How to contact campaigns and what to expect?

- In-person (or virtual live options in 2020) is always best. This includes attending town halls, forums and debates.
- Sending an email or calling is also an option. You should expect a response. Don’t be frustrated if you are sent to a staffer, as staffers have a lot of sway. They are often advising the candidates on the issues.
- Asking questions via social media is not always effective, since campaign staffers can’t always tell if users are constituents or not.

What websites and resources are useful when researching candidates?

- Always check your local newspaper(s) and public media stations. They often have interviews, information and profiles regarding local candidates.
- Social media pages of candidates can also be helpful. But don’t rely on social media for all your news!
- If a top priority voting issue for you has an organization that advocates or follows that topic, check their website to see if they have a candidate scorecard or analysis. Note: Individual organizations are inherently advocates for their issues, and those scorecards may be skewed.
- Sign up for campaign emails to find what they are saying.
- Talk to people and ask them how certain policy plays out in their lives and community.
- Don’t rely on the same source for all your information. Seek out information from many sides for a more informed decision.

How can I find voting records for incumbents?

**Congress**
1. Go to Congress.gov
2. Pick your senator or representative.
3. Choose filters on the left-hand menu
You can even see how many of each kind of bill they’ve been involved in without having to click any more (for instance U.S. Sen. Todd Young has sponsored/co-sponsored 200 health bills in his time in office, which is his highest number of bills in one subject, though not many of them made it to law)

**State**
1. Go to iga.in.gov
2. Click on legislation
3. Click by legislator
4. Find your legislator to view their record

**County, city and town**
Check their websites for meeting dates and minutes

*If the candidate is not an incumbent, their website should list what they have done in their community.*

**Recommended websites:**

- Women4Change
  women4changeindiana.org/vote
- Vote411
  vote411.org
- Ballotpedia
  ballotpedia.org
- Open States
  openstates.org
- Indiana Voter Portal
  indiana经营活动ors.in.gov
- Indiana Election Division
  in.gov/sos/elections
- On The Issues
  ontheissues.org

**Learn about how Indiana citizens engage in their communities:**

- 2019 Indiana Civic Health Index
  ncoc.org/2019-indiana-civic-health-index/
What to know about the upcoming 2021 legislative session in Indiana

• It will be a long, budget-writing session.
• Organization Day is Nov. 17
• Session must begin no later than Jan. 11 under current state law*
• Session must adjourn no later than April 29 under current state law*
  * There is ongoing discussion about whether the two dates listed above need to change. Adjustments are currently being considered due to COVID-19.

Here are some explainers that may help you:

How does the legislative session work?
ipbs.org/projects/session-explainer/

Learn about roles and responsibilities of government officials
Indiana executive government
ipbs.org/projects/executive-government/
Indiana county government
ipbs.org/projects/county-government/