



Photo by Joseph C. Garza/Tribune-Star

VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA

AMERICA'S BELLWETHER

SINCE 1888, THE MAJORITY OF VIGO COUNTY VOTERS HAVE VOTED FOR THE WINNING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN EVERY ELECTION EXCEPT TWO — 1908 AND 1952.

THE YEARS VIGO MISSED



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

1908

Vigo County voted for William Jennings Bryan in 1908, whose hometown is in neighboring Salem, Illinois. But William Howard Taft won the presidency.



WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

.....☆☆☆.....



ADLAI STEVENSON

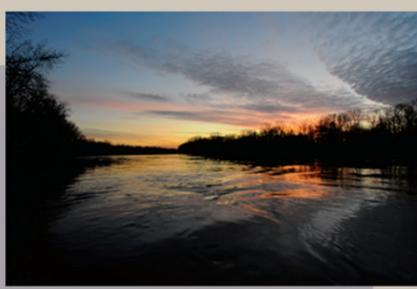
1952

Vigo County voted for Adlai Stevenson in 1952, whose hometown is also in neighboring Illinois (Bloomington). But Dwight Eisenhower won the presidency.



DWIGHT EISENHOWER

.....☆☆☆.....



VIGO COUNTY

Vigo County is centrally located on the western border of the state of Indiana. Terre Haute is the county seat, which nestles up against the Wabash River.

Photo by Jim Avelis/Tribune-Star

BELLWETHER (n)

AN INDICATOR OR PREDICTOR OF SOMETHING



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VIGO HAS CHOSEN THE PRESIDENT IN

31

OF THE LAST

33

ELECTIONS



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THE MARGINS

The margins were close in 1908 and 1952. Stevenson won Vigo by a mere

35

votes

and Bryan topped Taft by only

462.



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A COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S.?

Vigo County contains a unique collection of people. It's blue-collar, yet white-collar, with organized labor roots (dating back to unionism pioneer and Terre Haute native Eugene V. Debs) working alongside professors and administrators at four local colleges. There are pockets of affluence and a large middle-income sector, but also one of the state's highest child poverty rates. The county is less racially diverse than the nation, but remains home to numerous ethnic populations. Terre Haute leans Democratic, but that party, locally, includes lots of socially conservative folks.

