



CONTACT:

Karen Avery
(317) 829-3656

kavery@indianacounties.org

www.indianacounties.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 26, 2009

Statewide Poll Shows Indiana Citizens Want to Continue Electing Local Leaders

The Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) has commissioned a statewide poll to learn how Indiana citizens feel about potential changes in county government. The results are clearly in favor of keeping accountability in local government through the election process.

The TeleResearch Corporation of Indianapolis surveyed 800 citizens from a variety of backgrounds. The survey breaks down the results among several demographics, including respondents from counties of populations with more than 100,000 and those from counties with populations fewer than 100,000.

The three major findings are as follows:

1. By a substantial margin, voters want to continue electing their county office holders.
2. A clear majority of voters want any changes in county government to be decided by local elected officials.
3. An overwhelming number of voters have a higher level of trust in elected officials as opposed to appointed officials.

“Some offices recommended for elimination by the Kernan-Shepard Commission had over 80% of the responders indicate they disagree with the recommendations of the Commission,” said David Bottorff, AIC Executive Director. *“The results varied for each office, but at least two-thirds of responders want all the constitutional offices to remain elected.”*

“The results of this survey are no surprise to those who work with citizens every day in their county elected offices. But it is encouraging to see that on a statewide level people understand that the best form of accountability is the election process,” said Mary Ann Beard, AIC President and Rush County Treasurer. *“People, in general, refuse to give up their right to elect their county office holders.”*

The survey asked such questions as “Whom do you trust to do what is in your best interest: an elected official or an appointed official?” and “Should the County Assessor be elected or appointed? Should the County Auditor be elected or appointed, etc?”

For your reference the survey results are included with this news release.

The Association of Indiana Counties, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1957 for the betterment of county government. The various functions of the AIC include lobbying the Indiana General Assembly on behalf of counties, serving as liaison among counties, state and federal agencies as well as providing technical assistance and training to county officials and employees.

###



**Association of Indiana Counties
Indiana Statewide Survey
March 12th, 2009
Executive Summary, Results, and Crosstabs**

Date Conducted	<i>March 8th - 10th, 2009</i>
Sample Size	<i>800</i>
Margin of Error	<i>+/- 3.5%</i>

Executive Summary

The Association of Indiana Counties (AOIC) commissioned the TeleResearch Corporation to conduct a statewide random telephone survey of registered voters. Questions in the survey asked basic demographic information, including a question on how each respondent normally votes in elections: Democratic, Republican, or if they considered themselves to be Independent voters. The survey contains the completed responses of 800 voters and the results may not be distributed without the express permission of David Bottorff, Executive Director of AOIC. Moreover, the results contained herein are wholly un-weighted responses.

The questions in the survey covered issues currently under consideration in the Indiana General Assembly and related questions about the respondent's attitudes towards different levels of government and elected officials. Respondents were told their answers were confidential and no one would call them back for participating in the survey. Each person who answered the random calls were told their phone number would be placed on a permanent do not call list if they so chose, or they could simply hang up if they chose not to participate. Therefore, all respondents participated voluntarily.

In addition to the survey demographic profile, the information is also broken out regionally in two categories: Counties with populations over 100,000 and those with populations under 100,000. Regional response reflects a sample size of 344 (43% of total sample size) of urban registered voters and 456 (57% of total sample size) of rural registered voters. It is important to note, that both of the aforementioned percentages also accurately reflect the actual state population balance of Hoosiers.

Date Conducted	<i>March 8th - 10th, 2009</i>
Sample Size	<i>800</i>
Margin of Error	<i>+/- 3.5%</i>

According to the survey, overall people in Indiana have much greater trust in elected officials over appointed officials (85% to 15%). By huge margins, respondents want to continue to elect all county offices currently on the voting ballot. Trust levels vary between the three levels of government: federal, state, and local. Additionally, respondents clearly have greater trust in changes to local government that are made locally as opposed to those made by the General Assembly in Indianapolis.

The survey methodology was performed by an automated system throughout. All questions were recorded and respondents answered each question by pressing a number on their touch-tone phone pad. This methodology assures that each respondent hears the same question asked exactly the same way, thus mitigating any interviewer bias. Research further indicates that respondents to automated questions have greater confidence in the confidentiality of their responses, as opposed to live interviews.

The survey ran from March 8th to March 10th of 2009 and has an overall margin of error of +/- 3.5.

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

Demographic Profile

Race/Ethnicity:

African Americans constitute approximately 11+% of Indiana's population according to recent estimates. Taking the survey's margin of error into account brings the number in acceptable limits.

Voter Preference:

This response pattern reflects national trends as Democratic numbers are increasing and Republican numbers are decreasing on this question in similar polls.

Population Density:

There are some major differences in each geographical breakdown. Where you live in Indiana has a great bearing on how you feel about these matters.

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

Survey Results and Analysis

First, a few quick questions about you:

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Male	47%			41%	40%	47%	38%	39%	42%	50%	40%	33%	44%	51%
Female	53%			59%	60%	53%	62%	61%	58%	50%	60%	67%	56%	49%

Counties with 100,000 Plus Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Male	48%			48%	36%	54%	51%	36%	51%	48%	33%	31%	61%	57%
Female	52%			52%	64%	46%	49%	64%	49%	52%	67%	69%	39%	43%

Counties with less than 100,000 Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Male	46%			43%	44%	60%	63%	77%	53%	60%	33%	42%	64%	57%
Female	54%			57%	56%	40%	38%	23%	47%	40%	67%	58%	36%	43%

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

Next, we would like to know your age range:

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
18 - 34	10%	10%	11%					3%	11%	25%	20%	7%	12%	13%
35 - 49	31%	30%	32%					35%	31%	50%	15%	33%	31%	30%
50 - 64	32%	35%	29%					36%	32%	0%	30%	31%	28%	37%
65+	27%	24%	28%					26%	26%	25%	35%	28%	30%	21%

Counties with 100,000 Plus Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
18 - 34	8%	10%	9%					5%	9%	17%	17%	5%	12%	9%
35 - 49	28%	22%	35%					38%	27%	50%	8%	35%	21%	27%
50 - 64	35%	42%	31%					36%	34%	0%	33%	29%	36%	41%
65+	29%	31%	27%					21%	30%	33%	42%	31%	32%	23%

Counties with less than 100,000 Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
18 - 34	10%	8%	12%					6%	10%	20%	17%	8%	11%	10%
35 - 49	28%	23%	35%					42%	27%	54%	8%	36%	25%	27%
50 - 64	36%	39%	32%					41%	36%	6%	33%	32%	36%	39%
65+	26%	30%	21%					14%	27%	20%	42%	25%	28%	24%

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

Next, we would like to know your race or ethnicity:

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
African-American	15%	15%	16%	4%	17%	18%	15%					36%	1%	6%
Caucasian	78%	79%	77%	83%	78%	78%	77%					57%	95%	86%
Hispanic	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%	1%	2%					1%	2%	2%
Other	5%	4%	5%	9%	2%	3%	6%					6%	2%	6%

Counties with 100,000 Plus Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
African-American	15%	11%	18%	10%	20%	18%	11%					32%	5%	6%
Caucasian	78%	83%	74%	74%	74%	78%	80%					61%	91%	84%
Hispanic	2%	2%	2%	6%	4%	0%	3%					2%	1%	4%
Other	5%	3%	6%	1%	1%	4%	7%					5%	3%	6%

Counties with less than 100,000 Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
African-American	10%	15%	5%	5%	15%	12%	5%					21%	3%	11%
Caucasian	82%	79%	85%	81%	79%	77%	84%					68%	93%	77%
Hispanic	2%	3%	2%	5%	5%	6%	2%					2%	1%	4%
Other	6%	3%	8%	10%	2%	5%	9%					9%	2%	7%

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

Next, we would like to know how you normally vote. Please select one of the following three choices:

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Democratic	37%	28%	42%	26%	39%	36%	39%	86%	27%	25%	45%			
Republican	33%	34%	32%	37%	32%	29%	37%	3%	40%	38%	15%			
Independent	30%	37%	25%	37%	29%	35%	24%	12%	33%	38%	40%			

Counties with 100,000 Plus Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Democratic	40%	26%	52%	24%	49%	33%	43%	85%	31%	33%	42%			
Republican	29%	37%	22%	43%	22%	30%	32%	3%	35%	17%	17%			
Independent	31%	37%	26%	33%	30%	37%	25%	13%	33%	50%	42%			

Counties with less than 100,000 Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Democratic	25%	19%	32%	19%	31%	22%	23%	50%	20%	20%	42%			
Republican	43%	47%	38%	48%	38%	43%	46%	14%	49%	20%	17%			
Independent	33%	34%	31%	33%	31%	35%	30%	36%	31%	60%	42%			

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

First, which level of government, federal, state, or local do you trust more to do what is in your best interest?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Federal	24%	25%	31%	17%	27%	30%	33%	62%	22%	25%	25%	52%	9%	22%
State	36%	39%	32%	37%	29%	35%	41%	12%	41%	0%	15%	19%	51%	37%
Local	40%	36%	37%	46%	45%	35%	26%	26%	37%	75%	60%	30%	40%	42%

Counties with 100,000 Plus Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Federal	30%	28%	41%	19%	39%	39%	49%	71%	33%	30%	39%	58%	13%	31%
State	27%	35%	15%	24%	7%	19%	21%	7%	21%	3%	4%	9%	32%	23%
Local	43%	37%	44%	57%	54%	42%	29%	22%	45%	67%	57%	33%	55%	46%

Counties with less than 100,000 Populations

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Federal	16%	12%	21%	5%	12%	21%	18%	40%	15%	49%	12%	36%	19%	14%
State	48%	40%	59%	52%	63%	44%	38%	35%	48%	11%	46%	49%	46%	42%
Local	36%	48%	21%	43%	25%	35%	45%	25%	37%	40%	42%	15%	36%	44%

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

The second question regarding your level of trust is; whom do you trust to do what is in your best interest, an elected official or an appointed official?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	85%	83%	87%	85%	88%	86%	81%	84%	85%	92%	78%	88%	82%	85%
Appointed	15%	17%	13%	15%	12%	14%	19%	16%	15%	8%	22%	12%	18%	15%

The responses between African Americans and Caucasians were almost identical as was the responses between men and women.

Do you feel changes in local government structure should be made locally or by the General Assembly in Indianapolis?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Locally	66%	62%	70%	79%	73%	58%	62%	68%	66%	75%	65%	72%	62%	66%
General Assembly	34%	38%	30%	21%	27%	42%	38%	32%	34%	25%	35%	28%	38%	34%

Women have greater trust in local changes than men by 8%, 62% men, 70% women.

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

Should the County Assessor be elected or appointed?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	82%	76%	87%	85%	87%	75%	85%	84%	82%	94%	83%	83%	84%	79%
Appointed	18%	24%	13%	15%	13%	25%	15%	16%	18%	6%	17%	17%	16%	21%

Should the County Auditor be elected or appointed?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	78%	74%	81%	74%	82%	74%	81%	81%	78%	98%	65%	80%	82%	72%
Appointed	22%	26%	19%	26%	18%	26%	19%	19%	22%	2%	35%	20%	18%	28%

Should the County Clerk be elected or appointed?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	73%	68%	77%	72%	76%	66%	79%	78%	72%	88%	70%	75%	72%	72%
Appointed	27%	32%	23%	28%	24%	34%	21%	22%	28%	13%	30%	25%	28%	28%

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

Should the County Coroner be elected or appointed?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	67%	61%	72%	78%	68%	63%	68%	72%	64%	99%	85%	69%	68%	65%
Appointed	33%	39%	28%	22%	32%	37%	32%	28%	36%	1%	15%	31%	32%	35%

Women chose "Elect" over "Appoint" 72% whereas men chose 61%. Regardless, there is overwhelming support to continue electing this office.

Should the County Recorder be elected or appointed?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	78%	75%	80%	78%	81%	75%	78%	80%	77%	94%	83%	79%	81%	76%
Appointed	22%	25%	20%	22%	19%	25%	22%	20%	23%	6%	17%	21%	19%	24%

Should the County Sheriff be elected or appointed?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	88%	84%	81%	89%	82%	79%	82%	89%	80%	100%	75%	82%	76%	82%
Appointed	12%	16%	19%	11%	18%	21%	18%	11%	20%	0%	25%	18%	24%	18%

Date Conducted	March 8th - 10th, 2009
Sample Size	800
Margin of Error	+/- 3.5%

Should the County Surveyor be elected or appointed?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	76%	70%	81%	87%	83%	68%	75%	78%	75%	92%	83%	77%	78%	74%
Appointed	24%	30%	19%	13%	17%	32%	25%	22%	25%	8%	17%	23%	22%	26%

Finally, Should the County Treasurer be elected or appointed?

Question	Overall	M	F	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	African-Amer.	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	(D)	(R)	(I)
Elected	81%	72%	87%	88%	91%	76%	77%	82%	80%	91%	83%	85%	81%	76%
Appointed	19%	28%	13%	13%	9%	24%	23%	18%	20%	9%	17%	15%	19%	24%