



Pro-Life: Indiana political juggernaut

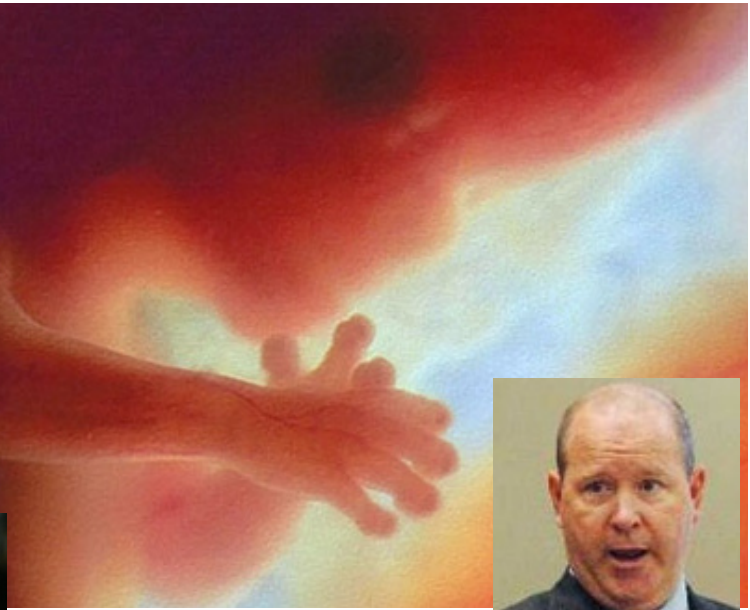
40 years of Roe v. Wade shows emphatic impact despite polling

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – In the past 40 years there have been 55 million abortions in the United States. With Indiana at 2.1% of the U.S. people, the math produces a startling statistic: Approximately 1 million Hoosiers didn't make it into the population.

"We've screwed up the population pyramid," observed Curt Smith, who heads the Indiana Family Institute. "Forty years later, we do not have the adult work force to make the system work. The Social Security system would be different. There's probably been a million Hoosiers aborted. We'd have 14% more population and they'd be coming into their peak earning years and peak productivity."

It's not the first time the post Roe v. Wade demographics have been probed to explain a social phenomenon. In the mid-1990s after crack cocaine spiked violent



crime rates in major U.S. cities, the statistics rolled off the table. Crime took a deep dive and some demographers

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Donnelly tabs John Zody

By **SHAW R. FRIEDMAN**

LaPORTE – Let's face it - we don't have the luxury as Hoosier Democrats to be debating the choice of the next chair. Frankly, if it hadn't been for Joe Donnelly and his exceptionally disciplined and well-run campaign winning a U.S. Senate seat and plaudits pouring in from around the country for that campaign, we'd be facing a wilderness the likes of which we hadn't seen since pre-Evan Bayh days.



Our ranks have been so sorely depleted in both the legislature and U.S. congressional seats that our caucuses can hold their meetings in



"You must act. Be bold. Be courageous. Americans are counting on you"

- Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords



Howey Politics Indiana

is a non-partisan newsletter based in Indianapolis and Nashville, Ind. It was founded in 1994 in Fort Wayne.

It is published by
WWWHowey Media, LLC
405 Massachusetts Ave,
Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington
Jack E. Howey, editor

Subscriptions

\$350 annually HPI Weekly
\$550 annually HPI Weekly and
HPI Daily Wire.

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a phone booth. As Chairman Dan Parker rightly points out, even though Hoosier Democrats won 42% of the vote statewide, because of brutal partisan gerrymandering, we are reduced to just 31 seats in the Indiana House and an equally abysmal number left in the Senate. Our ranks of Democratic House members has also been reduced.

We all can have our opinion on who best might serve as state chairman but at the end of the day it was always up to Joe Donnelly to make a recommendation. He's chosen John Zody who cut his teeth as a Young Democrats organization state leader and then paid his dues working for the likes of Governors O'Bannon and Kernan and other key Democrats. John's impressed me with his diligence and work ethic and will do a fine job.

Frankly, Dan Parker's last year in office may turn out to have been his best year as state chair. In many ways, after surviving a close call to depose him back in December 2011, Parker became a better state chairman reaching out to segments of the party that he had previously not included or consulted. He brought on a highly motivated and talented professional staff in recent years that moved the ball both in fundraising and in voter contact. Parker leaves the state party in very good shape for his successor considering the tough cards he had been dealt with redistricting.

Hoosier Democrats interested in party growth and development need to defer to our senator's choice for state chair. Having served as Donnelly's campaign chair in 2006 and as his debate sparring partner readying him for debates against Chris Chocola that year (yes, he mopped the floor with Chocola and, as it turned out, needed very little coaching!) I know the intense fire and competitiveness that exists in Joe Donnelly.

In Sen. Joe Donnelly, we have someone who understands the nuts and bolts of politics. He's earned

every success he's accomplished in politics through hard work, sweat and tears. Nothing was ever handed to this guy. I know of no more indefatigable campaigner than Donnelly and even though he's been able to go to Washington, D.C. and will govern in a bi-partisan fashion, he bleeds as a Democrat and holds Democratic values close to his heart.

This is a blue collar Democrat who will barnstorm our state at J.J. dinners and county fairs and who has the common touch that we saw with the likes of former Senator Birch Bayh. He's got an everyman appeal that is infectious and that will continue resonating with voters and we need to do what we can to build campaigns around him. In one of the bluest counties in northern Indiana (LaPorte County) we've successfully run campaigns around the Donnelly team concept. He understands the essence of team play and has never hesitated helping local candidates in their efforts.

Donnelly understands what it takes to help build party and his putting his stamp early on state party with the selection of Kelly Norton as Executive Director was a good move. Joe Donnelly well understands and respects the role that Evan Bayh has played in building the modern Democratic Party in Indiana to a position where we can compete and win and I suspect he wants to replicate much of that success. I have no doubt that Joe Donnelly wants to build on the winning Bayh legacy and I am confident that considerable thought went into this pick. Hoosier Democrats are likely to rally around this choice and the future bodes well for us. Like many, I want us to be in position to compete and win for a governorship in 2016 and with Joe Donnelly's help, we might just get there. ❖

Shaw Friedman is former legal counsel for the Indiana Democratic Party.



U.S. Sens. Dick Lugar in 1976, Dan Coats in 1988 and Dan Quayle in 1980 established the Indiana pro-life legacy in the Indiana U.S. Senate delegation. Lugar's election came three years after *Roe vs. Wade*.

Pro Life, from page 1

pointed to the fact that scores of babies in single parent and lower economic classes were never born, depopulating a section of what would have been the criminal class most active in the 17- to 23-year-old range.

In the four decades of *Roe vs. Wade*, Indiana has been impacted not only in a demographic sense, but politically as well.

Gov. Mike Pence's new administration is the most overtly pro-life in the state's history. The Republican super majorities of the Indiana General Assembly are overwhelmingly pro-life, as is the 10-3 Republican advantage in the congressional delegation. U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly continues a trend of Indiana's U.S. senators, all of whom have been pro-life since Birch Bayh's defeat in 1980 by Dan Quayle. Had Republican nominee Richard Mourdock not uttered his "God intends" rape remark, he might have won that Senate race.

Essentially, a pro-choice Republican stands little chance of being nominated or elected to anything above the municipal level since Gov. Robert D. Orr, a member of Planned Parenthood, left office in 1988. Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn watched a Kokomo mayoral nominee raise the abortion issue, "even though mayors have absolutely nothing to do with abortion."

If there is a political flaw in the pro life juggernaut, it's that the leadership is male dominated, which makes some pro-life women nervous. And there's a perception that once you're in the club, a pro life advocate can say just about anything and the movement will rally around, as was the case with Mourdock. Pence defended him in the final weeks of the campaign, and in doing so, came shockingly close to an upset.

Sen. Dan Coats, who emerged as Dan Quayle's 4th CD district director in 1981 – eight years after *Roe vs. Wade* – sees abortion more of a personal decision than a political one. "In the 1980 election it became one of the two or three key issues," Coats said. "There was still a lot of reaction to *Roe v. Wade* and a lot of effort by a lot of organizations, groups and constituents to try and bring forth a constitutional amendment to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. There have been several attempts at that. While the issue of life has been an important one, there's been a realization that the public cannot garner the two-thirds necessary to enact a constitutional amendment. So there's been a shift away from the federal level back to the states."

Coats cited the 1992 U.S. Supreme Court case – *Planned Parent-*

Right to Life Endorsed 2012 Winning Candidates

Federal

- U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski CD2
- U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman CD3
- U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita CD4
- U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks CD5
- U.S. Rep. Luke Messer CD6
- U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon CD8
- U.S. Rep. Todd Young CD9

State executive

- Gov. Mike Pence
- Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann
- Atty Gen. Greg Zoeller

Indiana House

- Rep. Ed Soliday HD4
- Rep. Dale DeVon HD5
- Rep. Richard Pfeil HD8
- Rep. Rick Niemeyer HD11
- Rep. Sharon Negele HD13
- Rep. Hal Slager HD15
- Rep. Douglas Gutwein HD16
- Rep. Timothy Harman HD17
- Rep. David Wolkins HD18
- Rep. Tom Dermody HD20
- Rep. Timothy Wesco HD21
- Rep. Rebecca Kubacki HD22
- Rep. Donald Lehe HD25
- Rep. Randy Truitt HD26
- Rep. Jeffrey Thompson HD28
- Rep. Kathy Richardson HD29
- Rep. Michael Karickhoff HD30
- Rep. Kevin Mahan HD31
- Rep. P. Eric Turner HD32
- Rep. Bill Davis HD33
- Rep. L. Jack Lutz HD35
- Rep. Heath VanNatter HD38
- Rep. Jerry Torr HD39
- Rep. Gregory Steuerwald HD40
- Rep. Alan Morrison HD42
- Rep. James Baird HD44
- Rep. Bob Heaton HD46
- Rep. John Price HD47
- Rep. Timothy Neese HD48
- Rep. Wes Culver HD49
- Rep. Dan Leonard HD50



hood vs. Casey – that gave states the right to regulate access to abortion as a catalyst for the issue to become important in gubernatorial and legislative races. “It really shifted the issue more to state legislatures,” he said.

“Indiana always has been in the category of the states that lean to the pro-life side of the issue,” Coats said. “But with the shift from the federal government initiatives – and frankly the fiscal issues have overtaken just about everything else now in terms of what the priorities are here – in the states it is alive and well, following the Casey decision. Our governor, both senators and a strong majority of our congressional representation in Washington have taken the pro-life position. Indiana is one of the top pro-life states from a legislative standpoint.”

The historic roots of the life movement could go all the way to the abolition movement prior and during the Civil War, where Indiana decisively backed Abraham Lincoln, and the state was active in the Underground Railroad

movement. The election of a Copperhead Democrat legislature in 1862 prompted Gov. Oliver P. Morton to suspend the General Assembly, and there was a popular blow back. Jennifer Weber, writing in the New York Times, quoted Hoosier soldiers accusing their Copperhead friends of being cowards and traitors. “You are my enemy, and I wish you were in the rank of my open, avowed, and manly enemies, that I might put a ball through your black heart, and send your soul to the Arch Rebel himself,” they wrote.

Is there a litmus test for Republicans? Coats answered, “In a lot of ways, the members define their positions not just on the politics of the issue, but on personal beliefs and the tenets of their particular faith. You have a Democrat senator (Joe Donnelly), a Catholic who represented Notre Dame.

You have a pro-life senator from Fort Wayne – myself – and in both instances, very much a part of our position was based on our faith as well as my own personal beliefs that a life is conceived and God-given and is a life that deserves protections. I think Joe and I have accepted the exceptions – life of the mother, rape and incest as exceptions to that commitment.”

Polls show support for Roe v. Wade

This pro-life dominance in Indiana politics comes despite polling that shows a majority favoring the Roe vs. Wade status quo. In a December issues survey for Ball State University’s Bowen Center for Public Affairs, 52.2% agreed that abortion should be legal in all (22%) or most (30.2%) of the time. Another 40.5%

responded that abortion should be illegal in all (15.4%) or most (25.1%) of the cases. The Bowen survey, conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, noted that “when specific conditions are cited, support for the legality of abortion rises. Overwhelming majorities support the right to abortion in cases of rape and incest, or when

the mother’s life or health is endangered. There is very little variation in responses across regions, races, and gender for these cited conditions.”

Pro-life organizations disputed the Bowen survey. Mike Fichter, president and CEO of Indiana Right to Life, said, “We believe any poll should be taken with a grain of salt,

Rep. Dennis Zent HD51
Rep. Ben Smaltz HD52
Rep. Robert Cherry HD53
Rep. Cindy Ziemke HD55
Rep. Richard Hamm HD56
Rep. Woody Burton HD58
Rep. Peggy Mayfield HD60
Rep. Matt Ubelhor HD62
Rep. Mark Messmer HD63
Rep. Thomas Washburne HD64

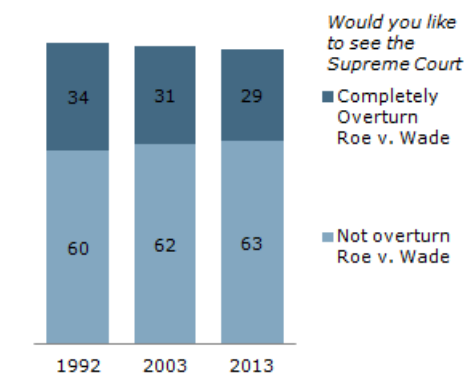
Rep. Eric Koch HD65
Rep. Randy Frye HD67
Rep. Jud McMillin HD68
Rep. Jim Lucas HD69
Rep. Rhonda Rhoads HD70
Rep. Steve Davisson HD73
Rep. Lloyd Arnold HD74
Rep. Ron Bacon HD75
Rep. Wendy McNamara HD76
Rep. Suzanne Crouch HD78
Rep. Matthew Lehman HD79
Rep. Martin Carbaugh 81
Rep. David Ober S82
Rep. Kathy Heuer HD83
Rep. Bob Morris HD84
Speaker Brian Bosma HD88
Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer HD89
Rep. Mike Speedy HD90
Rep. David Frizzell HD93

Indiana Senate

Sen. Ed Charbonneau SD5
Sen. Brandt Hershman SD7
Sen. Ryan Mishler SD9
Sen. Carlin Yoder SD12
Sen. C. Susan Glick SD13
Sen. David Long SD16
Sen. Randall Head SD18
Sen. Scott Schneider SD30
Sen. Patricia Miller SD32
Sen. Michael Young SD35
Sen. Brent Waltz SD36
Sen. Rodric Bray SD37
Sen. Jean Leising SD42
Sen. Brent Steele SD44



Consistent Support for Maintaining Roe v. Wade Over Past 20 Years



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. 1992 Figures based on registered voters.



as the only polls that matter are election day results. Last month, we saw Hoosiers elect a pro-life supermajority to the General Assembly, a pro-life governor and lieutenant governor, a pro-life attorney general, two new pro-life women to Congress and a self-identified pro-life senator. A pro-abortion sentiment was not in play in last month's Indiana election results. It must also be noted that this survey was conducted immediately following the election

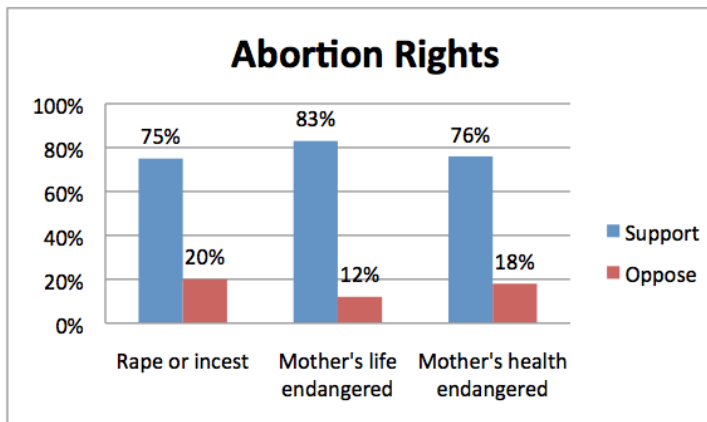
where pro-life views were targeted both nationally and on Indiana airwaves through \$2 million in attack ads. The timing of this poll undoubtedly influenced the results."

However, two national surveys released in the past week mirror that of the Bowen Center.

More than six in 10 (63%) in a Pew Research Center survey say they would not like to see the court overturn the Roe v. Wade decision. Only about three in 10 (29%) would like to see the ruling overturned. These opinions are little changed from surveys conducted 10 and 20 years ago. Nearly half (47%) say it is morally wrong to have an abortion, while just 13% find this morally acceptable; 27% say this is not a moral issue and 9% volunteer that it depends on the situation. These opinions have changed little since 2006. White evangelical Protestants are the only major religious group in which a majority (54%) favors completely overturning the Roe v. Wade decision. Large percentages of white mainline Protestants (76%), black Protestants (65%) and white Catholics (63%) say the ruling should not be overturned. Fully 82% of the religiously unaffiliated oppose overturning Roe v. Wade.

Pew also found that more Americans don't see abortion as an issue priority. The Pew survey, conducted Jan. 9-13 among 1,502 adults, finds that abortion is viewed as a less important issue than in the past. Currently, 53% say abortion "is not that important compared to other issues," up from 48% in 2009 and 32% in 2006. The percentage viewing abortion as a "critical issue facing the country" fell from 28% in 2006 to 15% in 2009 and now stands at 18%.

Seven in 10 Americans believe Roe v. Wade should stand, the most since 1989, according to data from a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released earlier this week.



The Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University shows wide support for specific abortion issues in its December 2012 survey conducted by Princeton Survey Research.

That is the highest level of support for the decision, which established a woman's right to an abortion, since polls began tracking it in 1989. The shift is mostly the result of more Democrats backing the decision, particularly Hispanics and African-Americans, and a slight uptick in support from Republicans. But the poll showed a consistent tension in Americans' attitudes toward the decision. Almost seven in 10 respondents say there are at least some circumstances in which they don't support abortion.

Curt Smith points to CNN exit polling from last November's election that shows the thrust of Indiana's pro-life movement.

Said Smith, "35% in the fall election would self-describe as a born-again Christian and of those, 19% voted for Obama and 80% for Romney." He added, "That's 56% of the winning coalition that you need."

Smith describes the "Reagan Revolution" election of 1980 as a critical period for the pro-life political movement in Indiana. That was the era when the Protestant-based Citizens for Life merged with the Catholic-based Right to Life, with the Indiana Family Institute brokering the merger. "To me, the difference was the Catholics and the evangelicals started finding common interests," Smith said.

In 1980, not only did Reagan carry the state, but Quayle upset Sen. Bayh, Coats won Quayle's 4th CD seat and John Hiler upset House Majority Leader John Brademas. Coats and Hiler were activists in the House on anti-abortion legislation.

Smith recalled a conversation he had with Joe Andrew, former Indiana and Democratic national chairman, while sitting on a plane at National Airport in Washington during a thunderstorm. "He told me at that time, in the mid-1990s, Indiana had the most pro-life Democratic caucus in the country." Gov. Evan Bayh and soon-to-be Speaker John Gregg were pro-life. Current pro-life State Rep. Eric Turner had actually been elected as a Democrat.

While there is a virtual litmus test among Indiana Republicans, there is not such an element with Indiana Democrats, though a number of those in the General Assembly are pro-life. But outside of university cities, there often are no inter-party sanctions over the issue. Thus, the pro-life contingent transcends the GOP.



Legislative front lines

Opponents of abortion rights won passage of a record 92 measures restricting the procedure in 24 states in 2011, and an additional 43 in 19 states last year, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a think tank that favors abortion rights, the Wall Street Journal reported. Nine states have recently banned most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, although courts have kept two of the laws from taking effect.

This year, Texas, Indiana, and Missouri are set to consider restrictions on chemically induced abortions in the coming legislative session, and lawmakers in Indiana and South Carolina have sponsored bills adding regulations to clinics. "I don't need a constitutional amendment to overturn Roe," Charmaine Yoest, president of Americans United for Life, an anti-abortion law firm that works with state groups on local legislation, told the Journal. "Clinic regulations do actually challenge Roe."

In this session of the Indiana General Assembly there are at least nine bills dealing with abortion, ranging from banning abortions based on race, sex or physical soundness of a fetus, requiring information packets featuring photographs of fetuses in various developmental stages, to be presented to those seeking the procedure, and stopping IU Health from providing abortions.

State Sens. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, and Jim Banks, R-Columbia City, wrote the bill that would require the Indiana State Department of Health to develop a written and printed packet of information that details – with color pictures – the growth of a fetus at two-week intervals from four weeks to 20 weeks, in addition to information that's already online.

Sue Swayze, Indiana Right to Life public policy director, told Indiana Public Media, "Arguably she's nervous, she's anxious, and this would be something that she could take home, review, look it over and think it through. Much like other medical services."

Indiana University law professor Dawn Johnsen told Indiana Public Media that such laws are not meant to protect women's interests. "These bills it's been said are intended to chip away, and we're at the point where they're

More Say Abortion Is "Not that Important"

	Mar 2006	Aug 2009	Jan 2013	Change 06-13
Issue of abortion is ...	%	%	%	
Critical issue	28	15	18	-10
One among many important issues	38	33	27	-11
Not that important compared to other issues	32	48	53	+21
Don't know/Refused	2	3	2	--
	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Q54. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Are You White Born-Again Christian?			
TOTAL	OBAMA	ROMNEY	OTHER / NA
Yes:35%	19%	80%	1%
No:65%	58%	39%	3%

really hacking away at the availability of abortion services because in four states now there's only one provider in the entire state."

The Indiana Family Institute's Smith acknowledges and embraces the tactic. "I think we're pushing the envelope here," he said. "The courts have constricted the last step. Clearly technology is showing us there's life in the womb. There's a capacity to see the baby, the fetus, in great detail. It's alive, it's smiling, its heart is beating. We are doing surgeries on babies in the womb. And we are aborting babies in the womb."

"I'm very proud of our legislators," Smith said. "They are testing the limits."

Technology has also produced wider areas of gray, whether The Pill in the 1960s, the morning after pill a generation later, or RU486, the chemical abortion that can happen outside of the traditional abortion clinic (and a current target of Indiana Right to Life).

The courts have rejected some of those limits. In October, the 7th U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago knocked down the 2011 law that defunded Medicaid payments made to Planned Parenthood of Indiana. President and CEO Betty Cockrum said, "At a time when Hoosiers are struggling, it's shameful that our elected officials are spending their time, and our tax dollars, on cutting basic health care services, such as preventing unintended pregnancies and restricting basic rights, rather than focusing on what we need most in Indiana: Jobs for our hard-working neighbors and access to high-quality, affordable health care."

There will be future attempts to defund Planned Parenthood and there is Gov. Pence, who has acknowledged he will sign pro-life legislation that comes across his desk.

With President Obama in office for four more years, the potential of a Supreme Court balance change is debatable. If Obama were to replace the swing vote of Justice Anthony Kennedy, or one of the conservatives such as Chief Justice John Roberts, or associate Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, or Anton Scalia, that could set back a potential Roe v. Wade overturn by a generation.

In the interim, the battles will continue at the Indiana Statehouse, where, for the foreseeable future, the pro-life movement dominates the political and policy realms. ❖



U.S. Sens. John McCain, Chuck Schumer, Marco Rubio, Robert Menendez and Dick Durbin announce a bipartisan framework for immigration reform.

Election consequences steering immigration framework in Congress

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – U.S. Sen. John McCain likes the phrase “elections have consequences” and he dusted it off once again when he joined three other Republicans and four Democrats to announce a comprehensive immigration reform package this week.

“I think we have to have a bigger tent,” McCain said. “And obviously, we have to do immigration reform. There’s no doubt whatsoever that the demographics are not on our side.”

No, they are not. In 2004, President George W. Bush won 44% of the Hispanic vote in his reelection bid. In 2008, McCain won 31% when he lost to Barack Obama. And in 2012, Mitt Romney carried just 27%.

“It’s something we saw coming and have seen happen for a numbers of years now. Hispanics are increasing their share of their electorate,” said Mark Hugo Lopez, associate director of the Pew Hispanic Center. “That number has been growing for a number of election cycles, and it’s going to continue to grow moving forward.”

Exit polling data from Indiana for the 2012 election

revealed about 3% of the electorate here was Hispanic, which was too small to break down by race. The Hispanic population in Indiana ranks 21st in the nation at 390,000, according to Pew Hispanic Center. There are 141,000 eligible voters in Indiana, ranking 22nd in Hispanic eligible voter population nationally. But in the next three or four election cycles, this voting bloc will become measurable and will have a greater impact on elections here.

In the May Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll among likely Republican primary votes, respondents were asked: Do you support or oppose allowing the children of illegal immigrants who graduate from high school and have no criminal record and serve in the U.S. military or attend college be a party to future U.S. citizenship?”

The poll showed 54% of Republicans supported, while 32% opposed.

On the proposed DREAM Act, a target of the Indiana Tea Party, Howey/DePauw asked: Do you support or oppose allowing the children of illegal immigrants who graduate from high school and have no criminal record to obtain a non-immigrant visa, a driver’s license, and permanent residency, but not full citizenship? That was favored 51 to 34% among GOP voters.

A Fox News poll earlier this showed that 66% think there should be a path to citizenship, but only if the individual meets requirements such as paying back taxes, learning English and passing a background check. Some 17% say all illegal immigrants should be deported, and



another 13% prefer a guest worker program that would allow immigrants to remain in the U.S. to work, but only for a limited time. Majorities of Republicans (56%), independents (69%) and Democrats (74%) believe the government should allow a path to citizenship, as do majorities of whites (63%) and non-whites (75%). Republicans (22%) are somewhat more likely than independents (15%) and Democrats (14%) to favor deporting all illegal immigrants.

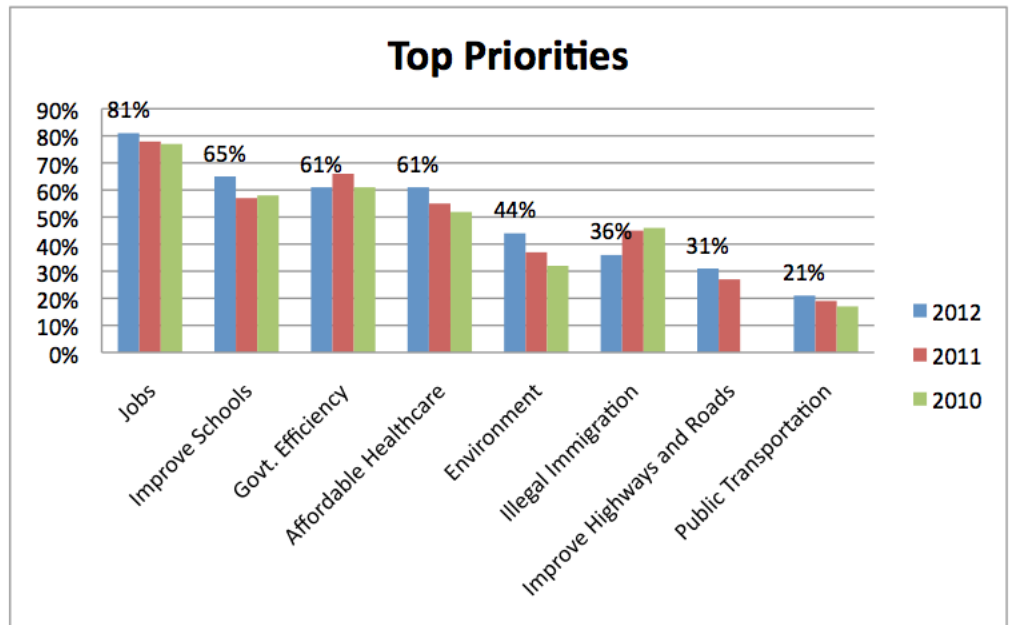
The package has been endorsed by four Democrats, Sens. Charles Schumer (N.Y.), Dick Durbin (Ill.), Robert Menendez (N.J.) and Michael Bennet (Colo.), and four Republicans, McCain (Ariz.), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Jeff Flake (Ariz.).

The revelations expressed by McCain and the GOP polling are sinking in with Indiana Republicans. U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks told WIBC that she is "encouraged" by the framework which would strengthen border security and better track temporary visitors to ensure they leave the country when their visas expire, provisions favored by Republicans. The proposal would also create a path to citizenship for the 12 million illegal immigrants estimated to be living in the United States, a change favored by Democrats.

State Sen. Mike Delph, who championed immigration reform in recent sessions of the Indiana General Assembly, is taking a wait-and-see approach now that Congress and President Obama are taking positions. Delph told WISH-TV, "I don't think there's a need right now for the state of Indiana to revisit anything that we passed."

In four consecutive sessions, Delph sponsored immigration reform bills. In 2011, legislation was passed and signed by Gov. Mitch Daniels which requires employers involved with the government to use the federal E-Verify system to check the status of their employees. It also prohibits the transportation, harboring or shielding of illegal immigrants. Courts have blocked two provisions in the law: One clause prohibited use of consular identification cards, a commonly used ID provided by foreign embassies or consulates. The other provision allowed the arrest of people who had a removal order or notice of action from federal immigration authorities (Indiana Public Media).

"We're going to take a wait-and-see approach,"



The Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University found that immigration is the sixth most important issue facing Hoosiers.

Delph said after the courts blocked the provisions. "You know, we always like to take a look and see the impact that laws that we pass have on our state and on our citizenry and the law's only been enforced since July."

Delph and other conservatives have long maintained that immigration is a federal problem that should be addressed by Congress. He acted when Congress did not.

On Tuesday, President Obama pushed the reforms in Las Vegas, saying, "Now is the time," eliciting chants of "Si, se puede" – roughly translated as "Yes, it's possible" – from the crowd at a majority Hispanic high school.

"We can't allow immigration reform to get bogged down in an endless debate," Obama said.

While the framework appears to have a decent chance of passing the U.S. Senate, the House may be another matter. As one observer told Howey Politics, "Republicans in the House might have problems with passing legislation that would create 11 million new Democratic voters.

The response to that should be this: Republicans need to have logic and faith that their ideas will attract future Hispanic voters, who tend to be small business owners, pro-life and family oriented. ❖



Bonding on the back bench

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – As I was finishing up a cigar and martini the other night with a certain conspicuous, self-promoting conservative blogger, State Rep. Justin Moed showed up at Nicky Blaine’s.

And soon thereafter, State Rep. Tim Harman. And by the end of the evening, other House freshmen from both parties. That Moed is a Democrat from Indianapolis and Harman a Republican from Plymouth is instructive here. With roughly 40% of the Indiana House either freshmen from the Class of ‘12 or sophomores from the Class of ‘10, we have entered a new era in the Indiana General Assembly.



Unlike the generation that just pulled away – 12 Democrats with 236 years of collective tenure, and several Republicans that upped the total to 340 years – where grudges and paybacks were layered in suspicion and paranoia, the up and coming classes are realizing that public service in this

new era means building relationships that extend across the aisle.

I didn’t have a tape recorder rolling and I wasn’t taking notes, but both Moed and Harman were conveying the same message: Our constituents sent us here to work together and get things done. There is low tolerance for the kind of games, walkouts and blackballing that occurs when a calcified membership loses track of the central goal.

With Indiana’s jobless rate at a persistent 8.2% over the past several years, the overwhelming priority has to be job creation and preparing a vigorous workforce.

This didn’t happen only in the legislature. Indiana Association of Cities and Towns officials noted that after the 2011 mayoral elections, the new crop of young mayors, both Republicans and Democrats, were reaching out and socializing together when they convened in Indianapolis. There will be new relationships built, taking the MO that has developed between Democrat Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight and Republican Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold that embraces the commonality of their auto sector economies, and working to bring other such employers to their regions. Goodnight and Seybold don’t compete; they conspire together to create jobs.

Heading into this Super Majority Era of the General

Assembly, it would have been easy and natural to project the Republican majorities cramming their positions down the throats of the 31 House Democrats and their 13 colleagues in the Senate.

But what has emerged is a spirit of cooperation. It extends from Gov. Mike Pence, who has signaled his desire to work with new Democratic Public Instruction Supt. Glenda Ritz. His visit to her Statehouse office reinforced the perception.

Speaker Brian Bosma for the second consecutive legislature appointed a Democrat to a committee chair. Last week, in what House Republicans called a “a rare joint announcement,” Bosma and Minority Leader Scott Pelath launched HB1002, “designed to improve coordination, communication and vision for Indiana’s workforce training and career preparation systems.”

“The ICC will bring the key players together to unite a fragmented system, share data and coordinate all elements of the state’s workforce development efforts,” said Speaker Bosma.

“While we may disagree at times on the methods used to reach the goal, legislators on both sides of the aisle are fully committed to the effort to help Hoosier workers find and retain good-paying jobs,” Pelath said. “The greatest economic development tools we have in Indiana are the men and women who take pride in doing an honest day’s work. It only makes sense for us to put the machinery in place to let them get the skills they need to continue to provide for themselves and their families.”



Freshmen State Reps. Justin Moed (left) and Tim Harman are part of a bipartisan group of legislators who are looking for partners across the aisle.

The statistics Bosma and Pelath conveyed are shocking. Some 930,000 Indiana workers – nearly one-third of our workforce – lack even the most basic skills to thrive in today’s economy.

Minority leaders in the House and Senate, Sen. Tim Lanane and Rep. Pelath, have also overtly expressed their



desires to find common ground. Both were not only charitable in their reaction to Gov. Pence's State of the State address, but constructive in their critical assessments.

We've watched Senate Education Chairman Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, defuse a potential point of contention, saying he will not hear legislature aimed at making the superintendent of public instruction an appointed position. With both Republican and Democratic platforms backing that stance, this was noble restraint in the perception of Ritz's popular election, her vote total eclipsing



Speaker Bosma and Minority Leader Pelath have joined forces on workforce issues.

that of Gov. Pence.

Yes, there will be controversies. In the legislative process, it's inevitable.

But at this early juncture in this new era, I like what I see in the signals sent, the willingness of leaders to listen to their minority colleagues, and the rapport that is developing on a personal level on the back bench.

Someday, some of those in the back of the room will be leading the assembly.

Hoosiers will be well served by this. And with 250,000 of them without jobs, we need every advantage we can muster. ❖

Mass transit bill passes out of committee 11-1

INDIANAPOLIS - The bill that could lead to a new mass transit system in Central Indiana advanced in the General Assembly on Wednesday (Shella, WISH-TV). A committee in the Indiana House of Representatives voted 11-to-1 for the measure that calls for a referendum on local income tax hikes in Hamilton and Marion counties. The hikes would increase taxes .3%. The money would be used to build a better bus system. The plan has the support of Mayor Greg Ballard but failed to win approval in two previous sessions of the legislature. Ron Gifford of Indy Connect Now says attitudes are changing. "I think a lot of legislators understand now that local governments face a lot of different challenges," he said, "and that local communities have different needs and they need different ways to deal with those needs." The mass transit bill now goes to the House Ways and Means committee for further consideration.



SENATE PANEL OKs WORK COUNCILS: Gov. Mike

Pence's plan for businesses to work with high schools and together develop a career curriculum program sailed through a Senate committee Wednesday (Carden, NWI Times). Senate Bill 465 sets up regional Indiana Works Councils that initially would evaluate the vocational, technical and career education programs available in their regions. In 2014, the councils would work with local high schools to develop student programs leading to industry certification, an associate degree or specific training for available jobs in their region. The Senate Education and Career Development Committee approved the proposal 8-0. It now goes the full Senate.

ROAD FUNDING A GRIM PICTURE: More patching and less paving. Fewer upgrades to key thoroughfares. No money to fix worn-out bridges (Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press). That's the grim picture that local officials from around Indiana painted for state legislators during a House Ways and Means Committee hearing Wednesday. They urged lawmakers to pump more money into transportation as they write a new two-year spending plan. The panel was considering three measures that would combine to infuse more than \$400 million into roads budgets — a move that would carry political consequences, since it would lessen the amount available for education and for Gov. Mike Pence's proposed income tax cut. Lawmakers



who are pushing for extra transportation funding said it's a priority that they can't ignore. "We're coming to a point where that's becoming critical, and we don't want to get to a place where it becomes debilitating," said House Transportation chairman Ed Soliday, a Valparaiso Republican who is carrying one of the bills. Of the bills considered by the committee Wednesday, the biggest chunk — \$286 million — would come from setting aside half of the revenue collected by sales tax on gasoline purchases for transportation. Up to another \$144 million a year could come from pulling the Indiana State Police, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Revenue out of the list of recipients of shares of Indiana's 18-cents-a-gallon gas tax and devoting that money entirely to roads — a change the other two bills move toward.

JUSTICE RUSH TESTIFIES FOR DCS OVERSIGHT

BILL: Two bills concerning child welfare in Indiana received unanimous support from the Indiana Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday morning (Gray, South Bend Tribune). The bills, both co-authored by Sen. John Broden, D-South Bend, come out of discussions by the Department of Child Services Interim Study Committee, according to co-author Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, who presented at the meeting. The first bill, SB 125, originally was set to create a DCS Oversight Committee. Major amendments proposed at the committee meeting change "the whole personality of the bill," according to Holdman. Essentially, another proposed Senate bill creating a Commission for Child Services has been combined with this legislation, Holdman said. "We have taken the language from the oversight committee to make it a commission," Holdman explained at the hearing. What does this mean for DCS oversight? Holdman said it means a more complete look at issues. Indiana Supreme Court Justice Loretta Rush spoke at the hearing, giving her support for the amended bill. Rush also worked with the interim study committee, as well as with a weekly working group, of which Holdman was a part. "We took both commissions and put them into one group where all three branches of government would work together," Rush said.

ALLEN COUNTY SEEKS EXECUTIVE: For a sixth straight year, legislators are debating whether to rethink the structure of local government (WIBC). Various proposals to replace three-person boards of county commissioners with a single county executive have all failed in the legislature. Allen County supports the single-executive referendum, and state and local Chambers of Commerce are endorsing the bill as well. But the Indiana Farm Bureau's Katrina Hall says having three commissioners instead of one makes it three times as likely you can reach someone when you have a

concern.

GOODNIGHT TESTIFIES AT WAYS & MEANS: Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight spoke before the Indiana House Ways and Means Committee on behalf of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns in support of House Bill 1117 which would enable greater local control for how state revenues are collected and spent. "Since 2005, City of Kokomo costs for asphalt have increased 54% while state funding for local roads has decreased by 15%," said Mayor Goodnight. "I'm here to advocate for a legislative solution that restores local control for revenues for local roads and streets." The House committee also heard testimony in support of HB 1117 from IACT representatives, the Indiana Association of County Commissioners, and local government officials from across the state.

SOLIDAY DELAYS LICENSE PLATE VOTE: A second attempt by state Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, to impose order on the process for issuing special group license plates ran into a temporary roadblock Wednesday over the issue of gay pride (Carden, NWI Times). Soliday said he delayed committee action on House Bill 1279 after another representative proposed amending the legislation to permanently prohibit any group that has had their license plate revoked from ever applying for a new plate. Only the Indiana Youth Group, an Indianapolis-based gay rights group, and Indiana 4-H have lost their license plates in recent years. "I couldn't live with that," Soliday said. "You know, even God forgives."

HICKS SAYS RECESSION RETURNS: An Indiana economist said Tuesday's economic report from the Commerce Department confirms that the United States is almost certainly in another recession (Indianapolis Business Journal). The economy unexpectedly shrank from October through December for the first time since 2009, hurt by the biggest cut in defense spending in 40 years, fewer exports and sluggish growth in company stockpiles. The drop occurred despite stronger consumer spending and business investment. The Commerce Department said Wednesday that the economy contracted at an annual rate of 0.1 percent in the fourth quarter. Ball State University economist Mike Hicks, however, said the quarterly contraction only confirms his fears that the United States is heading for another recession. Hicks said there has never been a quarterly decline in GDP outside a recession. "The shrinking of the economy in fourth quarter by a slight 0.1 percent almost certainly marks a new American recession," Hicks said. "Indeed, because we have good data back to World War II, there has been no quarterly decline in GDP on record without a recession." ♦



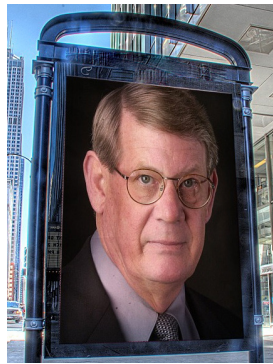
Indiana knee-jerk crime reaction and consequences

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – One of the worst things the Indiana General Assembly did over the last 40 years was throw away the key after locking up criminals.

Congress did the same thing shortly after Indiana acted.

It was all a knee-jerk reaction to a public outcry over a variety of crimes. Slowly over the years, the Indiana prison population has mushroomed, not so much because of an increase in crime, but rather because of increased penalties. Some 14,000 Hoosiers were sent to state prisons last year. There are almost 30,000 people in Indiana prisons today.



As a result, Indiana spent an average of \$720 million a year on prisons each of the last two budget years, according to the Times of Northwest Indiana.

Not only was the state's prison system costing the state far too much money, it was ultimately releasing people from the system

worse off than when they went in.

And, too many Hoosiers were in prison for too long. The system wasn't tailored to meet the needs of the inmates.

There was hope last year of fixing the problem through Gov. Mitch Daniels' proposal for sentencing reform. Unfortunately, the state's prosecutors refused when they showed a lack of spine and had the bill killed.

The bill is back, thanks to the work of Daniels' sister, Deborah Daniels, a former U.S. attorney and assistant attorney general, who headed a group that did a thorough study of the state's criminal code.

The bill is back and reportedly better than ever.

"It is a big, big deal, said state Rep. Linda Lawson, a retired law enforcement officer, a co-sponsor of the bill. Lawson is a Hammond Democrat.

All the details haven't been worked out, but the bill expands the current four levels of felonies to six. And it more fairly tailors the prison sentence for the crime.

Drug addicts who are caught selling small amounts of narcotics to support their habits, will get treatment rather than long prison sentences.

One of the things that ought to be amended out of the proposal is a plan to limit sentence reductions for those now earning high school and college degrees while in jail.



State Rep. Linda Lawson is backing the criminal justice reforms.

The best part of the bill is that low-level felons will more than likely avoid prison and serve their sentences in county jails or some sort of supervision in a community corrections program.

The legislators ought to look to Lake County when it comes to community corrections, given that it may be the best, and most comprehensive

in the state.

Because prisoners get lost in the state system, there is little preparation to return them to the real world. They often just become more hardened criminals.

Because of Lake County's community corrections system, just 429 felons were sent to the Department of Correction last year.

There will be legislators who will oppose the bill because they think it makes them look soft on crime. They are the very same people who created the problem by unnecessarily increasing the state's prison population and doing little to help those who committed crimes.

That type of attitude may have helped many win re-election, but it didn't help Indiana. Perhaps significant this time around is that Lawson, a former police officer, is one of the sponsors. That says volumes. ❖

Rich James is a columnist for the Times of Northwest Indiana. He has reported on government and politics for more than 30 years. ❖



Obama speech was just in time

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Reaction from the more partisan evaluators of President Barack Obama's Second Inaugural Address can be summed up succinctly this way:

"About time."

"Told you so."



Partisan Democratic progressives, disappointed that the president didn't fight harder during his first term for causes in which they believe, were pleased that he spoke eloquently of need to act on climate change, immigration, assault weapons, individual freedoms and preserving the social safety net.

"About time," they said, pleased that Obama, instead of trying to convince uncompro-

mising Republicans to compromise, will seek now to work around them and defeat them if they still won't work with him.

Partisan Republican conservatives, disappointed that the president won a second term, were convinced by his speech that they were right to fear that the more moderate approach of his first term wasn't "the real Obama."

"Told you so," they said, disagreeing with his agenda and contending that they were right all along to oppose his every initiative in order to defeat him and prevent him from pursuing what they see as wildly liberal goals.

Reaction of pundits and commentators was divided. Of course.

Al Sharpton likened the speech to Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream."

Charles Krauthammer found it not a memorable speech, having "not a line here that will ever be repeated." David Brooks, a conservative columnist who cited areas where he disagreed, still started his analysis with this: "The best inaugural addresses make an argument for something. President Obama's second one, which surely has to rank among the best of the past half-century, makes an argument for a pragmatic and patriotic progressivism."

But what matters more than views of the pundits or the partisans is how the president is viewed by the majority of Americans, especially those in the middle ground. Those neither agreeing with Obama enthusiasts that he already ranks as another Lincoln, nor with the Obama haters

who refuse to regard him as an American. Those who could have been swayed either way in the last election but finally decided on Obama.

The evaluation of the inauguration for many of these people depends not so much on his interpretation of the meaning of the Declaration of Independence, but more on their feelings about him and his family.

If Obama gets higher approval ratings, the most important factors could well be all those TV shots of the popular First Lady and the cute kids, all those flags waving in a patriotic pageant and the way Beyonce and Kelly Clarkson delivered stirring renditions.

Contrasts are important. And in the most quoted of his remarks, Obama sought contrast with Republican congressional opponents now down in the polls.

While they demand cuts in entitlements, Obama said of these programs: "They do not make us a nation of takers; they free us to take the risks that make this country great."

That resonates with many people on Social Security or with a medical bill just paid for through Medicare. They don't like being denounced as "takers," even if they - and Obama - do know there must be some changes.

He also drew a contrast with opponents who call him names and call compromise a dirty word: "We cannot mistake absolutism for principle or substitute spectacle for politics or treat name-calling as reasoned debate. We must act."

Since the president already had spoken out on assault weapons after the slaying of 20 first-graders in Connecticut and had long supported immigration reform, his calls for action in those two areas were expected. What really got the partisans going - lot of progressive partisans pleased; lot of the conservative partisans appalled - were his calls for gay rights and action to deal with climate change.

Congress is expected to do nothing about these. But the president spoke out on both after reluctance to do so during most of his first term. And he made clear he will use executive powers where he can to get around congressional refusal to admit there is even such a thing as climate change.

And so we hear loud, instant and differing reactions: "About time." "Told you so." Historians will look back on the speech and what it did or didn't do to steer the nation in one direction or the other and deliver a later evaluation. ❖

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



Economic development is no mystery

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Local economic development organizations (LEDOs) have been severely challenged in the past few years. Some have been absorbed by the local chamber of commerce. Others have joined forces with their counterparts in other counties to become regional agencies. A LEDO may continue to exist, but it becomes less visible as part of a larger organization.



The chief problem is no one knows how to measure the efficacy of a LEDO, but boards of directors want performance metrics so they (the board) will appear to be responsible. When such metrics are not forthcoming, it becomes hard to justify a LEDO's expenditures of public and private funding.

Some LEDOs are funded only by local governments. They receive annual appropriations from the county and/or the city. The source of funds may be a county Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) or part thereof, since the county council and commissioners may have other ideas about what constitutes economic development. Elected officials on a LEDO board get very nervous if they do not know and understand what a LEDO does.

Private sector funding often comes from large national firms that want to support a local effort beyond youth softball, and from local firms with skin in the game of local prosperity (newspapers, banks, realtors, developers, and even hospitals and colleges). They often view the LEDO as a business that "should be run as a business."

Since a LEDO does not sell a product or charge for its services, it's hard to use the business model. What a LEDO does is help firms make location-related decisions that are ultimately good for its community. This means increasing the number and value of jobs in the area, augmenting the assessed value of property, and not deteriorating the environment through added pollution and congestion.

Changes in these conditions, however, are hard to attribute to the LEDO which typically can provide only as much guidance to a firm as the firm is willing to accept. In a bad year, positive outcomes may be virtually impossible to find while a good year may have had little help from the LEDO.

What a LEDO does is pass information on to existing and prospective employers about the physical and econom-

ic infrastructure of a community. It is a task that requires extensive knowledge and familiarity with the institutions and personalities that matter to the potential expanding firm. A good handshake and a bottle of bourbon may help in selected cases.

Some LEDOs are attempting to reshape their images. They do not wish to be seen as a variant of the welcome wagon. Nor do they want their financial supporters to misunderstand why regular use of the country club golf course can be an integral part of keeping and attracting good businesses.

The trend today is to say our economic development depends on the quality of our labor force which in turn depends on our education system. Hence, we find LEDOs positioning themselves as work force training experts.

I find this trend questionable since our labor force is highly mobile. The problem simply may be that well-trained people do not want to raise their families in Indiana. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, writer and speaker.

Pence names Bonaventura to DCS

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mike Pence has named Mary Beth Bonaventura as the head of the Department of Child Services.

Bonaventura will join Pence's administration as director of the Department of Child Services. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, most recently serving as senior judge of the Lake Superior Court, Juvenile Division--one of the toughest juvenile court systems in the state. Bonaventura was appointed senior judge in 1993 by then-Governor Evan Bayh after having served more than a decade as Magistrate in the Juvenile Court.

Since the start of her career in the Juvenile Court, Judge Bonaventura has been recognized for her dedication and outstanding service to children. In 2008, Governor Mitch Daniels appointed Bonaventura as a member of the Indiana Commission on Disproportionality in Youth Services. In 2009, she was named Chair of the Civil Rights of Children Committee for the Indiana State Bar Association and the chief justice appointed Bonaventura as Chair of the Child Welfare Improvement Committee.

"Judge Bonaventura is uniquely qualified to lead the state's Department of Child Services and help to protect Hoosier children from abuse and neglect," said Pence. "She is a strong leader who has an impeccable reputation of integrity and compassion for children." ❖



Eric Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press: Two Republican governors are pushing similar education initiatives — with one surprising difference. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence and Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell have a lot in common. They are conservative favorites whose names occasionally show up on lists of potential 2016 White House contenders. They both govern states where Republicans have pushed aggressive education reform agendas, and where belt-tightening through the recession has left them with work to do to win back teachers who have gone without cost-of-living pay raises. They both used major speeches this month to stake their claim to the reformers' mantle, with Pence announcing plans to expand Indiana's voucher program and McDonnell saying he wants A-through-F school grading like Hoosier schools have. And both governors recently called for about \$60 million more annually for K-12 education — money that would go toward boosting teachers' pay and hiring new ones. The difference is in how the governors are proposing dividing up some extra cash for education on top of that. McDonnell's idea is modest. He wants to set aside \$1.4 million to hire reading specialists to help public schools where fewer than 75 percent of third graders are demonstrating proficient reading skills — and give those schools extra time to work with students who need help. Pence's is bigger. He wants \$64 million in additional school funding in 2015, but he wants it to go only to schools that reach performance goals, including high graduation rates and test scores — while also giving schools regulatory freedom to meet those goals. In other words, McDonnell wants to spend Virginia's extra education dollars on helping the worst-performing schools. Pence wants to spend Indiana's money rewarding the best-performing schools. They're starkly different approaches that aim to achieve the same goal.

Andrea Neal, Indiana Policy Review: There is one inescapable reason that a regional mass-transit system will not succeed in the Indianapolis area. "Put simply, mass transit needs mass — i.e. density." And we don't have it. The quotation comes from two experts in urban transit: Erick Guerra and Robert Cervero of the University of California at Berkeley. They studied 59 rapid bus transit, light-rail and heavy-rail systems in 19 metropolitan areas. Their lesson: For mass transit to be cost-effective, job and residential density must be high along the way. Central Indiana does not have high-density employment hubs or neighborhoods to justify mammoth investment in public transit. But he movers and shakers are pushing the Legislature to pass a bill that would be the first step of a costly process setting up a regional mass transit system.



Backers point out that their bill does not create anything itself but simply gives voters of affected counties the chance to decide if they want to join a Metropolitan Transit District and are willing to pay higher taxes for it. Marion and Hamilton counties would go first, possibly voting in November. Stage one calls for a commuter rail line from Noblesville to downtown Indianapolis and doubling of bus service in the metro area. Eight more counties could opt in later: Boone, Delaware, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Morgan and Shelby. A referendum sounds fair, but won't be. Mass-transit advocates have at their disposal tax dollars to finance their campaign. TV and radio spots running now are paid for by the Federal Transit Administration, whose mission is to support public-transit development. Ordinary citizens can't fight this. The latest census data underscore the no-win economics of mass transit here: 92 percent of Indianapolis workers drive to work, most alone but some in carpools. Three percent work at home. Two percent walk to work. Two percent use IndyGo, our highly subsidized albeit essential transit service. That is a startlingly low figure compared to cities with successful bus and subway systems. It makes no sense to invest \$1.3 billion — for the initial phase of the plan — into 2 percent of the workforce, especially when their needs could be met more creatively and cheaper.

Jill Lawrence, National Journal: Hillary Rodham Clinton and Joe Biden won't be running for president in 2016--bet on it. I already have, and I'm going to owe a lot of people dinner if I'm wrong. Not to spoil anybody's fun, but all of this speculation will probably lead nowhere. I'm going to explain my reasoning and then try very hard to refrain from writing anything more about this until, well, at least six months from now. The most obvious factor militating against runs by these Democratic power players is their age. Biden would turn 74 right after Election Day 2016, and Clinton would turn 69 just before it. Both of them may have other things they want to do with their lives before it's too late. Clinton, for instance, has made no secret of her yen for a grandchild. And she and her husband are reportedly hunting for a vacation home in the Hamptons, suggesting she has a slower pace in mind. Clinton also has many long-standing interests that have had to compete for her time during her stints as first lady of Arkansas and the nation, as a senator from New York, and as secretary of state. It's more difficult to envision a post-politics role for Biden, who has spent his life inside the Beltway as a senator and as vice president. But he has proven such a valuable White House asset on such a range of issues, and such a constructive bipartisan negotiator, that future presidents of either party would likely press him into service. ❖



Dems react to Zody selection

INDIANAPOLIS — U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly is urging Indiana Democrats to choose John Zody, an experienced Capitol Hill hand who worked on President Barack Obama's re-election campaign, as the party's next state chairman. Donnelly wants the former chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Baron Hill and leader of Obama's 2012 campaign in eight Midwestern states to take the helm after Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker's eight-year tenure ends in six weeks. The 18-member state Democratic central committee — two from each of Indiana's nine congressional districts — will vote at their March 16 meeting on a new chairman. Members said Donnelly was calling them Wednesday to say Zody is his preference. "Certainly the recommendation of our United States senator carries great weight," said Anthony Long, the Eight District Democratic chairman. Long said he thinks highly of Zody and — since he's not aware of other candidates for the job — sees no reason he wouldn't support him. "I've known him for years. He's an outstanding young man. He's had a lot of experience — a lot of work in the party before," Long said. Other members of the central committee said they'll also give Donnelly's recommendation strong consideration — but that it's not a done deal. "I put a lot of stock in Joe Donnelly's advice," said Jeff Fites, the Fourth District chairman. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, who reacted to the news of Zody's campaign by saying "I support John Zody as the next state chair. He will work hard to develop the party in all 92 counties and always do what's right for Indiana." "This is an exciting time for our party- a time defined not



only by our recent successes but by the promise of the days that lie ahead, said U.S. Rep. André Carson. "In John Zody, we find a leader who will push our efforts forward, who will champion the causes of working families, and who will fight to continue growing the Indiana Democratic Party. I look forward to working with him."

Giffords testifies, 'Be bold'

WASHINGTON - She spoke just 72 words, reading slowly and carefully from a lined sheet where a speech therapist had transcribed her thoughts. One of the many things former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has lost is the congressional luxury to be long-winded (Associated Press). "You must act. Be bold. Be courageous," Giffords testified Wednesday in her first formal remarks on Capitol Hill since an attack that nearly killed her two years ago. "Americans are counting on you."

Donnelly won't back assault ban

INDIANAPOLIS — Freshman Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly is opposing a ban on assault weapons sought by President Barack Obama. A Donnelly spokesman told The Associated Press Wednesday that the Indiana lawmaker will vote against the ban but has not decided whether he would support universal background checks. Donnelly represents a key bloc of moderate to conservative Democrats the president must win over. The announcement also marks a key early stance from Donnelly just a few months after winning a state that went heavily for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney in last year's election. Donnelly called himself "a strong supporter of the Second

Amendment" in a statement issued shortly before the Senate Judiciary Committee opened a hearing featuring testimony from National Rifle Association CEO Wayne LaPierre and former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Dani Deer a question for Pence

INDIANAPOLIS - The case of Dani the deer and the Connersville couple who saved her — only to be prosecuted for breaking a law about keeping wild animals — has reached the governor. The only question is what will Gov. Mike Pence, barely two weeks in office, do with an issue that is small compared to mass transit and tax cuts but seems to spark much more emotional resonance with a broad swath of the public since The Star's report on Monday. Pence, a Republican seen as a champion of limited government, said at a news conference Wednesday that the Department of Natural Resources seems to have "acted appropriately" in charging Jennifer and Jeff Counciller with a crime.

Defense trashes Page in Bales trial

SOUTH BEND — Indianapolis attorney and developer Paul J. Page is no longer a co-defendant in the fraud trial of real estate broker John M. Bales and a partner after agreeing to a plea deal, but you wouldn't know it from the action Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana (Schouten, Indianapolis Business Journal). Only now, rather than federal prosecutors, it's defense attorneys for Bales and co-defendant Bill Spencer who are targeting Page. The defense hopes to convince the jury that it was Page who committed "financial fraud."