

INDIANA REPUBLICAN SECRETARY OF STATE CESAR DIEGO MORALES

Diego Morales was elected in 2022 and is the 63rd Secretary of State of Indiana. Morales is a Guatemalan immigrant who became a naturalized citizen after serving in the Indiana National Guard. Morales previously served as an aide under two Secretaries of State but was fired from one position and quit another after poor performance; he ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2018. Morales was a 2020 election denier who called the results a “scam,” later walking back those comments. Morales’ tenure as Secretary of State, as well as his campaign, have been mired by scandals accusing him of corruption and impropriety. These scandals did not prevent his election in 2022, and he remains a favorite for reelection in 2026. As of July 2025, he has over \$900,000 cash-on-hand.

Key findings include but are not limited to:

Morales has been accused of embellishing his resume, exaggerating his military service, sexual assault, and voter fraud. As a candidate for Congress in 2018 Morales claimed to be a “business owner” and “adjunct professor.” According to the Associated Press, “Morales bounced around government jobs, sometimes lasting little more than a few months. His business, Aiming Higher Services, was administratively dissolved...he was an adjunct instructor — not a professor — at Ivy Tech Community College.” Morales was a member of the Indiana National Guard, but failed to complete his eight-year commitment. Morales was accused of “forcibly” kissing a colleague in 2009, and asking a colleague for “campaign sex.” In a separate incident, Morales was accused of multiple attempts of kissing a co-worker on a Republican congressional campaign. In 2018, Morales received a \$45,000 tax assessment deduction for his “primary residence” in Marion County, subsequently voting from an address in a second county prompting claims of voter fraud by the state Democratic Party. None of these scandals stopped his successful 2022 campaign for Secretary of State.

While in office, Morales has been accused of wastefulness, corrupt spending, and multiple ethics violations. As Secretary of State, Morales was accused of giving \$2.3 million of no-bid contracts, some to campaign donors, paying \$90,000 for a Yukon Denali SUV using state funds from a dealership owned by a campaign donor, and hiring his brother-in-law for a six-figure state job. In 2023, Morales was questioned for giving thousands of dollars of “spot bonuses” to Secretary of State staff.

Morales has taken multiple high profile international trips. Morales has taken several high profile international trips as Secretary of State, including trips to India, Hungary, Taiwan, and Guatemala. Morales said he did not use taxpayer funds for his trip to India, but was joined by Hamilton County Republican Party Treasurer Raju Chinthala, who received thousands in no-bid state contracts. Morales travelled to Hungary to speak at a Conservative Political Action Coalition conference, to Guatemala to meet with Guatemala’s deputy secretary of state and the U.S. ambassador, and to Taiwan as a member of a bipartisan delegation from the National Association of Secretaries of State.

Morales has denied the veracity of the 2020 election and supported efforts to curtail ballot access. As a candidate for Secretary of State, Morales supported the use of paper ballots, opposed vote by mail, and pushed for legislation requiring voter id for absentee ballots. Morales supported the federal SAVE Act “to put a stop to the potential of non-citizens voting in elections.” As Secretary of State Morales sued the Department of Homeland Security claiming it failed to verify the citizenship of 585,000 Indiana voters. Morales “oversaw implementation of a voter verifiable paper trail in all 92 Indiana counties,” boasted that he “improved Indiana’s ranking from 16 to the top 10 in the ‘Heritage Foundation Election Scorecard,” and “enhanced proof of residency requirements” for elections. Morales was a 2020 election denier who was supported by the America First Secretary of State Coalition. He once called the 2020

election a “scam.” Morales said there were “valid reasons to doubt the official vote tallies in key states,” but later downplayed his criticism after his election to Secretary of State. Morales has supported cleaning voter rolls and voter ID measures.

BACKGROUND

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

As of July 2025:

Candidate	Total Raised	Total Expenditures	Cash on Hand
Diego Morales	\$974,384.57	\$72,697.55	\$901,687.02

Source: Indiana Secretary of State. Election Division, accessed [8/6/25](#)

BACKGROUND & PHILOSOPHY

Morales is an immigrant, born in Guatemala in 1979. “Diego was born in Guatemala in 1979. He legally immigrated to the United States with his family in 1999 and graduated from Silver Creek High School in Sellersburg, Indiana. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University, an MBA from Purdue University, and an International MBA from Tilburg University in the Netherlands. Diego became a naturalized U.S. Citizen and served in the United States Army and Indiana National Guard.” [Indiana Secretary of State, accessed [8/5/25](#)]

- **Morales became citizen after his service in National Guard.** “When I served in the United States Army and the Indiana National Guard, I was asked if I was registered to vote. I had a Green Card in my wallet and was not a U.S. Citizen, so I could not vote. The same day I became a naturalized citizen, I felt like I won the lottery. That same day, I registered to vote, and I have not missed an election since. Voting is very personal to me. I hope my story inspires eligible Hoosiers to register to vote and get out to the polls on Election Day. Since I took office, increasing voter participation and voter turnout have been top priorities.” [LHS Magazine, [4/8/24](#)]

Morales served as an aide in Secretary Of State's office under Secretary Of State Todd Rokita. “Diego brings extensive experience in the public and private sectors to the office. He previously served as an aide in the Secretary of State's office under Secretary of State Todd Rokita and as an aide to Vice President Mike Pence during his tenure as Governor of Indiana.” [Indiana Secretary of State, accessed [8/5/25](#)]

Morales was a “business executive, consultant And entrepreneur.” [Indiana Secretary of State, accessed [8/5/25](#)]

Morales had degrees from Indiana, Purdue, And Tilburg University. “He earned a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University, an MBA from Purdue University, and an International MBA from Tilburg University in the Netherlands.” [Indiana Secretary of State, accessed [8/5/25](#)]

Morales a member of Indiana National Guard. [Indiana Secretary of State, accessed [8/5/25](#)]

- **Morales accused of not finishing service commitment to National Guard.** “Republican candidate for Secretary of State Diego Morales isn’t responding to questions surrounding his

military service with the Indiana National Guard, even as confusion mounts over his records. Last week, IndyStar columnist James Briggs and Politico correspondent Adam Wren released Morales' discharge forms which indicated that Morales didn't fulfill his eight-year commitment. The Morales campaign didn't directly respond to questions about his service, including why Morales didn't finish his contract and whether the details were typical of military service." [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [9/19/22](#)]

Morales married with a daughter; member of Northside Christian Church in New Albany, Indiana. "Diego resides in Indianapolis, Indiana with his wife, Sidonia, and daughter" [Indiana Secretary of State, accessed [8/5/25](#)]

Morales was NASS Securities Committee Co-Chair. "As NASS Securities Committee Co-Chair, Secretary Morales led a roundtable discussion with his colleague, Secretary Elaine Marshall from North Carolina. Secretary Morales was appointed as NASS Securities Committee Co-Chair in July. He will serve at the NASS Securities Committee Co-Chair until the conclusion of the NASS 2024 Summer Conference." [Madison Courier, 2/21/24]

Morales credentialed International Election Observer In El Salvador. "In addition to visiting each corner of Indiana, Morales represented the Hoosier state on the international level by serving as a credentialed International Election Observer in El Salvador. He was there for the country's presidential and legislative elections earlier this year." [Madison Courier, 2/28/24]

May 2025: Morales declared he would run for second term As Indiana Secretary Of State. [The Times, 5/1/25]

Morales Fired From Multiple Positions in Indiana Secretary of State Office

Morales was fired from job by former Indiana Secretary Of State Todd Rokita. "State records show Diego Morales, a candidate in the GOP primary for the 4th Congressional District, was fired in 2009 by former Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita, who is giving up his reliably Republican House seat to run for Senate." [Associated Press, [3/15/18](#)]

- **Morales was disciplined for "incomplete' work, 'inefficient execution' and a 'lack of focus.'** "Rokita's office formally disciplined Morales after eight months due to 'incomplete' work, 'inefficient execution' and a 'lack of focus,' according to records obtained under Indiana's public records act. He refused to agree to a work improvement plan and had filed notice that he intended to quit when he was fired, according to a termination letter." [Associated Press, [3/15/18](#)]

Morales left position under Secretary Of State Charlie White after refusing to sign "work improvement plan." "Two years later, Morales left a different state job after refusing to sign on to a work improvement plan under former Secretary of State Charlie White, who was himself removed from office in 2012 following a voter fraud conviction." [Associated Press, [3/15/18](#)]

Morales worked for SOS White for only a month before being disciplined for 'poor execution' and failing to complete work. "Morales worked just over a month in White's office when he was disciplined for 'poor execution,' failing to complete his work and leaving the office to attend a 'personal function,' records show. His letter of resignation states that he was seeking 'new experiences' that would better serve his 'future ambitions.'" [Associated Press, [3/15/18](#)]

Morales Was Backed By America First Secretary Of State Coalition

Morales was endorsed by America First Secretary Of State Coalition. “Morales was among the otherwise unsuccessful candidates associated with the America First Secretary of State Coalition, which called for large-scale changes to elections with candidates aligned with Trump’s views. The group supported losing candidates in several battleground states.” [Indiana Public Media, [2/6/23](#)]

- **America First Secretary of State Coalition “claimed widespread fraud and manipulation of voting machines.”** “Morales was among the otherwise unsuccessful candidates associated with the America First Secretary of State Coalition, which called for large-scale changes to elections with candidates aligned with Trump’s views. The group supported losing candidates in several battleground states. They claimed widespread fraud and manipulation of voting machines, but there has been no evidence of either as exhaustive reviews in states lost by Trump have not revealed wrongdoing. That hasn’t stopped Republican candidates, particularly in contested primaries, from parroting the false claims that have taken hold among the party’s supporters.” [Indiana Public Media, [2/6/23](#)]

Morales was an advisor to Governor Mike Pence

Morales served as an aide to Governor Mike Pence. “He previously served as an aide in the Secretary of State's office under Secretary of State Todd Rokita and as an aide to Vice President Mike Pence during his tenure as Governor of Indiana.” [Indiana Secretary of State, Biography, accessed [8/8/25](#)]

- **Morales accused of exaggerating resume in 2018 campaign.** “The AP article raised questions about whether Morales is exaggerating portions of his resume, including his use of the term ‘senior adviser’ to describe his work for then-Gov. Mike Pence’s administration. Those themes appeared this week in mailers, including one that claims Morales lives outside the 4th district in Indianapolis. That mailer has an old photo of Morales holding a map and says, ‘Let’s send Diego back across town, where he actually lives!’ Morales, 39, emigrated to the U.S. from Guatemala in 1999.” [Star Press, 4/29/18]

Morales ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2018

Diego Morales finished third out of six candidates in Republican primary for Congress. Morales ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2018, finishing in third place with 15% of the vote in the Republican primary. [Ballotpedia, Indiana 4th District 2018, accessed [8/8/25](#)]

Morales elected Secretary of State in 2022

Morales elected Secretary of State in 2022. “Republican Diego Morales extended on Tuesday his party’s control of Indiana’s top elections office after a campaign during which he faced criticism for doubting the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election and twice being ousted from jobs in that office. Morales, a former governor’s office aide to Mike Pence, defeated Democratic candidate Destiny Wells to win the secretary of state’s office despite shifting his stances on early and mail voting issues, facing allegations that he possibly committed voter fraud in 2018 and avoiding forums or debates with Wells.” [WTHR, [11/9/22](#)]

Morales declared he would run for reelection in 2026. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales, who has faced criticism from numerous officials in recent months for a privately-funded 10-day trip to India that resulted in action from state lawmakers, announced on May 1 he plans to run for reelection in 2026.” [Indianapolis Star, [5/1/25](#)]

- **Morales seat considered “likely Republican” for 2026.** “Morales won the seat in 2022 after keeping the Republican incumbent from being renominated at a state convention. Morales is from the MAGA wing of the party, and that has prompted tensions with more establishment-minded members of the GOP, fueled by a string of controversies including his acquisition of a luxury car, international travel, and the hiring of family members.” [the Center for Politics, [8/7/25](#)]

SCANDALS AND CONTROVERSIES

Morales used campaign funds to purchase SUV

Morales campaign spent \$43,000 on Toyota Rav4. “Days before Hoosier Republicans chose Diego Morales as their secretary of state nominee, Morales’ campaign spent \$43,845 on a new car, a purchase that experts say raises some eyebrows for a candidate that already has some liabilities. His campaign purchased a Toyota RAV4, a compact SUV, from a car dealership in Terre Haute on June 15, Morales’ second quarter campaign finance report shows, as first reported by IndyPolitics.org. That was less than a week before Morales faced three other secretary of state candidates at the state GOP convention on June 18, which means at the time Morales had no guarantee he would be advancing to the general election.” [Indianapolis Star, [7/19/22](#)]

As Secretary of State, Morales gave no-bid contracts to campaign donors

Morales gave no-bid contracts, not visible in the state’s transparency portal, totaling more than \$2.3 million for IT services. “Included in the Indiana secretary of state’s new budget requests are hundreds of thousands of extra dollars for IT-related needs and expansions. But recent vendor contracts awarded by the agency show millions have already been quietly spent on those services, absent any competitive bidding to find the most cost-effective providers for the projects. The contracts — provided to the Indiana Capital Chronicle upon request — are not visible in the state’s transparency portal, where agreements entered into by state agencies are typically housed and made public. Agreements with one Indianapolis-based IT company, CleanSlate Technology Group, amounted to more than \$2.3 million for services provided between March 2023 and July 2024.” [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [12/9/24](#)]

- **Recipient of one contract later donated to Morales campaign.** “The first contract with CleanSlate for a range of IT services was signed March 16, 2023, and included \$66,000 in compensation. The vendor’s work started on March 21 of that year and was originally set to expire Dec. 31. On Nov. 11, 2023, the agreement was extended to June 30, 2024. The amended contract came with an extra \$1,519,998. Several weeks later, on Dec. 30, CleanSlate made a \$10,000 donation to the Diego for Indiana election committee, according to the Indiana Election Division. It was the first time the company donated to Morales or any other Hoosier political candidate. Then, on March 27, 2024, CleanSlate made a second donation, in the amount of \$19,000, to Morales’ election committee. Another such contribution of \$30,000 was made to the committee on June 24. The business has not made donations to any other Indiana candidate, according to campaign finance records. Morales, elected in 2022, was not up for reelection in 2023 or 2024.” [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [12/9/24](#)]

- **Second contract recipient also donated to Morales campaign.** “Additionally, a contract with MTX Group was signed on May 23, 2024 for ‘as-needed’ IT services provided to the secretary of state’s auto dealer and business services divisions through the end of the calendar year. Total compensation for that work can total up to \$1,842,300, according to the contract. The company has nearly reached that cap as of Dec. 7, expenditure records show. Not long after the contract was finalized, MTX founder Das Nobel, of Texas, donated \$80,000 to Morales’ campaign coffers, according to campaign finance records. That included a \$50,000 contribution on June 30. Sizable donations from Nobel during the 2024 election cycle were also made to campaigns for Mike Braun, now the governor-elect, and Attorney General Todd Rokita. Both Republicans were on the ballot in November.” [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [12/9/24](#)]

Morales embellished roles as business owner, professor, and member of military

Morales claimed to be “business owner” and “adjunct professor” – embellishing actual roles as an instructor and failed business owner. “At events and in campaign materials, Morales portrays himself as a ‘business owner,’ an ‘adjunct professor’ and high-level government worker. But according to state records and interviews, Morales bounced around government jobs, sometimes lasting little more than a few months. His business, Aiming Higher Services, was administratively dissolved last November. And he was an adjunct instructor — not a professor — at Ivy Tech Community College, though the school system did briefly employ him as a ‘career resource assistant’ for one month in 2010, records show.” [Associated Press, [3/15/18](#)]

Associated Press said Morales claims that he “created my business that created jobs” was “not clear because the campaign declined comment.” “‘I worked two to three jobs to pay for my college education. I created my business that created jobs. And then I sold it to pursue my MBA at Purdue University. That’s the American dream,’ Morales said. What kind of business he owned and who they worked for, however, is not clear because the campaign declined comment. Furthermore, the timeline he gave for selling the business to pursue an MBA he received in 2012 does not line up with state records. The records show Morales didn’t dissolve his business until last year when he set his sights on a different job: a seat in Congress.” [Associated Press, [3/15/18](#)]

Morales exaggerated military service during campaign. “Morales broadly refers to himself as a ‘U.S. Army veteran.’ His LinkedIn page says he was an infantryman in the Army from 2007 to 2013. But his campaign website puts it a bit differently, describing his service as ‘completing numerous military drills with Bravo Company 2nd Battalion, 151st Infantry in Cass County, and the 152nd in Floyd County.’” [Indianapolis Star, [9/15/22](#)]

Morales took multiple international trips as Secretary of State

Morales criticized for trip to India; claimed he did not use taxpayer funds. “Democrats and some conservatives are criticizing Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales for recently taking a 10-day trip to India, where he spoke at two tech conferences and met with government and business officials. His trip was funded privately and without the use of taxpayer dollars, his office said. The office did not disclose who the funders were. This answers the question lawmakers had when Morales did not appear before the Senate appropriations committee on March 18 to present his agency’s budget request, which included a \$20 million request for a new statewide voter registration and election management system and elicited rigorous questioning about the office’s no-bid contracts. At the time, his office’s chief legal

counsel Jerry Bonnet said Morales was traveling ‘on an economic development project’ but did not say where.” [Indianapolis Star, [3/28/25](#)]

- **Morales was joined on trip by Hamilton County Republican Party Treasurer Raju Chinthala, who received thousands in no-bid state contracts.** “One of Secretary of State Diego Morales’ companions on his eyebrow-raising March trip to India — who was being paid by taxpayers for a no-bid business consulting contract with Morales’ office — appeared to use part of the overseas trip to promote his own private business interests, advertising a ‘fast-track route to U.S. residency’ to would-be foreign investors. Hamilton County Republican Party Treasurer Raju Chinthala’s consulting firm, Chinthala and Associates, was paid \$8,000 monthly through a 10-month contract with the secretary of state’s office to ‘investigate and coordinate international business promotion engagements and initiatives’ and help advise Morales’ office.” [Indianapolis Star, [7/29/25](#)]

Morales spoke at CPAC conference in Hungary. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales jetted to Hungary last week to speak at a right-wing conference, but it wasn’t on the state dime, according to his office. The Conservative Political Action Coalition has hosted annual conferences in the United States for decades, but went global last year with a Hungarian edition and continued this year on Thursday and Friday. Organizers billed it as ‘the world’s preeminent international conservative gathering’ on a dedicated website. ‘As a Conservative Republican, I was proud to be invited to speak at CPAC,’ Morales wrote on his campaign Facebook page. He spoke during the ‘Make Kids Not War’ segment of the event, according to the agenda.” [Indiana Capital Chronicle, 5/9/23]

Morales traveled to Guatemala while Indiana SOS. “Morales, three of his office’s staff members, four bipartisan county clerks and two nonpartisan technical compliance experts met with Guatemala’s deputy secretary of state and the U.S. ambassador to that country during their visit, June 23-26.” [Bluffton News-Banner, 8/5/23]

Morales travel to Taiwan with National Association of Secretaries Of State. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales returned from an international trip to Taiwan with a bipartisan delegation from the United States. Secretary Morales was one of several secretaries of state selected to participate in the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Delegation to Taiwan.” [Courier-Times, 9/13/23]

Morales purchased Expensive SUV from campaign donor with taxpayer funds

Morales purchased \$90,000 Yukon Denali SUV from campaign donor with state funds. “When the office of Secretary of State Diego Morales requested the state of Indiana buy him a \$90,000 GMC Yukon Denali, a car designed to ‘immerse yourself in luxury,’ it already had a car dealership in mind: Kelley Automotive Group. The Fort Wayne-based dealer was familiar to Morales. Just two months prior, Kelley Automotive Group donated \$25,000 to Morales’ political campaign. Kelley Automotive Group, led by big-time Republican donor Thomas Kelley, has donated \$65,000 to Morales’ political campaign since October 2022, according to Indiana campaign finance records. Morales was elected as secretary of state in 2022 and isn’t up for election again until 2026.” [Indianapolis Star, [4/4/25](#)]

Morales investigated by local BOE for using official office for campaign purposes

Morales investigated by county election board for allegedly violating election by using video from official duties in election ad. “The Marion County Election Board is investigating whether Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales violated election law by using video from an official visit in a

campaign ad. Morales, a Republican, is the state's top election official. Earlier this month, he released a 5-minute campaign video announcing his plans to run for reelection next year. The ad features footage of Morales taken during an official visit to the Marion County Election Service Center on Election Day 2024, according to Marion County Election Board Director Patrick Becker. The video was shared on the secretary of state's Facebook page in a post thanking volunteers, Becker said. In May, that footage was included in a campaign video." [WFYI, [5/23/25](#)]

Morales denied accusations that he sexually assaulted two women

Morales was accused by two women of sexual assault. "Republican Secretary of State candidate Diego Morales has fielded controversy since his first unsuccessful bid for public office in 2018, but could a pair of sexual misconduct allegations less than a month before Election Day endanger his latest campaign? Two longtime former Republicans divulged decade-old allegations of sexual assaults in interview transcripts published this week by political columnist Abdul-Hakim Shabazz." [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [10/4/22](#)]

- **Morales accused of "forcibly" kissing colleague and asking for "campaign sex" in 2009.** "Two longtime former Republicans divulged decade-old allegations of sexual assaults in interview transcripts published this week by political columnist Abdul-Hakim Shabazz. One woman, who the Indiana Capital Chronicle also interviewed, said she was 22 in 2009, starting her first job out of college under then Secretary of State Todd Rokita, a Republican. She described being a week into the position when Morales asked her to grab drinks and invited her to partake in 'campaign sex.' After he forcibly kissed her, she said, he stonewalled her at work for weeks." [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [10/4/22](#)]
- **Second woman accused Morales of multiple attempts to kiss her while working on republican congressional campaign.** "The second woman told Shabazz that she and Morales became friends while working on a Republican congressional campaign, and reconnected when she was 20 and Morales moved back to Indianapolis. She found herself in his new apartment to pick up a gift from the congressman when he repeatedly tried to kiss her, she said. After Morales drove her back home, she never again spoke with him. 'I called my parents right away. And actually, my father asked me if I wanted to file a police report,' she told Shabazz. '... I thought it could only be bad for us and our party, and that he would get away with it no matter what.'" [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [10/4/22](#)]

Morales gave thousands in dollars for spot bonuses to staff

Morales gave thousands of dollars of "spot bonuses" to secretary of state staff. "And in Oct. 2023, the Capital Chronicle first revealed Morales' liberal use of 'spot bonuses.' Indiana executive branch agencies adhere to guidance from the State Personnel Department when it comes to the bonuses, which dictates that awards range from \$100 to \$1,000 to recognize outstanding performance 'on the spot.'" [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [3/28/25](#)]

- **Morales Gave 80 Bonuses To 68 Employees In 2023.** "That year [2023], the Secretary of State's office doled out 80 bonuses to 68 employees — out of a staff of roughly 75. They ranged from \$500 to \$12,000, for an average of \$4,540 per employee. Nearly a dozen employees received two bonuses from Morales within the 10 months scanned by the Capital Chronicle, and one got two in one month. Morales' brother-in-law received a total \$12,500 from two bonuses." [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [3/28/25](#)]

Morales hired his own brother-in-law for job in SOS office

Morales hired brother-in-law for six-figure state position. “Secretary of State Diego Morales has hired his brother-in-law to help lead a division within the office and take home a six-figure salary — raising ethics concerns from some government watchers. Shawn Grady began working as the co-director of the Auto Dealer Services division of the secretary of state’s office Feb. 6, according to Jerold Bonnet, general counsel for the office and deputy secretary of state. Grady previously worked as a sales consultant at a car dealership in southern Indiana. He is married to Morales’ sister, Cecilia Grady.” [Indianapolis Star, [2/15/23](#)]

Morales accused of voter fraud

Morales accused of living in one county, voting in another. “Five days before the General Election, the Indianapolis Star in an opinion column revealed that Morales appears to have lived in one county while voting in another, potentially violating the elections law he’ll soon uphold. Morales voted in Hendricks County twice in 2018 in the May 8 primary and the November 6 general election registered as the resident of a Plainfield condo. That year, he ran an unsuccessful campaign for the Republican nomination to Indiana’s Fourth Congressional District, which includes none of Marion County.” [The Times (Noblesville, Indiana), 11/22/22]

Morales received primary residence property tax deduction for property, voted from separate address. “Democrats alleged Morales might have committed voter fraud, a claim that comes days ahead of Tuesday’s elections as Morales has emphasized ‘election integrity’ in his campaign to become Indiana’s top elections official. Hendricks county records, first reported Thursday by The Indianapolis Star, show that Morales voted in the 2018 primary and general elections using the address of a Plainfield condominium. At the same time, Marion County records show he and his wife were also receiving the maximum \$45,000 property tax assessment deduction for an Indianapolis house that is limited by state law to a person’s primary place of residence.” [Associated Press, [11/3/22](#)]

ON THE ISSUES

2020 Election

Morales called 2020 election a “scam.” “In clear contrast to Sullivan, let me make my own position on 2020 crystal clear. The 2020 election was flawed and the outcome is questionable. There are three main components to the scam that was perpetrated upon the citizens of Indiana, and against all Americans.” [Hoosier State Today, [3/8/22](#)]

Morales said there were “valid reasons to doubt the official vote tallies in key states.” “We have valid reasons to doubt the official vote tallies in key states, for reasons I will explain below. If you agree with me that the Nov 3rd, 2020 vote was tainted, you are hardly alone. According to even CNN, their polling shows that a majority of Republicans share that doubt.” [Hoosier State Today, [3/8/22](#)]

Morales “dialed down” criticism of 2020 election after he was elected SOS. “After defeating the incumbent secretary of state for the Republican nomination last summer, Morales dialed back his description of Joe Biden’s 2020 presidential election as a “scam” and his calls for tighter voting laws. That push included cutting Indiana’s 28-day early voting period in half and requiring new voters to prove their U.S. citizenship when registering.” [Indiana Public Media, [2/6/23](#)]

Ballot Access

Morales campaign claimed he “added new sources of information that can be used for voter list maintenance.” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What We Have Achieved, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales “Oversaw implementation of a voter verifiable paper trail in all 92 Indiana counties.” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What We Have Achieved, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales campaign boasted that he “Improved Indiana’s ranking from 16 to the top 10 in the ‘Heritage Foundation Election Scorecard.’” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What We Have Achieved, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales campaign said Morales would “Continue to promote and support legislation that puts more emphasis on election day.” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What’s Next, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales asked congress to pass SAVE Act. “Secretary of State Diego Morales is calling on Congress to pass the SAVE Act. Secretary Morales is calling on federal action to put a stop to the potential of non-citizens voting in elections. Congress must pass the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act to protect U.S. elections. The SAVE Act would strengthen the current law that allows only U.S. citizens to vote in elections. The SAVE Act would require states to require proof of citizenship when registering someone to vote. States would also be required to remove non-citizens from existing voter rolls.” [Courier-Times, 7/10/24]

Morales assisted Trump Administration with executive order on elections. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales is touting his recent participation in discussions for implementing President Donald Trump’s executive order on elections and the opportunity he had to thank the president for signing the order, even as 19 states have asked a federal district court to block the directive, calling it ‘unconstitutional, antidemocratic, and un-American.’” [Daily Journal, 4/22/25]

Residency Requirements

Morales “Enhanced proof of residency requirements” for elections. [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What We Have Achieved, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales campaign said Morales would “Support action at the federal level to allow documentary proof of citizenship for all voter registration applications.” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What’s Next, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales Requested Federal Help To Determine Citizenship Of 585,000 Indiana Voters. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales and Attorney General Todd Rokita announced they'd requested federal aid in determining the citizenship of more than 585,000 registered voters - ignoring a deadline intended to protect eligible voters from election shenanigans.” [Journal Gazette ,10/22/24]

- **Morales: “A Fair And Secure Election Process Begins With Accurate Voter Information.”** ““A fair and secure election process begins with accurate voter information,” Morales said in a statement. ‘As Indiana’s Chief Election Officer, I am committed to ensuring that every registered

voter in Indiana has met the legal requirements, including being a U.S. citizen.” [Journal Gazette, 10/22/24]

Morales compared review of citizenship status of voters to brining a ticket to Colts Game, Or Taylor Swift concert. ““There has been a critical outcry from some, that not relying of the ‘honor system’ for U.S. Citizenship is somehow mean spirited or unpatriotic. I disagree. I’m sure virtually no respectable Hoosier would try to sneak into a Taylor Swift concert, or attend a Colts game, or board a commercial airline, without a ticket, or carrying a prohibited item,’ Morales wrote in the letter published Tuesday. ‘Still, despite our trust in people’s honesty, it’s virtually unquestioned that everyone attending a concert or game, or boarding an airplane, will be asked for their ticket and screened for dangerous, prohibited items. Asking everyone is not discriminatory, accusatory, mean-spirited, or unpatriotic – it’s basic common sense,’ he continued.” [Journal Gazette, 10/30/24]

Morales asked for changes to a federal citizenship verification service. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales has joined 20 others in asking new Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem for changes to a federal citizenship verification service including that it be free to use. ‘I am joining my colleagues in requesting that the Department of Homeland Security take swift action to make the ... program more efficient and accessible to states,’ Morales said in a Thursday news release. He is Indiana’s top elections official.” [The Republic, 3/6/25]

Morales sued DHS after he claimed they failed to verify citizenship of 585,000 voters. “Two Indiana statewide elected officials filed a lawsuit Friday against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, months after they first urged the federal agency to verify the citizenship of more than 585,000 registered Hoosier voters. In October, Secretary of State Diego Morales and Attorney General Todd Rokita petitioned the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) which is housed within the homeland security agency to review lists of voters who registered without providing a state-issued form of identification. Federal officials ‘have failed to provide information that would enable Indiana to verify that only eligible voters participated in elections,’ Morales’ and Rokita’s offices alleged in news releases Monday.” [The Republic, 4/21/25]

- **Indiana later gained access to federal system to check citizen status of registered voters.** “Indiana will soon be scanning voter rolls for noncitizens after receiving access to a revamped federal system, Secretary of State Diego Morales announced on July 7. The move comes after Morales and Attorney General Todd Rokita asked U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for help in verifying the citizenship of 600,000 voters less than a month before the 2024 general election. Voting rights advocates denounced the announcement at the time, fearing it would disenfranchise eligible voters who don’t have easy access to the documents required to prove citizenship.” [South Bend Tribune, 7/10/25]

Budgets

Secretary of State office sought increased budgets under Morales. “Ahead of the General Assembly’s upcoming budget-setting legislative session, the secretary of state is seeking additional funding increases, which the agency said is especially needed for increased staffing, carrying out election duties, and ‘modernizing’ online services. The agency is seeking roughly \$24.5 million per year for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 — up about 10% from the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2025 of \$22.3 million. Eaton said the ‘discontinued availability’ of federal CARES Act funding after 2023 to support election administration has largely increased the need for more state dollars.” [Indiana Capital Chronicle, [12/9/24](#)]

Campaign Finance

Morales campaign said Morales would: “Expand Indiana's campaign finance portal to include local candidate committees and PACs to enhance transparency.” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What’s Next, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Election Security

Morales wanted paper ballots “with a physical audit trail.” “Specifically, I will enact three reforms as Secretary of State of Indiana, to become a prototype for all of America to emulate. First, we must move to paper ballots with a physical audit trail that cannot be hacked” [Hoosier State Today, [3/8/22](#)]

Morales: “we must mandate that every Hoosier vote in-person if possible.” “Finally, we must mandate that every Hoosier vote in-person if possible, with important exceptions for those who cannot physically get to the polls, including the infirm and those serving America on deployment, as I myself served in the US Army.” [Hoosier State Today, [3/8/22](#)]

Morales campaigned on “election integrity” but did not give specifics on meaning. “During remarks at an early January inaugural ceremony, Morales continued his campaign theme of promoting ‘election integrity’ without giving specifics. ‘My priority is to make Indiana a national model for election confidence and integrity,’ he said. Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston, also a Republican, said recently he had talked with Morales and told him he was ‘comfortable’ with the state’s election laws.” [Indiana Public Media, [2/6/23](#)]

Morales “expanded Indiana’s ban on private funding of elections.” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What We Have Achieved, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales used Homeland Security grant to pay for expensive election integrity mailer. “The 180-page document, per SOS spokeswoman Lindsey Eaton, is ‘a new addition to the library of election guides produced and distributed by the state for election administrators.’ Assembling and shipping 600 guides cost a whopping \$35,070. That’s \$58.45 each. Each booklet cost about \$45 to print, and each lanyard with whistle and card was about \$1.45, according to Eaton. Packing and shipping cost approximately \$12 per guide. SOS paid for the initiative with a 2023 State Homeland Security Grant.” [Daily Journal, 5/17/24]

Morales met with CISA director to discuss election safety. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales recently met with U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency director Jen Easterly and other state/federal election security officials. During this meeting, Morales and his team were briefed about several topics including: high level technology capabilities, combatting foreign threats, protecting election administrators and the process of distributing accurate information about election infrastructure security. Collaboration with the Secretary of State’s ongoing 2024 Election Safety and Security program was discussed.” [Madison Courier, 5/22/24]

Morales attend 2024 RNC to advocate for “election integrity.” Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales participated in a delegation of lawmakers attending the Republican National Convention July 15-18 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to advocate for election integrity and oppose federal oversight of state election processes. Morales, joined by five fellow legislators, addressed critical concerns and sought to

ensure state control over electoral procedures amid ongoing national debate.” [Indianapolis Recorder, July 2024]

Morales called Indiana poll worker ban “unenforceable.” “After a southern Indiana poll worker was accused of intimidating a voter in the May primary election and subsequently barred from working in future Perry County elections Secretary of State Diego Morales has sided with the worker, calling the ban ‘unenforceable.’ But Bradley DeHart and his supporters say he was allowed to vote Republican regardless of his party affiliation. DeHart claims that Republican poll worker Sherri Flynn ‘targeted’ and ‘intimidated’ him as he tried to cast a Republican ballot during the primary.” [Daily Journal, 6/7/24]

Morales “championed legislation to enhance the protection of election workers and increase election integrity (House Enrolled Act 1264). “Secretary Morales championed legislation to enhance the protection of election workers and increase election integrity. House Enrolled Act 1264 requires proof of citizenship for individuals registering with temporary ID's. This effort reflects a continued commitment to safeguarding the election process and ensuring Indiana's elections remain accurate. New 'Vote Here' signage was placed at polling locations across the state, clearly stating that only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in Indiana elections and that a valid photo ID is required for all voters.” [Courier-Times, 1/4/25]

Morales ‘blew the whistle on election interference program.’ “In 2024 Secretary Morales partnered with the federal and Indiana Departments of Homeland Security, state and local law enforcement agencies, state and local emergency management agencies and county election administrators to coordinate, train, prepare and deliver the highest level of election security, preparedness and safety ever in the state.” [Courier-Times, 1/4/25]

Information Technology

Morales campaign said Morales would: “Modernize Indiana’s Statewide Voter Registration and Election Management System.” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What’s Next, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales boasted that he “modernized” SOS computer systems. “In keeping with his Mission Statement to be Open, Accessible, Efficient and Innovative, in 2024 the Secretary of State began modernizing complex computer systems through which essential business, election, motor vehicle, securities, investment, and consumer protection services are delivered to Hoosiers on a 24-7 basis.” [Courier-Times, 1/4/25]

Morales ‘applauded’ passage of Indiana state election bills. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales applauds the General Assembly for the passage and signing of two key pieces of legislation aimed at enhancing the transparency and security of Indiana's elections: House Bill 1680 and Senate Bill 10.” [Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly, 5/7/25]

Voter ID

Morales supported requiring voters to include a copy of their driver’s license with a mail-in ballot application. “A concept backed by Morales for requiring voters to include a copy of their driver’s license with a mail-in ballot application is being sponsored by a Republican lawmaker, but he said he wasn’t working with Morales on the proposal.” [Indiana Public Media, [2/6/23](#)]

Morales campaign claimed he expanded Indiana's Voter ID Law to include mail-in voting. [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What We Have Achieved, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales “introduced documentary proof of citizenship requirements” for elections. [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What We Have Achieved, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales would push for legislation requiring voter ID for absentee ballots. “Morales has said he would push for legislation requiring those wishing to vote absentee to attach copies of their photo IDs or driver's licenses, implement statewide audits after every election, and create an election task force to investigate cases of potential mishandling of elections.” [Indianapolis Recorder, September 2022]

Morales “celebrated” student ID voting ban. “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales on Wednesday celebrated the state’s forthcoming student ID voting ban just two days after he and other Hoosier election officials were named in a lawsuit challenging the prohibition. Since Indiana enacted its photo ID law in 2005, it has allowed students to use IDs issued by public colleges or universities as proof of identification at the polls. A card must include the prospective voter’s name, photo and a valid expiration term.” [The Republic, 5/8/25]

Voter Registration

Morales campaign said Morales would: “Support action at the federal level to remove outdated restrictions that limit states ability to perform comprehensive voter list maintenance.” [Diego Morales for Secretary of State, Elections, What’s Next, accessed [8/6/25](#)]

Morales prioritized “cleaning” voter rolls when he was in office. “Hoosier voters are receiving the tidy black-and-white registration mailers as part of routine voter list ‘maintenance,’ according to Secretary of State Diego Morales’ office. ‘One of my top priorities is to clean the voter rolls,’ Morales said in a news release Tuesday. ‘These postcards help ensure more accurate voter registration lists on a county and statewide level. This update will give us a clearer picture of voter turnout and protecting the integrity of our elections.’” [Herald Republican, 5/19/23]

Morales prioritized voting legislation Senate Act 170. “Secretary of State Diego Morales is proud to announce the passing of priority election legislation to protect election workers and increase voter integrity. The Secretary of State’s Office worked with the Clerks’ Association to expand the definition of election worker and provide legal protections for the important and challenging work local election officials, staff, election administrators, and poll workers do. Senate Enrolled Act 170, which became effective on passage in April, provides election workers peace of mind knowing laws are in place providing legal protections they deserve.” [Newburgh-Chandler Register, 4/18/24]

Legislation would:

- Provide tools for maintaining accurate and up-to-date voter registration lists.
- Require proof of citizenship for individuals registering with temporary IDs.
- Require documentation of residency for first-time voters.
- Eliminate loopholes for political groups private funding of local election administration.

[Newburgh-Chandler Register, 4/18/24]

Morales believed the ease at which non-citizens could register to vote and vote was a serious concern needing to be addressed. “Secretary Morales believed the ease at which non-citizens could

register to vote and vote was a serious concern needing to be addressed. House Enrolled Act 1264 addresses that issue. Its passage gives Hoosier county clerks and voter registration boards, tools to confirm citizenship status and addresses on a new voter registration.” [Newburgh-Chandler Register, 4/18/24]

Morales “warned more than 120 federal agencies operating in Indiana against providing voter registration services.” “Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales’ office warned more than 120 federal agencies operating in Indiana against providing voter registration services described in a three-year-old presidential executive order without state approval. ‘This letter from my office is in response to the broad executive order from President (Joe) Biden directing federal agencies to engage in election activity,’ Morales said Tuesday on his personal X account. ‘States know best when it comes to our elections,’ he continued. ‘We don’t need federal government overreach to run safe, secure elections!’” [Daily Reporter, 7/3/24]

- **Morales Joined Other Secretaries Of State To Challenge Order To Supreme Court.** “Conservative activists and politicians across the country, including political action committees and a Republican-led House committee, have targeted the order in recent months, Politico has reported. Morales in May joined eight fellow Republican secretaries of state in asking the U.S. Supreme Court to take on a case challenging the order. The court said it wouldn’t do so by the end of June, and won’t consider taking it up until the fall.” [Daily Journal, 7/3/24]