



Grim map demographics face Dems

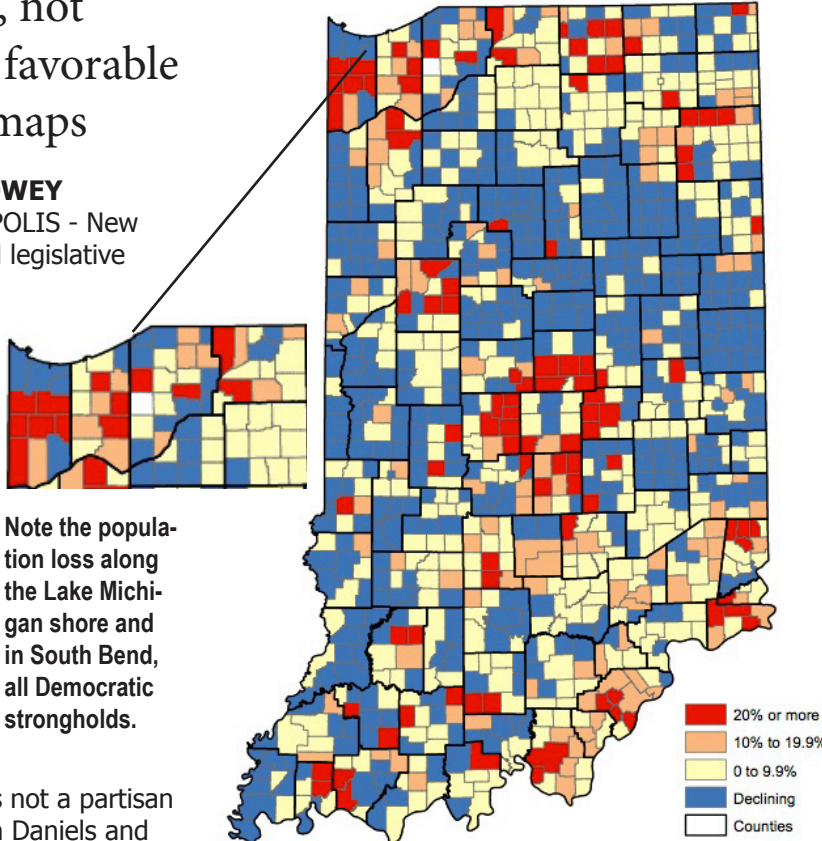
GOP can rely on population, not politics for favorable legislative maps

By BRIAN A. HOWEY
INDIANAPOLIS - New Congressional and legislative maps are being forged in the Indiana House and Senate and are expected to be made public next week.

Whatever the specifics are, the new maps will likely paint a grim picture for Indiana Democrats.

This Howey Politics Indiana analysis is not a partisan one, as Gov. Mitch Daniels and House Speaker Brian Bosma

Indiana Townships: Percent Change in Population 2000-2010



Source: IBRC using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, February 2011

have essentially pledged to follow basic guidelines by former Secretary of State Todd Rokita to build districts based on "communities of interest," county lines and nesting House districts in Senate districts. It is the demographics that pose a daunting challenge to House Democrats. These include:

- The 40 Democratic-held Indiana House districts gained a total of 4,681 people, an average of 117 per district.
- The 60 GOP-held Indiana House districts gained a total of 398,636 people; an average of 6,644 per district.
- The state total population gain was 403,317: an average of 4,033 per district.
- 30 House districts lost population: 21 Democrat districts and 9 GOP districts.
- Nine of the top 10 population-losing districts – and 15 of the top 20 – are held by

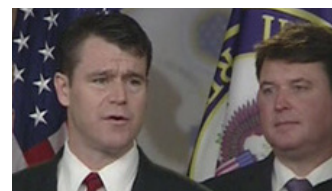
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Shutdowns, walkouts & civility in politics

By MARK SOUDER

FORT WAYNE - "While Henry lives another bad constitution would be formed and saddled forever on us. What we have to do I think is devoutly pray for his death." - Thomas Jefferson to James Madison about Patrick Henry, while debating the Virginia state constitution.

Alexander Hamilton was shot and killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. Compared to our early American leaders, Speaker Brian Bosma and Democrat



"We want (Medicaid) to be sustainable. We give governors the flexibility to target aid to the neediest citizens."

- U.S. Rep. Todd Young



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Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington
Jack E. Howey, editor
Beverly K. Phillips, associate editor

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Contact HPI

Howey Politics Indiana
6255 N. Evanston Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

www.howeypolitics.com

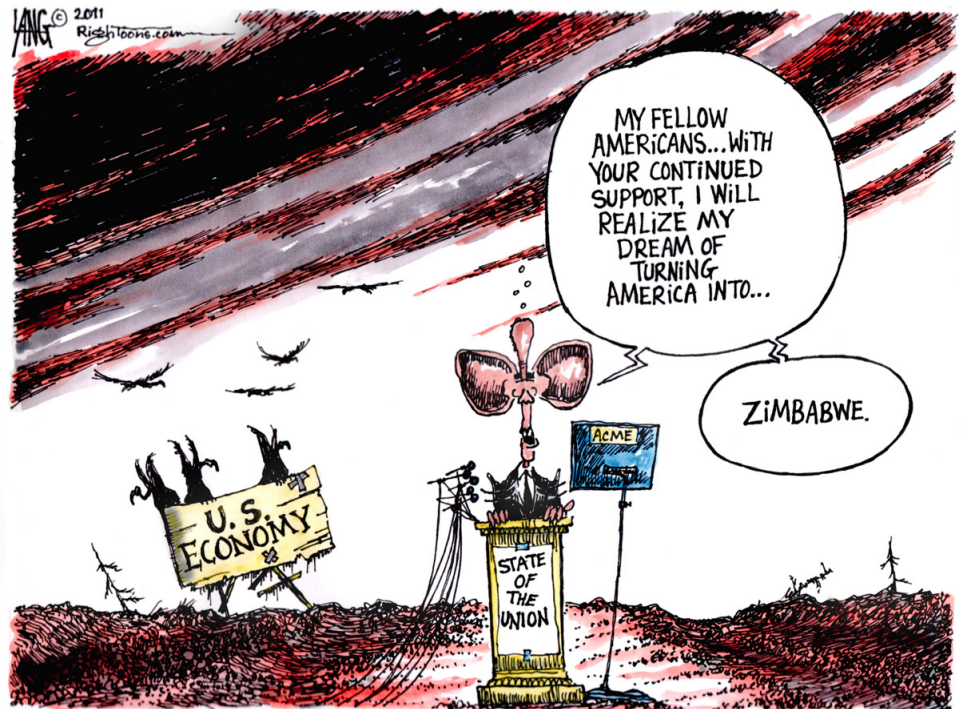
bhowey2@gmail.com

☎ Howey's cell: 317.506.0883

☎ Washington: 703.248.0909

☎ Business Office: 317.627.6746

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Leader Patrick Bauer are positively angelic. Newt Gingrich is a creampuff.

As a congressman and history buff, I got sick of lectures from the uninformed about how civil things used to be. Distinguished historian Robert Remini details in his official biography of the United States House of Representatives the fisticuffs and brawling on the House floor during the first decades of Congress.

When I took friends on Capitol tours, I liked to point out the blood stains on some steps that supposedly were there from the famous caning of a northern congressman by a southern one. According to Remini, I was wrong. It is blood from a different bloody fight between Members. There is an old rhyme: "sticks and stones will hurt my bones, but names will never hurt me."

Vicious smears actually do hurt, and mental health advocates say the scars never go away, but personally I lean toward the name-calling.

It was rather stupid of the Indiana House Democrats to use the example of Abraham Lincoln jumping out a window to deny a quorum since

it didn't work and Lincoln confessed to it being wrong, but skipping out to deny a quorum or a majority vote is hardly new. Indiana Democrats breaking the law by abandoning the state for weeks did set a new low for historians to include in the annals of dumb decisions but it is not without vague precedent.

The wonderful, important new book "Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788" by Pauline Maier covers the hard and closely fought ratification of our Constitution state by state. In Pennsylvania the first critical battle was whether to have a "restricted" state ratifying convention or an "open" convention, in effect re-opening the Constitution to state by state chaos. In an attempt to stop the pro-Federalist vote, those opposed fled the state for weeks. Actually, they didn't. That would have been illegal and anti-democratic. But they did briefly avoid coming to work.

According to Maier, "Two members who had been lingering at Boyd's boardinghouse, James M'Calmont and Jacob Miley, suddenly appeared in the room where the leg-



islature met. They had been forcibly seized and dragged to the State House by the sergeant at arms and three men who supported a quick ratification of the Constitution, including William Jackson, who had been the federal Convention's secretary. M'Calmont and Miley brought the number of assemblymen who answered roll call to forty-six, exactly the number needed for a quorum." Without Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and the others would not have followed. And that, my friends, is why we have the Constitution we have today.

In Washington the Congress now faces a potential standoff on how to fund the government. When I was elected in 1994, we faced this same divide. In 1995 the federal government briefly shut down. The myth is that the Republicans lost. The result of Clinton's compromises led to a balanced annual budget, welfare reform and the other victories we achieved. The Republican base was fired up, and we stayed in power for over a decade. What loss?

The difficult balance in politics is how to take a stand that highlights your position without damaging your cause. Make your point but don't prolong it, and don't break the law. The new House Republican majority has not taken a clear stand, and probably already missed their key opportunity.

Little cuts will be remembered only by those whose

budgets have been cut. In the "big picture" world, this Republican House as a whole (Mike Pence being one of the few exceptions) looks far weaker than we ever did when in past control.

I remember years ago during a vacation to New England, our kids were not overly enthused about all the historic markers but were looking forward to seeing the whale at a New England aquarium. The morning of the visit the newspaper headline was, no kidding: "Whale Dies, Aquarium Closed Today."

"Closing down" the government is going to lead to a lot worse headlines over spring break, or summer, then earlier. And the Republican base has steadily lost patience. A shutdown over the debt limit with three wars and the Japanese disaster could kill the markets.

Politics and governing is a lot about timing, as well as the decisions. The Indiana House Democrats had the passion, with the wrong strategy. The Washington House Republicans have a strategy, but lack the passion. Neither works. ❖

Souder is a former Republican member of Congress from Fort Wayne.

Maps, from page 1

Democrats.

- Twenty-five of the 40 House Democrats (or 2/3) represent districts largely or totally contained in five counties – Allen, Lake, Madison, Marion, and St. Joseph. Collectively, these districts show a population loss of 28,017.

- There are eight House members of the Legislative Black Caucus. Only two (Reps. John Bartlett and Cherrish Pryor) have population gains in their Indianapolis districts. The remaining six – including all three in Lake County – showed significant population losses.

- The total population in the current Democrat-held districts is enough to support 37.5 House districts, assuming each has a population of exactly 64,838 – 1/100th of the state's 2010 population. Conversely, GOP-held districts have enough population to support 62.5 House districts.

- Generally accepted restricting assumptions are that districts can differ by up to 10 percent - 5 percent on either side of the average. This means that new House districts could have a population range of between 61,596 and 68,080. By those

guidelines, only 14 of the 40 Democrat-held districts now meet or exceed the new minimum population requirement. Conversely, 47 of the 60 GOP-held districts meet or exceed it.

Allen County Districts

- The two Democrat-held districts in Allen County (Reps. Winfield Moses and Phil GiaQuinta) show a total population loss of 6,422.

Lake County House Districts

- Collectively, the eight primarily Lake County districts lost 2,690 residents.

- The six largely northern Lake County districts (Reps. Vernon Smith, Charlie Brown, Earl Harris, Dan Stevenson, and Linda Lawson) collectively lost 23,070 residents.

- The two largely southern Lake County districts (Reps. Chet Dobis and Shelli VanDenburgh) gained 20,380 residents.

Madison County Districts

- The two Dem-held districts in Madison County (Reps. Terri Austin and Scott Reske) show a total popu-

Dist.	Incumbent	Total Population, 2000-2010		
			# Chg	% Chg
2	Earl Harris	56,633	-3,919	-6.5
3	Charlie Brown	54,541	-6,514	-10.7
14	Vernon Smith	49,514	-11,872	-19.3
94	Cherrish Pryor	64,541	4,043	6.7
95	John Bartlett	67,075	6,495	10.7
96	Greg Porter	52,952	-7,751	-12.8
98	Bill Crawford	59,049	-1,171	-1.9
99	Vanessa Summers	58,098	-2,786	-4.6
		57,800	-2,935	-5.4



	2000-2010 Population Change		2000-2010 Hispanic		2000-2010 Black Alone		2000-2010 White Alone, Non-Hispanic		2000-2010 Total Minority	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
60% + GOP Baseline Counties	248,527	61.62%	57,067	32.58%	23,177	28.49%	160,165	108.83%	116,556	44.66%
50% + DEM Baseline Counties	96,210	23.85%	94,804	54.12%	48,716	59.87%	-31,443	-21.26%	169,506	50.41%
50% - 60% GOP Baseline	58,580	14.53%	23,300	13.30%	9,470	11.64%	19,162	12.43%	50,175	4.93%
	403,317	100%	175,171	100%	81,363	100%	147,884	100%	336,237	100%

lation loss of 1,370. But while Reske's district gained 4,595 residents, Austin's lost 5,965. It is indicative of the GM rust belt decline.

Marion County House Districts

- Collectively, the 16 primarily Marion County Indiana House districts gained 75,137 residents.
- Of the six that lost population, all are held by Democrats (Reps. John Day, Greg Porter, Vanessa Summers, Mary Ann Sullivan, retiring Bill Crawford, Jeb Barden). The total loss in those districts is 24,045.
- Of the 10 that gained population, seven are held by Republicans (Speaker Brian Bosma, Reps. Phil Hinkle, Cindy Kirchhofer, Brian Behning, Dave Frizzell, Cindy Noe, Mike Speedy), and three are held by Democrats (Reps. Ed DeLaney, Cherrish Pryor, John Bartlett). The total gain in the seven GOP-held districts is 88,261 residents. The total loss in the nine Dem-held districts is 13,124 residents.

St. Joseph County House Districts

- Collectively, the five primarily St. Joseph County districts lost 822 residents.
- The four Democrat-held districts (Reps. Pat Bauer, David Niezgodski, Ryan Dvorak, and Craig Fry) collectively lost 4,411 residents.
- The single GOP-held district (Rep. Tim Wesco) gained 3,589 residents.

Democratic Growth

- Ten of the 40 Dem-held House districts show

enough population growth to meet or exceed the new minimum 61,596 – Dobis and VanDenburgh in Lake County, Bartlett and Pryor in Marion County, Peggy Welch and Matt Pierce in Monroe County, Stemler in Clark County, Reske in Madison County, Mosely in Porter County, and Goodin in Scott County.

- Note that Stemler and Dobis currently serve as committee chairmen under GOP Speaker Bosma, much to the consternation of Minority Leader Bauer. Stemler was the only Democrat who refused to join the recent Democrat walkout and Dobis has not caucused with the Democrats all session. And while Dobis joined in the walkout, he did not go to Illinois with the others. He stayed at his Merrillville home.

Hispanic Population Growth

- The one silver lining for Democrats is that the Latino population more than doubled in 39 of the 100 Indiana House districts. Due to the controversial immigration legislation pushed by some House and Senate Republicans, the fastest-growing voting bloc is one area that could be a growing political bloc for Democratic candidates.

House Elections Committee Chairman Eric Koch has presided over nine field hearings - four in Northern Indiana, four in Southern Indiana and one in Indianapolis - and is in the "process of compiling the public input." Koch does not have a specific date when new maps will be made public. He begged off further public comment until next week.

The conventional wisdom going into the new House maps has been that if political considerations are

	Largest Total Minority Increase		2000-2010 Population Change		2000-2010 Hispanic		2000-2010 Black Alone		2000-2010 White Alone, Non-Hispanic		2000-2010 Total Minority	
	GOP %	County	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	46.49%	Marion	42,939	4.99	51,176	153.73	33,011	15.87	-39,649	-6.54	97,574	36.42
2	33.94%	Lake	11,441	2.36	23,535	39.80	5,540	4.51	-3,878	-1.20	30,736	16.08
3	74.17%	Hamilton	91,829	50.25	6,515	223.81	6,797	242.23	70,510	40.88	25,186	208.74
4	62.08%	Allen	23,480	7.08	9,216	66.41	4,091	10.90	5,956	2.16	21,423	34.49
5	64.73%	Elkhart	14,768	8.08	11,586	71.08	1,756	18.39	5,861	3.71	14,634	48.19
6	54.53%	Tippecanoe	23,825	15.99	5,113	65.27	3,161	84.25	12,836	9.70	13,623	67.10
7	46.34%	St. Joseph	1,372	0.52	6,838	54.46	3,536	11.62	-8,734	-3.99	13,561	26.25
8	71.07%	Hendricks	41,355	39.73	3,217	276.85	5,922	509.64	30,453	30.25	12,669	307.87
9	48.59%	Porter	17,545	11.95	6,854	96.82	3,550	264.14	10,049	7.18	11,636	101.50
10	54.50%	Vanderburgh	7,781	4.53	2,194	130.67	2,269	16.12	1,363	0.89	7,248	37.41
			276,335		126,244		69,633		84,767		248,290	
											78.84	



paramount, House Republicans will have trouble designing maps defending more than 54 or 55 seats in their 60 seat majority. Our analysis of the new Census data is that assumption is flawed. A partisan map-making process given this new data could probably edge that number closer to the actual current caucus majority. Speaker Bosma and Gov. Daniels are consistently adamant that new maps will be drawn more in the altruistic "communities of interest" mode as opposed to incumbent protection. Daniels has repeatedly said he will veto legislation that relies on overtly partisan considerations. The 2010 Census data will give them political cover (and they certainly knew that going into this process).

Even in the altruistic vein, House map makers will end up with a product that will bring political controversy. There is a strong likelihood that Lake County Reps. Harris, Lawson, Brown and Smith may find themselves residing in a district with a Democrat colleague. That goes beyond politics as these Democrats find themselves hemmed in by Lake Michigan and, ironically, the State of Illinois.

The ultimate move could come in South Bend where Bauer might end up in a district with a fellow-Democrat like Niezgodski, which might be seen as a political payback for the 36-day walkout. The maps could mitigate the political fallout there if Bauer and Dvorak were placed in the same district, as Dvorak is running for mayor of South Bend and might not return. Ditto for Rep. Fry, who will be the Democratic Misha-waka mayoral nominee.

And long term, if the House Legislative Black Caucus takes the expected hits, that could potentially erode Bauer's grip on caucus leadership. Bauer has relied on the Black Caucus to stay in power.

The Five Fastest Growing Counties (%)		2000-2010 Population Change	
		#	%
74.17%	Hamilton	91,829	50.25
71.07%	Hendricks	41,355	39.73
70.36%	Hancock	14,611	26.38
72.64%	Boone	10,533	22.84
70.78%	Johnson	24,445	21.22

Senate maps

HPI sat down with Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson and Senate Elections Committee ranking member Tim Lanane on Tuesday to review Indiana Senate and Congressional maps they produced. Their goal was to observe Rokita's "community of interest" axiom.

They also believe there should be more minority representation, particularly in Marion County. Currently there are only two African-American senators from Indianapolis.

The notion of "communities of interest" poses an interesting question. When HPI asked Gov. Daniels to define the concept, he talked about compactness and cited the line of the late Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart who was asked about what constituted obscenity and he responded, "I know it when I see it."

Simpson and Lanane were asked about the phrase, with Lanane answering, "You have to have respect for cities and towns. To some extent counties. You have to be cognizant of ethnic makeup, cognizant of economic makeup, employment centers, whether the district is rural, urban or suburban." He points to the proposed SD22 and SD7, which

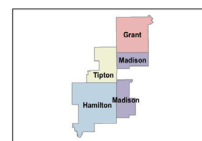
radiate out of Lafayette. In Democratic proposed maps, SD22 would be confined to Lafayette and West Lafayette and would become an island in SD7. Lanane notes, "District 7 would be more reflective of a rural district."

"Sen. Lanane has been working very hard to make sure, wherever possible, the communities of interest make sense," Simpson said. Lanane added,



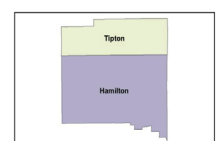
STATE SENATE DISTRICTS

CURRENT SENATE DISTRICT 20



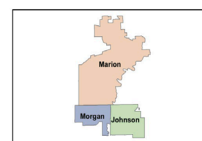
4 SPLIT COUNTIES
5 SPLIT TOWNSHIPS

PROPOSED SENATE DISTRICT 20



2 SPLIT COUNTIES
1 SPLIT TOWNSHIP

CURRENT SENATE DISTRICT 35



3 SPLIT COUNTIES
4 SPLIT TOWNSHIPS

PROPOSED SENATE DISTRICT 35



1 SPLIT COUNTY
1 SPLIT TOWNSHIP



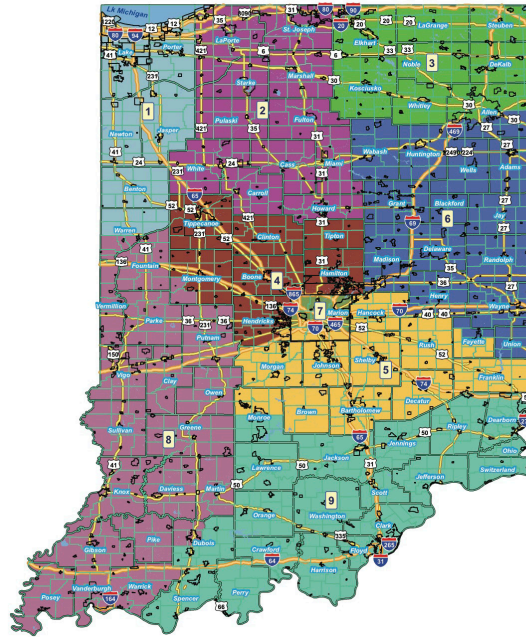
"We've made the districts much more compact." They point to Indianapolis, where there are only three districts fully within Marion County. Under their plan, seven Senate districts would reside within Marion County lines, with only SD36 spilling across into Johnson County. SD35 held by Sen. Mike Young would fall entirely in Wayne Township, whereas now it takes part of Marion, Morgan and Johnson counties and splits four townships. The rest of the districts would fall within two or three townships.

Lanane also points to SD20 - Sen. Luke Kenley's district - which sprawls into five counties from the city of Marion down to Noblesville. It currently splits four counties and five townships. Under the Democratic proposal it would be in just Hamilton and Tipton counties and have just one split township. Indeed, most of the Senate districts under the Democratic proposal would observe existing county and township lines and look compact (see maps on page 5).

Senate Elections Chairperson Sue Landske did not respond to an interview request from HPI for this analysis. Senate leadership is keeping the map process close to the vest, but HPI has learned that the Senate female GOP caucus - Landske along with Sens. Bev Gard, Pat Miller and Connie Lawson - are having a major influence on the process. It was that core of senators who helped propel Senate President Pro Tempore David Long into power.

The Senate map makers will seek to protect the GOP's super majority (34 seats), which means three of the current 37 incumbents may find some interesting challenges when they're up for reelection.

Asked if there has been a dialogue with the Senate majority caucus, Simpson responded, "No." And that is



INDIANA CONGRESSIONAL

File this proposed Congressional map by Senate Democrats under the "wishful thinking" category. While it is compact and features "communities of interests" the GOP maps will almost certainly push the 1st and 2nd CDs east instead of south (a case could be made that LaPorte County should be with Lake, as opposed to Warren and Benton counties), as well as the 6th, 5th and 9th CDs further south. It will be interesting to see how the maps will treat the residences of U.S. Rep. Todd Young who lives in Bloomington and Republican Luke Messer who lives in Shelbyville.

reflective of the tiny 13-member caucus' impact, which will be nil when it comes to forging the new Senate maps, other than a preemptive attempt to define compact, community of interest districts before the release of Senate maps on April 11.

Simpson chafed when she noted that she was invited to GOP caucus hearings on redistricting. "It was so offensive," she said. "Since when do Republican caucuses have public hearings? We were essentially told, "You can attend or not."

Lanane hopes that the public field hearings will convince Senate Republicans to follow the Rokita model. "What they heard in the public hearings is reflective of what we tried to do with these maps." He noted that at a field hearing in Fort Wayne, citizens expressed frustration that "there were no maps to show."

Simpson was asked whether she doubted the sincerity of Bosma and Daniels on their call for nonpartisan maps. "No, I don't have a doubt," Simpson said. "We both support it." She's not so sure about Senate Republican leaders, who have been less vocal about the Rokita map doctrine. That is due, in part, to the animosity between now U.S. Rep. Rokita and Senate Republicans going back to previous legislative sessions and then exacerbated by the 4th CD primary when Rokita defeated State Sen. Brandt Hershman.

Simpson also renewed her call for an independent commission to draw the maps - something Bosma says he supports. "We could do that now," she said. "It could be done if they really wanted it. I think he's backed off that and I don't see any support from Senate Republicans." That is probably reflective of the tensions between House and Senate Republicans that were stressed further due to the House Democratic walkout.

The political reality is that Democrats in both the House and Senate have little control over the maps. Indeed, overtly partisan House maps could produce a second walkout by the minority caucus.

Canny House Republicans can get maps for the next decade that will be fertile ground for future majorities just by playing the demographics straight and following the Rokita doctrine that has been embraced by the governor. ❖



Budget showdown may boost Hoosier freshmen

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - Usually, the plum assignments for freshmen members of the U.S. House are seats on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, the Wall Street-oversight Financial Services Committee or the business-focused Energy and Commerce Committee.

Although those perches remain in demand for their fundraising potential, this year's class of newcomers is making the most of their roles on the House Budget Committee.

This phenomenon can be seen in the Indiana delegation, where Reps. Todd Young (R-9th), Todd Rokita (R-4th) and Marlin Stutzman (R-3rd) were part of the tableau standing behind the budget panel chairman, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, on Tuesday when Ryan introduced the GOP's blueprint for fiscal 2012 federal spending.

The budget resolution, entitled "The Path to Prosperity," would cut \$5.8 trillion from the current budget baseline over the next 10 years and reduce the deficit by \$4.4 trillion compared to the budget President Barack Obama presented in February.

Overall, it would reduce spending to 2008 levels. The deficit would be fall from the current \$1.6 trillion to \$385 billion by 2021. By the middle of the century, the national debt would be paid off.

Waving the 72-page document, Ryan asserted at the Capitol Hill unveiling that the budget resolution addressed the fundamental danger facing the country – a fiscal red-ink hemorrhage that threatens to undermine upward mobility for future generations and puts America farther behind in repaying its foreign creditors. The deficit is currently \$1.6 trillion while the debt weighs in at \$14.3 trillion.

The earnest, wonky Wisconsin Republican, who seemed to be teaching a Budget 101 class as much as rolling out a political manifesto, dismissed the notion that members of his own party would blanch at the cuts he's advocating because of the electoral pain they could inflict.

"They didn't come here for a political career," Ryan said, referring to freshmen like Young and Stutzman. "They came here for a cause. This is not a budget. This is a cause."

Young stepped into the spotlight at the press conference to explicate an important piece of that movement – reforming Medicaid, the federal program that funds medical care for the poor.

Under the Ryan resolution, Medicaid spending would be reduced by nearly \$800 billion over the next 10 years. It also would be converted to a block grant to states. "We want (Medicaid) to be sustainable," Young said. "Unfortunately, under the current financing model, it is unsustainable. We give governors the flexibility to target aid to the neediest citizens."

Young's choice of words reflected an attempt by

Republicans not to seem draconian while slashing the budget. They argued that they were not trying to destroy the social safety net but rather trying to make it more effective and efficient.

"These are bold reforms, but they're reasonable reforms – the sorts of things many of us campaigned on before we came to Washington," Young said.

Casting the GOP budget-cutting effort in such measured terms may become more important as the debate goes on. Democrats are portraying the party as intent on eliminating benefits for seniors, children and other vulnerable constituencies while protecting tax breaks for the wealthy and guaranteeing subsidies for oil companies.

One of the most telling Democratic reactions to the Ryan plan came from Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who

voted in favor of the proposal by the president's deficit commission that would stanch federal red ink through difficult policies choices.

But Durbin was part of the united Democratic front against Ryan.

"The Ryan Republican budget has three pillars: reduce Medicare benefits by more than half; reduce Medicaid benefits for seniors in nursing homes; and reduce taxes on the wealthiest Americans," Durbin said in a statement. "America can resolve its budget crisis without punishing the elderly and poor while rewarding the very rich."

Perhaps cognizant of the fact that independent voters are not necessarily as fervent as the Tea Party in demanding that Washington halt all other activity and slash spending, Young stopped short of calling for a government shutdown this week.



U.S. Reps. Todd Young and Todd Rokita appeared with Budget Chairman Paul Ryan when he unveiled his "Path to Prosperity" budget blueprint on Tuesday.



If the House, Senate and White House can't reach an agreement by Friday at midnight on funding for the six months remaining in fiscal 2011, many government operations will cease.

On Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence announced he would favor a one-week extension, saying, "While I am frustrated that liberals in the Senate continue to resist our efforts to include even modest cuts in this year's budget, I will support a one-week Continuing Resolution because the troops come first. We cannot put fiscal battles ahead of support for those who are fighting America's real battles."

"I never favor a government shutdown," Young told reporters after the budget press conference on Tuesday. "I'm going to allow our leadership to continue to work with

(Senate Majority Leader) Harry Reid (D-Nev.) on that issue. We've voted several times to keep the government open. The Senate is sitting on its hands."

Young is approaching the question of raising the debt limit in a similar way. He's not drawing a bright line on where he will come down. Treasury Department officials estimate that the country will hit the debt ceiling as early as May.

"I don't favor violating a debt limit," Young said. "I haven't decided how I'm going to vote. Much will depend on the atmospheric – how seriously this budget is taken. I'll be less apt to support efforts to raise the debt limit if I don't feel others share that vision." ❖

No statistics on death by pothole

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Nothing stirs the imagination like a near-death experience. Last Saturday I am driving north out of Columbus on I-65. I am obediently in the right-hand lane at 70 miles per hour. On my left is an SUV passing me slowly. Suddenly a blue car is passing to the left of the SUV. There is no third lane and only a minor shoulder on the left.



The SUV driver avoids being rammed by pulling sharply in front of me. Now, with a vehicle directly in front of me, I look into the rear-view mirror to check on the tractor-trailer right behind me.

I pull sharply to the right onto the right shoulder before pulling just as sharply left, straddling the rumble strip. The SUV does the same and then eases back into the travel lane. I also return to the travel lane. The blue car is far ahead of us. No physical damage. No deaths.

This outcome is not unusual. Automotive and highway engineers design cars and roads to protect us. Each time we drive on a two lane Hoosier road at 55 miles per hour and see another vehicle traveling toward us at the same speed, we witness the miracle of survival.

Those who drive recklessly are roadway terrorists. They endanger others as they race to some reward or away from some punishment. They speed through red lights and ignore stop signs. They contributed to 43,000 American highway deaths last year.

Yet we must wonder how many of those deaths are caused by potholes and our fellow citizens who believe virtue lies in cutting government spending by cutting taxes?

Thus far this year I replaced three tires destroyed by Indiana potholes. What other damage have potholes caused? There are no records kept of accidents resulting from swerving to avoid a pothole. Damage to the steering mechanism is not obvious and a pothole may cause a death many miles from its location.

There are streets in my town I no longer drive. I avoid certain direct routes because of horrendous road conditions. I will not accept, however, the excuses of my mayor that this was a bad winter.

No. The problem is that politicians insist on ignoring our roles as citizens and thinking of us only as taxpayers. It is not the cold of winter that withholds funds from fixing the streets. It is the cold in the hearts of too many voters who deny our communal responsibilities.

We live or die because others are careful or reckless. The tragedy is a growing number of Americans, including many Hoosiers, believe we are or should be independent of each other. The result is elected officials pander to this view and do not act responsibly.

When government cuts services to the disabled and ignores potholes it blames insufficient revenue. But why is revenue insufficient? The blame rests on those who will not support the primary functions of government with higher taxes at the expense of less consumer spending. Instead they focus on an agenda to appease the radical fringe passionate about abortion and gay marriage.

Killing people with potholes is not a sin to these enemies of liberty. Destroying the lives of afflicted families by withholding assistance is not a social virtue. How do we rouse our fellow citizens to understand the linkages of modern life and the need to be our brother's keeper? ❖

Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.



Daniels sees Ryan blueprint as GOP plank

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Daniels has long sought Republican presidential candidates who will talk candidly about the "Red Menace" budget deficits. Such expressed candor could be enough to preempt his own candidacy.

After U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan released his budget blueprint on Tuesday, Daniels released a statement saying, "The House budget resolution is the first serious proposal produced by either party to deal with the overriding issue of our time. The national debt we are amassing threatens the livelihood and the liberty of every single American, and in particular the life prospects of our young people. Anyone criticizing this plan without offering a specific and equally bold program of his own has failed in the public duty to be honest and clear with Americans about the gravest danger we are facing together."

In an email to HPI, Daniels said that the Ryan plan on Medicare is "exactly the right direction. I proposed this approach in the CPAC speech, so was already on record there." The governor stressed, "Please don't fail to report that it has no effect on those 55 and over. It is necessary so that younger people can have a program, too."

Daniels added, "An overwhelming percentage of governors (especially if you ask the Democrats off the record) favor a block grant. The states could serve people better and reduce cost if freed from the grip of the federal bureaucracy."

Asked about New York Times columnist David Brooks calling the Ryan plan the basic budget plank for the 2012 GOP platform, as well as the blueprint for the GOP presidential nominee, Daniels told HPI, "My basic statement means I think Brooks is correct."

The First Lady will speak

Clues, clues, give us clues.

That First Lady Cheri Daniels is throwing out the first pitch for the Indianapolis Indians baseball game this afternoon is a natural. Her grandfather is Hall-of-Famer Billy Hermann.

But when news hit that she would be the keynoter for the May 11 GOP Spring Dinner, that was news!

So what's the rest of the story?

Leading into the announcement, there was speculation on who the keynoter would be and, reading between the lines, what it would mean.

If it was Gov. Mitch Daniels, might he use it to announce his presidential campaign? Or if it was a Newt or a Huck, a Mitt or a TPaw, would this be an indicator that the governor is going to stay on the presidential sidelines?

That Cheri Daniels is the keynoter only enhances the speculation that Daniels is preparing to take the big dip. Real Clear Politics reporter Erin McPike reported on March 11 that the First Lady may be "the decider" on his presidential aspirations. "The decision is in the hands of his wife," said former New Hampshire Gov. John Sununu. "I know for sure she has the final say on this campaign." Other sources have told HPI similar things. During the 2008 reelection campaign, Daniels consistently cited the "Cheri Daniels term limits" when asked if he would ever seek another elected office.

Now the First Hoosier Couple will be faced with widespread speculation on what SHE will say. Will the First Lady give the Governor her imprimatur to run? Or will she talk

about reading to elementary kids in Logansport or Scottsburg and even rural Brown County?

The First Lady did not surface much during the 2004 gubernatorial campaigns, but gradually over the years she has taken a more conspicuous role. This year she headed a state employee food drive and has been appearing at elementary schools around the state in recent months.

Indiana Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb said, "We are delighted to have Cheri Daniels address our annual dinner. Hoosier Republicans will have an opportunity to hear firsthand what it's like to be first lady of our great state as Mrs. Daniels shares stories and observations from the road."

That sounds more like stories of literacy outreach to kids than a "I'm going to give Mitch to the American

Positive Intensity Scores*, Potential Candidates for 2012 Republican Presidential Nomination

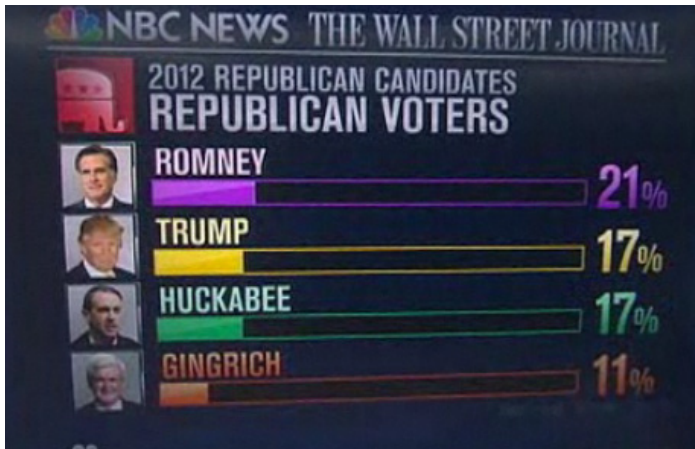
Based on Republicans/Republican leaners familiar with each candidate

	Feb 28- Mar 13, 2011	Mar 7-20, 2011	Mar 14-27, 2011	Mar 21- Apr 3, 2011
Huckabee	25	25	26	27
Cain	n/a	n/a	19	21
Romney	15	16	20	20
Bachmann	20	20	20	19
Gingrich	17	15	19	19
Pawlenty	15	16	16	17
Palin	16	19	18	16
Huntsman	14	11	13	15
Santorum	16	15	14	14
Paul	13	14	14	13
Daniels	10	12	15	12
Barbour	11	9	10	11
Roemer	n/a	n/a	1	1
Johnson	5	1	2	0

* % with highly favorable opinion minus % with highly unfavorable opinion, based only on those who recognize candidate

Question wording: Next, I am going to mention the names of some people in the news. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name, or not. (Asked of those who recognize each person): Please tell me whether you have a generally favorable or unfavorable impression of _____. Is that a strongly (favorable/unfavorable) opinion or just (a/an) (favorable/unfavorable) opinion?

GALLUP®



The governor's blind side

By SHAW FRIEDMAN

LAPORTE - We all know this governor can announce cuts on the spending side. Heck, this is a guy who proudly wore the moniker "the Blade" when he was President Bush's budget director.

Why, just last week we saw further evidence of the governor's willingness to slash and gash services for kids and families when it was announced that the state's appropriation for the Family and Children's Fund – which pays for placements and services for abused and neglected children and juvenile delinquents – was being cut 25% for this coming fiscal year, just \$336 million dollar from \$445 million in the current fiscal year.

Those are real-life kids we're talking about. Abused and neglected kids who depend on services from the state. The counties have been starved of funding to take care of those most in need, and we have a governor simply throwing his hands up in the air declaring there's no more money at the state to fund services like these at needed levels.

What the governor consistently and utterly refuses to consider is the 'revenue' side. Mitch Daniels continues to blindly overlook that it is tax cuts for the very wealthy and the tax shelters and dodges used by many of our largest corporations that are robbing state government of its ability to provide these most basic services.

Remember, this was a governor who once told the national press that the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy would have "zero" impact on the deficit. As Joe Scarborough wrote in Politico not long ago, we can't forget that Mitch Daniels "was a central player on the economic team that took us directly into a budget crisis" and that the "national debt exploded to record levels" during Daniels' tenure at OMB.

Again, it's the governor's blind side: A refusal to understand that government still must take in a reasonable level of tax revenue from those most able to pay. How is it possible that GE could just turn \$14 billion in profit and not owe any federal taxes? Indeed, media reports indicate that through shrewd use of rules allowing offshoring of profits and taking advantage of numerous tax shelters and dodges, U.S. taxpayers will actually owe GE some \$4 billion. The same happens at the state level with corporate income taxes now providing a paltry share of state rev-



people."

Of recent Hoosier First Ladies, it was Judy O'Bannon that played the most conspicuous public profile. Now we are faced with perhaps the most anticipated First Lady speech in Hoosier history.

Daniels AEI speech

Another tea leaf will occur on May 4 - just days after the schedule sine die of the Indiana General Assembly - when Daniels will address the American Enterprise Institute in Washington on education reform. It will give the governor a conspicuous perch to herald his Indiana education initiatives that are on track for passage.

The Christie Primary

Politico reported that three Republican White House aspirants - Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney and Haley Barbour - have made the trip to Drumthwacket seeking the endorsement of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. Sources close to Christie indicate that he's closest to Barbour and Daniels but also has a relationship with Romney and Pawlenty. "He's going to be deliberate about it," said Mike DuHaime, a Christie adviser. "And there's no guarantee that he'll endorse anybody."

Obama reelect staff

Here is the senior staff of the 2012 reelection campaign of President Obama: Jim Messina, Campaign Manager; Jen O'Malley-Dillon, Deputy Campaign Manager; Julianna Smoot, Deputy Campaign Manager; Rufus Gifford, Director of Finance; Liz Lowery, Deputy Finance Director; Ben LaBolt, Press Secretary; Katie Hogan, Deputy Press Secretary; Mitch Stewart, Battleground States Director; Jeremy Bird, National Field Director; Marlon Marshall, Deputy National Field Director. Marshall served as field director in Nevada, Ohio and Indiana for Hillary Clinton's Presidential campaign in 2007 and 2008 before joining the Obama campaign. ❖



enue. Daniels' Revenue Department announced early in the governor's first term that it was going to contract with a firm to try to collect more from scofflaw corporations. Whatever happened to that effort?

Instead, this governor's blind side wants even more relief for the largest corporations. Despite what his IEDC brain trust led by Mitch Roob is now touting in billboards that we can induce Illinois business to relocate here with their goofy "Illinoyed" ad campaign stressing lower corporate taxes, a new study just released by Purdue Calumet Professor Amlan Mitra says the very opposite. Professor Mitra's research says that far better than tax cuts and

endless tax incentives, state investment in public services is what best stimulates growth and creates jobs.

I know that kind of investment in people and infrastructure is anathema to this governor and his cadre of true market believers. But it's time they stop being blind and start understanding that state government needs revenue to operate. Allowing our biggest, most profitable corporations and the very wealthy to skate on paying their fair share is simply turning a 'blind eye' to the problem. ❖

Shaw Friedman is a LaPorte attorney who is a regular HPI contributor.

Gregg inches closer to candidacy after Lake, Southern J-J swing

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - On Tuesday, former House Speaker John Gregg was making the rounds in Lake County.

"I've got a JJ Thursday in Madison," he said of the Jefferson County Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner. "Friday in Brazil and two on Saturday in Scottsburg and Salem."



It is a gubernatorial-style schedule for what appears to be the next big Democratic gubernatorial campaign.

At least one Democrat - Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson - expects Gregg to

take the plunge. "I met with him yesterday and he sounds like a candidate," Simpson said on Tuesday. "I think he'll announce soon."

Simpson reiterated what she has been saying: that she, Gregg and U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly are in frequent communication via phone. "We talk every week," she said.

But if Gregg jumps in, that won't necessarily preclude her own gubernatorial considerations. "If he goes, it does not enter into my thought process," Simpson said. She added that her chief concerns are that the Democratic base - labor, minorities, gays and lesbians - are represented. "I think it's important that our ticket represent everybody," she said.

Gregg, meanwhile, is feeling the love. "I'm enthused, I'm excited because Hoosier Dems are excited and enthused. I'm getting a great reception."

U.S. Senate

This is the Rothenberg Political Report's take on the 2012 U.S. Senate Republican primary:

Six-term Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar ended 2010 with more than \$2.3 million in the bank. Unfortunately for Lugar, his war chest is about the only reason to think that he might have a chance of winning a seventh term next year. The 78-year-old (he turns 79 on Monday) Republican has put together a remarkable and admirable career of public service. The 1998 edition of Congressional Quarterly's Politics in America called his speeches as a presidential candidate both "meaty and serious" and "plodding and colorless."

But Lugar's style isn't a huge liability in Indiana, which elects low-key people such as former Sen. Evan Bayh (D), Sen. Dan Coats (R) and Gov. Mitch Daniels (R), not colorful characters such as Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Al Franken (D-Minn.) and former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura (I).

An American Viewpoint poll conducted for the Senator in October showed Lugar with high favorable and low unfavorable ratings, and in 2006 Indiana Democrats didn't even nominate someone to run against him.

Unfortunately for Lugar, things have changed in Indiana as they have elsewhere. The fact that he lives in Virginia surely will become an issue in his bid for re-election, while the fact that he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 or was a Rhodes scholar probably means little now. In fact, Lugar's emphasis on crafting legislation to attract broad support, his efforts to solve problems in ways that go beyond knee-jerk left-right approaches and his disinclination toward sharp, polarizing rhetoric leave him increasingly vulnerable in this day and age.

Moreover, instead of ingratiating himself with conservatives and the Tea Party, Lugar has been more than willing to poke them in the eye, as he did when he supported Senate approval of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and the DREAM Act, opposed the ban on earmarks, and expressed support for the assault weapons ban. Last



cycle, when I interviewed then-candidate Coats, a mainstream conservative never known as an ideologue or one of the Senate's more intense partisans, I was surprised how readily and heartily he embraced the Tea Party movement.

Lugar, in contrast, has been dismissive of the Tea Party, refusing to back off of his longtime agenda or pander to conservatives with his votes or his rhetoric. Lugar's stubbornness — or dedication to principle, if you prefer — has earned him a formidable primary opponent and the opposition of three-quarters of GOP county chairmen, who already are backing state Treasurer Richard Mourdock. Mourdock, who will almost certainly be Lugar's main primary opponent, is wooing conservatives, including Tea Party activists, who aren't likely to make the same mistake that they did in 2010, when multiple Tea Party primary candidates divided the conservative vote and handed Coats the nomination. But the state treasurer's profile isn't that of a pure outsider. Not only does he begin with the support of dozens of GOP county leaders, but he has been running for office and serving in government for years. Mourdock ran for Congress in 1990 and 1992 before winning election to the Vanderburgh County Commission in the mid-1990s. He served there until 2002. Four years later, he was elected state treasurer, and last year he was re-elected to that office.

Still, his campaign website bio clearly portrays him in an ideological light: "A solid conservative, Richard is a popular speaker at Republican events and Tea Party rallies alike. Richard's conservative message of constitutionally limited government was heard by over one million people during the 9-12 March on Washington in 2009." Mourdock's Senate campaign website also includes a "Lugar vs. Mourdock" section that portrays Lugar as a far-left admirer and supporter of President Barack Obama. The section includes some accurate and fair information, but it also has its share of outrageous and over-the-top assertions that are obviously misleading. For example, in asserting that "Lugar appeared in a campaign television advertisement for Obama during the 2008 presidential election," it clearly misleads the reader to believe that Lugar offered some sort of testimonial for Obama. The truth is that Obama's campaign used Lugar's image in a TV spot about nuclear proliferation to present Obama in a bipartisan light and to tap the Republican's reputation for thoughtfulness.

Whatever you think of Mourdock's characterization of Lugar's record, the Senator's 35-year career in the chamber gives the challenger plenty of ammunition in a primary. Given the direction of the GOP these days and the public's continued desire of change, it would be a stunning achievement if Lugar were to win renomination next year in a one-on-one race.

HPI's take: We disagree with the final statement of the Rothenberg assessment. HPI rates this race as "Leans

Lugar" given that there has been a waning of Tea Party popularity nationally, and a recent Pew Research Poll is not picking up as ferocious anti-incumbency sentiment as we saw in 2010. It will be impossible to gauge that element until the current government shutdown saga ends. The Tea Party could emerge from that as a key player in a discredited fiasco or come out stronger than ever.

Having said that, we have been startled at the width and breadth of anti-Lugar sentiments in various Republican pockets around the state. A number of Republican legislators - particularly from rural areas - tell us that constituents complain to them about Lugar and his votes for Supreme Court justices Sotomayor and Kagen than just about any other issue.

There is still more than a year for this race to take shape and a great deal can happen between now and a year from now when this race heads into the homestretch. Lugar could face multiple primary opponents. He could have a health problem. He has a pool of independent voters that could be attracted into a GOP primary. Mourdock could be discredited with the Tea Party movement, or he could be energized by it. We don't know whether he can raise the kind of money that spilled into the discredited 2010 campaigns of Christine O'Donnell in Delaware and Sharon Angle in Nevada, but if he can that would provide a dimension never seen in an Indiana U.S. Senate primary (in 2010 the five-man field had trouble scrapping together enough for one campaign). We still believe this is Lugar's race to lose. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Lugar

Mayoral races

Bloomington

Democrat: Mayor Mark Kruzan, John Hamilton, John Gusan. **2007 Results:** Kruzan (D) 5,937, Sabbagh (R) 3,729. **Outlook:** Hamilton's wife, IU Law Professor Dawn Johnsen, announced a rally with former congressman Lee Hamilton at 3 p.m. Saturday at 3rd and Grant Streets. Kruzan announced Monday his plan to improve services provided for senior citizens in the city (Auslen, Indiana Daily Student). Hamilton countered later with claims that Kruzan made similar promises in 2003, which still have not been met. "While much is being done by the public and private sectors to improve livability, a lot of those decisions are made by people who are younger and mobile and don't always address the needs of the disabled, less able and older citizens," Kruzan said. Kruzan highlighted some of the actions made by his administration and outlined his plans for the future of the city's senior citizen services. These plans include developing senior-oriented housing options downtown, the creation of a new senior center in the downtown area, working with social service agencies



to ensure senior citizens are being effectively helped by the city and creating an Adopt-a-Neighbor program for younger citizens to help elderly neighbors, among other things. "Further establishing Bloomington as a retiree and senior friendly community is both a way to improve livability for more of our neighbors as well as another way to bolster the economy. It's another way for us to set our community apart," Kruzan said.

Hamilton reacted later with accusations that Kruzan's promises were nothing but talk. "Mark Kruzan is very good and experienced at holding press conferences in the month before an election to announce new plans," Hamilton said in a statement to the press. "After eight years, though, he's not proven effective at getting things done and following through on specific plans." Hamilton also released a Kruzan press release from Oct. 7, 2003, which made several suggestions for improving senior citizen services that have not yet been implemented, including a job referral program and improvements to the city's volunteer network. "I'm running for mayor because I believe Bloomington needs to see more results, not more press conferences," Hamilton said. "When someone promises something to the community, it should get done. When I'm mayor, that's what I'll do."

Hamilton presented his neighborhood plans last week. "As Mayor, I will make neighborhood renewal and enhancement an immediate priority," Hamilton said. "That means helping encourage home ownership, creating affordable housing, and working to reclaim vacant or degraded properties across the city."

Look for a public endorsement of Kruzan from Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson soon. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Kruzan

Carmel

Republican: Mayor James Brainard, Councilman John Acceturo. **2007 Results:** Brainard 9,192. Winckler (D) 2,068, Spiegelman (I) 2,557. **Outlook:** Brainard picked up the endorsements from the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS Political Action Committee (MPAC) and the Carmel FOP Lodge 185. "We believe that these candidates have the experience and leadership that the City of Carmel needs to keep it a safe place to work and raise a family," said Charlie Driver, Carmel FOP President. "The Carmel FOP looks forward to working with each of them in the future." He further stated "We believe that these incumbent candidates have a distinguished track record of dedicated service to the community, and will continue to strive for excellence if elected to another term." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Brainard

Elkhart

Democrat: Mayor Dick Moore. **Republican:** Elkhart

County Councilman David Ashe, Harry Housour. **2007 Results:** Mayor Moore was finally released from the hospital this week after a tough bout with the flu. Moore is 76 years old. Another health issue and this could be a race in the fall. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Moore

Evansville

Democrat: Vanderburgh County Treasurer Rick Davis, Troy Tornatta. **Republican:** Vanderburgh Commissioner Lloyd Winnecke, Douglas De Groot. **2007 Results:** Weinzapfel (D) 13,097, Nixon (R) 2,268. **Outlook:** The Democratic battle looks like a classic party establishment (Tornatta) versus upstart grassroots insurgent (Davis). Tornatta has raised a fair amount of money, primarily through traditional Democrat donors and his ally Mayor Weinzapfel. It's been confirmed that he'll be spending a good chunk of it on TV ads these last weeks before the election (about 179 GRP). As for Davis, his chief method of attack is door-to-door knocking with a core group of volunteers. However, because Davis has been shut out by the party apparatus, he does not have a good list of primary Democrat voters. Thus, his door-to-door tactics are very inefficient and essentially involve knocking on every door in any given neighborhood. Davis also has a few TV spots running, but it's not as extensive as Tornatta's will be. Up until this past weekend Davis has been winning the yard sign battle, but Tornatta went on a big binge recently with large signs and appears to have made up some ground on that front. Winnecke will open his headquarters on Friday. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Tossup

Fort Wayne

Democrats: Mayor Tom Henry, Frederick Steinke, Tom Cook, Charles Eberhard, D.C. "Mr. Roachclip" Roach. **Republicans:** Councilwoman Liz Brown, Eric Doden, Paula Hughes, Fred Osheskie Sr., Terrence Richard Walker. **2007 Results:** Henry 31,740, Kelty (R) 21,163. **Outlook:** Allen County Right to Life endorsed Hughes on Wednesday. "I am honored to receive the endorsement of the Allen County Right to Life PAC," Hughes said. Today Brown claimed the endorsement, saying, "This endorsement is indicative of the fact that Liz Brown has a proven record of social conservatism." A call to ACRTL was not returned by deadline. Hughes has sent out four direct mail pieces in what appears to be an aggressive mail campaign. In contrast, Doden has sent out one mailer. Brown is running radio ads on WOWO and is in a developing sign campaign with Hughes. Hughes unveiled her plan to use Internet-based reverse auctions to reduce procurement costs. A reverse auction switches the roles of buyers and sellers from a typical auction. In an ordinary auction, buyers compete to obtain a good or service, and prices increase over time. In a reverse auction, sellers compete to obtain business, and



prices decrease over time. Reverse auctions became popular in the late 1990's with the growth of the Internet. "We need to come up with better ways to make government more efficient and cost-effective," Hughes said. "Online reverse auctions will flip the purchasing roles for goods and services on its head. Taxpayers will benefit from increased competition for City business." Overall government spending has become the issue of starkest difference in the race for mayor. "My opponents have made much about the virtues of spending," Hughes said. "I believe we should be looking for ways to spend less of your money and find ways to stretch each dollar further. That is the difference in the mayoral election." **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Brown

Gary

Democrat: Mayor Rudy Clay, Councilwoman Ragen Hatcher, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Larry Evans, Harold Foster, Robert L. Lewis, Lester L. (Chip) Lowe Jr., Saba S. Mohammed, Richard L. Nash, Jeffery L. Tatum. **Republican:** Charles R. Smith Jr. **2007 Results:** Clay 8,529, Smith (R) 2,569. **Outlook:** Despair, apathy and broken promises in the Steel City have driven most of Mayor Clay's challengers to run for his job this spring. That's what they told the Post-Tribune in a series of conversations about the Gary mayoral primary election on May 3, which could be one of its most significant in decades. Clay looked back at his first term in office and said, even through all of the turmoil, "we still got support from the people in the community. That was a good feeling, should I say," Clay said (Post-Tribune). "The people supported us on what we're doing. Understood what we were going through. That was the inspiration that I got." But Freeman-Wilson said her hometown is now "at its most dire place," even more so than when she ran against Clay four years ago. "Our financial affairs are in shambles," Freeman-Wilson said. "Our citizens are demoralized. I talk to people. They really have lost hope in terms of our ability to rebound and be where everyone once knew we could be."

Hatcher vowed to tap wind power industry to lead the city to a comeback. She said the initial cost of building 15 wind turbines could be covered by a federal tax credit. She said the turbines could be built in six months on city-owned lakefront property in the U.S. Steel footprint, and Gary could sell the energy they produce to Northern Indiana Public Service Co. "Gary needs a facelift, it needs to be reinvented," Hatcher said. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Clay

Goshen

Democrat: Mayor Alan Kauffman, Mike Hanes. **Republican:** Kauffman took aim at SB292, saying that the bill is not about the Second Amendment or trying to take away people's guns, but is about public safety. Shooting within

the city is not allowed and firearms are not allowed in parks, but Kauffman said the bill would change that. Kauffman and the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns question how easy it will be to prove that a person was negligent if a bullet from a person's backyard target practice goes astray. Kauffman also wondered what priority police would give to callers who say they have heard the sounds of shooting if carrying and shooting firearms becomes commonplace. Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Blairsville, authored the bill and said that other Indiana state laws, including those about reckless endangerment and noise ordinances, still would prohibit shooting firearms for practice or fun. SB 292 is about uniform laws across the state, Tomes said. It would allow people to carry firearms consistently through the state and give more time to police and other officials to focus on criminal activity rather than regulating lists of ordinances, he explained. "I don't want to put those people in that situation where they can't defend themselves," he said. "It's doing nothing more than saying 'Enough is enough.' Let's lay off the good people and focus on the criminal element." Kauffman also contacted legislators about HB1543, a bill outlawing rental-registration programs like Goshen's, that will be heard in the Senate's local government committee this afternoon. Like SB292, Kauffman said HB1543 also infringes on home rule. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Kauffman

Indianapolis

Republican: Mayor Greg Ballard. **Democrats:** Sam Carson, Ron Gibson, Melina Kennedy. **2007 Results:** Ballard (D) 83,238, Peterson, Bart (D) 77,926, Peterson, Fred (L) 3,787. **Outlook:** Kennedy took issue with Ballard over a gun amnesty program. "I am alarmed by the Mayor's apparent disconnect with his own public safety office." Last week, the Mayor stated in the Indianapolis Star that he was clearly against gun amnesty programs, yet the next day the Mayor's office revealed details about his upcoming gun amnesty program, which would prevent guns from being tested to determine if they were used in crimes; destroy evidence needed to solve ongoing murder and violent crimes; and allow violent offenders to walk free. "The Mayor committed to take control of public safety, but it is clear by his own office proposing a gun amnesty program he said he questioned just the day before, that he has lost all control," Kennedy stated. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Ballard

Hammond

Democrat: Mayor Thomas McDermott, Oscar Sanchez. **Republican:** George Janiec, Humberto Prado, David Hacker, Matthew Saliga, Jeff MacDonald, Rob Pastore. **2007 Results:** McDermott (D) 5,289, Janiec (R) 4,802. **Out-**



look: Prado and Andrade were fined by the Lake County Election Board for failing to file basic campaign paperwork. Times columnist Mark Kiesling wrote this week: "When it comes to politics, Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr. is a belt-and-suspenders kind of guy. I have no inside word on whether that extends to his wardrobe, though. But what I'm saying is that he is careful and learns from the past, which is why this whole mess with Republican challenger George Janiec is taking place. McDermott barely beat Janiec four years ago, when he squeaked across the finish line with a victory margin of fewer than 500 votes. When Janiec won a seat on the Hammond School Board last year, McDermott breathed a sigh of relief, hoping this would keep Janiec from filing for mayor this year. But the mayor was wrong, and he has had one of his city appointees challenge Janiec, who has lost his bid before the Lake County elections board and last week lost his appeal before Lake Superior Court Judge Jesse Villalpando. Janiec's lawyer, R. Cordell Funk, says he will continue to pursue this to the Indiana Court of Appeals and to the Indiana Supreme Court if necessary to get Janiec on the May 3 ballot. It will be interesting to see what happens when the case moves out of Democratic Lake County. The elections board has a Democratic majority (the clerk votes as an ex-officio member), and Villalpando was a Democratic state representative before being appointed to the bench. I'm not saying there is any provable, direct correlation between the two decisions against Janiec being made by partisan Democrats in a county where McDermott also wears the hat of county Democratic Party chairman. Still, I'd kind of feel better about the whole thing if there was some kind of more or less detached onlooker, well, looking on." **Horse Race Status:** Leans McDermott

South Bend

Democrats: State Rep. Ryan Dvorak, St. Joseph Councilman Mike Hamman, Rev. Barrett Berry, Peter Buttigieg. **Republican:** Wayne Curry, Will Taylor and Bill Davis. **2007 Results:** Luecke (D) 12,355, Manigault (R) 7,471. **Outlook:** The Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County is endorsing Pete Buttigieg in South Bend's Democratic mayoral primary race, the group announced Thursday (South Bend Tribune). Although the Chamber in recent years has started endorsing school board candidates, this is the first time it has endorsed a mayoral candidate, said Chamber President and CEO Jeff Rea. The Chamber asked candidates to fill out an extensive questionnaire, and then brought them in for "an exhaustive day" of interviews, Rea said. After the candidates' forum that the Chamber co-sponsored Tuesday night at Century Center, members of a committee met and realized they were most impressed by Buttigieg, Rea said. "The Chamber felt Pete presented a great energy and enthusiasm, and the real spark that is needed," Rea said. Buttigieg said the endorsement is

important because the next mayor will have to find ways to help existing businesses expand and draw new employers to the city. "This election is about jobs, and the top priority of the next mayor has to be on putting people to work in good jobs," Buttigieg said. "I have the most experience when it comes to business and economics," he said. "I'm the only candidate who has been involved in multibillion dollar decisions in the private sector, with some of the world's top firms." Jack Colwell, Tribune political columnist, agreed. "I think it helps him quite a bit," Colwell said, "because a lot of people who normally vote Republican (and are Chamber members) are going to vote in the Democratic primary because they know that's really going to be the election." (See Jack Colwell column on page 14 for more analysis). **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

Terre Haute

Democrat: Fred Nation, Harrison Township Assessor Mick Love, Clarence Sloughers. **Republican:** Mayor Duke Bennett. **2007 Results:** Bennett (R) 6,055, Burke (D) 5,948. **Outlook:** At a candidate forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Vigo County, Mick Love, Fred Nation and Clarence Sloughers took questions from an audience of more than 100 in a library meeting room. Some differences in the candidates' positions emerged during the 90-minute forum. Nation, for example, expressed strong support for the so-called "Riverscape" plan to develop property along both sides of the Wabash River. Love, on the other hand, said while he favored possibly improving the riverfront near Interstate 70, "our tax dollars could be better spent elsewhere." On the topic of animal control, Love indicated he would favor more city support for the Terre Haute Humane Society. "They need a bigger building out there," Love said. "We have to help the Humane Society however we can help them." Nation, meanwhile, called a "community animal shelter" an "intriguing idea" and promised to visit Bloomington to see how that city deals with stray animals. "I pledge as mayor I will face those (animal control) issues," he said. Nation expressed strong support for existing and possible future bike paths, saying they are great for energy savings and health. "We need to see more bicycles," Nation said. Love said he sees little need to improve safety on the city's bike paths. "I don't know how you could be any safer," he said. The three candidates avoided attacking each other during the forum. And only Nation took the opportunity to criticize the current mayor, Duke Bennett, a Republican. Nation accused Bennett's administration of failing to deliver on what he said was a promise to move the city's police headquarters to a new location. And Nation expressed strong opposition to Bennett's plans to use an existing pond on former International Paper property to store CSO as part of the city's long-term plan. That is a "step backward," Nation said. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Nation ❖



Poll shows Dvorak, Buttigieg in dead heat

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - A professional poll conducted in mid-March showed Pete Buttigieg and Ryan Dvorak in a virtual tie for the Democratic nomination for mayor of South Bend, each with about 30 percent of the vote.

The other two active candidates for the nomination, Mike Hamann and Barrett Berry, trailed well off the pace. But nearly a quarter of the 400 likely Democratic voters surveyed were undecided.



The poll was conducted by the Feldman Group, a national political consulting firm, and was paid for by the Buttigieg campaign. It was a professional sampling, not one of those "push" polls designed to spread negative messages about an opponent and influence the findings. The statistical margin for error was plus or minus 5 percentage points.

The poll means a lot.

But not as much as it might seem.

First, it shows what already was becoming clear, that Buttigieg, the former Rhodes Scholar who touts his private enterprise economic development experience, has momentum in the race, even though many voters still have trouble with pronunciation (Boota-judge) of his name. He is getting endorsements from prominent Democrats, some of whom were initially leaning toward other candidates. And he is raising by far the most in campaign funding.

Adding to the momentum is the endorsement of Buttigieg on Friday by the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County. It came after a two-hour public "conversation" with the candidates and other evaluation.

In effect, the Chamber agreed with Buttigieg's contention that, while he is the youngest candidate, age 29, he has the best credentials for mayor - education, economic development experience with a large consulting firm and understanding of innovative approaches to city problems.

Wait.

Momentum now doesn't necessarily mean a May 3 Democratic primary victory.

Dvorak, a state representative in the walkout by House Democrats, is back. And Dvorak and the other Democrats legislators got a hero's welcome from protesters opposing the House Republican majority's agenda. Being

seen as standing up for labor and teachers and frustrating political plans of Gov. Mitch Daniels could be a plus for Dvorak in the Democratic primary.

Still, Dvorak, with by far the highest name recognition as the race began, is in trouble if Buttigieg already has caught up, as the poll indicates. The Dvorak name has been magic on the ballot. Both Ryan and his father, Prosecutor Mike Dvorak, won decisively again last fall.

Mike Schmuhl, Buttigieg's campaign manager, who agreed to provide full details about the portion of the poll involving the question of voter support, said Buttigieg actually was ahead in percentages, 32 to 30. But with the margin for error, the race could only be described as a virtual tie at the time of polling.

County Councilman Hamann, though shown far back at 12 percent, has since the poll got his campaign rolling with billboards and a flurry of yard signs. His campaign had seemed to stall earlier, in part because of some defections to Buttigieg in organization support on which he counted. But with nearly a quarter of the vote found to be undecided, there is time and opportunity for Hamann to improve on that mid-March snapshot of support.

Berry, shown at 4 percent in the poll, began the campaign as an unknown politically in South Bend. He cites impressive credentials in federal government experience during the Clinton administration and has been thoughtful on the issues. The African-American minister hopes to make it a real four-candidate race and then win with strong African-American support if the other three split pretty evenly.

How the African-American vote splits will be important.

Whether anyone can tap the potential power of the Latino vote also could be a key. Buttigieg, who speaks fluent Spanish, hopes to have an advantage there.

Also, how many voters who usually support Republicans will vote in the Democratic primary? Because the winner of the Democratic primary will be regarded as certain to be elected mayor in the fall, and due to crucial decisions for a new mayor on the city's future, some Republicans, maybe quite a few, will seek a voice in the Democratic primary this time.

The Republican nominee is expected to be Wayne Curry, who held his own in the Chamber "conversation" with the candidates. ❖

Colwell has covered politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.



Wish they stayed in Illinois

By **RUSS STILWELL**

BOONVILLE - A couple of weeks ago, I talked about being "politically boxed in a corner." We discussed how to get out, what the price might be, and are you willing to pay the price?

Isn't it funny what a couple of weeks can do to ease the complexity for an exit strategy, particularly if you had not wanted one for the past month? In case you've been living under a rock, "The House Democrats are Back."



Prediction: In less than a week, the House R's will wish the Dems had stayed in Urbana. They will face a worn-out, issue-driven wide-awake caucus bent on making sure that the issues they hold dear have a voice. And there will be no shortage of Democrat debate, or amendments, for that matter.

For the first time in a long time, I suspect that many of the House Dems have read and reread each of the House R's controversial bills – and there are plenty of them.

And they have prepared and reviewed amendments. Add all this together and throw it in the political blender with a Type-A legislator who hasn't had a chance to debate for weeks and you're got late night sessions, pent up passion, and Hoosier politics at its best.

The House D's considered how they might return to the Capitol right after they left. Much has happened. What started as a walkout on Right to Work (and other issues, for sure) ended up being the longest legislative caucus walkout in modern day history – in any state. There are a myriad of still lingering issues that the House has on its calendar that will make this session interesting. Did I mention project labor agreements, school vouchers, collective bargaining, right to life and the budget?

Political pundits, including this one, have been ranting for a month or more about the Democrat walkout, the longest walkout in U.S. modern-day era by a state legislative caucus. It never came close to receiving the Wisconsin national media frenzy. But it did strengthen the will of a whole lot of Hoosiers on the receiving end of the over-reaching Republican butcher knife.

Sometimes the House Democrats just can't help themselves. And sometimes the House Republicans, despite a sizable majority, do the unthinkable and make self-inflicted wounds on their political armor.

History will record two classic wounds: 1995 and 2011. For one, the history is already etched in the books

and for the other (2011), history is being recorded. The House R's had it all in 1995 with a 56-44 majority that resulted from the Republican wave in the 1994 elections.

And then they did the unthinkable. They made sure the Democrat base was energized!

They took on our public school teachers and the ISTA. They conducted an attack on labor and the building trades (remember the rallies?). And for good measure they smacked around the trial lawyers and attempted mid-census redistricting that caused a 10-day Democrat walkout. The result? They rallied the Democrat base and lost their majority the very next election.

2011? Time will tell, but history has a strong habit of repeating itself. The R's took on every anti-labor issue imaginable. They shredded the ISTA into pieces. They made our public school teachers the scapegoat for all of our education woes. And for good measure, they crossed the line of private vs. public and made our Hoosier state the greatest provider of private vouchers for schools in the nation. Yep, they used your Hoosier tax dollars to get the job done! Talk about choice?

They demonized Hoosier women with a toughest in the nation right to life bill. You gotta believe they were drinking Kool-Aid when they suggested that Hoosier women might just "say" they are raped so they could get an abortion. Guess rape and incest are in. What were they thinking?

I have often said that the Republicans always talk about how government doesn't work during the campaigns, and then they get elected and prove it.

And for good measure they took their agenda to a whole new level of rallying the Democrat base. Stay tuned for 2012. It should be interesting fodder. The Democrat base is energized!

What about the return of the Democrats? Will they be subdued into submission? Don't think so.

My best guess is the five-week 15-round bout the House D's sprang on the House R's was the opening of a multi-bout fight. The issues are still there. The D's are still simmering over the over-reaching and the House R's feel it's their time.

Not really a good recipe to sing, "Gettin' Together," from the old Tommy James and the Shondales song from the '60s. Those lyrics won't make it past the first week of long night sessions:

"Gettin' together is better than ever;
Gettin' together never felt like this before
Gettin' together is better than ever
Gettin' together"

But the issues are so very real . . . and so very partisan . . . and so very polarized. Gettin' Together may not be better than ever! Gettin' together might be lining up for the feature fight in another 15-round fight. ❖



Eric Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press: Despite Indiana House Democrats' declarations of victory, their party's constituents are going to learn that five weeks in Illinois did little to change — or "moderate," as Democrats put it — the agenda of majority Republicans. If the goal was to gain influence during the course of this year's legislative session, two strategies seemed to make sense for the Democrats. The first was to leave the Statehouse long enough to kill the "right to work" bill that was most egregious and that Republicans declared dead just hours after the standoff started. Democrats could have come back with a victory and with some political capital to spend. The second was to stay out a bit longer. They could have returned with just enough time left for Republicans to have to choose between passing only their very top priorities or asking Gov. Mitch Daniels to call an unpopular special session. Instead, Democrats chose to split the difference. Now, they cannot threaten to flee again. They also struck their big deal and cannot influence much more as the session ends. And though they killed "right to work," they don't have much to show for the last 34 days of their 35-day boycott. The biggest issue of this year's session is education reform. Daniels, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett and legislative Republicans are trying to make big changes to the state's school system. They've offered about six major proposals, and one of those involves private school vouchers. From Illinois, Democrats drew concessions on the vouchers bill, but it's important to note just how small those concessions were. Democrats are claiming credit for lowering the income cap so that the program is targeted toward the poorest Hoosiers, but they don't quite deserve it. That change was one House Republicans were planning even before the boycott. Democrats also are claiming credit for lowering the caps on how many students can enter the program in its first and second years by 25 percent. While that claim is accurate, it does not mean much in the long run because the program is uncapped in year three and forever after that. Other than that, the voucher bill looks like Republicans imagined it would, and Republicans' other education reforms are proceeding unencumbered. ❖



Rich James, Post-Tribune: Sometimes the bully ends up getting the worst of things. Kind of like the day Ralphie knocked the snot out of Scut Farkas in "A Christmas Story." Kind of like Indiana Republicans who watched House Democrats return triumphantly from Urbana, Ill., after a five-week standoff with the GOP. And what makes me think the House Democrats won? They wouldn't have come back if they hadn't. State Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb saw it differently, saying that when the final gavel comes down on the General Assembly in late April that

the GOP agenda will become law. That's the problem with Indiana Republicans. They think their victories last fall were a mandate to make it tougher for unions to operate in Indiana, virtually eliminate collective bargaining for teachers and privatize schools. No, what the voters last fall said was that things were moving too slowly in the U.S. House and Senate and that some changes were needed. The momentum of that unrest rolled across the country and Indiana Republicans — for no clear reason except they were there — won control of the House. There is a real irony to this whole mess. Gov. Mitch Daniels early on said that if he had his druthers, the so-called right-to-work legislation — that is an effort to do away with unions — would have been put on the shelf. His fellow Republicans ignored him and the Democrats were off to Illinois. And the Republicans caved in without a whimper. What's funny is that the National Right to Work Committee took out an ad in the Indianapolis Star last week slamming Mitch and House Speaker Brian Bosma for giving in to Democrats. Don't you just love it when a species eats its own? ❖

David Orentlicher, Politico: Rep. Ryan's budget plan can't be taken seriously as a blueprint for the country, but it can serve a useful role in widening the debate and promoting consideration of new approaches. Turning Medicare into a voucher program draws on an important idea from the Committee on Economic Development for health care reform, but Ryan's version needs some revision to make it sensible. Instead of assigning a dollar value to the voucher, the government could make it worth the full cost of the lowest-cost plan in the market that provides a reasonable level of benefits (e.g, the health care law's "essential health benefits"). If Medicare recipients chose a more expensive plan, they would be responsible for paying the difference in cost. The Committee's approach might actually make competition work in health care. But Ryan would be even better off pushing for reform in the way we pay for the health care we receive. As long as doctors and hospitals make more by doing more, they will provide too much unnecessary care. ❖

Doug Ross, NWI Times: The prospect of a government shutdown is not good. Americans deserve better than that. They want the assurance that Social Security checks will arrive on time; the promise that appointments for medical care at VA clinics will be kept; the comfort of knowing the military will continue to function. I've heard many hard-core Republicans say they don't want their newly elected congressmen and senators to compromise. The same is true of many hard-core Democrats. I have news for them: Congress is all about compromise. Failure to compromise isn't an honor; it's simply failure. ❖



Judge to rule on Charlie today

INDIANAPOLIS - A judge will decide Thursday afternoon whether a lawsuit challenging Charlie White's eligibility to serve as secretary of state should move forward (Indianapolis Star). Marion Circuit Court Judge Louis F. Rosenberg heard arguments this afternoon and promised to make a decision quickly.

Last December, the Democrats filed a lawsuit challenging the Indiana Recount Commission's ruling that

White, who was registered at an old address when he filed his candidacy, was still eligible to run. The Democrats say a law that requires secretary of state candidates to be registered to vote means that they must be registered legally. Karen Celestino-Horseman, who's representing the Democrats, said the Indiana Recount Commission's claim that White simply had to be registered to vote is "absurd." Attorney James Bopp claims the Democrats only trying to get Democrat Vop Osili, whom White defeated by a large margin, into the office. If Rosenberg sides with the Democrats, he could allow the challenge to move forward in court or send it back to the Recount Commission. But if not, the Democrats' challenge would be dead unless they decide to appeal. Even if the civil challenge fails, White could still lose his job if he's convicted of any of the seven felony charges filed against him in Hamilton County.



Beck leaving Fox News

NEW YORK - Glenn Beck will leave his daily show on Fox News ,

the third-highest rated program on all of cable news, by the end of the year, Beck and Fox News chairman and chief executive Roger Ailes announced Wednesday.

Caps hitting counties hard

MUNCIE - Indiana homeowners and businesses have seen their tax bills cut by more than \$655 million since the General Assembly approved property tax caps in 2008. But the savings have come at the expense of local governments, which have been forced to cut millions and reduce services to compensate for the lost revenue (Associated Press). Gov. Mitch Daniels says the caps make Indiana's property taxes some of the lowest in the nation. The caps limit property tax bills to 1 percent of a home's assessed values, with caps of 2 percent for farmland and rental property and 3 percent for business property. Lawmakers amended them into the state constitution in November in hopes of making them more difficult to undo. Daniels told The Associated Press he sees a need for consolidation of "redundant" local units that are too small to operate efficiently. "I think where there was overspending, (the tax caps are) bringing discipline," Daniels said. "In places where spending is more reasonable, there's still more opportunity for reform at the local level." But for counties like Delaware, Madison, Marion and St. Joseph, the caps have instead brought about painful decisions about what government can pay for. Delaware County, which has the smallest population of the hardest-hit counties at 117,000 residents, recorded the highest per-capita loss, with a \$25.4 million drop in revenue in 2010. That loss accounted for nearly 15 percent of the county's budget in 2010, according to an analysis prepared by the nonpartisan Legislative Services

Agency. St. Joseph County did without \$35.6 million in 2010 because of the property tax caps. That's 12.4 percent of the county's budget. Marion County, the state's largest, saw \$79.2 million in property tax credits, but that comprised only 7.3 percent of its budget. Madison County lost more than \$29 million. Vigo County saw the impact of the caps nearly triple between 2009 and 2010, leaving it to cover \$15 million — or about 14 percent of its budget.

Delaware Co. lays off 2 bailiffs

MUNCIE - The Delaware County BOARD of Judges on Wednesday announced that in the wake of county government's budget woes, two of its six riding bailiffs would be laid off effective today (Muncie Star Press). "We wanted to be proactive and to help with the financial crisis," said Circuit Court 3 Judge Linda Ralu Wolf, the local court system's presiding judge.

Senate defeats smoke ban bill

INDIANAPOLIS - A proposed statewide smoking ban for Indiana has been defeated in a state Senate committee, with several members saying they opposed the many exemptions it included (Indianapolis Star). The Senate Public Policy Committee voted 8-1 today against the bill that had exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes. American Cancer Society opposed the proposed ban on the grounds that it would be one of the weakest in the country. Committee Chairman Ron Alting of Lafayette didn't allow senators to consider removing any of the exemptions that were in the bill approved by the House. Alting said



those exemptions were needed to win enough votes to pass.

House panel passes Gov toll road bill

INDIANAPOLIS - The House Roads and Transportation Committee approved a plan Wednesday to give the governor sole authority to create toll roads (Indianapolis Star). The measure, which also eliminated a provision for a 2015 expiration date on that authority, passed by a 7-5 vote. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Tom Wyss, R-Fort Wayne, said giving the governor the power to create public-private partnerships without lawmakers' consent would give Indiana the flexibility to make better deals. "He should have that authority to make those kinds of decisions," Wyss said. A version of the bill that would have given the governor that power for four years -- until 2015 -- passed the Senate 37-12 in February.

Alcohol ID bill stalls

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana legislators are disagreeing about how old someone should look before they have to provide identification when buying alcohol (Evansville Courier & Press). Both the House and Senate have approved bills revising a much-ridiculed state law that took effect last summer requiring store clerks to card all carry-out alcohol customers regardless of their age. Those bills have said clerks wouldn't need to check IDs on customers who appear older than 40. But the Senate Public Policy Committee voted 6-3 on Wednesday to set that carding provision for those appearing 50 or older. The House could vote today on a version of the bill that includes the 40-year-old ID.

Adoption bill headed to governor

INDIANAPOLIS - Legislation co-sponsored by State Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg) to help give Indiana families more adoption service options passed the full Senate Tuesday by a 50-0 vote (Howey Politics Indiana). House Bill 1558, authored by State Rep. Jud McMillin (R-Brookville), would once again allow out-of-state child placement agencies and attorneys to facilitate adoptions in Indiana without penalty.

Lugar, Coats vote against EPA regs

WASHINGTON - Indiana's senators voted Wednesday to block the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions, limits that promise to have the greatest effect on states such as Indiana that depend heavily on coal-fired power plants (Indianapolis Star). However, the GOP proposal to ban the EPA from controlling the gases needed 60 votes to pass. It failed on a 50-50 vote. "It would have a huge impact on Indiana, on industry, on agriculture, on everybody," Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., said of the agency's controlling emissions blamed for global warming. "It's a huge overreach by EPA." Indiana is the seventh-largest producer of heat-trapping gases among states, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., said the EPA's regulations will increase energy costs, amounting to a national energy tax.

Unfunded water mandate for FW

FORT WAYNE - Fort Wayne plans to borrow up to \$30 million to

change the way it disinfects the city's drinking water (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The Board of Public Works on Wednesday approved the city's request to seek financing from the Indiana State Revolving Fund for the estimated \$22 million project to install an ultraviolet disinfection system at the city's water plant. "We've been handed another unfunded mandate," said Len Poehler, City Utilities deputy director for business services.

Grand jury for Penn trustee

SOUTH BEND - The ghost employment case involving Penn Township trustee Jeffrey Dean has been turned over to a grand jury to investigate possible charges, the county prosecutor's office announced Wednesday (South Bend Tribune). Acting in conjunction with the State Board of Accounts, Mishawaka police launched an investigation into the two-term Democrat in October in regard to an SBA report that questioned some of his spending practices as trustee. In particular, the report pointed out that Dean had failed to keep work records related to a cleaning contract with employee Sarah Sharp, his administrative assistant and live-in girlfriend.

Candidate left off Hammond ballot

HAMMOND - A candidate in Hammond's 1st District Democratic primary was left off early ballots in Crown Point. Lake County election officials notified the Election Board's Democratic attorney just before 1 p.m. Monday that Matthew Kolanowski, who is challenging incumbent Mark Kalwinski, didn't appear on electronic voting machine screens. (NWI Times)