



Indiana's new super 'City Council'

Legislature waging home rule assault

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

PLAINFIELD - Most Hoosiers living in cities and towns probably believe their mayors and council members create their local ordinances. But the 2011 Indiana General Assembly has been on an assault of "home rule." It goes far beyond the plea of cities for local taxing options.

Indiana's emerging "City Council" at the Statehouse is poised to take away municipal rights when it comes to where weapons can be fired and carried, whether nursing homes can be built, whether fire districts can be established while one bill will prevent local apartment inspections.

"In this era of property tax caps, for the most part cities have done a pretty good job of dealing with those cuts," said Matt Geller, executive director of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. "Cities are finding efficiencies. There have been consolidations and cost cutting. Unfortunately this year the legislature has taken a city council approach to cities and towns. They are really cutting us off at the knees, taking away local control and home rule."

Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold, who is president of



IACT, cringes when it comes to SB292 sponsored by freshmen Sen. Jim Tomes and Rep. Mike Speedy. It takes away the ability for cities and towns to regulate where individuals may carry and fire a gun. The bill was amended in the House to allow certain local regulation of gun discharge. However, some are working to reverse the amendment. "I really don't care that people carry guns," said Seybold. "But when someone can fire a gun in their backyard and there's nothing a city can do about it, that's a problem. That might be OK in a smaller rural community, but let them debate that and make that decision locally."

Seybold, a Republican, is concerned that cities won't be able to keep guns out of city halls or parks.

State Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, authored S.B.

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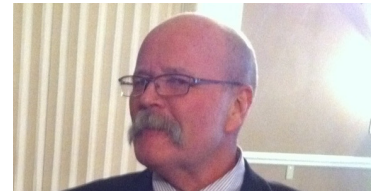
Gregg goes exploring

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - John Gregg was nervous.

Last night he would announce the formal establishment of a gubernatorial campaign committee as he was faced with a different audience. He had been doing Jefferson-Jackson dinners in rural counties. But Wednesday night he was addressing the Washington Township Democratic Club in Indianapolis. This is a mostly educated, professional group.

Would they buy into the



"The problem in America isn't Planned Parenthood. It's unplanned parenthood."

- John Gregg, in declaring the formation of a gubernatorial exploratory committee Wednesday



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emerging campaign of the man from tiny Sandborn?

After 30 minutes, Gregg received a standing ovation.

While he talked about the "opportunities" of clean coal technology, methane gas and 20 to 40 acre agricultural greenhouses all within 500 miles of markets in Atlanta, Detroit and Kansas City, he met many of the festering issues head on.

"What about FSSA?" Gregg asked. "They were going to privatize it. It was another one of their great switches. They tried it. They pulled it back. Now we have a billion dollars of pending lawsuits. Those are misguided opportunities."

Gregg turned to abortion. "I want to share with you something you may already know," he began. "I'm in the minority of our party on a social issue dealing with choice. I am one of those pro-life Democrats. The great thing about our party is we invite everybody in regardless of where we are on that issue. We agree on about 85 percent of the issues. But they want to talk about that issue. And now they want to talk about Planned Parenthood. The problem in America isn't Planned Parenthood, it's unplanned parenthood."

The crowd of about 100 laughed and applauded.

"It's unplanned parenthood," Gregg repeated, taking aim at U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, his probable opponent. "For those who don't know,

have you ever looked and seen about Planned Parenthood? Have you seen what they do? They do health screenings, birth control, counseling. They do cancer screenings for women and men, a preventative measure. I'm going on seven years of being cancer free due to early detection."

"Frankly," Gregg continued, "I'm insulted they want to take away preventative health care from people. That's just not right. We don't do that. These are for people who can't afford to go anywhere else. That's not an opportunity. We need to be concentrating on jobs. But they don't want to do that because it's the same old wedge issue that they've had for years. They don't want a lot of these wedge issues to go away."

Asked if he would push anti-abortion laws, Gregg said that as speaker he did not hand down a single abortion bill. "The U.S. Supreme Court has made it the law of the land."

Gregg talked about the GOP "attacks" on unions and public education.

"They want to make it a Right to Work state," he said. "They are settling old scores. They were doing the wedge, the fear, the divide, the conquer."

As for public education, Gregg appeared to evolve. "We've been a little lax at time," he said of Democrats. "I've got to be candid. Some of our public school systems have some major problems and we've probably



been a little wrong not to admit that and not to look at ways to solve that. I truly think we have been. But they want to dismantle it with a voucher system and solve it with a charter system. They only serve 2 percent of the students. We need to concentrate on education. We need to take that great teacher and we need to empower them. We need to get them more involved. We've got to help the poor teachers. And you know what? If they can't get better they need to go somewhere else."

Then Gregg described a culture of fear. "They always do fear, they always do wedge. They demonize us. We're not going to let them do that anymore. I'm not going to let them define me and I'm not going to let them define you."

"You want to talk about a social issue? Here in Marion County tonight there are going to be 25,000 kids who go to bed hungry," Gregg said. "That's a social issue. You know another social issue? Nine percent unemployment. They aren't doing anything about it. The next gover-

nor needs to be working with all the people in the state. He needs to make jobs No. 1. The second thing is jobs. The third thing is jobs. We've got to work together. We need to have a big table."

"They want to talk about radical. I'll tell you what, I'm radically reasonable. I really am. That's what we all need to be. We've got to work together. The next governor ought to unite us, not divide us." He noted that during two of his six years as House Speaker, there was a 50/50 split. "For every bill that passed out of the House, we had to have at least one Republican," Gregg explained. "How did we get it? We worked together. We worked together and we can work together. We've got to find our common ground and be radically reasonable with this."

"I am convinced I can help people get together. I've given it some serious thought and I will announce in May an exploratory committee for governor. I'm excited about it," Gregg said.

Indianapolis Democrats were, too. ❖

Cities, from page 1

292 to eliminate what he calls a "patchwork of rules across Indiana that can land law-abiding, licensed gun carriers in trouble." Speedy explained, "These local ordinances never stop the criminals, because criminals by their very definition are intent on breaking the law and harming others. Often feel-good ordinances do impinge upon this right."

State Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, noted that guns and other weaponry are banned at the Statehouse. "We want people to be able to carry guns anywhere they want to take them, yet still when we come to this governmental building, we want to be protected," Smith said. "When you come in here, you see signage that says you can't bring certain things in the building. We're concerned about our safety, but we're not concerned about the safety of people in restaurants, barber shops, sports arenas, the grocery store -- where you ought to feel like you're safe."

Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr., said that when the Chicago Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup, the city was faced with celebratory gunfire. "They don't realize when they fire bullets in the air, the bullets come down. I understand the person's right to carry. But we just had a congresswoman maimed and we had a workplace shooting in Portage. It makes me nervous. I don't carry, but maybe I need to rethink that decision. A lot of problems are caused by irresponsible gunowners."



"We're going too far to the right," McDermott said. Seybold is unsure where Gov. Mitch Daniels stands on the issue. "We've talked to the governor's legislative team," he said. "I don't think he's really been engaged on the bill yet. They are looking at whether they can live with this." SB 292 has passed the House and Senate, has been returned to the Senate amended and is awaiting action there.

Gov. Mitch Daniels signed a bill in 2010 that keeps companies from disallowing employees to keep guns in their cars. In signing that bill, Daniels noted the constitutional right to bear arms "should be infringed only for the most compelling of reasons," and added, "The understandable concerns raised against the bill do not suffice to justify a trespass on a fundamental right so expressly protected by our founding documents."

Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight, a Democrat, sees inconsistency with the new Indiana City Council at the Statehouse. "Part of it bothers me philosophically," Goodnight explained. "These legislators and our state government don't like it when the federal government tells them what do do. Yet they come down and tell us what we can do. I think it's wrong. The other part that bothers me is there's a lot of issues out there and they are not focused on the economy and things that will turn the state around."

Seybold is concerned about another Speedy bill - HB 1543 - which would take away local's ability to inspect and regulate rental properties. "I always bring it back to the kids," Seybold said, noting that about 30 percent of



housing in Marion is classified rental. Other college cities and towns such as Bloomington, West Lafayette, South Bend and Muncie have large clusters of rental homes. He said that his city has a property maintenance schedule for rental properties to cut down on safety hazards such as exposed electrical wires. "We want to make sure our citizens aren't living in squalor," Seybold said. "We've got cases where people will buy these houses for as little as \$1,000 at a tax sale. They might put some paint on the wall and then let people live in it."

McDermott noted that HB1543 "is aimed at Hammond" after the city began assessing fees for rental inspections. Again, with the property tax caps, cities began to look for efficiencies.

"We increased the inspection fees to cover the entire costs," McDermott said. "Ninety percent of the work they do is on rental properties. We took it off the property tax roles. With the caps we have to do it by fees."

HB1543 has passed the Indiana House and is up for second reading in the Senate.

HB 1096 authored by State Rep. Bob Cherry, would place a cap on fire territory levies, which would severely limit future territories from forming and thereby limit smart collaboration. "The governor and the Kernan-Shepard Commission talked about how local government needs to be modernized," Greller said. "One of the ways to do that is the use of fire territories. Cities are providing fire protection to townships and many times townships are paying far below market values." Greller noted that State Sen. Beverly Gard resides in an unincorporated area, her home became part of a new fire territory and her taxes spiked. She filed a bill that puts moratorium on creating fire territories. HB1096 passed House Committee, but was never called on 2nd Reading. A related amendment was offered in Senate Tax & Fiscal Policy to HB 1007, but the amendment was held after hearing testimony. It is eligible for amendment into a bill during conference committee.

Other bills that IACT says infringe on local home rule include:

- **HB 1046** (Crouch, Hershman) gives a property

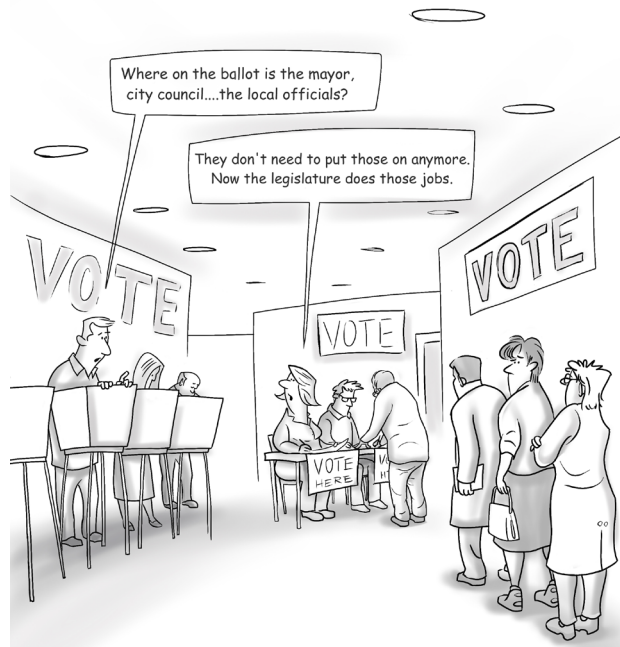
tax deduction to new, unsold, unoccupied residences. This measure is in addition to the existing "model home deduction," which means builders can take a property tax deduction on up to six homes. This takes away from municipal property tax base and will do little (or nothing) to stimulate economic growth. Further, it takes the matter out of the local's hands. Some cities and towns have already begun addressing this by providing property tax abatements. "Let the locals, who depend upon that tax base to fund services, determine whether a tax deduction is appropriate for their community," IACT says. It has passed the House and Senate, returned to the House with amendment and is awaiting House action.

- **HB 1170** (Morris) restricts and dictates how public safety LOIT dollars can be spent. The Indiana Code already specifies that revenue from Public Safety LOIT must be spent on public safety services. "Further restrictions would handicap cities and towns' ability to create smart and efficient budgets," IACT believes. "Just as the federal government should not dictate how state's appropriate its tax dollars, the state should not dictate how cities and towns spend its public safety dollars. Every community has different needs, and it should be up to the local officials and voters to determine what's best." It passed the House, never heard in the Senate and is eligible for amendment into a bill during conference committee.

• **HB 1216** (Davis), as introduced, would take away the option for cities and towns to use a Project Labor Agreement in public works projects. "While we do appreciate Rep. Davis's amendment to put the matter to a referendum vote, we believe the voters already have a say in elections, when they choose who will lead their city or town," IACT believes. It has passed the House and Senate, returned to the House amended and is awaiting action there.

• **HB 1538** (Speedy) prohibits a unit setting minimum wage higher than what federal or state law requires. "Why take this option away?" IACT asks. "Higher wages tend to mean higher standards of living. If a community desires higher wages, it should have the right to do so." It has passed the House and is eligible for third reading in the Senate.

• **SB 10** (Buck, Cherry) limits remonstrance waivers to 10 years. "Today, these waivers provide an incentive



Cartoon by Paul Gaunt



for cities and towns to extend water and sewer lines to unincorporated areas, which is often done in an effort to stimulate economic growth," IACT believes. "Limiting the waivers to 10 years would severely limit water and sewer extensions and smart economic growth. Let the cities and towns negotiate with the residents. If a limit is applied to remonstrance waivers, a more appropriate time frame would be 25 years." It passed the Senate, was never heard in the House and is eligible for amendment into a bill during conference committee.

- **SB 54** (Holdman, Soliday) takes away the ability for local units to "monitor, supervise, evaluate, or regulate" a video service provider. According to Indiana Code today, local governments cannot regulate or supervise a video service provider. However, monitoring and evaluating should be the right of any citizen or unit of government. "What is the justification for prohibiting any citizen or unit of government from evaluating a service provider?" IACT asks. "Local government, and any citizen in Indiana, should have the right to request information and evaluate data about any service provider, including cable TV providers. This bill is unnecessary and limits basic public information rights." This is awaiting Gov. Daniels decision.

- **SB 69** (Gard, Cherry) makes many changes to the modernization statute for local government. SB 69 would eliminate remonstrance waivers, and make annexation more costly and difficult by requiring a unit to go to court and show 60% (instead of 51%) of the signatures from property owners in the proposed area to be annexed. It also would allow for "spot" annexation, which would result in poor planning and difficulty in delivering services, IACT believes. "These measures would severely limit future water and sewer line extensions, and impede economic development efforts for attracting new business," IACT notes. "Local government needs more tools, not less, for growing our economy and making Indiana an attractive place to live and work." It passed the Senate, was never heard in the Senate and is eligible for amendment into a bill during conference committee.

- **SB 440** (Hershman, Truitt) allows emergency service providers for unincorporated areas in a county to apply for LOIT distributions. This would decrease LOIT revenue for cities and towns, who would often have no voice in the matter. If a distribution is allowed, it should come from the county's portion of LOIT revenue, not from the municipalities, IACT believes. "Residents in cities and towns should not be subsidizing services for unincorporated areas, especially without a voice in how their tax dollars are spent. Let the locals keep their tax dollars at home," IACT notes. It passed the Senate, was never heard in the House and is eligible for amendment into a bill during conference committee.

- **SB 460** (Miller, T. Brown) extends a moratorium

on new nursing home Medicaid licenses, which would in effect place a moratorium on all new nursing home construction. "This bill is anti-free market and anti-consumer," IACT maintains. "It would bring to a halt the building of new nursing homes and the economic activity they bring to communities. Perhaps a more appropriate solution would be taking away Medicaid licenses from providers who cannot fill their beds, rather than preventing people from more, and often, better options." This is a real issue for cities, such as Marion, Brownsburg, Valparaiso and Chesterton, where the quality of existing Medicaid nursing homes beds is poor. Mayor Seybold noted that a developer opposed the renovation of a dilapidated nursing home in downtown Marion, had his position rejected by the city and vowed to use the General Assembly to back his position. It has passed the Senate and House committee and is eligible for second reading. It is also amended into HB1001 in Senate Committee and is eligible for second reading in the Senate.

- **SB 550** (Kenley, Burton), as introduced, would place restrictions and duplicative oversight by councils on Redevelopment Commissions. "These restrictions would have bogged down economic development activity across the state," IACT believes. "Councils do not have the time needed to focus on economic development, which is why RDC's were created. RDC members already serve at the discretion of the council and mayor. Their meetings are open to the public, and no debt is issued without council approval." Portions of SB 550 were amended into HB1007. "We appreciate Sen. Kenley's willingness to improve the bill from its initial form," IACT stated. "The changes originally proposed in SB 550 to Redevelopment Commissions would negatively impact their ability to stimulate economic growth, just when it is needed most. Let the local councils decide what kind of oversight is needed at the local level. A statewide mandate is unnecessary and would have unintended consequences to our economic efforts. SB550 passed the Senate but never received a hearing in the House. SB 550 was amended into HB1007 in Senate Appropriations. HB 1007 is eligible for second reading in the Senate.

- **SB 590** (Delph, Koch), as introduced, would have restricted local government from deciding whether English-only policies are right for their communities, while adding to the cost and workload of the police force. The English-only provisions were taken out of the bill in the House Public Policy Committee. "Cities and towns should have the option to print documents or speak in other languages (in addition to English) if they believe it is necessary and appropriate for their community," IACT maintains. It passed Senate and House Committee. Eligible for second reading in the House. ❖



Like a box of chocolates

By **RUSS STILWELL**

BOONVILLE - Tom Hank's character, Forrest Gump, in the blockbuster movie of 1994 had one of the most famous lines from a movie of all time. "My mamma always said, 'Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.'"



I would think that the 2011 Indiana General Assembly could be categorized much the same way. You never know what you're gonna get.

Who would have thought so much would have occurred in only one session of the legislature. I guess elections do have consequences. I would like to create a top ten, but the list just goes on and on and on and on.

In a session where the Republicans outnumbered Democrats 60-40 in the House and quorum-proof in the Senate, you would have expected the number one issue would be the budget, school reform, union bashing or some other Governor Mitch initiative.

Nope, the #1 story for 2011 will be about the historic walkout by Pat Bauer and the House Democrats over the overreaching antics of the new-found House majority.

As the years go by, all the ramblings of political pundits on the myriad of issues and bills that took place in 2011 will pale in comparison to the defiant action of the House Democrats. If you think things are bad now, just imagine what would have happened if the Dems had stayed glued to their seats.

The 2011 session will go down in history as one of the most sweeping, reform minded (both good and bad) legislative sessions in decades. And it's not even over yet! Here's some of my favorite "How do I explain this back home" initiatives.

Voucher -School Reform #1: Did I mention that we are going to have your state tax dollars going to private and religious schools? Some even have the audacity to have us believe that this will not take monies from our public schools with this largest voucher proposal in the nation.

Merit Pay Reform #2: Elimination of collective bargaining for all school employees and Merit Pay based on student performance. Bet our school employees and teachers will pay close attention to election 2012!

Forced Consolidation Reform #3: Let's make sure that our small schools (less than 500 students) get

\$100 less per pupil funding than everyone else. Or you could just say we gave \$100 more to everyone but them. Bet this creative thinking works just fine for all those small schools in competitive House districts. I'm looking forward to this explanation! Surely this isn't forced consolidation.

\$150M more or \$450M Less Reform #4:

Actually, this reform has two explanations. You be the judge. We increased K-12 funding by \$150 million in the budget. Or, you budgeted \$450 million less than budgeted in 2009 for K-12. Wanna bet that the R's and D's have completely different takes on this one?

UI Reform #5: We finally corrected the UI fund and made it solvent. Employers paid more and unemployed workers shared in the pain. I would bet that the D's will say that the R's cut UI benefits 25 percent and for good measure gave a corporate tax cut of 25 percent.

Stick it to 'em Reform #6: The R's would have you believe our Hoosier state was finally brought into the 21st Century with logical and well thought out labor proposals that will grow our economy and create jobs. Actually, I would think even the most ardent supporter of these draconian labor bills would say it was a "stick in the eye" of labor unions and working folks. Or maybe just politics 101 political payback.

Union Busting Reform #7: This list is actually too long to publish. Eliminate Project Labor Agreements. Make sure that our state employees never again belong to a union and ban collective bargaining for all state employees. Ever wonder why they wanted a union? Did I say fairness in the workplace and being treated as partners in our society?

Right to Work Reform #8: The Perfect Fix: Once we do everything possible to offend anyone even remotely favorable of working folks and labor unions, let's complete our agenda and pass Right-to-Work. Sure, we won't get any democrat votes but we can once and for all cripple those unions and their union bosses. And in the process we can end the primary support for the Democrats. Now, that didn't work out too well, did it? How many days did the Dems stay out? Did I say an energized Democrat base in 2012?

Clean Up Reform #9: A call to arms for our progressive Hoosier State. Let's make sure we change our constitution so we don't have gay marriage even though we have a law already on the books and there has never been a gay marriage or the threat of a gay marriage in our state's history. While we're at it, maybe the party of less government can make sure that local decision making is transferred to the state (guns, schools, taxes, labor, PLA's, collective bargaining & bunches more).

Say it ain't so Charlie White Reform #10: This is my favorite. Let's nominate an ineligible candidate for Secretary of State and see him win a landslide in our



Republican state. And once he's indicted for felony election registration fraud . . . and the Indiana Recount Commission rejects his removal . . . and a state court remands this back to the Recount Commission for another look . . . just change the law! I'm sure the Senate party line vote had nothing to do with a GOP power grab to undo the tidy little mess they find themselves in. Sure is hard to explain this

one with a straight face.

And I didn't even mention redistricting and a strong statewide ticket for Dems in 2012. Maybe we can save these for another day. Our legislative initiatives really are like a box of chocolates. ❖

Stilwell is former Democratic House majority leader.



Sizing up the GOP presidential field (if Mitch gets in)

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Sometime in the next two weeks, the most fascinating Hoosier political question in years will finally be answered: Is Mitch Daniels running for president?

The telltale signs strongly suggest it will be a "yes," though multiple informed and reliable sources continue to tell HPI that Daniels and his family have yet to make a final decision.

The Indiana General Assembly looks as though it will adjourn on time - April 29. Daniels is expected to get much of his education reform package passed. The Republican presidential field is emerging at a snail's pace. The GOP race is wide open. President Obama's approval rating

is at a historic low. Chatty aides have buttoned their lips. Daniels will address the American Enterprise Institute in Washington on May 4 on the topic of education reform. He appeared last week with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.



He was prepared to meet President Obama on the tarmac on April 8 - something he hasn't done before. First Lady Cheri Daniels will address the Indiana GOP Spring Dinner on May 12 - an uncharacteristically conspicuous format for her, though she

really appears to have grown to like the First Lady role and might be up to taking it to the next level. The First Daughters might be a different story.

Daniels' confidantes told HPI weeks ago that he was "90 percent" committed to run. He met with former President George W. Bush while in Dallas for the Super Bowl in February. He knows he can ride his Harley at Camp David if elected.



Most importantly, Daniels has staked out the most credible turf on the vital issues of the day - the "Red Menace" national deficits and debt, education reform and an alternative to Obamacare - that dovetail perfectly into the broiling debate on Capitol Hill and at Tea Party rallies, while Donald Trump talks about President Obama's birth certificate and Mike Huckabee about the unmarried Oscar winning actress Natalie Portman.

There is a growing chorus of Indiana congressional members urging Daniels to run for president. U.S. Sen. Dan Coats told the Northwest Indiana Times editorial board that he hopes Daniels seeks the White House.

"Mitch Daniels would be the very best president we could have in dealing with this problem," Coats said about how the governor would manage fiscal matters. U.S. Rep. Todd Young was asked last week if he was telling Daniels to run. "At every turn," Young said. "I am hungry for a big idea politician at the top of our ticket. We need Mitch Daniels or someone like him. No one else comes to mind right now. I want others to encourage him as well. Our country needs him." U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar has also discussed a presidential run with Daniels. Lugar told HPI in February, "In terms of substance, Mitch Daniels is an ideal candidate for these times."

The Daniels presidential flirtation is over a year in the making and it has all the hallmarks of a well-scripted dalliance, as was his 2002-04 emergence as an Indiana gubernatorial candidate. What Daniels couldn't count on was the retarded Republican field, and that term is used from a time and execution element as opposed to anyone's mental capacity. Because the field is so late in developing and the money spigots have been dripping - i.e. Newt Gingrich raised just \$53,000 in the first quarter - Daniels has found "luck" as an early ally.

Daniels told the Indianapolis Star last week, "It has to be pretty soon after (April 29). It's already, honestly, later than what I thought. I thought that anybody in this odd position would have to have had his hand forced by now." He also sees Obama as vulnerable. "My best guess is he's not a lock for re-election. People have pointed out there's a number of states like this one that he won last time that he is very unlikely to win the next time. If you peel away Indiana and North Carolina and Virginia and some say Florida, suddenly there's not a whole lot of margin for error left."

That assessment is important. If Daniels believed Obama was a lock for reelection - like President Reagan

appeared to be in 1983 - a more prudent course would be to wait for an open White House in 2016. Reagan was also below 50 percent at this point in 1983, the Washington Post reported, but April of that year marked the last time before his 1984 landslide that he did not have majority approval in Post-ABC polling. In spring 1995, then-President Bill Clinton was also on the upswing, falling below 50 percent only in June of that year.

But the other aspect is a widespread disillusionment with the current field, with billionaire Donald Trump finishing anywhere from first to third in recent polling. In hypothetical matchups for the general election, the President runs ahead of all seven potential GOP rivals tested in the new poll, the Washington Post reported. If the election were held now, Romney and Huckabee would mount the stiffest challenges, trailing Obama by four and six percentage points respectively, among all Americans as well as among registered voters. Obama has double-digit leads over the other five tested - a dozen points against Trump and Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.), 15 against Newt Gingrich and former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty and 17 points over Palin.

Pew Research reveals that Obama is benefitting from the fact that the GOP has yet to coalesce behind a candidate. About one in five (21%) Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters say they would like to see Mitt Romney win the nomination while about the same percentage (20%) chooses Mike Huckabee; 13% back Sarah Palin, 11% opt for Newt Gingrich and 8% back Ron Paul. At this early stage in the race, 15% of GOP voters have no preference.

The race for the Republican nomination has gotten off to a much slower start than the presidential race four years ago. The Pew Research Center's news interest surveys have found that the campaign is drawing far less coverage and public interest than the previous presidential campaign at this stage.

During the 2008 campaign, there were nomination races in both parties. Through the first 10 weeks of 2007, coverage of the campaign accounted for about 7% of all news coverage on average, according to an analysis of coverage by Pew Research's Project for Excellence in Journalism. Through the first 10 weeks of this year - a period that has seen a series of major international stories - coverage of the 2012 campaign has accounted for only about 1% of the news hole.

While much of the speculation has centered on whether Daniels will run, HPI trains our sights on the rest of the Republican field. In this review, it's easy to understand why Daniels sees a historic opening:



Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney will have problems talking about health reforms against President Obama.



Mitt Romney: If there is a perceived "front runner," it would be Romney. Gallup's Frank Newport notes that the former Massachusetts governor has decent name ID - 83 percent. "He certainly has name ID," Newport said. "We have another way at looking at this: the Gallup Positive Intensity score. Here Romney doesn't fare all that well. Romney at 17 percent. Bottom line on this: Romney has name ID, but he just hasn't attracted intense support and that's what he's going to need to get the nomination." Romney's biggest problem with Republican voters is probably over the health reforms in Massachusetts that are similar to "Obamacare" nationally. They know it will be tough for Romney to go after President Obama on the ACA reforms.

Donald Trump: The boastful billionaire is playing the Ross Perot role and saying things that other candidates can only think of. New York Times columnist David Brooks captured the phenomenon perfectly: "In every society, there are a few rare souls who rise above subservience, insecurity and concern. Each morning they take their own abrasive urges out for parade. They are so impressed by their achievements, so often reminded of their own obvious rightness, that every stray thought and synaptic ripple comes bursting out of their mouth fortified by impregnable certitude. When they have achieved this status they have entered the realm of Upper Blowhardia. These supremely accomplished blowhards offend some but also arouse intense loyalty in others. Their followers enjoy the brassiness of it all. They live vicariously through their hero's assertiveness. They delight in hearing those obnoxious things that others are only permitted to think."

Perot was a true phenomenon between January and May 1992. By that summer, his paranoia and lack of political instincts revealed themselves and he faded. Gal-



Donald Trump with NBC acolyte Gary Busey (top). Mama grizzly and half-term Gov. Sarah Palin at a morbid Thanksgiving photo op, and Rep. Michele Bachmann.

lup put Trump's fav/unfavs at 41/48 percent. The Donald will fade, too, once the birther wave crashes onto the rocks when Americans turn their attention to the perilous deficits.

Sarah Palin: An Alaska Poll this week had Mama Grizzly's unfavorables at 61 percent in her home state. National polling has been just as harsh. And this is before a tell-all book by a former aide is published on May 24. John Heilemann and Mark Halperin's 2010 book "Game Change" had a couple of bizarre chapters on Palin's 2008 veep run. Ultimately, GOP voters aren't up for a nominee whose family is a soap opera and who, as she put it this past week, "fights like a girl."

Mike Huckabee: There are two contrast disasters when it comes to GOP candidates and President Obama and the short, balding Daniels isn't one of them. That would be "Huck," who leads in early polling (and remember, he won the Iowa caucuses before fading in 2008.) Huckabee will get some traction with the religious right and will fade like he did in 2008. His admonishment of Natalie Portman will not play with independents. The big question about Huckabee is whether he can sustain a national campaign.

Gov. Haley Barbour: Here's the other problematic contrast with Obama. Barbour is wildly popular with Republicans as a party guy. He'll get support from some respectable sources if he runs - like Ohio Gov. John Kasich, and possibly Reagan White House colleague Daniels if he decides not to run. But I just can't get over the Mississippi Good Ol' Boy running against the Harvard, University of Chicago-bred Obama.

Tim Pawlenty: Unlike Romney or Palin, T-Paw has name ID problems. "His name recognition in New Hampshire and nationally is still under 50 percent. He's just not making a big impact right now. He's not unpopular but he's just not making a splash," said Tom Jensen, director of



Public Policy Polling in Raleigh, North Carolina (Politico).

"If he gets the nomination he will have backed into it, as the default," Jensen said. As for a contrast with Daniels, Minnesota is facing a \$5 billion budget shortfall. Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak slammed Pawlenty for his failed fiscal policies that saddled Minnesota with the largest deficit in the state's 152-year history. "He spends a lot of time criticizing President Obama whose stimulus program is about the only thing that kept this state from being a more serious economic disaster," he told reporters on a conference call. Minnesota's deficit is among the highest in the nation as a percentage of the state's general fund, slightly trailing beleaguered California.

Newt Gingrich: The former speaker's problem is he was having an affair with a staffer at a time when he was busy impeaching President Clinton for lying about fellatio with an intern. His defense of that on the Christian Broadcasting network was embarrassing. The story of his seeking a divorce from his cancerous wife is another problem. Gingrich is an ideas guy and needs to have a role with the GOP. But he won't escape his personal foibles.

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul: The Texas congressman is expected to enter the race in May and will have Tea Party support. But we see him as destined for a Perot-style fate.

Rep. Michele Bachmann: She is not a history professor, that's for sure. While she heads the House Tea Party caucus, she will split the Tea Party vote with Rep. Paul and others. And as we discussed with a potential Mike Pence presidential bid, there hasn't been a congressman elected to the White House since James A. Garfield.

Rick Santorum: There's only one person in America who realistically believes Santorum can be the next GOP nominee, and that's the former Pennsylvania senator himself. He will be a burr under Daniels' saddle, continually bringing up the "truce." Can't wait to see a Mitch vs. Rick in a debate format sometime this summer or fall.

Rudy Giuliani: John Connelly and Phil Gramm never recovered from big money machine candidates that attracted very few delegates. The former NYC mayor, with all his divorces and gay friends, won't find traction in today's little GOP tent.

Jon Huntsman: The former two-term Utah gov-

ernor and ambassador to China is an intriguing candidate. In some ways he's a lot like Daniels: a wealthy, Harley riding two-term governor with a national portfolio. The New York Times reported earlier this week, that "given his affiliation with Mr. Obama, Mr. Huntsman would seem to be

facing a tough time in a primary where anti-Obama sentiment runs high. But in a crowded field, with many Republicans signaling dissatisfaction with the candidates, his supporters hope he could get beyond short-term challenges with a long-term pitch of electability."

"The stage is set for an attractive new player who can inspire Republicans," said Richard Quinn, a Republican who attended the dinner with Huntsman two years ago and intends to support him if he runs. "By the time we get around to voting next year, the one thing that will pull Republicans together is beating Barack Obama." Out of this field - and beyond Daniels - Huntsman may be the most intriguing possibility in the GOP field.

Herman Cain: Who dat? Cain, 65, is a retired executive at Pillsbury, Burger King and Godfather's Pizza. He pitches himself as a turn-around artist who would use his business talents to revive the nation's economy, according to the Des Moines Register. "Herman Cain is a problem solver, not a politician," he said. "When people look at my track record, they'll see it's a track record of success against the odds." Just not in 2012.

John Bolton: Please. Hey, maybe I should run. Next envelope.

Buddy Roemer: Ditto for the former Louisiana governor.

HPI's Analysis: At this writing, we see Daniels as a likely candidate. In our analysis of the field, we see Daniels as gaining immediate traction with an early infusion of "Bush money" and campaign assets that are in place in Iowa and New Hampshire.

We believe he can form a campaign that will be visible within days and viable within a month or two. He will gear momentum to peak after the first of the year. We see Daniels' primary opponents - say by next November - as Ambassador Huntsman, one of the Tea Party candidates, possibly Barbour if he performs well in South Carolina, and Huckabee if he can find campaign sustainability. ❖

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

Based on Republicans/Republican leaners familiar with each candidate

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

* % 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



Scandals dog Daniels on eve of announcement

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - Gov. Mitch Daniels is increasingly being dogged by a series of scandals that threaten to undercut his possible presidential bid. Even as Republicans in Washington are pressing the governor to enter the presidential race to rescue the party from a decidedly weak field, Daniels has been scrambling to deal with embarrassing distractions back home in Indiana.



This week, Governor Daniels and Indiana Republicans were pushing back on two fronts. First, the Republican controlled state Senate passed legislation along party lines that would retroactively change election law to empower the governor rather than voters to replace embattled Secretary of State Charlie White, who was indicted last month on seven

felony counts of voter fraud, perjury, and theft. White, a long-time Daniels friend, fundraiser, and former GOP county chair, was handpicked by the governor to run for the statewide post in 2010.

While remaining silent when White's problems surfaced prior to the November election, Daniels now wants the law changed to allow him to name White's successor without an election. State law currently provides that an officeholder who is removed from office due to lack of proper legal standing must be replaced by the runner-up, in this case Democrat Vop Osili.

The existing law is modeled on sporting contests, such as the Olympics, where a medal winner found to have cheated forfeits the medal and the medal is awarded to the runner-up. Democrats have initiated action to have White declared ineligible to run because he was not legally registered to vote, a move which if successful would result in Osili automatically becoming Secretary of State.

The Republicans in changing the law not only, in effect, concede White's ineligibility to hold office, but also compound Daniels' political predicament. At a time when the governor is trying to present himself nationally as a reformer, he is shown behind the scenes in Indiana to be thwarting state law and subverting the rights of voters. It is the kind of power play one might expect from a machine politician rather than a self-professed reformer.

Daniels second embarrassment this week relates

to revelations involving the long-standing controversy over Indiana's department of social services that were privatized by the governor. According to IBM, the company the state contracted to run Indiana's welfare system, Daniels' own e-mails indicate he was deeply involved in overseeing the deal which has uniformly been characterized—even by the governor himself—as a debacle costing taxpayers millions of dollars.

Now Daniels' lawyers are fighting an attempt by IBM to depose the governor as a part of the lawsuit filed by the state against IBM, creating the impression he has something to hide. What's worse is that the whole matter cuts against a carefully cultivated national image that Indiana under Daniels' leadership is a model for the whole country.

Finally, Daniels has had to deal with questions about his relationship with Indianapolis investor Tim Durham, who was arrested last month on federal charges that he defrauded millions of investors in a Bernard Madoff-type scheme. Daniels and Hoosier Republicans collected upwards of \$1 millions from Durham. The Durham affair raises questions about whether Daniels and other state officials turned a blind eye to Durham's illegal scheme as it unfolded in exchange for his financial generosity.

Daniels' growing problems may explain his ambivalence about a presidential run. As a former political operative, Daniels is acutely aware of the scrutiny he will face should he become a national candidate. The Indiana and conservative press have so far treated him with kid gloves. That will change as national reporters scour his record. In a presidential race, a record that appears to be a model for the country can be quickly turned into fodder for campaign attack ads.

In 1988, Michael Dukakis ran for president touting the "Massachusetts miracle," an accomplishment that helped carry him to the Democratic nomination. Indeed, the state enjoyed an economic rebirth under Dukakis' leadership. But the campaign of George H. W. Bush, led by campaign manager Lee Atwater, savaged Dukakis with attacks on other parts of the governor's record, namely the early release of a violent criminal named Willie Horton and violations of environmental law.

As the scandals in Indiana mount, Daniels could begin to look like a Republican version of Michael Dukakis—or worse. ❖

Sautter is a Democratic political consultant based in Washington.



Chocola urges Lugar to retire

WASHINGTON - The president of the Club for Growth encouraged longtime Sen. Dick Lugar (R-Ind.) to retire Tuesday rather than seek another term in 2012, warning that the group could get involved in the effort to oust Lugar in a primary (The Hill).

In an interview on ABC's "Top Line" webcast, Club for Growth President Chris Chocola said while no decisions have been made as to whether the club will officially weigh in on the race between Lugar and Indiana State Treasurer Richard Mourdock (R), "we do have some concerns about Sen. Lugar and his service."

"We think it would probably be best if he would retire at this point," Chocola said of Lugar, who has vowed to beat back a primary challenge and win another term in 2012. "We haven't made any decisions at this point, but we are looking at it very closely, and it's one of the races very high on our radar."

Chocola said the group is also waiting to see whether strong primary challenges to GOP Sens. Olympia Snowe (Maine) and Orrin Hatch (Utah) develop ahead of next year.

Backing from the Club for Growth could translate into a significant fundraising boon for Mourdock if the group endorsed in the primary and used its network to help raise money.

Chocola also continued his group's battle with real estate mogul Donald Trump on Tuesday, telling "Top Line" that while Trump is a "great showman," he's no fiscal conservative. "We are not fearful of his candidacy at all, but he is not conservative, he is not pro-growth and he is not a good choice for economic conservatives," Chocola said of Trump.

U.S. Senate

State Treasurer Richard Mourdock announced that the Hoosiers for Richard Mourdock committee has raised \$157,689.70 from 643 donors since announcing his candidacy for the U.S. Senate on February 22nd of this year (Howey Politics Indiana). "I am extremely pleased that we raised over \$157,000 in the first quarter of 2011, given the fact we have only been up and running as a campaign for little over a month," explained Treasurer Mourdock. "Hoosiers are ready for new leadership in the

United States Senate from Indiana." As of March 31st, the Mourdock campaign received a daily average of over \$3,770 in contributions with the average donation being a little over \$222.00. Cash on hand at the end of the quarter was \$121,732.28. The Mourdock campaign's numbers were bolstered by successful fundraising events toward the end of the quarter, including an appearance by Fox News analyst Dick Morris. The Mourdock campaign said that a complete copy of the first quarter FEC report has been posted www.fec.gov, but as of this morning it has not.

Mayoral races

Bloomington

Democrat: Mayor Mark Kruzan, John Hamilton, John Gusan. **2007 Results:** Kruzan (D) 5,937, Sabbagh (R) 3,729. **Outlook:** Hamilton announced yesterday that his campaign raised nearly \$86,000 since he launched his campaign in mid-January, ending the April 8th reporting period with roughly \$54,000 cash on hand (Howey Politics Indiana). "This campaign has been building momentum since day one, and this fundraising report helps show that Bloomington is ready for new, energetic leadership to move this city forward," Hamilton said. Kruzan raised \$36,000 since January 1st, and although having began the year with \$26,000, reported roughly \$35,000 cash on hand. Hamilton noted that his campaign had over 200 individual contributors from within city limits, raising over \$55,000 from Bloomington residents – double what Kruzan raised within Bloomington. Kruzan reported roughly \$14,000 in itemized donations from Bloomington, and an additional \$10,000 in unitemized contributions. "I have personally knocked on thousands of doors and held parties in dozens of living rooms across the city, and the message is always the same – we're too good a city not to be better," Hamilton said.

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:** Having already raised about \$260,000 over the past two years in his bid for a fifth term, Brainard hasn't collected cash at the same aggressive pace down the homestretch as in the past (Indianapolis Star). One reason? He already has enough cash in the bank, he said Friday. Brainard said he hasn't held many fundraisers since the start of the year and has collected only \$36,550, according to his campaign finance report, filed at Friday's deadline. "We're going to continue to keep working as we always do, but the trends are very positive," Brainard said about this year's campaign. Having spent \$91,148 since the beginning of the year, Brainard still has





\$112,311 left in his war chest. During the same pre-primary period in 2007, he raised nearly \$158,000. Brainard has taken criticism for his willingness to accept contributions from those who do business with the city -- although it's a common practice for many elected officials. "We're always very careful, and we don't let it influence us," Brainard said. "They see the direction Carmel is headed and support us." The powerful Hamilton County Republican has a strong lead over his opponents in fundraising for the May 3 primary. Carmel City Councilman John Accetturo has raised \$15,244 since the beginning of the year. Internet business owner Marnin Spigelman has \$3,197, although only about \$600 was privately raised. Spigelman, who loaned himself money for his last run for mayor in 2007 and this primary, is still owed \$13,700 from his campaign fund.. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Brainard

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:** Ask Rick Davis how he raised more money this quarter than Troy Tornatta in the Democratic primary for Evansville mayor, and he summons the pungent aroma of barbecued ribs (Langhorne, Evansville Courier & Press). Davis, Vanderburgh County's treasurer, scooped up \$51,856 in cash contributions to the \$41,396 raised by Tornatta, a former county commissioner, according to campaign finance reports submitted Friday. The reporting period was Jan. 1 through April 8. Tornatta did score another \$6,500 this week in "large contributions" of \$1,000 or more that are required to be reported within 48 hours of receipt. Davis said he outpaced Tornatta with fundraising that is low-dollar and high-volume. He cited a recent \$30-per-person fundraiser at the Main Gate Bar & Grill and a \$10-per-person breakfast in March. "I had a March Madness barbecue fundraiser - \$20 a slab of ribs, and we also had chicken and pork butts - and I spent \$6,675.09 on meat," Davis said. "That tells you a whole lot of people ordered slabs of ribs. But owing largely to the \$38,706 he had left over from his unsuccessful 2010 county commissioners reelection campaign, Tornatta reports significantly more cash on-hand than Davis heading into the campaign's stretch run. Tornatta reports \$33,797 left over with no debt, compared to Davis's \$753 and the \$5,605 that his campaign owes him and Adams. **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:** Fort Wayne's Republican mayoral candidates attempted to differentiate themselves Wednesday evening, but they all agreed on one thing: Mayor Tom Henry must go (Lanka, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The Allen County Republican Party's mayoral forum essentially turned into a 90-minute assault on the Democratic mayor's administration. While all the candidates were cordial to each other, they each offered stinging criticism of the sitting city executive. The critiques began early at the debate at Indiana Tech when moderator Pat Miller of WOWO-AM 1190 told the crowd of about 80 the city would be better off with any of the Republican candidates in the mayor's office. Each candidate was asked to grade Henry, and the Republicans offered nearly no hesitation in failing him. City Councilwoman Liz Brown said Henry is simply not doing his job as the city languishes in a difficult economy. "I think he's failing," she said. "Maybe I would give him extra credit if I thought he was doing a good job of cutting ribbons." Paula Hughes, a former Allen County councilwoman, said the mayor is failing because he's satisfied with the status quo. She said Fort Wayne seems to be on a Sunday stroll while the rest of the country is getting to work. "We need a mayor that's going to help us get to work," she said. Businessman Eric Doden shied away from giving Henry a letter grade. While he said Henry was a nice person, he did not believe the mayor has shown the drive and passion to help the community's economy improve. "Our city can't take another four years of a ceremonial mayor," he said. WANE-TV reported Eric Doden has spent \$145,076 so far. Paula Hughes has spent \$111,037. Liz Brown has spent \$30,814. "I did not ask people for money if I didn't need the money to spend for this campaign," Brown said. "There's still another campaign after this one for the mayor's race after we get through the primary." Both Doden and Hughes admit they've spent several thousand dollars on campaign consultants. Brown decided against using political consultants. "In terms of someone telling me what to say and forming the issues, I'm pretty straight forward. So, I don't think I need someone else to form my message for me," Brown said.

With just more than two weeks before Election Day, many of the typical signs of spring have arrived (Lanka, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Yard signs have popped up along city streets, and candidates are often seen walking from neighborhood to neighborhood. Beyond those signs, the race among Republicans for Fort Wayne's mayoral nomination has remained fairly quiet. A few ads have aired on radio and television, but for some residents it might be difficult to know there is a contested race ongoing. "We're three weeks out, and you'd expect to be hearing more," said Andy Downs, director of the Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics at IPFW. The calm could



be deceiving, as the three major Republican candidates – Liz Brown, Eric Doden and Paula Hughes – work to connect with Republican voters. With a race involving about 20,000 voters, mass media hits might not be necessary. As technology and information-gathering evolve, Downs said candidates can accurately target people likely to participate in a Republican primary. Hitting those people with direct mail, phone calls and personal visits can be a more effective way to build support. “Most of the primary race is behind the scenes,” Doden said, with Brown and Hughes offering similar views. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Brown

Franklin

Republican: James C. Callon, Joe McGuinness. **Independent:** Mayor Fred Paris. **Outlook:** McGuinness has raised more so far, with \$10,008 collected this year, compared with Callon’s \$4,490. The primary winner will challenge incumbent Mayor Fred Paris, an independent, on Election Day. (Indianapolis Star) **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans McGuinness

Greenwood

Republican: Mayor Charles Henderson, Bob Dine, Mark Myers, Don Allen Waggoner. **Outlook:** Mayor Charles Henderson has raised \$7,200 this year, and he still has \$22,974 to spend in his bid for a fifth term. He faces a challenge in the Republican primary from three men. Greenwood Police Lt. Bob Dine, a former Greenwood police chief, has raised \$2,550. Mark Myers, a private safety adviser and son of former Greenwood Mayor Larry Myers, has raised \$6,634. Don Allen Waggoner, a businessman who failed in his bid for mayor about 20 years ago, did not have a form on file. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Likely Henderson.

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. **Outlook:** Lawyers for Republican George Janiec are asking the Indiana Court of Appeals to cancel and rerun the May 3 Hammond mayoral primary if Janiec isn’t part of it. They made the request this week in a 38-page legal brief seeking to overturn last month’s decision by the county elections board to remove Janiec as a mayoral candidate and Lake Superior Court Judge Jesse Villalpando’s refusal to restore Janiec’s candidacy. The appellate court hasn’t set a date to hear the matter. Janiec is asking the appeals court to rule on his status as a candidate before Wednesday. If it cannot act that quickly, attorneys R. Cordell Funk, of Schererville, and William Fine, of Highland, will request a May 3 election without him void. “If this court cannot rule before April 27, 2011, then in addition, Janiec requests that the

court void the Republican and Democratic primary results for the position of Mayor of the City of Hammond and order the elections board to promptly rehold that primary as far in advance of the November 2011 general election as possible,” the attorneys wrote. **Horse Race Status:** Leans McDermott

Hobart

Democrat: Mayor Brian K. Snedecor, Linda Buzinec. **Independent:** Chip Greenberg. **2007 Results:** Snedecor (D) 3,639, Guthrie (R) 2,426. **Outlook:** The city’s former three-term mayor, Linda Buzinec, wants her old job back (Lavery, NWI Times). It’s a position Mayor Brian Snedecor has held for more than three years and one he intends to keep. “The feeling I have is I look around the city and I think actions speak louder than words. We have been a community that has weathered some tough economic times, but we have become stronger and more responsive to our residents,” Snedecor said. Buzinec believes she would make a better leader for the city she loves. “Hobart is my passion. Hobart needs a leader who will make tough decisions,” Buzinec said. The city’s two well-known Democrats are vying for the position of mayor in the May 3 election primary. Buzinec, who also served for two terms on the City Council, said she wants to become mayor again because she doesn’t believe Snedecor is doing a good job. “I’m upset by the lack of financial discipline and the opportunities missed,” Buzinec said. The lack of financial discipline she refers to includes the \$617,000 in legal fees paid to three attorneys representing the city during 2009 and 2010. The missed opportunities, she said, include the city not making the deadline for applying for a \$500,000 grant for 20 to 24 new squad cars. “We have no master plan; no vision. I have thoughts for what I’d like to do with the city,” Buzinec said. Snedecor, a retired Hobart police officer who served as Buzinec’s police chief, defends his record as mayor. “We’ve done a lot in only a little more than three years. ... We weren’t afraid to step up and get things done,” Snedecor said. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Snedecor

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:** Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and his leading Democratic challenger, Melina Kennedy, have each raised more than \$500,000 since the start of the year (Murray, Indianapolis Star). Last week their campaigns will turn in finance reports showing impressive war chests before the May 3 primary. The campaigns provided summaries and lists of contributors to The Indianapolis Star on Thursday. As of last week, Ballard, who is unopposed for the Republican nomination, had \$2 million in the bank



after raising \$715,000 since Jan. 1. Kennedy had nearly \$1.3 million after raising \$510,000. Kennedy, her party's endorsed candidate, faces Ron Gibson and Samuel Carson Sr. in the Democratic primary. Libertarian Richard Kent also is running. During the short period, Ballard and Kennedy each raised well over half of what they raised during all of last year. "The depth and breadth of our support continues to grow," said Kennedy campaign spokesman Jon Mills. "We're already competitive. We hope that (the fundraising) adds momentum to the campaign. More importantly, it will help to get our message out." Said state Sen. Jim Merritt, Ballard's campaign chairman: "Running a campaign with those dollars is important, but his grass-roots work last campaign and his grass-roots work as mayor are the key to his success in November. His energy and reaching out to all people in Indianapolis is definitely his strong suit." **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Kennedy

New Albany

Democrat: Irv Stumler, Jeff Gahan, Paul Etheridge. Republican: none. **2007 Results:** England 4,018, Hubbard (R) 3,744. **Outlook:** Sources have told HPI that Stumler was being recruited by New Albany Republicans to run on their ticket when he informed them that he would run as a Democrat. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Stumler

Noblesville

Republican: Mayor John Ditslear, Steve Brown. **Outlook:** Ditslear wasn't as aggressive in his fundraising as in the past and has raised just \$2,100, since Jan. 1. However, he has more than \$107,000 in the bank as he seeks a third term. Ditslear is being challenged in the Republican primary by political unknown Steve Brown, the manager of a local golf store, who has raised a little less than \$775. (Indianapolis Star). **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Ditslear

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:** Democratic mayoral candidate Pete Buttigieg reported raising \$229,875.71 - more than double his two closest opponents - and has \$127,192 cash on hand. State Rep. Ryan Dvorak reported \$100,063.12 and his Cash on hand throughout April 8 was \$69,204.79. St. Joseph Councilman Mike Hamman raised \$56,009 and had \$19,382.82 cash on hand (Howey Politics Indiana). **Horse Race Status:** Tos-sup

Terre Haute

Democrat: Fred Nation, Harrison Township Assessor Mick Love, Clarence Sloughers. **Republican:** Mayor Duke Ben-

nett. **2007 Results:** Bennett (R) 6,055, Burke (D) 5,948. **Outlook:** Mayor Duke Bennett led all 2011 city election candidates in first-quarter fundraising, according to documents filed last week with Vigo County officials (Foulkes, Terre Haute Tribune-Star). Bennett, a Republican who is seeking reelection in November, raised more than \$50,000 between Jan. 1 and April 8, which is known as the "pre-primary" reporting period. Bennett, who is attempting to become the first Terre Haute mayor to win reelection since Democrat Pete Chalos won his last electoral victory 20 years ago, is unopposed in the GOP mayoral primary. Fred Nation, who is seeking the Democratic Party's nomination to face Bennett in November, raised the next-highest total in the first quarter. Nation, an official with the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, raised \$43,705 in the first quarter. The next highest quarterly total went to Democrat Mick Love, who is also seeking his party's nomination to run for mayor in November. Love, the Harrison Township assessor, reported raising \$11,077 in the first quarter of 2011. Love appears to be Nation's main rival for the Democratic Party's nomination in the May 3 primary election. Love said he stands by allegations he made earlier this month against one of his Democratic opponents, Fred Nation (Foulkes, Terre Haute Tribune-Star). Last week, Love said his allegation that Nation supported Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels' agenda was based on a "reliable source" whom he would not identify. Love said in a news release issued by his campaign that he has looked into the allegations he made against Nation and "believes" they are true. "I believe all my statements are true," Love said. "It's not dirty politics, it's just what I believe." Love could not be reached later Thursday to state whether he was still basing his allegation on the unidentified source. Nation called a news conference last week to object to a flier printed by the Love campaign that claimed, among other things, that Nation supports "the Governor's position against labor." Nation said that statement is untrue and asked Love to destroy all copies of the flier. Nation, reached Thursday, questioned the news value of Love's latest statement, noting Love does not offer any proof of his allegation. "Where is his evidence?" Nation asked. "I would submit there's no news here. No facts are being presented." Love said, "I'm just saying I've heard enough to make me believe that." **Primary Horse Race Status:** Leans Nation

Westfield

Republican: Mayor Andy Cook, Russell Cameron. Democrat: Kurt Maddox. **Outlook:** a Republican, has raised \$33,680 in his bid for a second term, far more than his primary rival, local businessman and longtime critic Russell Cameron, who has raised \$5,165. **Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Cook ❖



Jackie's new district

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - It's drawn as "Jackie's district," one in which Jackie Walorski will run and Joe Donnelly may not.

Let's consider some questions about the new 2nd Congressional District drawn by Republican redistricting architects in the Republican-controlled Indiana General Assembly.



Q. Does the new district make it a lot more likely that Walorski, who lost narrowly as the 2010 Republican challenger, will win in 2012?

A. Yes.

Q. So, Walorski is likely to defeat Donnelly, the Democratic incumbent, in a 2012 rematch in the new district?

A. Not necessarily.

Q. Wait. If she's a lot more likely to win, isn't he likely to lose in the new 2nd?

A. Not if he doesn't run for re-election. The new district makes it more likely that Donnelly will instead run statewide for the Democratic nomination for U.S. senator. His chances of winning statewide could be better than running in a new district with a whole lot more Republican flavor.

Q. What changes make it so Republican?

A. LaPorte County, Donnelly's best in vote percentage, is split, with heavily Democratic precincts in the Michigan City area shifted into the 1st District. A large portion of Kosciusko County, one of the most Republican counties in the state, is added. All of Elkhart County with all of its Republican vote potential is in. Only the Elkhart city area has been in the 2nd. Kokomo, which gave Donnelly a slight margin, is gone.

Q. Was this new district a surprise?

A. Not to readers of this column. These were obvious moves to make the district more Republican.

Q. But didn't Donnelly express disappointment and say "it appears that politics played a role in drawing" the map?

A. Oh, no! Politics in redistricting? Donnelly and Democratic leaders wouldn't have been looking at Donnelly for the Senate race if they figured his district would be drawn in a kindly way by the Republican architects.

Q. Yeah, but didn't those Republican architects insist they weren't playing politics, just drawing more compact districts with fewer strange shapes and split counties than Democrats designed in the last redistricting?

A. Republicans did draw more compact districts. But they of course knew exactly what they were doing politically in drawing the new 2nd.

Q. This is only proposed. Will it pass?

A. Will summer be warmer than winter? Will Donald Trump go to hair-raising extremes for publicity? Will Notre Dame play Navy?

Q. Why so sure?

A. It's the carefully crafted Republican plan, presented in both the Republican-controlled House and the Republican-controlled Senate and intended for signature by Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican. You could say the odds are overwhelming. And that would be an understatement.

Q. What can Democrats do to stop it?

A. Nothing, unless House Democrats want to suffer through more weeks in Urbana, Ill. They don't. And another walkout, especially over redistricting politics rather than jobs, would be a disaster.

Q. So, is this new 2nd District certain to be represented by Congresswoman Walorski?

A. Likely. Not certain. Few things are certain in politics this far before an election. Walorski knows this and has already launched her campaign. St. Joseph County, where she lost big, will still be in the new 10-county district.

Q. Could Donnelly win if he ran for re-election?

A. He would have a better shot than any other Democratic nominee. Walorski now becomes the favorite. But of course we don't know if '12 will be like the Democratic year of '08, more like the Republican tsunami of '10 or, most likely, somewhere in between.

Q. Could Donnelly win if he runs for senator?

A. Yes, if Tea Party challenger Richard Mourdock defeats Sen. Dick Lugar for the Republican nomination. Donnelly even would have a chance against Lugar if millions spent on negative TV attacks in the Republican primary destroy Lugar's statesman image, leaving him vulnerable.

Q. When will Donnelly decide?

A. Soon. Democratic leaders around the state who look now to Donnelly as their Senate candidate will want quickly to find somebody else if he says "no." And if Donnelly goes for the Senate, Democrats won't want to just surrender "Jackie's district." They'll want quickly to find a strong congressional nominee willing to challenge as an underdog. ❖

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



Uptight music for uncertain times

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - I was impressed. Tefla and the Teflons were smooth singers and slick musicians, but I felt something missing. They lacked substance, soul, and context.

After the set, Tefla came over to my table. A young woman tall enough to play in the WNBA, with long red hair, she sang lead and sported a clarinet. "You're the female Benny Goodman," I joked.



"Benny never sang," Tefla replied sternly. She downed a lemon-lime drink made on site from real lemons and limes.

"Your music is," I suggested, "adjusting for the time-period and intervening cultural changes, somewhat like his."

"Not in the least," Tefla denied with fire in her voice and eyes.

"I disagree," I disagreed.

"Goodman's music was decidedly up-beat in a down era - the depression and WWII. He played music for dancing, swing for swaying, sentiment for sighing."

"The Teflons' song book is totally different," she protested.

"Yes," I said, "and no. You sing a different form of escapism, but it is escapist none-the-less. It is music for lonesome people, disappointed lovers, and uncertain dreamers. It is the angst of the late 20th and early 21st centuries when people feel betrayal in the air and crushed aspirations under foot."

"You're a gloomy one," Tefla declared.

"Oh, no," I said. "It's the simple truth. Goodman, Shaw, Miller and the Dorseys did not play the authentic, gritty songs of their times like 'Brother Can You Spare a Dime?' Nor did they play the happy music acknowledging the hard times yet looking ahead to a better future."

"For example?" she asked.

"The signature song of the '30s: 'Happy Days are here again, The skies above are clear again, Let us sing a song of cheer again, Happy Days are here again.'" I sang and received glares from the other tables. "Wouldn't it be delightful to hear something like that for our times?"

"Ours is the music for our worrisome age," Tefla insisted. "Our songs are for the dispirited millions --- not the disporting millionaires - employed or unemployed, working or retired, in- or out-of-school. In the '30s there was hope

that business or unions or government or nature would pull us out of the depression. You could have a Woody Guthrie praise the hydro-electric power of the Grand Coulee Dam and wax patriotic because 'This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land'.

"In WWII," she continued, "everyone had to be upbeat. Sorrow was everywhere in the casualty reports, but we all knew 'We'll meet again' when there were 'Blue Birds over the White Cliffs of Dover.' That's not today.

"Now, we have no grand initiatives except to cut spending and cut taxes. No vision guides us, no hope directs us to a proud post-war America. Few of our fellow citizens understand the many problems stemming from unending wars. We've emerged from a decade of fear and excess optimism and turned inward. Unyielding ideology combines with extremist language to poison the air. Members of the new majority reject their fellow citizens and build their self-respect on suppressing the aspirations of others who experience significant adversity."

"Those are tough words," I said.

"That's why we sing the blues. They resonate with the tough people living tough lives who listen to our songs," Tefla said on her way back to the bandstand. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, speaker and writer, formerly with Indiana University.

Daniels talks about probe

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels says he's confident in the State Capitol Police even after an officer allegedly went through private drawers in the governor's residence on Meridian Street (WTHR-TV).

An investigation is currently underway into an officer sleeping on the job among other thinks. Gov. Daniels says, "They'll get it cleaned up quickly."

The governor is talking about allegations that the same sleepy officer went through drawers in the family's private quarters here. Former Capitol police officer Brad Craig says his former fellow officer at one point held up a pair of men's and then women's underwear. Craig says he was so disgusted that he reported the other officer's actions. Indiana State Police, which oversees Capitol Police, is investigating. The sleeping officer quit. Officer Craig quit too. He didn't like the way supervisors handled his reports. Gov. Daniels seemed upbeat about the whole incident. He told us, "Obviously you would rather not have people rooting around in your personal space."

The governor is still confident in Capitol Police whose officers get basic training at the State Police Academy and psychological testing too. ❖



Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana: Is it better for an addict to go cold turkey or to be weaned off its drug of choice? That's a question the Distressed Unit Appeals Board was created to solve. The DUAB has been weaning Gary off its addiction to high property tax revenue. It is a painful process, as everyone in Gary knows. But think of how much worse it could have been. This is the last year Gary will be under the DUAB's wing. Next year, unless the Legislature provides other assistance, the new mayor will be working without a net. Even with the DUAB's protection, the process has been painful. Public Financial Management, hired at the DUAB's insistence in 2009, gave the city harsh but necessary advice. "The city has attempted several but not all of the cost-saving measures recommended by PFM," a DUAB staff report released this week said. "Some efforts were successful, others were not." What would have happened if all of the revenue reductions were enforced at once instead of phased in? Can you imagine the squawking about the immediate termination of hundreds of jobs, including those of police officers and firefighters? Mayor Rudy Clay discussed some of these issues with The Times editorial board not long before his withdrawal from the mayoral race last week. "We sort of inherited a city that was in financial quicksand," Clay said. No kidding! ❖

Mizel Stewart III, Evansville Courier & Press: We've had a chance to sit down for a detailed conversation with nearly every candidate running for office in the city of Evansville in the May 3 primary. While I haven't been in on every meeting, much of the substance of those conversations can be summed up in four general categories: Local government needs to operate more transparently. (No more technically-legal Democratic party caucuses between the mayor and council, no more bipartisan meetings aimed at snatching away the homestead tax credit, etc.) Information on budgets and other matters needs to be made public in such a way that citizens can easily understand. The next mayor must focus on creating jobs, particularly for young people who want to stay in the area. Parks and public safety should be emphasized; children shouldn't be exposed to hazards such as hypodermic needles in playground sandboxes or fire stations closed for sketchy reasons. Before I forget, there's also the statement that we need to put "a common (man/woman) in office," or "a small-business person," or "an experienced and dedicated public servant." (For the record, no one has explicitly said we need to elect a lawyer or a former journalist, but folks in both categories will appear on the city ballot). On the most superficial level, I can't argue with any of those points. The problem is just that: They only scratch the surface. Once many candidates

are pressed to move beyond the talking points on their campaign literature, there is a painful lack of specifics. ❖

Rich James, Post-Tribune: I had occasion to drive across Gary the other day along Ridge Road. It was depressing. Even some of those stately homes high on the hill just east of Broadway were in ruin. Other than a few storefront churches, there was little left. There were few people and not many cars. Yet, every few blocks there was a stoplight that had outlived its usefulness at least two decades ago. So great was the disrepair that it's easy to understand those who say there is little hope left. Even a liquor store and strip club — joints that have a way of surviving urban decay — are gone. Just the sign that says "Girls, Girls" remains. The only thing new along that 2-mile stretch were the campaign signs of some of those running for mayor in the May 3 primary. It was easy to understand why the city had lost more than 20,000 residents over the last decade. Many of them up and left, abandoning what they owned. About a week later, I read the piece about the Indiana Distressed Unit Appeals Board allowing Gary to raise an additional \$10.8 million by lifting the property tax caps. I couldn't help but think that \$10.8 million wouldn't even be enough to tear down the abandoned buildings I had seen along Ridge Road the week before. ❖



Larry Riley, Muncie Star Press: Here's a quote destined to make my annual lists of best lines in news stories of this paper at year's end, but I'm reprinting the words now because they make a strong argument in particularly tumultuous collective bargaining times: "We are not able to release any details concerning the contract at this time. We have a couple more steps before that can be accomplished." These words, from Muncie Community Schools Supt. Eric King, appeared Saturday in The Star Press in a story announcing ratification of a new agreement between the Muncie Teachers Association and school system. The school board met Tuesday morning and did likewise. Prior to the meeting, a posting on the school system's Web site announcing the special meeting added, "No details are currently available concerning terms of the agreement." Together, that statement plus the words of Supt. King make to me a compelling case why public sector unions should not be recognized. The taxpayers who are footing the bill know nothing until they are already committed to paying the costs. Your money will have been bandied about by teachers who want more of it and school board representatives who have squandered loads of it in the past decade, and you're in the dark. No public discussion until after the decisions are made and irrevocable. ❖



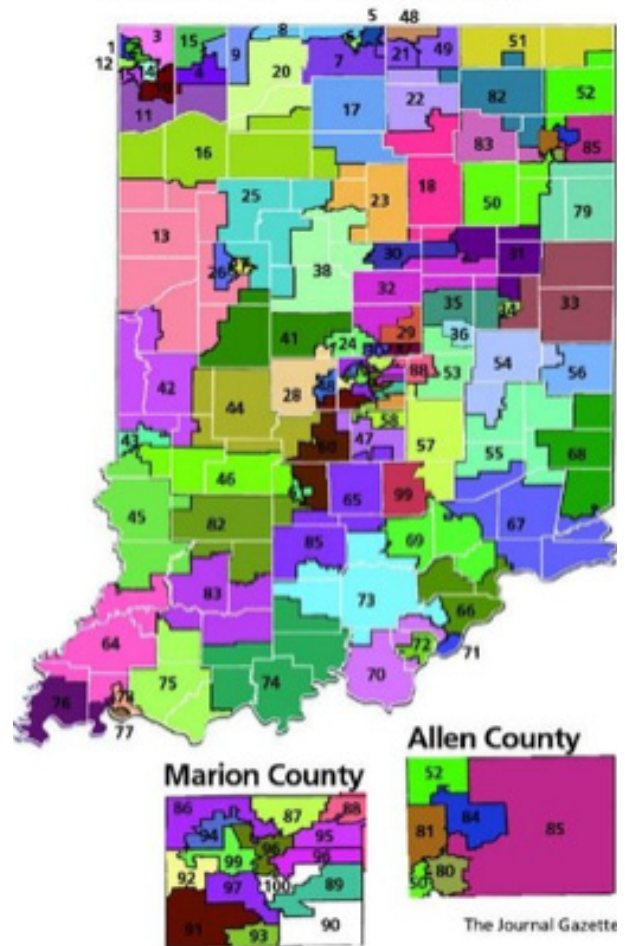
New maps pass House, Senate

WASHINGTON - Newly drawn legislative districts that critics say lean decidedly Republican sailed through the House and Senate on Wednesday. The GOP maps were passed in identical form in both chambers, but still need final approval next week (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Lawmakers are tasked this year with redrawing 100 House, 50 Senate and nine congressional districts using new census data. House Speaker Brian Bosma said the maps do a great job balancing varying factors, including compactness and maintaining communities of interest. But Democrats in both chambers questioned the competitiveness of the maps. The House maps originally put a number of incumbents in districts with other incumbents. For instance, veteran Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, and Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington, will have to face off in the new House District 50, if both decide to run again. That district will now cover all of Huntington County and parts of Wells and Allen counties. Several changes made to the proposed maps in the committee process have eliminated a few of the incumbent battles. There are also 10 redrawn districts with no incumbent. Bosma has continually said he doesn't have political data on the districts but acknowledges that population shifts reflected in the maps favored the GOP. "I understand that you have the power," said Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary. "I want to go on record saying this is not fair." The House maps passed 65-33 with five Democrats joining the Republicans. Area representatives voted along party lines. In the Senate, the proposed maps passed 37-13, also along party



lines. The vote came after some Democrats, including Rep. Jeb Bardon, D-Indianapolis, argued that the maps were not fair (Indianapolis Star). Bardon has now been put in the same district as Rep. Vanessa Summers, another Indianapolis Democrat. Instead of representing Wayne Township, he said, he is now in a sprawling district that begins around the Children's Museum in Center Township and picks up parts of Washington and Wayne townships as it stretches from I-465 to I-74. Bardon noted that he was one of three Democrats who voted with Republicans a few years ago in backing a plan to put the drawing of new legislative maps in the hands of an independent commission because he thought there was a better, less political way to draw the maps. Referring to his new district, Bardon said: "I don't get it and I'm disappointed." The GOP's original redistricting plan drew a dozen incumbent representatives into common districts around the state (South Bend Tribune). One of those was House District 7, which included Reps. David Niezgodski, D-South Bend, and Craig Fry, D-Mishawaka. The House amended the maps Tuesday to shift three districts' boundaries in Penn Township so Niezgodski is the lone incumbent in District 7. It also adds more of South Bend's west side, where he lives, to the district. The amendment also slightly changed the shapes of House District 5, where Fry lives, and House District 21, represented by Rep. Tim Wesco, R-Osceola. The change won't matter much to Fry, however, as he's running for Mishawaka mayor and has

Indiana House district maps



The Journal Gazette

said he won't seek re-election to the General Assembly, even if he loses the mayoral race. The House also amended some proposed district boundaries in Indianapolis, where three incumbent Democrats had been drawn into the same district. "They did make some adjustments, which we appreciate," said House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend. But, he added, "It's a tough map for us. No question."

Daniels signs bargaining bill

INDIANAPOLIS - Collective bargaining for all unionized school employees — from teachers to bus drivers to cafeteria workers — now is limited



to only wage and benefit issues. On Wednesday, Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels signed into law Senate Enrolled Act 575 setting new restrictions on collective bargaining for school employees. The law permits discussion on topics such as class size and working conditions, but an agreement on those topics can't be included in a contract. Contracts that limit a school district's ability to restructure a school not meeting government accountability standards also are prohibited. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett said enactment of the new law is a "game-changing moment" for Indiana schools.

Anti-bolt added to budget bill

INDIANAPOLIS - With the April 29 end of the current session of the Indiana General Assembly in sight, Senate Republicans on Wednesday night ripped the bandages off the barely healing wound caused by the House Democrats who boycotted the legislative session for five weeks earlier this year (Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press). During an hours-long debate over proposed amendments to the two-year, \$28 billion budget they've advanced, Republicans made a change that would allow private citizens to sue legislators who skip more than three session days in a row. When the majority cut off debate and forced a vote, minority Democrats stood up and walked off the floor in protest. Their walkout didn't have the same impact as the boycott by House Democrats earlier this year. In the Senate, Republicans hold 37 of the 50 seats, so even if Democrats leave, Republican members still have a constitutionally-mandated two-thirds majority. But the event did introduce a new wrinkle to a session that has just nine days left, with several major items – the budget, new legislative and

congressional districts and education reforms – left to pass. "They've gone to such a radical extreme that some of these punitive measures that they try to dream up are more important to them than people having jobs, people putting food on the table," said House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer, the South Bend Democrat who does have the power to shut the session down with a boycott, when he learned of Senate Republicans' move. "I think the constitution would override their pouting and shouting." Meanwhile, House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, said such a move would fulfill a commitment Republicans made while House Democrats were holed up in an Urbana, Ill. from Feb. 22 through most of March. "It might scratch a few scabs open, and that's maybe not the best thing right now," he said. "But we have had a lot of input from citizens over the last three months that they think some revision to the law or constitution is appropriate. If I were to pick one, I would say this is the most advisable one." Before Senate Democrats walked off the floor, they prodded and pleaded with Republicans not to add the measure to House Bill 1001, the budget bill. Sen. Lindel Hume, D-Princeton, said the Republican move undermines what he said is a constitutional protection of minority rights. He said boycotts are "the only power, the only tool" that minority parties have to stop what they perceive as overreaching majorities. "It's my deep concern that we are having a knee-jerk reaction to what happened across the hall this year," Hume said.

City bankruptcy deleted from bill

INDIANAPOLIS - Legislation establishing a process intended to keep local governments out of bankruptcy was changed Wednesday by the Indiana House to not allow local

governments to file for bankruptcy (Carden, NWI Times). The Republican-controlled House voted 50-41, with a few Republicans joining nearly all Democrats, to strip bankruptcy eligibility for local governments from Senate Bill 105, sponsored by state Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso. The amendment eliminating the potential for bankruptcy was sponsored by state Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington. Leonard said he believes "it is not a good thing for a municipality or school or anybody else to file for bankruptcy." Soliday said the legislation actually is intended to prevent bankruptcy by allowing the executive and council of a local government meeting one of eight financial conditions to jointly ask a state board to appoint an emergency manager with broad authority to reduce spending. If the emergency manager failed, a federal Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing could follow. "But we need the carrot of a potential bankruptcy to make this voluntary program work," Soliday said.

Teacher merit pay bill passes House

INDIANAPOLIS - Teachers who don't rank well on annual evaluations wouldn't be eligible for pay raises under a bill that has cleared the Indiana House (NWI Times). The Republican-ruled House voted 60-32 mostly on party lines Wednesday night for the merit pay bill, which is part of GOP Gov. Mitch Daniels' expansive education agenda. Under the proposal, teachers who fall into the lowest two of four evaluation categories wouldn't get automatic pay raises. Local districts would create their own evaluations, but would have to include objective measures of student achievement, such as test scores. Districts wouldn't be able to place a student for two years in a row with teachers rated in the lowest category.