

Insights

Take Five: 5 Things You Need to Know About Indiana Government - April 2026 - Pre-Primary

April 29, 2026

By: Mathew W. Norris and Amy E. Schwarz

1. Congressional Primaries

Primary elections for all nine of Indiana's Congressional seats loom on May 5, but these races seem unlikely to offer any surprises. District boundaries remain unchanged after President Trump's failed effort to have the General Assembly draw new lines. The State Senate's refusal to bow to White House demands could create more drama when final votes are tallied in November, but the primary season will be quieter. President Trump endorsed Republican incumbents Marlin Stutzman, Jim Baird, Victoria Spartz, Jefferson Shreve, Mark Messmer, and Erin Houchin. Absent any surprises, those Representatives will survive to make the case for retention to voters in the general election. Second District Congressman Rudy Yakym did not receive Trump's endorsement for this run, but only because he has no primary opposition. In the Fifth, Democratic State Senator J.D. Ford is the best known candidate in a field of seven vying for the nomination to take on Congresswoman Spartz. Northwest Indiana Republicans have targeted three-term Democratic Congressman Frank Mrvan in recent election cycles, but his last two Republican opponents declined to enter the race this year after Trump's stalled effort to get new district maps. Republican Barb Regnitz has a significant fundraising advantage over her primary opponents, and she seems to be the favorite to oppose Mrvan in the fall. Democratic Congressman Andre Carson is facing his toughest race in years, but he is expected to prevail over former statewide candidate and attorney Destiny Wells and attorney and Obama alum George Hornedo.

2. Secretary of State

Incumbent Secretary of State Diego Morales (R) faces a tough re-election campaign this year, not only from fellow Republicans, but also a possible Democratic challenger with one of the biggest names in Indiana political history, and a potential independent candidate that was a two-term mayor of Indianapolis. But first, Secretary Morales must prevail in the State Republican Convention, which is scheduled for June 20th.

Nominees for Secretary of State are not chosen in a primary, but instead are chosen by party delegates during their respective state conventions. In the GOP Convention, Secretary Morales is being challenged by Knox County Clerk David Shelton and Jamie Reitenour, who sought the Republican nomination for Governor in 2024. On the Democratic side, Beau Bayh, son of former Governor and US Senator Evan Bayh, is running for the office that his dad held from 1986-1989. He will face businesswoman Blythe Potter in the Democratic State Convention, which is being held on June 6th. Former Republican Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard is trying to enter the race as an independent under the "Lincoln Party" label but needs to collect approximately 37,000 voter signatures by mid-July to appear on the November ballot. Lauri Shillings will be on the ballot this fall as the Libertarian Party candidate.

3. Indiana State Senate Primaries

Several incumbent Republican Senators are facing strong primary challenges this spring, with many of those challenges resulting from the failed attempt last year to redraw Indiana’s Congressional maps. Last December, the Indiana General Assembly considered legislation that would have redrawn Indiana’s Congressional districts, a process that normally occurs every ten years after the national census is conducted.

The move would likely have resulted in two additional Republican seats in Congress. And while the House passed HB 1032, the Senate rejected the proposal on a 19-31 vote. Eight Senate Republicans- Dan Dernulc (R- Highland), Rick Niemeyer (R- Lowell), Linda Rogers (R- Granger), Travis Holdman (R- Markle), Jim Buck (R- Kokomo), Spencer Deery (R- West Lafayette), Greg Goode (R- Terre Haute), and Greg Walker (R- Columbus)- are now facing primary challenges, largely because of their “no” vote on redistricting. President Trump has endorsed the challengers in all of those contests, with the exception being the challenger to Sen. Niemeyer. Political action committees aligned with both President Trump and Governor Mike Braun are targeting the incumbents with negative ads.

Six Republicans that supported HB 1032 also face primary challenges, but only two of them appear to be serious contests. Sen. Liz Brown and Sen. Ron Alting both voted for the redistricting proposal and received President Trump’s endorsement, but both have legitimate challengers. No Democratic incumbents face a primary challenge. There are contested primaries in both parties for two open seats- SD 29, which is currently held by Democratic Senator JD Ford, who is running for Congress, and SD 31, which is currently held by retiring Republican Senator Kyle Walker.

| District | Republican | Democrat |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| SD 1 | *Dan Dernulc Trevor De Vries Nader Liddawi | Scott Houdieson |
| SD 4 | Johannes Poulard Nate Uldricks | *Rodney Pol |
| SD 6 | *Rick Niemeyer Jay Starkey | Kate-Lynn Holley |
| SD 11 | *Linda Rogers Brian Schmutzler | Gabrianna Gratzol |
| SD 14 | *Tyler Johnson | Blaine Sefton |
| SD 15 | *Liz Brown Darren Vogt | Chloe Andis Julie McGill |
| SD 17 | *Nick McKinley Michael Hensley Chris Parker | Cynthia M. Wehr |
| SD 19 | *Travis Holdman Blake Fletcher | Timothy C Murphy |
| SD 21 | *Jim Buck Tracey Powell | Joseph Kazlas Kirsten Root |
| SD 22 | *Ron Alting | Marlena Edmondson |

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| SD 23 | Richard Bagsby *Spencer Deery Paula Copenhaver | Natasha Baker David Sanders |
| SD 25 | *Mike Gaskill | Tamie Dixon-Tatum Todd Shelton |
| SD 26 | *Scott Alexander Katherine Nunley-Kritsch | Andrew Dale |
| SD 27 | *Jeff Raatz Anthony Jones | Ronald Itnyre |
| SD 29 | Mike Delph John Ruckelshaus V. Roni Ford | David W Greene Jr. Demetrice Hicks Kristina Moorhead Kevin Short |
| SD 31 | Jaunita Albright Tiffanie Dittlevson Travis Hankins Jan Kepley Keefer | Andrew Dezelan Kerry J Forestal Lasima O Packett Catherine Torzewski |
| SD 38 | *Greg Goode Alexandra Wilson Brenda K Wilson | Kacey Blundell |
| SD 39 | Tanner Bouchie Jeff Ellington Kristi Risk | Joseph Baughman |
| SD 41 | *Greg Walker Michelle Davis | Ross Thomas |
| SD 43 | *Randall D Maxwell Joe Volk | Byron E Holland |
| SD 45 | *Chris Garten | Nick Marshall |
| SD 47 | *Gary Bryne | Ethan Sweetland-May |
| SD 48 | *Daryl Schmitt | Brad Hochesang |
| SD 49 | *Jim Tomes Brandi Durham Pugh | Cindi Clayton |

* Denotes incumbent

4. Indiana State House Primaries

While the Senate is embroiled in several hotly contested primaries from the right by President Trump-endorsed challengers, primary races in the House of Representatives are much quieter. Indeed, House members seem

to have entirely avoided any backlash attributable to negative votes on Congressional redistricting. In fact, the President has endorsed 10 House Republicans who supported redistricting and have contested primaries, while Governor Braun has endorsed 13 incumbents. Still, there are a few House Republican incumbents with significant primary challenges.

In House District 20, Rep. Jim Pressel (R- Rolling Prairie), current Chair of the House Committee on Roads and Transportation, faces Juanita Haney, the current LaPorte County Treasurer. Data centers and utility costs appear to be front and center in the contest.

In House District 40, House Republican Caucus Chair Rep. Greg Steuerwald (R- Avon) is running against Sid Mahant, a perennial candidate for office and an owner of a trucking business. Mahant has received backlash for changing his voter registration multiple times in recent years (in 2024 he ran in the Republican primary for Congress in a district that does not include the state House District he seeks in 2026) and an alleged past financial contribution to a Democratic statehouse candidate. However, Mahant has invested significant personal funds toward his campaign.

Finally, House District 45 sees a rematch between 10-term incumbent Rep. Bruce Borders (R- Jasonville) and Knox County Commissioner Kellie Streeter. Rep. Borders defeated Commissioner Streeter by a slim margin in the 2024 primary, which included a third candidate (former Rep. Jeff Ellington, who is now running for an open state Senate seat). It is unclear how a direct rematch between Streeter and Borders will play out this year in a head-to-head contest.

There are two incumbent Democratic House members with primary challengers, Rep. Matt Pierce (D- Bloomington) and Rep. John Bartlett (D- Indianapolis), and both are expected to prevail.

| District | Republican | Democrat |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| HD 1 | | *Carolyn Jackson |
| HD 2 | | *Earl Harris Jr |
| HD 3 | | *Ragen Hatcher |
| HD 4 | *Ed Soliday | Ryan Kominakis |
| HD 5 | *Dale DeVon | Alex Wait |
| HD 6 | | *Maureen Bauer |
| HD 7 | *Jake Teshka | Oliver Davis |
| HD 8 | | *Ryan Dvorak |
| HD 9 | Chris Cleveland | *Randy Novak |
| HD 10 | Ted Uzelac | *Chuck Moseley |
| HD 11 | *Michael J Aylesworth | Tyler Thomas Badges |
| HD 12 | Chris Nelson | *Mike Andrade |
| HD 13 | *Matt Commons | Brenna Geswein Ed Moyer Jr |
| HD 14 | | *Vernon Smith |
| HD 15 | *Hal Slager | Anthony Oberman |
| HD 16 | *Kendell Culp | Ashley Hammac |
| HD 17 | *Jack Jordan | Mary E Gibson |

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|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| HD 18 | *David H Abbott | |
| HD 19 | *Julie Olthoff | Nick Neal |
| HD 20 | *Jim Pressel | Alicia Firanek |
| | Juanita Haney | Laura Liskey |
| HD 21 | *Timothy Wesco | Charles Burkley |
| HD 22 | *Craig Snow | |
| | Daniel R Koors | |
| HD 23 | *Ethan Manning | Austin D Melves |
| HD 24 | *Hunter Smith | Rachael Bleicher |
| HD 25 | *Becky Cash | Tiffany Stoner |
| HD 26 | Magdalaine Davis | *Chris Campbell |
| HD 27 | Oscar Alvarez | *Sheila Klinker |
| HD 28 | *Jeffery A Thompson | Karen Whitney |
| HD 29 | *Alaina Shonkwiler | Coumba Kebe |
| | | Devon Wellington |
| HD 30 | Ray A Collins | Jack Chance |
| | Paula Davis | |
| HD 31 | *Lori Goss-Reaves | Katie Robins |
| HD 32 | | *Victoria Garcia Wilburn |
| HD 33 | *JD Prescott | John E Bartlett |
| HD 34 | Richard M Ivy | Sarah Gullion |
| | Randall L McCallister | |
| | Tim Overton | |
| | Chris Walker | |
| HD 35 | *Elizabeth Rowray | Phil Gift |
| HD 36 | *Kyle Pierce | Kimberly Townsend |
| | | Brookelynn N George |
| | | Novhad E Melki, II |
| HD 37 | *Todd Huston | Lauren S Cole |
| | | Joel Levi |
| HD 38 | *Heath R VanNatter | Nate Stout |
| | Mark Hufford | |
| HD 39 | *Danny Lopez | Lindsay Gramlich |
| | Billy Qian | |
| HD 40 | *Greg Steuerwald | William Colteryahn |
| | Sid Mahant | |
| HD 41 | *Mark Genda | Jackson T Hayes |

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| HD 42 | Tim Yocum | |
| HD 43 | Amy Lore | *Tonya Pfaff |
| HD 44 | *Beau Baird Clint Cooper | Kelsey Kauffman |
| HD 45 | *Bruce Borders Kellie E Streeter | Rebecca Dawn Mayfield |
| HD 46 | *Bob Heaton Thomas Arthur | James H Pittford |
| HD 47 | *Robb Greene | Michael E Potter |
| HD 48 | *Doug Miller | Carl Stutsman Emily Yaw |
| HD 49 | *Joanna King | Monica Garbaciak Michelle Milne Susan J. Lawson |
| HD 50 | *Lorissa Sweet | Pepper Snyder |
| HD 51 | *Tony Isa Theresa Steele | Judy Rowe |
| HD 52 | *Ben Smaltz Eve Peters | |
| HD 53 | *Ethan J. Lawson | Reece Axel-Adams |
| HD 54 | *Cory Criswell | |
| HD 55 | *Lindsay Patterson | Victoria C. Martz |
| HD 56 | Adam Blanton Randy Retter Pete A. Zaleski | Thomas Scott Rockwell |
| HD 57 | Wes Bennett Greg (No Bull) Knott Rob Stiles Tina Turner | Suzanne Fortenberry |
| HD 58 | Ed Brickley John Reed John Young | Michelle Hennessee Sears Eric Reingardt |
| HD 59 | *Ryan Lauer | |
| HD 60 | *Peggy Mayfield Mike Moore | Carrie L. Syczylo |
| HD 61 | | *Matt Pierce Lilliana Young |

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|-------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| HD 62 | *Dave Hall | Amy Huffman Oliver |
| HD 63 | Amy Kippenbrock | Tiffanie Arthur |
| | Richard Moss | Anthony W (Tony) Bolen |
| | | Adam Mann |
| HD 64 | *Matt Hostettler | Candace (Candy) Greer |
| HD 65 | *Chris May | |
| HD 66 | *Zach Payne | Ryan Price |
| HD 67 | *Alex Zimmerman | Justin Chadwick |
| HD 68 | Garrett R. Bascom | Hunter B Collins |
| HD 69 | *Jim Lucas | Chris Bowen |
| HD 70 | John D. Colburn | Sarah Blessing |
| | Scott L. Fluhr | Jerry Finn |
| | | Tamyra Persinger-Andres |
| HD 71 | D.M. Bagshaw | *Wendy Dant Chesser |
| | James R. McClure, Jr. | |
| HD 72 | Shawn M. Carruthers | Michele (Shelly) Henry |
| | Darrell Neeley | Cory Cochran |
| | | Nichole Jones |
| HD 73 | *Jennifer Meltzer | Allen J. (A.J.) Miller |
| | Jacob J. Johnson | |
| | Edward K. Comstock, II | |
| HD 74 | *Stephen R. Bartels | |
| HD 75 | *Cindy Ledbetter | |
| HD 76 | *Wendy (Mac) McNamara | Logan A. Patberg |
| HD 77 | | *Alex Burton |
| HD 78 | *Tim O'Brien | Sally Busby |
| HD 79 | *Matthew S. Lehman | Ian G. Richardson |
| HD 80 | | *Phil GiaQuinta |
| HD 81 | *Martin Carbaugh | Chad Clevidence |
| | David Mervar | Sharon L Wight |
| HD 82 | | *Kyle Miller |
| HD 83 | *Christopher Judy | Wesley Haffenden |
| HD 84 | *Bob Morris | Misti Meehan |
| HD 85 | *Dave Heine | Mark (Bird) Wehrle |
| HD 86 | Glenn Bill | *Edward O. DeLaney |
| HD 87 | | *Carey Hamilton |
| HD 88 | *Chris Jeter | Stephanie Jo Yocum |

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| HD 89 | | *Mitch Gore |
| HD 90 | *Andrew Ireland | Kuren Singh Sikand |
| HD 91 | *Robert W. Behning | Jarren Hurt |
| HD 92 | | *Reneé Pack |
| HD 93 | *Julie McGuire | Eva M. Rosberg |
| HD 94 | | *Cherrish S Pryor |
| | | André Sisk, Sr |
| HD 95 | | *John L. Bartlett |
| | | Keith Graves |
| | | Tyrrell Giles Quest |
| HD 96 | | *Gregory W. Porter |
| HD 97 | | *Justin Moed |
| HD 98 | | *Robin Shackelford |
| HD 99 | | *Vanessa J Summers |
| HD 100 | | *Blake Johnson |

* Denotes incumbent

5. Saluting Mike McDaniel on His Outstanding Career

As we close-out our pre-election edition of the Krieg DeVault Take 5, it's only fitting that we take this time to recognize Mike McDaniel upon his retirement. Mike has been an integral part of Krieg DeVault's Governmental Affairs Practice Group for the last twenty-four years, and prior to joining our team, he served as State Republican Party Chairman for a record three terms, from 1995 – 2002. He's played a role in the last fifty-three consecutive sessions of the Indiana General Assembly in a number of capacities, including as Chief of Staff for then-Lieutenant Governor John Mutz and as Director for Governmental Affairs for his alma mater, Ball State University. A three-time recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, Mike will leave a legacy of leadership and of service that we should all strive to emulate. Always quick with a joke or a story, Mike makes every room he enters just a little bit brighter. His legacy at the Statehouse is unmatched, and while we were all fortunate to call him a colleague these last two decades, we are more fortunate to call him a dear friend.

Thank you for everything, Mike, and we wish you the best in your retirement.

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