



Report: Indiana Is The 4th Freest State In The U.S.

Mike Perleberg

August 18, 2016

Do you feel your sense of freedom diminish when you cross the Carroll Cropper Bridge from Indiana into Kentucky, or travel across the state line into Ohio?

Probably not, but a new report from a Libertarian think tank suggests your freedoms are among their highest in the Hoosier state.

Indiana is being ranked as the fourth freest state in the nation in The Cato Institute's report called "Freedom in the 50 States". The report looked at fiscal, regulatory, personal, economic, property, marriage, and educational freedoms, among others.

The report ranked Ohio 35th and Kentucky as the 41st freest states.

Indiana ranked near the top thanks to low regulations, campaign finance reform, and personal freedom. The report noted that gun rights are fairly secure in the Hoosier state, school choice and vouchers are available, and gambling is legal.

"Land-use freedom is high by any measure," the report states. "The state passed right-to-work legislation in 2011–12, and it is a model state for telecom deregulation. Occupational freedom is extensive, though not for second-line health care professions. There is no hospital certificate-of-need requirement. Insurance freedom is above average, and the state has recently allowed direct Tesla sales. The civil liability system has shown steady improvement over the past decade and a half."

Indiana ranked highest for cable (1st), campaign finance (1st), education (2nd), regulatory (2nd), and land (3rd). Its lowest marks came in incarceration (32nd), travel (35th), cannabis (30th), and fiscal (26th).

The report did knock Indiana on a few fronts. It recommends the state Reduce debt and sales and income taxes by cutting spending on public welfare, libraries, and housing and community development, areas where Indiana spends more than average. Legalizing Sunday alcohol sales and direct wine shipments were also suggested.

You can view the full Cato Institute report at www.freedominthe50states.org.