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## 38% voted in Indiana primary election

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Voters and poll workers for four Winfield precincts crowd Winfield Town Hall on May 3, 2016 to vote in the Indiana primary election. Election officials reported nearly 400 people had voted at the location as of 10 a.m., a brisk rate compared to past years.

INDIANAPOLIS — More Hoosiers than usual showed up at polling places May 3 to have their say in the hard-fought race for the Republican presidential nomination that effectively ended in Indiana with Donald Trump's overwhelming victory.

Data released Friday by Secretary of State Connie Lawson shows the combined voter turnout in all 92 counties for the Republican and Democratic primary elections was 38 percent.

While that means more than six in 10 registered Indiana voters stayed home, it's still an improvement compared to the 22 percent participation rate in the 2012 primary.

It also nearly matched the 40 percent turnout in 2008 for Indiana's close Democratic presidential primary between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

In 2014, when only state and local races were on the primary ballot, voter turnout was just 13 percent.

“When Hoosiers are excited about candidates, it drives turnout,” Lawson said. “When you compare the turnout numbers for this year and 2008, the last time presidential candidates were in the state, you can see a correlation. When voters are motivated, it gets them to the polls.”

In Northwest Indiana, the highest share of registered voters to participate was in Porter County at 40 percent.

Voter turnout was 34 percent in Lake County, 35 percent in LaPorte County, 34 percent in Newton County and 39 percent in Jasper County.

Vermillion County, on the Illinois border just north of Terre Haute, had the highest turnout in Indiana with 51 percent. Scott County, near Louisville, Kentucky, was lowest at 30 percent.

The higher than usual primary turnout bodes well for strong general election turnout in November.

In 2008, 62 percent of registered Indiana voters participated in the general election, compared to 58 percent in 2012 and 2004 and 56 percent in 2000.

### *Daniel Carden*

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