COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

What Living in a Conservative State Looks Like



By Sara Aliza Cox

What does it mean to live in a conservative state? If you're entrenched in a Democrat-run state, you may not realize how other states live under Republicans. What you may consider to be normal may be foreign to those living in a conservative state. There are a number of Jewish communities in conservative states, but this article will focus specifically on the ways the Jewish community of Indianapolis benefits by living in Indiana.

- Indiana has returned unused funds to their taxpayers because of their accountability laws. There are only five other states that will automatically refund taxpayers.
- Indiana is a pro-life state. Indianapolis has several hospitals dedicated to women and children.
- Indiana has a business-friendly climate for for-profit and non-profit companies. If you're looking to work or start up a business in manufacturing, life sciences, agribusiness or tech, this is the state for you.
- Indiana supports high schoolers by giving them real skills to enable them to easily enter the workforce through apprenticeships and certificate programs.
- The low cost of living is a game changer. While you do need a car to get around, car insurance isn't too expensive, and you can have multiple cars. Private health insurance in Indiana is much less expensive than in many other states. The cost of groceries and everyday items is also lower than the average state index.
- Low state income tax and property tax. Take home and keep more of your money when you work and live in Indiana. Your dollar will stretch further than you may have thought possible.







- Through Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program, every student in grades K to 12 can receive a state-funded voucher toward private school tuition, typically ranging from $6,000 to $7,000 per child. Unlike many states where assistance is limited by income caps or restricted eligibility, Indiana's program is remarkably inclusive, making high-quality education accessible to families across the socioeconomic spectrum.
- In addition, Indiana's Individualized Tax Credit Scholarship Program, commonly referred to as the ITEP or IQE, allows individuals and businesses to redirect a portion of their state tax liability to scholarship-granting organizations. These funds are then used to provide tuition assistance to students who need additional support. This system benefits everyone involved: donors receive a substantial state tax credit, schools gain stability and students receive the help they need to thrive.

Learn more about Indianapolis at our booth at the (virtual) OU Savitsky Home Relocation Fair on Sunday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. EST or email youcanjewishindy@gmail.com.

Sara Aliza Cox grew up in Passaic, New Jersey and moved to Indianapolis in 2021. She is the Marketing Chair for Congregation B'nai Torah of Indianapolis. She and her husband, Asher, are blessed with two children.

Available Kosher food?

Every local chain has a broad selection of kosher food and local organizations arrange bulk deliveries of meat and frum brands several times a year. Need catering? We have that too!

Love to travel?

Thirty minutes to the airport. Expect about a 2-3 hour drive to Cincinnati, Columbus, and Chicago.

In Indy, YOU CAN!

Be a member, not a number?

Join a board, committee, the Sisterhood, or create your own organization. There are many ways to contribute to the community, and we welcome newcomers with open arms.

Looking to live in a warm Jewish community with a Midwest attitude and an affordable price tag? Move to Indianapolis!

To learn more about the Jewish Community in Indianapolis,
visit https://www.btorahindy.org or email youcanjewishindy@gmail.com.