

# November 3, 2009 Special Election FAQ

## Why are we having a special election on November 3?

Marion County voters are being asked to vote on several referenda, or public questions. State law permits referendum elections to be held at various times, including in 'off-election years,' meaning a year where there are no regularly scheduled elections. 2009 is an off-election year, so only those public questions certified to the Election Board will appear on the ballot on November 3. No candidates will appear on the ballot or be elected at this election.

## What is a referendum?

During a referendum, which is sometimes also called a "local public question," voters are presented with an issue in the form of a question and asked to vote "yes" or "no".

## How many public questions will be on my ballot?

It depends on where you live. All Marion County voters will have the opportunity to vote on a question concerning a project involving the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County. In addition to the Health and Hospital Corporation question, voters living in the:

- Franklin Township school district will vote on two more public questions for a total of three questions on their ballot;
- Beech Grove city school district will vote on one more question for a total of two questions on their ballot; and
- Perry Township school district will vote on one more question for a total of two questions on their ballot.

## Where can I find the text of the public questions?

The text of the public questions can be found on the Marion County Election Board's Web site – [www.indy.gov/election](http://www.indy.gov/election).

## Are there different types of referenda?

Yes, the referenda for the public questions involving the school corporations are authorized by one of the following laws:

- IC 6-1.1-20-3.6: Local public question process for bonds or lease for certain projects
- IC 20-46-1: Referendum for school tax levy
- The Health and Hospital Corporation referendum is authorized by IC 6-1.1-20-3.6 governing local public questions for bonds or lease for certain projects and by Section 503 of House Enrolled Act 1001(ss), 2009.

A good resource to access the text of these state laws is [www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code](http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code). You can search the Indiana Code by typing in the specific code cites in the box on the left side of the Web page.

## Was there a deadline for the public questions to be certified to the Election Board?

Yes. According to state law, all public questions had to be certified to the Election Board no later than August 1 to be part of a special election on November 3, 2009.

## Can the Election Board reject a public question?

The state statutes cited above address how and when a public question should appear on the ballot. The Election Board does not have authority to reject a public question that is statutorily authorized.

**Who pays for this special election?**

During the 2009 special session, the legislature made changes to state law, requiring the governmental entities requesting a referendum that is held by special election to pay for the full cost of the election.

**Is there a voter registration deadline?**

Yes. The registration deadline for the November 3, 2009 special election is Monday, October 5, 2009. State law is clear that the Board of Voters Registration must adhere to the same guidelines in a special election as they would during a regular primary, general or municipal election. Like any election, individuals can register or update their records after October 5 but their registration records would not reflect the changes until after the November 3 special election.

**Where can I find a voter registration form?**

You can find a registration form on the Board of Voters Registration Web site – [www.indy.gov/voter](http://www.indy.gov/voter). You can also call their office at (317) 327-VOTE and request a form be mailed to you.

**Can I email or fax in my registration form?**

No. Although there is a new state law that allows for online voter registration, the law will not go into effect until 2010. For now, your registration must include an original signature, meaning the document cannot be faxed or scanned and emailed in. You must mail or hand deliver your form to the Voter Registration office.

**Will there be absentee voting in this special election?**

Yes. Voters can choose to vote by mail, traveling board or early, in-person. Applications to vote by mail or traveling board are made available 90 days before an election. Absentee ballot applications can be hand delivered, faxed or mailed to the Election Board office. The office address is 200 East Washington Street, Room W144, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The fax number is (317) 327-4815.

**Will I be able to vote early in person?**

When you vote early in person, you are really casting an in-person absentee ballot instead of voting on election day or voting by mail-in absentee ballot. Rather than requesting a ballot be mailed to you, you are choosing to complete the ballot in a setting similar to a polling location. After completing the ballot, you seal it in an envelope and it is then counted on Election Day.

Early voting will begin on October 5 in the Clerk's office, located in Room W122 in the City-County Building. The hours for the Clerk's office are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to the Clerk's office location, there will be early voting satellite sites available to voters. The dates, times and locations of the early voting satellite sites have yet to be determined. The Marion County Election Board will announce that information at a later date.