BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE

All Secretary of State candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?

2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?

3. While Indiana's voter turnout and registration numbers have improved in the last 3 years, we are still 33rd for voter registration and 41st for voter turnout. What would you do as Secretary of State to improve elections for Hoosiers?

We gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the "Snapshot" sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Max Engling (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I bring a unique combination of private-sector experience, public service, and firsthand knowledge of election administration. I've worked on election policy at the federal level, served Hoosiers through congressional offices, and built a career in Indiana's private sector. I also earned a master's degree in National Defense and Strategic Planning from the U.S. Naval War College, where I strengthened my ability to tackle complex challenges. As Secretary of State, I'll put that experience to work protecting election integrity, fighting business fraud, cutting red tape, and bringing greater transparency and accountability to the office.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - My campaign is focused on three priorities: election integrity, protecting Hoosiers from fraud, and accountable government. First, I'll work to ensure only eligible U.S. citizens vote in Indiana elections and strengthen confidence in our system. Second, I'll crack down on fraudulent business filings and shell companies that exploit Hoosiers. Third, I'll make the Secretary of State's office more transparent and efficient by cutting unnecessary red tape, improving services for businesses, and giving Hoosiers a direct way to report potential election concerns.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Max Engling (Continued)

- **Q3: While Indiana's voter turnout and registration numbers have improved in the last 3 years, we are still 33rd for voter registration and 41st for voter turnout. What would you do as Secretary of State to improve elections for Hoosiers?**
  - Improving turnout starts with making it easier for eligible Hoosiers to participate while maintaining confidence in our elections. As Secretary of State, I'll work with county officials, veterans organizations, and community partners to improve voter registration outreach, including assistance with registering veterans. I'll also strengthen safeguards for voter eligibility, improve transparency through a portal where Hoosiers can report election concerns, and provide clear, accessible information about when, where, and how to vote. We can increase participation without compromising election integrity.

Beau Bayh (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I served as a captain in the Marine Corps where I was in charge of a couple hundred marines. We came from a variety of backgrounds, and did not all vote the same. But we came together to achieve a common mission. After serving in the Marine Corps, I became an attorney. I clerked in our federal court system for a year and then began practicing corporate law in Indianapolis. I gained hands-on experience working with election law cases, securities fraud investigations, and complex corporate formations – all aspects of the Secretary of State's office.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Beau Bayh (D) continued

- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Cleaning up the corruption in the Secretary of State's office by conducting an Independent audit on day one. Our tax dollars have been wasted on luxury SUVs and hiring relatives for too long. We have to clean it up.
  - Increasing voter participation and keeping our elections secure. Our democracy functions best when more people are participating. We have to make sure there is no illegal voting, but at the same time we need to be looking for ways to expand our participation among eligible voters.
  - Be a good-faith partner to the thousands of small business owners in Indiana. When they file with the Secretary of State, business owners should know they have an honest partner in this office.
- **Q3: While Indiana's voter turnout and registration numbers have improved in the last 3 years, we are still 33rd for voter registration and 41st for voter turnout. What would you do as Secretary of State to improve elections for Hoosiers?**
  - There's a few things we need to do to help increase voter participation in Indiana. We need to protect early voting, so working people have an opportunity to get their polling location. We should institute citizen-led ballot initiatives, so we can put the big issues directly on our ballot to vote on. And, we should end straight-ticket voting. We've had too much tribalism in our politics and we should get back to voting for the person, not the party. These reforms will help increase competition in our politics which will in turn increase voter participation.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Lauri A. Shillings (L)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?**
  - I am not from a political family and I worked for everything I have. I have a day job as the Creative Director at the University of Indianapolis, run my own small business, and hold a degree in Community and Nonprofit Leadership. I am a graduate and former board member of the Montgomery County Leadership Academy. I have spent more than 20+ years working in business and marketing. I've been on the receiving end of Indiana's government as a business professional. I know what it costs – in time, in money, in frustration – when it doesn't work the way it should. I am running for Secretary of State because people in this state deserve someone in that office who actually understands what their daily life looks like and wants it to be better.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - Here is what I will do differently and what I want to accomplish:
    - 1. I will fix the website. Broken links and outdated interfaces are not acceptable.
    - 2. I will protect your data. Your information belongs to you, and I will treat it that way.
    - 3. I will restore trust in the office by:
      - a. Auditing this office for budgetary efficiency and transparency
      - b. Releasing the results of the certification audits
      - c. Running this office the way it was designed to be run. As a neutral, professional public service. Not as a political lever or steppingstone
      - d. Expanding voter education and transparency. More informed voters make better choices, and more transparency increases their trust in the system.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

Q&A SECRETARY OF STATE CANDIDATES

Lauri Shillings (Continued)

- **Q3: While Indiana's voter turnout and registration numbers have improved in the last 3 years, we are still 33rd for voter registration and 41st for voter turnout. What would you do as Secretary of State to improve elections for Hoosiers?**
  - I will expand voter education. Hoosiers do not have clear, accessible information about how to register, where to vote, who is on their ballot, and what their options actually are. More informed voters make better choices. The website should make this information easier to find. Additionally, people should be able to see who's paying for their politicians. At best, that system is clunky and hard to navigate. We need to make that information very easy to get and easy to cross reference. Once that system is functional and running, I'd like to expand those offerings to the county levels so voters can see who's giving money to their sheriff, their county council, and their town council.

Greg Ballard (LP)

- **This candidate was contacted with the questions multiple ways and did not respond.**

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATE RACE SNAPSHOT

INDIANA **SECRETARY OF STATE**

Max Engling (R)- incumbent*

- **Website:** maxforindiana.com
- **Facebook:** Max for Indiana
- **Instagram:** maxforindiana
- **Email:** press@maxforindiana.com

Beau Bayh (D)

- **Website:** beaubayh.com
- **Facebook:** Beau Bayh
- **Instagram:** beaubayh
- **Email:** beau@beaubayh.com

Lauri Shillings (L)

- **Website:** LauriForLiberty.com
- **Facebook:** Lauri for Liberty
- **Instagram:** lauri4liberty
- **Email:** Campaign@LauriForLiberty.com

Role Description on page 19
***Incumbent:** This is the person who currently holds an office.