permitting steps and shortening review timelines would cut construction delays, lower taxpayer costs, and help Indiana modernize infrastructure more quickly. At the same time, 43% align with opponents who worry that speeding up the process would weaken environmental protections and reduce public input.