



## Poll shows support for Pence tax cut

### Tax cuts rate low on list of issues

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Recent polling made exclusively available to Howey Politics Indiana by the Indiana Association of Realtors shows heavy support for Gov. Mike Pence's proposed 10% income tax cut, though the issue rates far down on the priority list when compared to others.

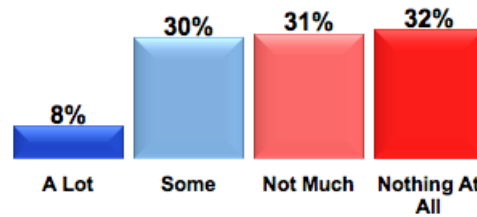
The poll shows that by a wide margin, 59% support the tax cut and 26% oppose. But before the support question, the poll asked, "Gov. Mike Pence has proposed cutting Indiana's personal income taxes by 10%. How much have you seen, read or heard about this proposal?" It revealed that just 37% were familiar with the issue and 62% said "not much/nothing."

But when it came to rating the top issues facing the state, only 12% cited cutting taxes, rating sixth on the



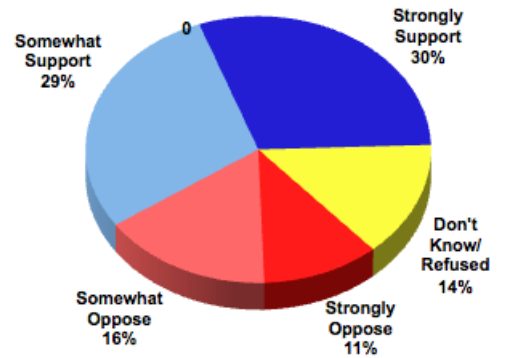
"Now thinking about the state budget...as you may know, Governor Mike Pence has proposed cutting Indiana's personal income taxes by ten percent. How much have you seen, read, or heard about this proposal?"

	GOP	IND	DEM
Total A Lot/Some	37%	40%	36%
Total Not Much/Nothing	62%	60%	64%



"And, do you support or oppose this proposal?"

	GOP	IND	DEM
Total Support	59%	75%	63%
Total Oppose	26%	13%	24%



list of issues. And Hoosiers want their government to get things done. In the question, "In politics today would you

**Continued on page 3**

## Legislative Redd lining

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The passing of former Fort Wayne Councilman Charles B. Redd last week prompted memories of a fine public servant who toiled in the civil rights crusade.



So influential was Redd that in 1991 an Indiana House district was created just for him.

And he never made it to the Indiana General Assembly.

First, the life lived. The Detroit native moved to Indiana in 1963 and became a probation officer, then headed Urban League offices in Mar-



**"In thinking about the prospect of becoming state chairman, I had to consider what I can bring from the Obama campaign."**

- John Zody, U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly's choice to become Indiana Democratic chairman



## 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**

**Brian A. Howey**, Publisher  
**Mark Schoeff Jr.**, Washington  
**Jack E. Howey**, editor

### Subscriptions

\$599 annually  
☎ Call Adrian France  
812.455.4070 or email  
adrian@olympiamediagroup.com

### Contact HPI

**www.howeypolitics.com**  
bhowey2@gmail.com  
☎ Howey's Cabin: 812.988.6520  
☎ Howey's cell: 317.506.0883  
☎ Washington: 202-256-5822  
☎ Business Office: 812.455.4070

© 2013, Howey Politics Indiana. All rights reserved. Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, whole or part, is a violation of federal law without permission from the publisher. ❖

ion and Fort Wayne. It was that role that launched him into the political sphere, becoming a key instigator for desegregating Fort Wayne Community Schools, the state's second largest district at the time. In doing so, he helped found the Voter Information Center and was chairman of the Indiana Democratic African-American Caucus.

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker observed, "He helped design and implement the Fair Share

in some areas," Henry told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. "He had the intellectual foundation to be able to debate with the best of them. There are those who sometimes talk for the sake of talking. Charles didn't. But he was polished and professional – he could hold his own."

Fort Wayne's black population was then in the 15% range and when the new maps were forged following the 1991 Census, Democrats controlled the process and drew a district in south central Fort Wayne with Redd in mind.

Mark Helmke, now teaching political science at Trine University and has written extensively about Fort Wayne's political history, said he doesn't believe Fort Wayne has ever produced a black legislator. This was later confirmed by his father, Walter Helmke.

"The old at-large districts were designed to discriminate, until the one-man one-vote ruling," Mark Helmke told HPI. "By then I don't think the black population was big enough to fit into a concise district and there was no push to gerrymander one."

But Redd's biggest obstacle was the political resurrection of Win Moses.

Moses had been the popular mayor of Fort Wayne, steering the city through the terrible floods in 1982 and was seen by many as a future gubernatorial candidate. But he was convicted of campaign finance violations in 1985, resigned for 11 days, and the Democratic precinct members reelected him, infuriating Republicans. In 1987, Moses was defeated by Republican Paul Helmke.



Former Fort Wayne Councilman Charles Redd, who died last week, was poised for the Indiana General Assembly until the Win Moses comeback.

Declaration of the Indiana State Democratic Party, which required IDP to include minorities and minority businesses in procurement and employment decisions. He also was one of 24 political leaders throughout Indiana who formed IDAAC."

Redd served two terms on the Fort Wayne Council under Mayors Winfield Moses Jr. and Paul Helmke and during his council tenure he also served with current Mayor Tom Henry and Senate President Pro Tempore David Long. "He was a real visionary



Moses left the city for a few years, and then returned in the early 1990s.

He filed for the House seat drawn for Redd, who bristled at the Moses candidacy, barely containing his contempt. I covered this race for the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. While Redd conducted a traditional campaign, Moses spent less than \$100 on his and when the votes were counted he began a 20-year tenure in the House until his 2012 defeat by Republican Martin Carbaugh.

**This is a story we've seen before.** A decade earlier, an Indianapolis congressional seat was drawn with Indiana Republican Chairman Bruce Melchert in mind. But State Sen. Dan Burton jumped into a five-man field and won what was then the 6th CD with 37% of the vote.

As for African-Americans in the Indiana General Assembly, the ceiling was broken in 1881 by Republican James Sidney Hinton, who served one term in the House and whose bust will be placed in the Statehouse soon.

State Sens. Katie Hall of Gary and Julia Carson of Indianapolis became the first black women to serve in the Indiana Senate beginning in 1976.

While there have been a few African-Americans who have served in the General Assembly from outside of Indianapolis and Lake County – Democrat Hurley Goodall and Republican Jim Van Leer represented Muncie, Cleo Washington served in the Indiana Senate from South Bend – the class is a small one. James S. Hunter of Lake County, a welder, was elected to the Indiana General Assembly in 1940 breaking the Region race barrier that has since been followed by Lonnie Randolph, Earl Harris, Charlie Brown, Vernon Smith and others.

Charles E. Decker of Evansville, elected to the General Assembly in 1946, is the only African-American from there ever elected to that body.

And there's Fort Wayne, the state's second largest city, which has yet to break the race barrier. ❖

## Poll, from page 1

prefer a legislator who totally sticks to their positions?" 26% supported that, while 70% cited "gets things done." Among Republicans, 37% cited "sticks to their positions" while 57% wanted things to get done. Among independent voters 27% cited the former and 68% the latter.

The Jan. 20-22 Public Opinion Strategies Poll (600 likely voters, +/-4% margin of error) was conducted by pollster and primary researcher Gene Ulm on behalf of the Indiana Association of Realtors.

The POS polling data on the Pence tax cut differs from the December survey from the Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, where the question was posed in a different context.

The Bowen survey addressed the issue in a tandem formate, asking whether Hoosiers preferred the Pence tax cut as opposed to investing in jobs and education. The poll showed 31% supported the tax cut and 64% supported investing in jobs and education. "By a two-to-one margin, Hoosiers prefer that surplus revenues be used to invest in jobs and education rather than rebating 10% to taxpayers," the Bowen polling memo stated.

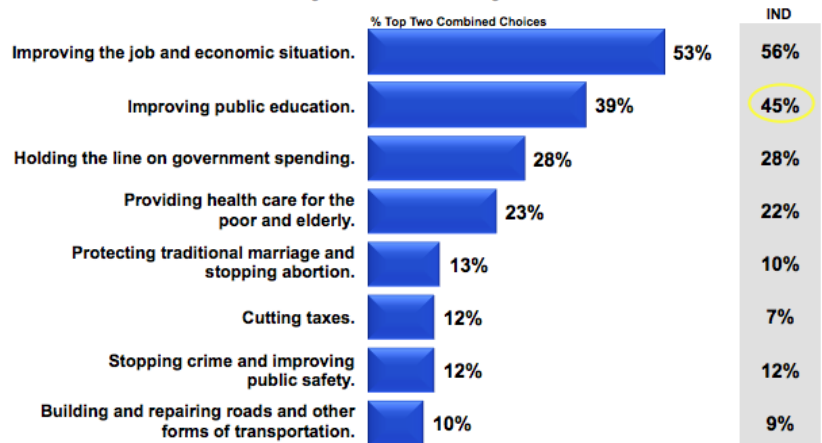
The POS poll snapshot reveals high favorables for Gov. Pence, who has been in office less than a month. It showed that 49%

approve of the job Pence is doing and 15% disapprove. Those numbers were 64/5% among Republicans, 46/10% among independents and 33/29% among Democrats. Pence's favorables are nearly 3-to-1 in the Indianapolis doughnut counties (69/20%), in Indianapolis (61/21%) and in the Fort Wayne area (61/22%). In more Democratic areas such as South Bend they stood at 49/18% and in the Northwest Region, they were at 31/18%.

On the right track/wrong track questions, Hoosiers are pessimistic about the nation and much more optimistic about Indiana. The U.S. right/wrong track stood at 33/63%

## Jobs and the economy are the top priorities for voters in Indiana. Education is second.

"Thinking of issues for a moment, which of the following issues do you believe should be the top priority for Indiana's governor and the State Legislature?"





while the Indiana right/wrong track was at 62/20% even though both had jobless rates in the 8% range.

President Obama's approve/disapprove numbers in Indiana stood at 45% favorable and 53% unfavorable.

**The Indiana General Assembly** gets high marks, with 53% approving and 32% disapproving. On a generic ballot legislative question, Republicans lead Democrats 41 to 37% with 20% undecided.

Hoosiers are not optimistic about the future of the economy. Some 57% expect the U.S. economy to remain "about the same" with 25% expecting it to get better and 16% believing it will worsen. In Indiana, 40% said "about the same" while 36% said it would get better and 18% said worse.

Karl Berron of the Indiana Association of Realtors, citing POS statistics from December 2011 and September 2008 – when the financial crisis exploded – told HPI, "Optimism is going in the wrong direction."

On issues facing the state, jobs and education are by far the uppermost on the minds of Hoosiers. In a percentage of the top two combined issues, 53% cited jobs and the economy; 39% said improving public education; 28% said "hold the line on government spending"; 23% cited providing health care for the poor and elderly; 13% said "protecting marriage and stopping abortion"; 12% said cutting taxes; 12% said stopping crime and improving public safety; and 10% said building and repairing roads and other forms of transportation.

**On education issues**, Hoosiers rate their neighborhood schools much higher than schools throughout the state.

On all Indiana schools, 6% gave them an "A"; 24% a "B"; 44% a "C"; 14% a "D"; and 6% an "F", creating a classic bell curve.

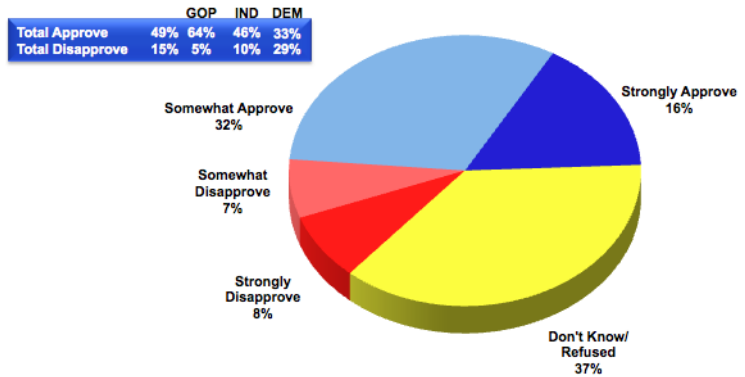
But on their own neighborhood schools, 22% gave them an "A"; 32% a "B"; 29% a "C"; while just 9% gave them a "D" and 6% an "F".

On the historic education reforms of 2011, just 39% said Indiana should "slow down or maybe even repeal some of these programs," including 50% of Democrats and 40% of independents. On supporting the recent reforms, 54% said yes, including 66% of Republicans, 49% of independents and 45% of Democrats.

When it comes to funding priorities, 38% (including 47% of independents) cited K-12 public education; 23% said health care for the poor and elderly; 15% said roads

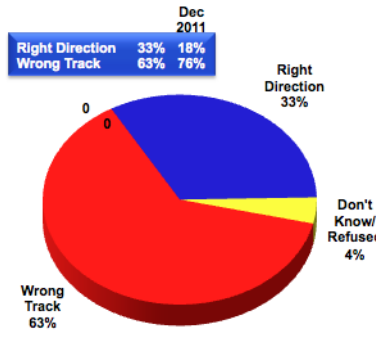
## A plurality of voters approve of the job Mike Pence is doing as Governor. More than one-third are undecided.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the job Mike Pence is doing as Governor?"

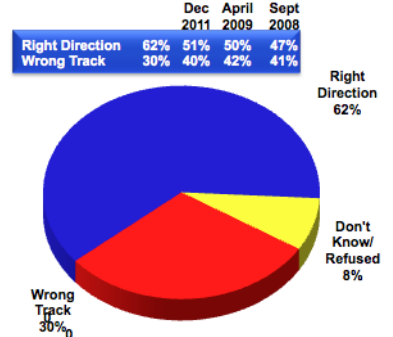


## Voters in Indiana are much more optimistic about the direction their state is headed than that of the nation. State direction numbers will boost the Governor's approval.

"Generally speaking, would you say that things in the COUNTRY are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?"



"Would you say that things in INDIANA are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?"



and transportation programs; 12% said crime and public safety; 8% said higher education; and just 1% environmental programs.

On programs they would cut first, 36% cited environmental protection programs; 24% high education; 17% roads and transportation; 7% crime and public safety programs; 5% for health care for the poor and elderly; and 3% said K-12 public education.

**Finally, asked if they** believe that Indiana's counties, cities and towns "have enough ways to raise revenue and do not want to see new taxes," 29% support more new tax options and 66% believe they have enough revenue. ❖



## Bosma says redistricting commission legislation won't be a priority

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – When the current Indiana legislative and congressional maps were drawn in 2011, they generally received positive reviews. The maps tended to keep “communities of interest” intact and followed county lines. The bizarre lizard-shaped districts became slithery beasts of the past.

With the creation of the maps, both House Speaker Brian C. Bosma and Senate President David Long acknowledged that before the 2021 maps are drawn, an independent redistricting commission should be created.

But with a “full plate” this session, Bosma told HPI this morning that the four bills and two joint resolutions on the topic “probably” won’t move. “I remain a fan of the redistricting commission concept,” Bosma said. “I have chatted with the authors of the bills and resolutions, but there is so much that is critical on our plate right now. We have nine years until the next redistricting experience.”

Bosma added, “There are questions about the viability of it. I have spoken with leaders in other states that have redistricting commissions and they get mixed reviews.”

Bosma said that while other states had hoped to “remove partisanship from the process, it’s just moved partisanship to other posts.”

In 2011, Bosma wrote, “Currently, the Indiana Constitution requires the General Assembly to approve maps and that is what needs to happen in 2011. This constitutional provision must be repealed for a commission to effectively address reapportionment in the future. Rep. Jerry Torr and I have once again coauthored House Joint Resolution 9 to begin the process of revising our constitution to allow an independent commission to tackle the job in the future.”

Long explained two years ago, “I am confident a transparent, open approach to the 2011 redistricting process that utilizes the new criteria proposed can create the fairest, most representative districts ever drawn in our state. That is certainly the goal of the Senate Republi-

cans.” He also noted, “Indiana Senate GOP leaders recently unveiled a package of sweeping redistricting reforms that include establishing an independent commission for drawing state legislative and congressional district boundaries. As president pro tem of the Senate, I will help shepherd these historic reforms. co-authored by Assistant President Pro-Tem Sue Landske and Majority Floor Leader Connie Lawson.”

Secretary of State Connie Lawson, who had been a proponent of a redistricting commission while serving in the Indiana Senate until her appointment to her current office last March, said in a statement to HPI, “As a former chair of the Senate Committee on Elections, I respect the

constitutional duty placed on the Indiana General Assembly to apportion voting districts. As chief election officer, I will respect the will of my former colleagues to determine whether a redistricting commission is the best public policy for Indiana.”

Lawson, who will run for reelection in 2014, introduced 2011 legislation to better define how districts should be drawn following the 2010

census. Sen. Landske, chair of the Senate Committee on Elections, authored a 2011 resolution to shift future constitutional map-drawing responsibilities from state lawmakers to an independent commission, Long said.



**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski on election night. She was one of seven Republicans who won last November, creating a 7 to 2 delegation. (Elkhart Truth Photo)**

### First results with new maps

The first actual election results of the new maps are in and the results still reveal a flawed process. According to November election returns from the Indiana secretary of state, 2,473,264 votes were cast in the nine congressional district races: 1,313,845 votes (53.12%) were cast for Republican candidates, 1,100,327 votes (44.49%) were cast for Democratic candidates, and 59,088 votes (2.39%) were cast for Libertarian candidates.

The result: Republicans carried seven of the nine congressional districts. Only the 2nd CD race – with U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski winning by fewer than 5,000 votes – was competitive, despite speculation after the maps were created that this district was going to be overwhelmingly Republican. Only Rep. Pete Visclosky in the heavily Democratic Northwest Region and Andre Carson in Indianapolis won, representing a mere 22% of the districts.

Republican Indiana House candidates carried about 54% of the total vote but won 69 of the 100 seats.

A Public Opinion Strategies Poll conducted on



behalf of the Indiana Association of Realtors (Jan. 20-22) revealed that if elections were held then, 41% said they would vote for Indiana General Assembly Republicans and 37% would vote for Democrats, with 20% undecided. Nationally, Democratic U.S. House candidates polled 49.1%; Republicans 48.1%. But thanks to GOP control of some 30 legislatures in 2010, which then produced the maps, Republicans ended up with a 234-201 House majority.

It's important to note that this shoe has been on the other foot. Indiana Democrats drew the maps in 1991 and 2001 and while Republicans routinely carried a majority of the Indiana House vote (in the 53% to 55% range) over those two decades, Democrats were able to control the House more than half of the time, including half of Gov. Mitch Daniels' tenure. In doing so, House Democrats were able to blunt the Daniels reforms from 2007 through 2010.

The irony there is that efforts in 2011 to pass a constitutional amendment to create a nonpartisan redistricting commission were thwarted by the five-week House Democratic walkout, although there was no scenario that such a commission could have been in place to forge new maps without what Bosma calls "political criteria."

Just because the parties have shifted roles doesn't make it right.

Sam Wang, writing for the New York Times on Sunday, explained: "Although gerrymandering is usually thought of as a bipartisan offense, the rather asymmetrical results may surprise you. Through artful drawing of district boundaries, it is possible to put large groups of voters on the losing side of every election. The Republican State Leadership Committee, a Washington-based political group dedicated to electing state officeholders, recently issued a progress report on Redmap, its multiyear plan to influence redistricting. The \$30 million strategy consists of two steps for tilting the playing field: Take over state legislatures before the decennial census, then redraw state and congressional districts to lock in partisan advantages. The plan was highly successful." Wang noted, "Gerrymandering is a major form of disenfranchisement. In the seven states where Republicans redrew the districts, 16.7 million votes were cast for Republicans and 16.4 million votes were cast for Democrats. This elected 73 Republicans and 34 Democrats."

## **Current redistricting commission bills**

In this session of the Indiana General Assembly there are two bills each in the House and Senate – SB54, SB302, HB1446, HB1008 along with SJR5.

SB54 written by Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, and SB302 written by Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, are similar. Delph's bill: Establishes a redistricting commission

to create, hold hearings on, take public comment about, and recommend plans to redraw general assembly districts and congressional districts; requires the legislative services agency to provide staff and administrative services to the commission; establishes standards to govern the commission and the agency in the creation of redistricting plans; provides that if the constitution of the State of Indiana does not require the general assembly to establish legislative districts, the commission's recommendations for legislative plans define those districts; provides that if the Constitution requires the general assembly to establish the districts, the general assembly must meet and enact redistricting plans before October 1 of a redistricting year.

HB1446 was written by Rep. Justin Moed, D-Indianapolis, while HB1008 was written by Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel, and both bills are similar to the two Senate bills.

U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita pushed redistricting reform during his final two years as Indiana secretary of state. While the criteria he proposed guided Bosma and House Republicans in forging the current maps, Rokita does not advocate an independent commission.

"I advocated for keeping it in the hands of the General Assembly but with tight parameters that would be in statute," Rokita told HPI. "These parameters included among others 1) following only known community boundaries when drawing the lines, so people understood more easily where districts were, 2) "nesting" where two state House districts fit exactly inside each state Senate district so if you knew who your rep was, you would automatically know who your senator was, and the main one, 3) no voting data could be used for partisan purposes (very easy to detect, actually)."

Rokita added, "Yes, all this could be done by a commission, but these are people not elected by anyone. I feel that is too insulated from accountability to the voter and taxpayer. Better to keep it in the hands of the people, through the representatives. But if it's a commission, you still need these rules in statute. A commission without them is worse than a General Assembly without them."

Rokita noted that U.S. House Speaker John Boehner is not a proponent of the parameters he introduced in 2010, even though Indiana yielded a 7-2 Republican delegation.

Rokita offered this advice to journalists as to "what the goal should be."

"Competitive districts no matter what the voter makeup (more exciting election cycles), or districts that when considered together fairly reflect the voters," he said. "For example of the former, (then-State Rep.) Eddy Mahern's districts were extremely competitive and they were the worst gerrymandered mess anyone had ever seen. He had to contort severely to keep the demand with a chance of House control, again in a pretty conservative state." ❖



## Zody would draw on his Obama campaign 2012 experience, but Simpson ‘interested’

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – John Zody is on a potential course to take the helm of the Indiana Democratic Party, which is facing the prospect of 12 years out of gubernatorial power, Republican super majorities in the Indiana General Assembly, and the congressional delegation slanted 10 to 3 in favor of the GOP.

But it is the party’s beacon – U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly – who has reached out to Zody to replace current Chairman Dan Parker, who decided not to seek another term after more than seven years.

Donnelly began calling party leaders last week, signaling his support for Zody, a long-time operative who was instrumental in Gov. Frank O’Bannon’s 2000 reelection and was a key aide to former Congressman Baron Hill. But it was Zody’s 2012 resume addition that caught Donnelly’s eye: His role as Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic political director in President Obama’s reelection campaign in which he oversaw eight states, including Indiana as well as crucial battleground states Ohio and Virginia.

Working out of the Obama Chicago headquarters, Zody told Howey Politics Indiana, “I learned a lot. It was a data-driven campaign. It was an operation of analytics that made sure we were measuring everything. In thinking about the prospect of becoming state chairman, I had to consider what we can bring from the Obama campaign to help a county organization from the grassroots level, information management and creating messages that are going to be different for different candidates at different levels.”

**While Zody’s ascension** to the helm is considered a fait accompli by many, given Donnelly’s commanding imprimatur, he must wait until after the county party

elections on March 2, followed by the congressional district elections on March 9. Asked if he expected the status quo or significant change coming to the Indiana Democratic Central Committee, Zody declined to comment.

**There is persistent talk of Vi Simpson**, former state senator and lieutenant governor nominee, having an interest in the chair, signaling a sort of proxy scenario. Both Hill and 2012 gubernatorial nominee John Gregg are potential 2016 candidates and there has been some speculation that both would like a friendly chair. There is a “Draft Vi Simpson for Indiana Democratic Party Chair” Facebook page that had received 359 “likes” as of Wednesday. Another website is seeking petitions backing Simpson for chair.

Ninth CD Chairman Wayne Vance told the Evansville Courier & Press that Simpson told him she’s interested in the job. With the election of party chairs on March 2 and district chairs on March 9, “Probably a lot of water will pass under the bridge before that happens,” Vance said.

It will be interesting to see if the days where a U.S. senator like Donnelly and Evan Bayh can install his man at the helm. Bayh did so with Parker, but Parker was unable to seat his designated candidate (Tim Jeffers) after he resigned in December 2011, prompting him to remain at the post.

Zody has already taken a stance on an issue, opposing a bill that would prevent students who pay out-of-state tuition to Indiana

colleges from voting in Indiana.

“I join those who have spoken out in opposition to HB 1311, which was to be heard by the Indiana House Elections and Apportionment Committee,” said Zody. “This bill would not only disenfranchise students who are eligible to vote in Indiana, but it would disenfranchise citizens who use our public infrastructure and education systems. These citizens deserve representation. Rep. Peggy Mayfield, the bill’s author and my own state representative, has had very little to say about the supposed merits of the bill. Legal scholars and Hoosiers agree this bill provides unequal treatment under the law. I am in agreement that it should be



**John Zody has won the imprimatur of U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly to become the next Indiana Democratic chairman, but now faces the task of convincing the incoming Indiana Democratic Central Committee.**



Former lieutenant governor nominee and state senator Vi Simpson is “interested” in the job and has some momentum after the Gregg/Simpson ticket nearly upset Gov. Pence. She is shown at a Democratic rally at North Central HS in Indianapolis last October. (HPI Photo)

withdrawn from consideration immediately.”

Zody is an Indiana University graduate student (he is studying non-profit management at SPEA in Bloomington) and has been reaching out to current and potential county and district chairs, as well as the legislative and congressional members.

Asked if he would pursue a strategy that Parker and leading Democrats used in 2012 to clear potential primary fields for Donnelly in the Senate race and Gregg in the gubernatorial race, Zody said, “The idea of limiting people, or making people feel excluded, I would never advocate that.” He added that he intends to stay “neutral and fair” in the coming nomination processes.

“Every election cycle is going to be different,” he said. “I would never limit the process.”

Zody has received a number of endorsements since Donnelly began calling party leaders asking them to support him as chair. Former Gov. Joe Kernan praised Zody and outgoing party chairman Dan Parker.

“I have known John for 16 years, and had the good fortune to work directly with him when he was on my staff. He has paid his dues over the years and will bring his energy and passion to his new responsibility. He will be a terrific chair for our state party,” Kernan said.

U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky said, “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.” U.S. Rep. André Carson added, “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.”

Added former Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis, “I have worked closely with John Zody, and not only is he one of the hardest-working people in politics, but he does so with a smile on his face. I’m proud to support his candidacy.”

Zody first got involved in Indiana politics in 1988 when he worked with Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew, and then Robin Winston, Kip Tew and Joe Hogsett. Asked what he learned from the former chairs, Zody said, “It’s just hard work, you have to keep up the hard work. You have to be consistent, you have to be fair and you have to be willing to do the work that it takes.”

His Southern Indiana roots will be important as he tries to regain the so-called Democratic “legacy” seats the party lost in 2010 and failed to regain in 2012. Indiana Democrats have only six Indiana House members south of I-70 and Rep. Kreg Battles is the only House Democrat representing what could be called a “rural” district. House Democrats are largely confined to the Indianapolis and Northwest Region population clusters and university cities.

“The tide has turned a little bit,” Zody said. “I am hopeful we can turn it back. I have experience in that part of the state. We all have to talk and work with legislative candidates, making sure we’re all coordinated.” ❖

**HOWEY**  
*Politics Indiana*

When Chris Cillizza of the *Washington Post* posed the question to readers across the nation - Who's the most influential political journalist in your state? - the answer in Indiana was this: Brian A. Howey of *Howey Politics Indiana*. Since 1994, *Howey Politics Indiana* has provided news, analysis and commentary from throughout Indiana and Washington D.C. Howey reaches the most influential insiders with his newsletters and the masses with his weekly newspaper column and [www.howeypolitics.com](http://www.howeypolitics.com).

*Photo: Howey with Richard Lugar and Sam Nunn in Russia.*

**The Washington Post**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2007

**“The Best Indiana Political Reporter: *Howey Politics Indiana* editor Brian Howey.”**





## Bayh has to be the most interested observer

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT – It might be too early for voters to think about who they will vote for in the 2016 presidential race, but it isn't too early for potential candidates to think about whether they will be candidates in 2016.



That's because the next president has to be talking to people even now, raising money, testing the waters and scoping out the potential challenger field.

I'm not a betting man, but in Vegas, the odds would have to be on a 2016 match-up pitting New Jersey Gov. Chris Christy and outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Pundits are always interested in "what-ifs" when it comes to candidacies, but the

person who has to have more interest than other non-pundits this time around is former Sen. Evan Bayh.

There is some great irony in the fact that Bayh might be vice president today if it had not been for the meteoric rise of a former Illinois senator named Barack Obama. Bayh's name was on the political horizon long before 10 percent of Americans could tell you what state Obama was from or what office he held there.

Clinton had virtually tabbed Bayh as her running mate in waiting and Indiana Democrats, including former House Speaker Pat Bauer, had endorsed Clinton for president. The Bayh allegiance to Clinton had to go a long way to helping her win Indiana in the 2008 Democratic primary.

For her efforts and her cause to become the first female president, Obama rewarded her with the No. 3 position in the federal government.

What did Bayh get?

Nothing.

It wasn't the first time Bayh was in the running for second place on the national ticket, but will it be the last?

That's the question Bayh has to be thinking about every day until Clinton decides whether she'll make another run.

In some respects, the decks are cleared for her. She recently has had her campaign debt from 2008 paid off, and she had borrowed from her own funds to keep that campaign going. She has stepped down as secretary of state, which presumably gives her the time to ponder a bid and the instant anonymity of being able to work behind the scenes. There is no perceived frontrunner in 2016 and given Vice President Joe Biden's age, he will not be a logical choice.

**That leaves Bayh with** a glossy resume that includes 12 years in Washington and eight years as governor. He grew up there and he has a history of being a moderate at a time when the Tea Party's influence is waning and extreme candidates are waning with them, witness Richard Mourdock's failed bid for the U.S. Senate.

Whether Bayh's name appears on the ballot in 2016 depends on part on the Democratic field if Clinton doesn't run.

Some of the names that have to be considered are New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, Pennsylvania's Bob Casey Jr., Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and the real wild card who is one of Bayh's old friends from the days he was growing up in Washington – Al Gore.

Indiana Democrats shouldn't expect Bayh to be on the ballot in this state in 2016 unless he's a candidate for vice president. But if the veepstakes up Bayh again, don't

be surprised if he returns to Indiana in 2020 as a retiree who is willing to run for governor again and resurrect the party, particularly if Mike Pence is completing a second term and Democrats are fewer and farther between in the Indiana General Assembly than they are now.

The only other scenario that could return Bayh to Washington is if Democrats lose a majority in the Senate or are close to it with Sen. Dan Coats' seat hanging in the balance. If that happens, a Bayh

return might be likely. For now, the future of Evan Bayh in politics is simply an intriguing question for Hoosiers and Washington insiders. ❖



**Kitchell is an award-winning columnist based in Logansport.**



## January revenue report good news for Pence; Bosma will look at options

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana reported its revenues are \$176 million ahead of the December forecast, or 4% ahead of projections, according to Gov. Mike Pence's OMB Director Christ Atkins. This is a good scenario for Pence's proposed 10% income tax cut, which has been greeted with some skepticism by Republican caucus and finance leaders who have called for a "sustainable" budget and tax policy.



Many observers have speculated on the April revenue forecast as being key to the prospects of the income tax cut passage. But more important is the current scenario, given that the biennial budget including the tax cut must pass the House by the half-way point of the session at the end of this month. Atkins did note that the revenue increases may level out in February. "January had a surge in individual income tax revenue due to a delay in acceptance of returns by the Internal Revenue Service," he explained. "This delay by IRS led to a decrease in the number of returns received by the Department of Revenue (DOR) and a corresponding decrease in the number of returns paid out to taxpayers. As a result, we are expecting the surge in January individual income tax revenues to be offset by a corresponding decrease in February individual income tax revenues, as refunds that would have been paid out in January are paid out in February."

Meanwhile, Pence on Wednesday renewed his push for a state income tax cut, pointing to Ohio and other states that are moving ahead with similar proposals (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "We're not operating in a vacuum," he said. "There is stiff competition for investment and jobs. We are in a competition. Indiana is in the pole position, but other states are not standing still."

House Speaker Brian C. Bosma told HPI this morning that while he remains "very respectful and open" to the Pence tax cut, he reaffirmed the need for it to be sustainable, citing once again tax cuts in 1998 with a billion dollar surplus that turned into a \$1.4 billion deficit a few years

later. "We don't want to put ourselves in that position again," Bosma said. "If the goal is to jump start the economy, we have to look at the results of a modest income tax cut. An individual entrepreneur making a half a million dollars will end up with \$1,072 in their pocket. We're looking to see if that modest tax cut impacts the economy or whether other tax cuts might do the same."

Bosma added that the Pence tax cuts will be part of the biennial budget and can be inserted at any point of the process up through conference committees.

"There is no sense lowering a tax just to raise it later," Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, the Senate's budget broker, told the Journal Gazette. "Philosophically, I like to reduce or control taxes, but I don't know if we are able to do it with our budget constraints right now."

**PENCE SAYS 'I'M NOT LEGISLATOR-IN-CHIEF':** Gov. Mike Pence declared Wednesday he is not, and will not become, the state's "legislator-in-chief," shrugging off critics who claim he should be more directly engaged in House and Senate action (Carden, NWI Times). The Republican governor, who took office Jan. 14, told reporters (see photo below) during a meeting in his Statehouse office that there are issues he's working with legislators on, primarily employment and education matters, but he isn't following every proposal moving through the General Assembly.



"On an ongoing basis there's going to be a broad range of legislative initiatives that we won't have much to say about unless they get to that desk," said Pence, pointing to his office workspace.

That's a major change from his predecessor, Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels, whose staff had their fingers in seemingly every legislative proposal — bending and shaping measures well before they reached the governor for him to sign into law or veto.

Pence said he simply has a different style of executive leadership.

He said his focus is limited to the six goals listed in his Roadmap for Indiana— increasing private-sector employment, attracting new investment, improving math and reading skills, increasing graduation rates, improving workforce quality and improving the health, safety and well-being of Hoosier families. "The goals are fixed, but we are very open to proposals that we believe also advance those goals to be brought to us from the General Assembly or from people across Indiana," Pence said. Last week



House Democratic Leader Scott Pelath, D-Michigan City, complained that Pence hasn't clearly identified which legislative proposals match his Roadmap goals and what other proposals are likely to get signed into law.

#### **PENCE WON'T EXPAND MEDICAID IN CURRENT**

**FORM:** Gov. Mike Pence said Wednesday that he has ruled out expanding Medicaid under the federal health care law unless Indiana gets approval to use state health savings accounts for the expansion (Associated Press). Pence told reporters that the only way he would approve a Medicaid expansion would be if the state is given the choice of using its Healthy Indiana plan to cover new enrollees. "It was important to me that we do fully fund Medicaid, but we did not fund a Medicaid expansion, nor do I think that under the current framework for Medicaid that it would be advisable for Indiana to do that," he said. Democratic lawmakers are pushing for the state to approve the expansion, and House Ways and Means Chairman Tim Brown, R-Crawfordsville, has said he is considering paying for the expansion in the House version of the budget. Pence's announcement came two days after Ohio Gov. John Kasich bucked a trend among Republican governors of flatly opposing the federal health care law and said he would expand Medicaid.

#### **DAVIS HOLDS FATE OF SUNDAY BOOZE SALES BILL:**

The Indiana General Assembly inched toward ending the state's long-standing ban on Sunday carry-out alcohol sales by openly considering the issue. But the reality is that it could take years before there's a change in the law (Sikich, Indianapolis Star). The House Public Policy Committee held the first hearing on the issue Wednesday. But Chairman Bill Davis has made no promise to call House Bill 1146, which would remove all Sunday sales restrictions, for a vote. As chairman, it's his decision. Davis is against expanding carry-out alcohol sales on Sundays, and he didn't hear anything during three hours of testimony to change his mind. "That's just my opinion, and that's why I wanted to have this type of hearing . . . so that everyone has a voice," he said. "This is an issue that has been around the legislature for a good long time that we needed a good debate on."

**SPECIALTY PLATE BILL MOVES:** A House committee today unanimously approved a bill to revamp Indiana's specialty license plate process after a short hearing that was void of the controversy that surrounded this issue last year. Rep. Ed Soliday, the Valparaiso Republican who authored House Bill 1279, had tried in 2012 to rein in the growing number of plates. But it fell apart as conservatives used the legislation to try to yank the specialty plate that had been given to the Indiana Youth Group, a support organization for gay teenagers. Though Soliday dropped his bill, the IYG

ended up losing its plate after lawmakers complained to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles that it had used low-number plates to reward donors, in violation of its contract. Two other groups also lost their plates for the same reason: The Indiana 4-H Foundation and the Indiana Greenways Foundation. Under HB 1279, the legislature would create a bipartisan special group recognition license plate committee to recommend up to five plates a year, with the BMV allowed to have a maximum of 150 specialty plates total. Soliday said Indiana currently has 103 plates. To keep their plate, groups must sell at least 500 plates annually. If they don't meet that benchmark, they will be put on probation for a year. If they fail again to sell 500 plates, the BMV will terminate the group's plate.

**PRESSURE RAMPS UP ON ROCKPORT PLANT:** Opponents of the proposed \$3 billion Rockport, Ind. coal-gasification plant are ramping up pressure on state lawmakers for action during this year's legislative session (Evansville Courier & Press). A group that includes the Indiana Farm Bureau as well as 10 Indiana utilities, including Vectren Corp., is pushing for new ways to reimburse ratepayers if the plant's prices are higher than open-market natural gas rates. "Customers should not be forced to subsidize this plant through what will essentially be a tax on their monthly gas bills," said John Browner, the president of Sycamore Gas Co. Meanwhile, a group of advocacy organizations that includes several environmental groups, senior citizens' lobbyists and local tax-watchers, are rallying their members to urge lawmakers to block the deal. "Many older Hoosiers are already under enormous financial stress. They spend a disproportionate share of their income on health care and utility costs," said June Lyle, state director for AARP. "They should not be further burdened by a deal."

**PURDUE, IU OPPOSE REGIONAL AUTONOMY:** Indiana University and Purdue are objecting to a proposal to give their regional campuses more autonomy (Indiana Public Media). Complaints from IUPUI's Fort Wayne campus administrators about Purdue's governance of the campus prompted Senator Jim Banks to introduce a bill to let regional campuses offer their own degree programs, and give them a direct pipeline to their parent university's trustees instead of answering to the president. Purdue Provost Tim Sands says Purdue is reviewing its relationship with its regional campuses, but says the autonomy bill would cause problems. "When we think about efficiency, we really have to be thinking first about the affordability and access for our students," Sands says. "So if we're talking about generating multiple copies of a business system, or a degree program for that matter, obviously that's working against efficiency."❖



## Only so much a governor can do on job creation

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Candidates for governor, all of them, campaign on jobs, more jobs for Indiana and vast improvement in the state's economy. When elected, they brag about accomplishments in job creation, especially in seeking reelection. And they leave office citing a legacy of economic expansion, whether or not there has been much or any.



In past columns, I have contended that governors really don't have a lot of control over the economy in their states.

Candidates for governor, whether Democrats or Republicans, always claim, however, that they can control the economic direction of the state and bring jobs. Why not make the claims?

Voters cite jobs as the No. 1 issue. They want to believe.

Now, economist Morton Marcus, former long-time, respected director of the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, cites specific statistics, the facts, to make this point: "No state administration is capable of offsetting the trends of the times."

You have heard the claims that Mitch Daniels, who just completed eight years as governor, did wonders for the Hoosier economy.

Well, Marcus points out in his "Eye on the Pie" column that Daniels "set a goal of raising Indiana's per capita personal income (PCPI) closer to the national average."

Here are statistics cited by the economist:

**In 2003, Indiana's PCPI** was 9 percent below the national average, with 33rd ranking among the states. Eight years later, Indiana sank to 14 percent below the national average and dropped to 40th place. The average annual growth rate was 2.4 percent, the fourth lowest in the nation.

There were other bleak statistics as well. Hold on.

Marcus stresses that he does not seek to hold the Daniels administration responsible for the decline.

Nor do I.

The economist does suggest, however, that it would be best for governors "not to raise economic expectations in areas where they are mostly powerless."

Whether the nation's economy is robust or going bust is the biggest factor in Indiana's economy.

Individual states are affected a little more or less because of the sectors of the economy that are most important in the state.

**For example, Indiana's** economy still is heavily dependent on the auto industry. When that industry was collapsing, Indiana suffered more job losses than many other states. With the successful federal effort to save Chrysler and General Motors, the manufacturing picture brightened more than in many other states.

But Gov. Daniels had nothing to do with either of these ups and downs.

He wasn't to blame for mistakes made in Detroit or for the nation facing the worst downturn since the Great Depression. Nor is it to his credit that the auto bailout worked. In fact, Daniels opposed it.

Daniels can take credit for a state surplus. Critics don't like how he did it. His supporters hail it as a monumental achievement at a time when other states face rising debt. But that's a different issue. A nicely balanced state budget doesn't necessarily mean more jobs and a rise in per capita personal income and the growth rate. The statistics clearly show that.

Governors aren't totally helpless in economic development. They can seek to entice new industries or encourage expansion of existing facilities through salesmanship and promising tax and infrastructure help. They all try that. It helps some, but those efforts too depend more on the nation's economy.

Presidential candidates have a more legitimate claim on ability to set policies that will have impact on the nation's economy. But even a president doesn't have the power to turn off a recession or turn on an economic boom.

**Economic cycles, decisions** in the business sector, fluctuations in the finance sector, stock market whims, war or peace and, increasingly, the global economy have impact on what a president hopes to do.

What Congress does or will not do can frustrate or help implement presidential economic initiatives.

But presidents still can have much more influence over jobs and the economy than governors.

That won't stop candidates for governor from claiming they will "turn the economy around" to bring jobs, bring growth and bring bountiful personal income. They basically will bring what the trends of the times and the national economy will dictate. ♦

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



## Role of government will never find consensus

By **LEE HAMILTON**

BLOOMINGTON - A few weeks ago, in his second inaugural speech, President Obama waded into the longest-running argument our history offers. "Progress does not compel us to settle centuries-long debates about the role of government for all time," he said, "but it does require us to act in our time."

He had just laid out a rationale for government action on infrastructure, protecting the security and dignity of people, climate change, inequality, the strength of arms and the rule of law. Even though he also spoke about limiting government's reach, replacing outmoded programs, and reforming its shortcomings, liberals saw the speech as a call to arms, while conservatives cringed.



However you responded, though, there's one point I suspect we could all agree on: This is not a question we'll ever settle. After more than

two centuries of discord over the proper role of government, the only consensus we've been able to arrive at as a nation is a consensus not to have a consensus.

That's okay, because the issue is never going to go away. Changing circumstances, new challenges facing the country, and shifting national moods will always demand that we rethink what we want out of government. But that is not the same as saying that we can't approach the question more thoughtfully.

If you bring up the issue before an audience, someone invariably quotes Henry David Thoreau's phrase, "That government is best which governs least." Everyone usually nods in agreement.

**But Thoreau was writing** more than 150 years ago. As appealing as small government might be to the rugged-individualist, market-oriented strain in the American character, talk about it is misleading. The growing number of Americans on Social Security and Medicare; the interest on the national debt; the social safety net; the public demand for regulations that promote safety and well-being, protect the environment, and keep rapacious firms in check; the sums we spend on defense and taking a robust leadership role in the world; the government's interest in promoting economic activity, in part by funding infrastructure — all guarantee that the federal government won't be shrinking anytime soon.

This is not to say that government can't be restrained, however. Talking about "limited government," I think, is far more useful these days than about "small government." An energetic government that nonetheless knows how to restrain spending, ensures that regulations are fair, calibrates the tax code so that it promotes economic growth and provides what government needs without stifling initiative, and rigorously oversees its own actions to correct slip-ups quickly and ensure they don't happen again — how to create that is worth debating.

**Most Americans are** uncomfortable with an aggressive, expansive government. They want it to provide the resources for people to solve the problems that confront us, they want it to lay the groundwork for opportunity, they want it to protect liberty, individual freedom and federalism, they want it to keep us secure, and they want government leaders to do the best they can — given how limited their control over the economy actually is — to promote economic growth. But they don't want it to take over.

Still, I am concerned by our failure as a country to deal with issues that demand government action: Income inequality, poverty, hunger, the lack of access for too many Americans to high-quality education, and the sluggish economy. Government can't solve these alone, but we can't solve them without government.

The public sector does a lot of things wrong. It fixates on short-term benefits and ignores long-term costs. It remains slow to act when action is needed. It is reluctant to spend now — as on infrastructure — even when it knows that the longer it delays the higher costs will rise. It often spends too much and too inefficiently. It fails to reckon early enough with the consequences of its activities.

**Yet it is also indispensable.** So it is high time, I believe, to set aside the black-and-white argument about "big vs. small" government and to adopt a more thoughtful, less ideological approach to the role of government. For those things we want government to do, we should be talking about how a limited government can do them better. ❖

**Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.**



## Changes for Lake GOP

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – Lake County’s woefully weak Republican precinct organization will have a new chairman in March. Chairwoman Kim Krull, who tied her political future to the Tea Party, will be out.

Krull said she is stepping down for personal reasons but will run for vice chairman. I strongly suspect Krull has been told to step out of the way.

Krull embarrassed herself and the county when she backed Tea Party candidate Richard Mourdock over Sen. Richard Lugar in the 2012 Republican primary.

How you can be a Republican county chairman and turn your back on Lugar is beyond belief. But, hey, this is the same woman who held a party fund-raiser and raffled a rifle as the top prize. A rifle? Talk about selling your soul to the National Rifle Association.

Krull likes to boast that under her leadership the party won two new state representative seats and the party’s first countywide office since the 1940s. We need to put that into perspective. The party won two new state representative seats because of gerrymandering by the Republican-controlled Legislature. And when Republican Hank Adams was elected county assessor, it wasn’t because of Krull’s leadership or the Republican Party.

Democrats elected Adams after a myriad of residency problems surfaced about Democratic candidate Carol Ann Seaton, who surprisingly won the primary.

Perhaps Krull’s biggest black eye was the party’s pathetic performance in trying to unseat Hammond Democratic Mayor Thomas McDermott in 2011. After coming close to ousting McDermott in 2007, McDermott won 80 percent of the vote in 2011, defeating George Janiec, who was the 2007 candidate.

**And in Crown Point**, a traditionally Republican town, incumbent Democratic Mayor Dave Urban won 63 percent of the vote in 2011.

Krull wants the party to elect Allan Katz, 76, of Crown Point as her replacement. Katz, a retired businessman, has the time to be chairman but hasn’t held elective office. If a challenger to Katz surfaces, it likely will be Lake County Councilman Dan Dernulc of Highland. Dernulc ousted Democratic Councilman Thomas O’Donnell in 2010.

Yet, the winner of the March 2 chairman election likely will be decided by Dan Dumezich of Schererville.

Dumezich pulls the strings of the Lake County Republican Party and is deeply embedded with the Republicans in Indianapolis, largely because of the money he raises locally for state officials. Newly elected state Rep. Hal Slager of Schererville also is with Dernulc, as is Kevin Connelly of Schererville. While Katz is a nice fellow, Dernulc’s experience in winning elections better prepares him for having the moxie to build the party.

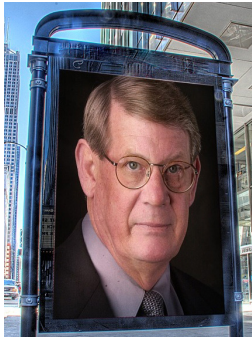
**The only other elected official** to serve as Lake County Republican chairman in modern times was John Curley, who was Winfield Township trustee/ assessor. But Curley’s brief, but successful, stint as chairman was cut short in 2009 when he died as a result of a heart attack. ❖

**Rich James is a columnist for the Times of Northwest Indiana.**

## Krull responds to James column

CROWN POINT – Lake Republican Chairwoman Kim Krull responded to the James Column:

1. I was not asked to step down by anyone. In fact many people including elected officials tried to get me to change my mind.
2. I will never be embarrassed for standing up for my principles and what I believe in. Richard Mourdock would have been a great senator. He made a mistake in a comment during a debate that was blown up by the opposition. That’s politics.
3. How can a Republican senator (Lugar) turn their back on the Republican Party?
4. Mr. James neglects to print the fact that we have over 70 Republican elected officials in Lake County, 23 more than in 2009 when I took office. That had nothing to do with gerrymandering!
5. I guess trying to bring in money for the party with a gun raffle isn’t appropriate for Mr James. At least all the criminals know James is soft on guns.
6. If I had not put in a competent assessor candidate with Hank Adams and worked hard to not only keep him on the ballot but to also campaign for him, it wouldn’t have mattered how many crimes Ms. Seaton had committed, she still would have won.
7. Not my fault that GOP mayoral candidate Eldon Strong angered the entire CP fire department as trustee just when he decided to run for mayor! I would have thought Strong would have learned from former mayor Dan Klein about angering the CP FD.
8. Dumezich holds the chain around the neck of some GOP officials and candidates because they want his money. However, there’s more to running a party than just controlling those few people. ❖





## Art, music and credit cards

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - In the past week a suggestion has come forward that Hoosier school children should be educated in financial matters. Specific mention was given to loans, mortgages and credit cards.

Although the idea has merit, it is ironic coming from the Indiana General Assembly, that body of superior knowledge when it comes to finances. A basic course in economics, incorporating elements of personal and public finance, would be my recommendation.



How many members of our esteemed legislature understand the fundamentals of financing government when they first run for office? OK, they learn something over time, but their unelected fellow citizens remain ignorant.

We want our children, our citizens, to be able to manage their affairs well. That's why legislators make these enlightened proposals. Yet, balancing a checkbook with a bank statement is nothing more than simple addition and subtraction. What is more complex is the civic purpose of alternative financing methods; government is not a business.

What services should be provided by government? Which level of government: Federal, state, or local? At the same time we have to decide whether "provided" means operated and financed by government. An ice rink can be owned by a local government, built and operated by a private company, and financed through bonds and fees paid for by households using the rink.

Our statewide debate over school finance is a good example of confusion about what we expect from our schools and how we think they should be financed and operated. Public financing and private operation is the voucher model, based on the belief that private operation is always more efficient and effective than public operation.

**These are the issues that** a course in economics should cover along with the concepts of borrowing that were not appreciated by the timid souls who put together our current state constitution. Thus, we live in Indiana where the state government may not go into debt, but its cities, towns, counties, school corporations, universities, etc. may and must borrow to be viable.

Equally important as teaching young people about credit card debt is teaching them about music and art. In truth, music and art education may be more important than teaching personal finance.

Desire and necessity, the emotional counterparts

of demand and supply, will teach what one needs to know about credit cards. But music and art involve perceptions that must be cultivated.

Credit cards are just contemporary instruments of commerce. In less than a generation they may be discovered by children in attics as today they find rationing coupons.

**Beethoven's music has survived** more than 200 years because its structure and beauty continues to delight the ear. Ancient works of art still command our attention because they have balance and precision we have learned to appreciate.

Side-by-side with the efforts to strengthen Indiana's economy, we need to recognize the imperative of improving our cultural stimulation. For too long, we have been satisfied with pockets of elegance in coarse country clothing.

A grand symphony orchestra should not be struggling in Indianapolis. The sounds of great music should be heard throughout the state. This is a matter for the legislature to address through its education powers as well as its purse strings. Just as we have a college credit on the income tax, valid cultural organizations should be granted similar positive treatment. ❖

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

---

## Defense begins in Bales trial

SOUTH BEND — Closing arguments are expected to begin Wednesday afternoon in the federal fraud trial of Indianapolis real estate broker John M. Bales and partner William E. Spencer after the defense raced through seven witnesses Tuesday and early Wednesday (Schouten, IBJ).

The defense made many of its points to the jury via tough cross-examinations of government witnesses before leading off its own case with former Department of Child Services Director James W. Payne, a long-time juvenile judge in Marion County. Payne told the jury that Venture Real Estate Services, Bales' and Spencer's company, did a good job for DCS, delivering on a promise to find office space in Elkhart better suited for the agency's staff and children they serve. "I thought it was a vast improvement," Payne said of the Elkhart office. "It was spacious and met our needs. It was an inviting and warm environment." On cross examination, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jesse Barrett noted that Payne did not oversee Venture's contract with the state (that responsibility fell to the Indiana Department of Administration), and Payne never inquired about the ownership arrangement for the Elkhart building. ❖



**Eric Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press:** The Republican leaders of Indiana's House and Senate are expected to announce this week they will wait until next year to vote on a constitutional same-sex marriage ban. From a practical standpoint, it's no matter. Lawmakers can vote in 2013 or 2014, and either way, if they approve it, voters would get the final say in a November 2014 state-wide referendum. But the decision says a great deal about how quickly perceptions on the issue have evolved over just the past two years. Republicans started the clock on the constitutional amendment process when they approved the proposed same-sex marriage ban in 2011. They did so knowing they would need to pass it again in either 2013 or 2014 and calling it important to do so. Then, voters in four states voted in favor of gay rights during 2012's election. Now, Republican leaders in the Indiana General Assembly say passing the ban isn't among their top goals, and Gov. Mike Pence — known for his conservative stances on social issues over 12 years in Congress — is working hard to avoid addressing the issue at all. To fully understand lawmakers' transformation on same-sex marriage, though, it's important to look back a little further. Nine years ago, Republicans were the minority party in the Indiana House, and Democratic Speaker B. Patrick Bauer declined their efforts to force a vote on a similar constitutional same-sex marriage ban. Each time then-Minority Leader Brian Bosma tried to bring the issue up, Bauer ignored him, saying: "We're going to do the people's business." Bosma shouted back: "This is the most critical piece of the people's business." Then, he led his Republican caucus as it walked off the House floor in protest — an episode that repeated itself several times that year. Now that Republicans hold a House supermajority, Speaker Bosma's priorities have changed. A week ago, he responded to reporters' questions over whether the House would vote on the amendment this year or next year by saying: "Anybody have a real question, an important question?" ❖



**Lesley Steadman Weidenbener, Statehouse File:** Scott Pelath was mostly having fun. I'm convinced of it. The House minority leader — a Democrat from Michigan City — gathered reporters in his office on Friday to criticize Republican leaders for failing to do enough to create jobs now. But he was smiling even as he did it. After all, he had to acknowledge that he's working with House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, on legislation that is meant to align the state's education and training efforts more closely to the types of skills that Indiana businesses are seeking. And even the bills that Pelath said Republicans should be pushing would do little to actually create jobs immediately. Still, as he talked about the GOP's leadership

failures, Pelath hit on a question that has started swirling around the Statehouse: What is Gov. Mike Pence doing? I don't mean that literally. According to his public schedule the Republican has been talking with lawmakers, meeting with Democratic Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz and traveling through Southern Indiana. What Pelath and others at the Statehouse really mean is this: What is Pence seeking to do as governor? The obvious answer is that he's trying to cut the state's income tax by 10 percent. The Pence administration has yet to identify which specific bills he's backing. It's clear Pence supports many of the provisions in an education bill that would expand private school vouchers and create a tax break for donations to a preschool scholarship program. And Sen. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, is his carrying the governor's proposal to bolster the state's vocational education programs. There's a tort reform bill that Pence apparently was backing — until he wasn't — although neither he nor his office ever verified it. And there's ... Well. I'm not sure what else. I asked Pence's team on Friday for a list of the bills he's supporting or that make up his agenda and never heard back. That's not unheard of. I don't recall that Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels — who left office last month — ever released lists of his legislation. ❖

**James Taranto, Wall Street Journal:** Just seven weeks after a massacre at an American elementary school, the White House released a photo of the president firing a gun. Strangely, no one seems to think this is in atrocious taste. We imagine the reaction would be quite different if it were, say, George W. Bush. But a lot of people, including this columnist, doubt that the photo depicts what it purports to show. The White House distributed the pic in response to widespread skepticism of President Obama's assertion, in an interview with a liberal editor and a former campaign coordinator, that "up at Camp David, we do skeet shooting all the time." The photo, purportedly shot last Aug. 4 (which happens to be the president's birthday), shows Obama holding a shotgun. The barrel is smoking, indicating that the gun has just been fired. What's odd about it is that the president is aiming straight ahead, as if he were firing a rifle at a stationary target. But in skeet shooting, the target, a disk known as a clay pigeon, is moving. It is launched from one of two "houses" and travels in a parabolic trajectory across the field. In order to hit it, one has to move the gun so as to follow the path of the clay. It's not impossible that one would fire at shoulder level, as Obama is doing in the photo, but it's unlikely. We therefore surmise that the picture is the product of a photo shoot, not a skeet shoot. ❖





## **Pence urged to invest in education**

ROANOKE - Business leaders told Gov. Mike Pence they'd like to see northeast Indiana cultivate home-grown talent and not lose it to other states (Fort Wauayne Journal Gazette). A cry also went out for an improved K-12 school system so that students would be more employer-ready. Those were just a couple of the concerns raised during an economic development roundtable with the governor Wednesday at the Vera Bradley distribution center in Roanoke. Representatives from 14 Allen County companies, including Fort Wayne Metals, Android Industries, General Motors Co. and BAE Systems, participated in the discussion. Vera Bradley announced in September 2011 it planned to invest \$22.2 million to add warehouse space, truck docks and retail store staffing areas. The company makes quilted cotton handbags, luggage, accessories and home décor items. Pence said he is visiting various parts of the state and seeking input on "opportunities and challenges" facing businesses. He conducted a roundtable last month in Columbia City. "What can we do?" Pence asked in opening the Roanoke meeting. The governor said Indiana is in a good position with about \$2 billion in budget reserves – a position many governors would love to be in.



## **State hands over 4 schools to Ballard**

INDIANAPOLIS - Nearly 18 months after the State Board of Education brought in new management for five schools with low test scores,

the same body Wednesday voted to hand oversight of four of those schools to the office of Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard. "We plan on working closely with all stakeholders in our community to ensure the success of these schools," Jason Kloth, the city's deputy mayor of education, told board members ahead of the unanimous vote. The handover, Kloth added, will be contingent upon the Department of Education giving the city funding to hire the staff they'll need to oversee the outside groups currently operating Arlington, Howe and Manual High Schools and Emma Donnan Middle School.

## **Prosecutor drops Dani deer charges**

CONNERSVILLE - The Decatur County prosecutor's office confirmed late Wednesday it will drop criminal charges against the Connersville couple for nursing the injured fawn to health and keeping it (Associated Press). This follows a request last week by the Department of Natural Resources for the prosecutor to drop the case. Jeff and Jennifer Counceller faced fines and potentially jail for illegally possessing the deer.

## **House Dems prepare gun bills**

WASHINGTON - U.S. House Democrats plan to present today a package of recommendations for reducing gun violence that includes a ban on military-style assault weapons, according to two people familiar with the proposals (Associated Press). The measures mirror what President Barack Obama has called for in response to the Dec. 14 mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, that claimed the lives of 20 children and six adults. Obama

wants Congress to pass legislation outlawing the sale of assault weapons, banning high-capacity ammunition magazines and requiring universal background checks for gun buyers. Those are all among the House Democrats' proposals, said the people, who asked not to be identified before the announcement. The recommendations aren't expected to advance in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

## **Henry says Fort Wayne is strong**

FORT WAYNE – Mayor Tom Henry delivered his annual State of the City address Wednesday, telling a large audience that the city of Fort Wayne is strong and getting stronger (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "We have job growth, a quality of life that is second to none, a thriving downtown, great schools, trails and parks," Henry told about 100 people, many of whom were city employees, in the Allen County Public Library auditorium. "While other communities across the state and country are struggling, we stand tall."

## **Terre Haute seeks new revenue**

TERRE HAUTE - Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett says the city is looking for new ways to balance their budget. The city has lost over \$24 million dollars in projected property tax collections in the last four years (Terre Haute Tribune-Star). "We originally thought we were going to lose half of that much money because of property tax caps and so we have done several budget cuts basically reducing our expenses over the years, but the problem is the losses have been greater than what we thought they were going to be."