

# Hoosier leaders wary of Trump, Sanders



Both won Indiana primary with 53% of vote, but super delegates, GOP leaders cautious to embrace

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Some 53% of Hoosier Democrats felt “The Bern” in the May 3 primary. Ditto for Donald Trump in the corresponding Republican primary.

But watching the leadership in both parties deal with the Vermont socialist Bernie Sanders and the Manhattan billionaire Trump – neither a member of their parties



in good standing until 2015 – following their Indiana wins has been fascinating. Other than an on-line petition site and some YouTube rants, along with a spate of phone calls from Sanders supporters,

there has been very little public pressure placed on Indiana’s super delegates, with seven out of nine who are backing Hillary Clinton.

While Clinton declared that “I will be the nominee,” Sanders has vowed to take his fight all the way to

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# Trump and Judge Curiel

By **SHAW FRIEDMAN**

LaPORTE – The notion that this hopeless narcissist and racist, Donald Trump, has just captured the nomination of his beloved Republican Party would certainly cause the consummate modest gentleman and country doctor – Doc Bowen – to roll over in his grave.

For many of us Democrats growing up in Indiana, kindly Doc Bowen represented a gentle and courtly manner of Republicanism who, while having political beliefs different than our own, treated friend and foe alike with respect and civility.

The same can be said for the one of the greatest living statesmen of our time, Richard



**“To his credit, he did expand Medicaid.”**

*- President Obama, citing Indiana Gov. Mike Pence’s HIP2.0 Medicaid expansion program while speaking in Elkhart on Wednesday*





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Lugar, who always practiced courtesy and respect to those who differed with him and became the model of diplomacy both in the U.S. Senate and in international circles. I confess to some bias about the former senator as he's still the greatest living member of my fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, and a world-respected model of cordiality and of respect for the law and our democratic processes.

**Contrast that with** the pathetic spectacle we've seen in just the last few days as Donald Trump has chosen to hit a new low with his attacks on U.S. District Court Judge Gonzalo Curiel of Southern California (pictured). Just when you're confident that Trump has sunk as low as he can go, he chose in a fit of uncontained fury to attack the judge hearing one of the class action cases alleging fraud by the now-defunct Trump University.

As part of Trump's "grudge" tour after claiming the nomination, he took an astounding 12 minutes of his campaign speech last Friday to demand that Judge Curiel recuse himself because he was a "hater" and "very hostile" to Trump and should "be ashamed of himself." Trump complained about "getting railroaded" by a "rigged" legal system while mentioning Curiel was nominated by President Obama. He conveniently neglected the fact that Curiel's nomination was approved unanimously by the U.S. Senate on Sept. 22, 2012, on a voice vote with not a single Republican voting in opposition.

**Trump then** went on to slam the judge as "Mexican" seeking to elicit whoops and hollers from his crowd as if attacking yet another immigrant. Again, Trump's pathetic habit of lying about opponents and anyone he perceives as hostile or critical of him was in plain view yet again. As

has been written by our publisher, Judge Curiel is not from Mexico, but is a native Hoosier, having been born in East Chicago, Ind., before attending and graduating I.U. Law School.

This disgusting excuse for a national candidate utterly refused to acknowledge that when Curiel moved to California, he served as a distinguished assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California and was so intimately involved in drug prosecutions that he was actually a target of drug cartel death squads for having sought to extradite two drug kingpins

from Mexico. Curiel was so highly thought of for his work with the U.S. attorney's office that he was appointed to a California Superior Court vacancy by then Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**Raising Curiel's** status as a Mexican-American and trying to point to his ethnicity as a means to debase this honored son of Indiana is the last refuge of a scoundrel. I cannot believe that my fellow Hoosier lawyers of what-

ever political stripe can abide this debasement of our profession and of the judiciary by this reckless demagogue. We all take an oath to "maintain the respect due to courts of justice and judicial officers" and I would hope that even the most rabidly partisan Republican colleague of mine in the bar would think twice before endorsing or backing Trump or ever voting for him.

Even though Judge Curiel has apparently ruled Trump's way on various motions in the case, including granting the request by Trump's lawyers to postpone the trial until after the election, that's not good enough for Trump. It wasn't enough to simply take exception to the judge's latest ruling, but to attempt to smear the judge and accuse him of bias for having released the documents showing just what a consummate fraud Trump University really was.



Fortunately, even conservative lawyers like Josh Blackman, who transcribed Trump’s remarks about Curiel at Friday’s rally, have taken him to task saying “his jaw-dropping comments reflect an utter ignorance about what judges do and amounts to dangerous attacks on the fairness of our court system.” David Post, an adjunct at the conservative Cato Institute, wrote that Trump’s rant “is truly appalling and given that this guy could become president, terrifying.”

**I’m hopeful that** Republican lawyers in Indiana including those who serve in the Indiana legislature will also challenge this outrageous conduct and think twice about giving their endorsement to Trump. As David Post put so well in his column, “Our form of government will not work if the executive branch does not respect the legitimacy of decisions made by the judicial branch.”

Hoosier lawyers should echo the sentiments of Prof. Charles Geyh, a legal ethics expert at IU Law School who said very clearly to Reuters that Trump’s behavior could earn him “sanction for indirect criminal contempt of court. He has impugned the honesty of a judge in a pending case and has done so in the context of a political rally that seems calculated to intimidate by inciting anger among his supporters.”

Certainly, there’s a line that cannot be crossed and Hoosier lawyers – of all political stripes – must know that Trump has now crossed that line. ❖

**Shaw R. Friedman is former legal counsel for the Indiana Democratic Party and a longtime HPI columnist. He can be contacted at [friedman@netnitco.net](mailto:friedman@netnitco.net)**

## Presidential, from page 1

Philadelphia, despite growing pressure to coalesce around the former secretary of state, who is in a statistical tie with Trump in a spate of recent polls. Most of those polls show Sanders with comfortable leads over Trump.

“Democracy is not always nice and quiet and gentle,” Sanders said in late May. “So what? Democracy is messy. Every day my life is messy. But if you want everything to be quiet and orderly and allow, you know, just things to proceed without vigorous debate, that is not what democracy is about.”

Clinton has a 1,769 to 1,501 lead in delegates won via primaries and caucuses, but has a 537-to-42 lead among super delegates. The nomination requires 2,382. Of the Indiana super delegates, Dean Boerste, Cordelia Lewis Burks, Joe Andrew, U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly, David Frye, Lacy Johnson and Elkhart County Democratic Chair Shari Mellin appear to be in the Clinton camp. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky and Indiana Democratic Chairman John Zody have not declared a preference.

Former Indiana Democrat chairman Dan Parker, who helped coordinate the Clinton campaign here, said that the seven “have been on board from Day One” and added, “No one is moving away from Hillary.” HPI reached out to Donnelly’s Senate office to gauge whether he’s been under pressure from Sanders supporters, but his press operation declined comment. Several Democratic sources tell HPI that super delegates have been contacted by email

and phone calls from Sanders activists. Parker said that those outreaches have been counterproductive.

In recent polling, Quinnipiac had Clinton leading Trump 45-41 in a poll released Wednesday. Another Quinnipiac head-to-head had Clinton leading Trump 40-38% with Libertarian Gary Johnson at 5% and Jill Stein at 3%. The NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll on May 22 showed Clinton leading Trump 46-43%. Sanders was up 54-39%. A Fox News poll showed Clinton trailing Trump by three points, but Sanders ahead by four points. A CBS News/New York Times poll had Clinton leading Trump by 6%, but Sanders was up 13%.

“Virtually every poll taken in the last two months has me doing better against Trump than Hillary Clinton,” Sanders said on CNN in late May.

In recent state polling, Clinton led Trump 43-39% in Michigan in a Detroit News/WDIV-TV Poll, while Sanders had a 52-33% lead. In a Boston Herald/FPU New Hampshire Poll, Clinton and Trump were tied at 44%. In a Monmouth Poll in New Jersey, Clinton led Trump 38-34%.

And in a Gravis Poll in Virginia, Clinton led Trump 45-41%. Trump led Clinton in a Cititas Poll in North Carolina 42-38%, while PPP had Trump up 47-43%, and Sanders led Trump there 48-44% in a second PPP matchup.

In a pre-primary WTHR/Howey Politics Indiana Poll, Clinton trailed Trump 47-39% in Indiana. In a Bellwether Research Poll conducted last week, Trump led Clinton 40-31%. In that survey, Clinton had the backing of 52% of Hoosier Democrats who voted for Sanders, while Trump received 10%, with more than 30% of those voters undecided. Trump led Clinton 36-25% with independent voters with a huge pool of undecideds there.

Battle for the White House			
RCP Poll Averages			
Democrats	Clinton	Sanders	Spread
RCP Average	53.3	42.5	Clinton +10.8
Delegates	1769	1501	Clinton +268
California	50.5	41.8	Clinton +8.7
New Jersey	55.0	38.0	Clinton +17.0
Republicans	Trump	Cruz	Spread
Delegates	1239	559	Trump +680
Popular Vote	11.5m	7.4m	Trump +4.1m
Election 2016	Clinton	Trump	Spread
RCP Average	44.0	42.5	Clinton +1.5
Electoral Map	194	164	Clinton +30
Battlegrounds	Clinton	Trump	Spread
Florida	44.0	42.0	Clinton +2.0
Ohio	42.7	41.3	Clinton +1.4
Pennsylvania	47.0	41.7	Clinton +5.3
Virginia	42.3	38.0	Clinton +4.3

Parker said that Clinton will likely lock up enough delegates in New Jersey on June 7, but that includes super delegates. Clinton has a skinny 2% lead in California and received the endorsement of Gov. Jerry Brown, an old nemesis who battled Bill Clinton during the 1992 Indiana Democratic primary. A loss in California would create a perception problem for Hillary Clinton, but Parker and other Democratic sources tell HPI that there is little fear of Clinton super delegates peeling away. Clinton leads Sanders 45 to 43%, with 12% undecided or unreported in a Field Poll released today. The results in the latest Field survey mirror those of the NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist poll out Wednesday evening, which showed Clinton with a lead of 49 to 47%.

"If Hillary Clinton loses California that is a political earthquake," said MSNBC's Joe Scarborough on "Morning Joe" today.

Clinton campaign manager Robbie Mook made a decision prior to the May 3 Indiana primary not to spend money in the state. Indiana Democrat sources believe this was a blunder, feeding the Sanders alternative for much of May even when Clinton had the nomination mostly sewed up. Mook and the Clinton campaign made decisions based strictly on delegate counts, ignoring the perception that since then, Trump has closed the gap in national and some state polls.

While the delegate/perception reality persists, both here in Indiana and nationally, Clinton's grip on super delegates appears to be firm. Wins in New Jersey and California next Tuesday would allow her to shift full attention to Trump, while creating a bridge to Sanders supporters.

## Hoosier GOP leaders and Trump

The bookend to Democratic disconnect between voters and leaders has been the Republican trickle to embrace their nominee. Thus far Gov. Mike Pence, U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita, Senate nominee Todd Young, National Committeeman John Hammond III, and U.S. Sen. Dan Coats are all on record as either endorsing or preparing voting for the nominee.

Coats was the latest, saying last week, "I fear if we do not unite to support Donald Trump, we will again open the door for at least another four years of Washington implementing a left-wing agenda."

But aligning with Trump is not without risk. Within hours of Coats coming around to Trump, the nominee rebuked New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, who also chairs the Republican Governors Association, and then last Friday, the nominee castigated Federal Judge Gonzalo Curiel in San Diego.

In Albuquerque, Trump said of Martinez, who had not endorsed him and did not attend his rally, "We have

got to get your governor to get going. She's got to do a better job. OK? Your governor has got to do a better job. She's not doing the job."

In San Diego, Trump said of Judge Curiel, "I'll be seeing you in November, either as president. I think Judge Curiel should be ashamed of himself. I think it's a disgrace that he's doing this. The judge, who happens to be, we believe, Mexican. I think the Mexicans are going to end up loving Donald Trump."

The problem with that is Judge Curiel was born and raised in East Chicago, received his undergraduate and law degrees from Indiana University, and has developed a reputation on the bench for his willingness to take on the Mexican drug cartels. He's a Hoosier and an American.

The shot across the bow for Republicans is: Embrace Trump at your own risk.

There are varying degrees of aligning with Trump. Rep. Young told HPI in May, "As I've said before, I don't think we can afford a third term for Barack Obama. That's exactly what we'd get if Hillary Clinton is the next president. I'm going to support the Republican, but at the same time I'm going to be focused on holding this Senate seat."

Others have tried to simply say they will back the Republican nominee. That was a stance that Gov. Pence tried, but after the primary, knowing he will need the backing of Trump supporters (Pence support is falling off from Trump's in Indiana polling), the governor said, "I'm going to campaign hard for the Republican nominee because Indiana needs a partner in the White House. I just think it was very exciting to see presidential candidates in both parties traveling all across the state of Indiana and I look forward to supporting our presumptive nominee. I think Donald Trump will do very well in the Hoosier State."

Most politicians guard their brands with fervor.

Aligning, endorsing and campaigning for or with Donald Trump is akin to playing tennis with a hand grenade or petting a rattlesnake.

From the Pence perspective, Trump has already said so many outrageous things that he has become the true Teflon Don. Thus far there isn't much evidence that such an alignment will rub off, and, in fact, Pence is lagging behind Trump in several polls. Pence needs Trump supporters, but he risks further alienating moderates

and independents who see Trump as a demagogue.

What we aren't seeing is a groundswell of conspicuous Trump endorsements from statehouse officeholders, legislative leaders, mayors and county chairs.

A few, like Hendricks County Republican Chairman Mike O'Brien and State Rep. David Ober, R-Albion, have been openly critical of Trump. In a May 18 post O'Brien wrote about Robert Kagan's Washington Post article "This



**Gov. Mike Pence greets Donald Trump and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at the Governor's Residence in April. Pence said after the Indiana primary he would support and campaign with Trump.**

Is How Fascism Comes to America," tweeting, "Every single word of this ... the most important thing you'll read." On May 10, he Tweeted, "Trump's victory is leading to lunacy in high places."

In a March 1 IndyStar column, Matthew Tully quoted Ober as saying, "I just don't understand what people see when they look at Donald Trump and when they listen to him, and how they think that is a temperament we want to see in a president. I am outspoken because I think we are making a huge mistake as a party

if we nominate this guy."

And on May 5, RNC delegate Joshua Claybourn of Evansville announced he wouldn't attend the convention, saying, "He opposes free trade, he's skeptical of free speech and free association, he peddles fear and mean-spirited insults, and he lacks a mature temperament needed at home and abroad. More often than not Mr. Trump simply takes the most politically expedient position, and thus lacks the principles we need to trust where he stands on other critical issues." ❖

## A race to the bottom

By MARK SOUDER

FORT WAYNE – Politics this year has been truly amazing to watch. Both major parties seem poised to nominate candidates for president so unpopular that President Obama is beginning to look better every week to many Americans. The President's approval rating in the latest Gallup poll is the highest it has been since May, 2013.



A common complaint has been that all the choices were bad. "Can't we do better than this?" is often asked. The clear answer should be, "No. Your expectations are totally out of whack with reality."

The Democrat choices may have lacked charisma, but even tail-enders Martin O'Malley and Jim Webb had decent records of public service. Webb represented the right flank of the former Democrat Party, and O'Malley was once a hope of the liberal branch (moderates in the current party). The only thing missing from the Democrat options were African-Americans and Hispanics. But the Democrats did offer lots of diversity among whites.

Hillary Clinton is one of the last remnants of the neo-liberal Democrat Party who were led by Southern governors such as Jimmy Carter and her husband Bill Clinton. While Hillary was the liberal half of the Clinton marriage, she was still no socialist (except on conservative talk radio).

**While heading President Clinton's** health care task force as First Lady, she led efforts to centralize health care. I personally appreciated her failed efforts to launch a form of national health insurance because it became a centerpiece of my successful 1994 upset of incumbent Congresswoman Jill Long. Today not only does Bernie Sanders favor the more radical single-payer socialist

system, but so does Republican nominee Donald Trump. This makes Hillary, the mother of ObamaCare, the most conservative candidate on national health care remaining in the presidential race.

Representing New York in the United States Senate moved her from being a Cubs fan to a Yankees fan, which was certainly symbolic of her philosophical shift as well. By accepting a job in the Obama Administration, Hillary drifted even more leftward on foreign policy. Her appalling contributions to the foreseeable debacle in Benghazi ranged from inaction to placing blame on a video, and then making sure enough emails were destroyed that knowing the truth is probably impossible. But Bernie, and for that matter, Trump, manage to stay to her left on foreign policy.

**Let me pause to say to whining** Republicans who say that I shouldn't continue to bring up Trump's actual past as opposed to his current promises that he needs make to unite the party. Suck it up. Not everyone is buying his act in spite of your yelling at us to line up and salute.

Hillary continues to display an awesome lack of charisma. Her passion seems to be manufactured if existent at all. In truth, she's displayed a pretty consistent lifetime of liberal involvement. But she most often seems like a hectoring busybody about it.

And she just can't get Bernie to go away. We all can sense the increasing testiness in her very core. You can see her thoughts written in her facial expressions. "Why won't this guy just go away! I played the good wife (actually, team player, but this was just too good a line to pass up) when Obama defeated me. I didn't try to continue to undermine Obama because we needed to defeat the neanderthal Republicans. You can be certain that I won't appoint Bernie my secretary of anything!"

**As the last primaries unfold,** the socialist keeps beating the obvious nominee of the Democrat primary, the one destined to be the first female president of the United States if he would just go quietly away.

Down-ballot Democrats appear almost as panicked as Republicans. Gov. Mike Pence took a lot of flak for his initial indecisiveness in endorsing a presidential candidate in the Indiana primary. Because he said some moderately nice things about Trump supporters, he was

viewed as wishy-washy by critics. Pence cut an ad for Ted Cruz. What more was he supposed to do in a hotly contested presidential primary, in which he clearly favored other candidates than the presumptive nominee?

His Democrat opponent, John Gregg, seemed to be vacationing in Florida or somewhere during the similarly hotly contested Democrat primary. No one seemed to comment much on Gregg's flight. A former Hillary statewide leader, in her hour of need, Gregg was no profile in courage. He seemed to want nothing of either candidate. Does he still support Hillary or not? Why isn't Gregg being pressured as to why he supports Hillary, or opposes Bernie, or whatever he believes? Why is only Governor Pence, who did take a courageous stand, being criticized?

**As for Republican presidential** choices in the primaries, we had every flavor of conservatism plus Trump. We had everything: Rand Paul was an intellectual leader of libertarians, there were flavors of evangelicals, Lindsey Graham spoke for defense conservatives, and Chris Christie for the prosecutorial types. We had an African-American, two Hispanics, a female, former and current governors of populous states, and multiple current and former



senators. They were bright people, who thought about issues, most with experience. Plus Trump.

**The problem this cycle** was not the lack of choice, or the qualifications of the candidates. The problem is that voters are demanding unrealistic and opposite things. They also want no compromise. So why is it surprising that the likely Trump-Clinton match-up is a confusing mess in the polls? Sanders people defect in huge numbers to Trump because both promise statist, simplistic solutions.

Some of us hold out a faint hope that a Republican candidate still emerges. Right now our best hope seems

to be that Bernie decides to run as a socialist independent, opening up the opportunity for a fourth candidate, a conservative option to Trump, Hillary and Bernie. But most likely, from my perspective, we will have a choice between Herod, Pontius Pilate, or a protest vote. It's sad that our decent choices came down to this. ❖

**Souder is a former Republican congressman from Indiana.**

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# What Holcomb, Hale do for their tickets

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – The tickets are set. Democrat John Gregg brought rising star State Rep. Christina Hale into the fore as his lieutenant governor nominee three months after Gov. Mike Pence replaced Sue Ellspermann with Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb.

So what do Hale and Holcomb mean to the Pence/Gregg rematch between now and November? The modern LG nominee is more like salt and pepper, as opposed to a key ingredient in the political stew which is going to

be a referendum on Pence. They are selected to stoke a particular demographic group, whether it is with the broader electorate or to soothe part of the political base.

With Holcomb, Pence reached out to a former aide to Gov. Mitch Daniels and U.S. Sen.

Dan Coats as well as a past state Republican chairman under both governors. After Pence ignited a simmering feud between the GOP's social conservative wing and the economic "Daniels wing" with the disastrous Religious Freedom Restoration Act last year, Holcomb was seen as a bridge between the two spheres.

Some believe that Holcomb will be sunny Pence's "attack dog," which does not comport to his genial manner. What we've heard from Holcomb at the GOP's spring dinner in April and at the campaign kickoff earlier this month is an indictment of the past, based on fact. Holcomb laid out some themes that will be used in the coming months, reminding Republicans that Democrats left the state in \$800 million debt in 2005, owing local governments and schools tens of millions of dollars, raiding the Teacher Retirement Fund and at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, "It took seven hours, not seven minutes" to get a license or register a

truck. Gregg's tenure as House speaker will be woven into that argument, Holcomb promised.

He offers the "been there done that" portfolio when he served as Daniels' deputy chief of staff and saw his boss grapple with deficits, a broken BMV and a new era of "asset management" when Holcomb was dispatched to rival union halls to forge the Major Moves toll road deal. The most conspicuous hallmark of that success came at the 2008 Democratic Jefferson/Jackson Dinner that featured Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, with sponsoring union banners flanking the podium, and both unions had endorsed Daniels for reelection.

When Holcomb kicked off his U.S. Senate campaign in 2015 (which he suspended when Pence selected him as LG), Holcomb's message was one of inclusion, coming during the same week of Pence's RFRA debacle. "This campaign will be about what we are for, not simply about what we are against. This campaign will seek to attract people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives and experiences. We will welcome and engage them." With legislative Republican leaders announcing this week they will study and propose LGBT civil rights legislation in the 2017 General Assembly, Pence would be wise to seek Holcomb's counsel.

Having said all of that, the fact that Pence had to select Holcomb to unite a divided GOP is an ominous sign, as evidenced by the recent Bellwether Research Poll that showed the governor leading Gregg 40-36 percent but with his reelect number at a low 36 percent, and a job approval in the low 40s. An incumbent with numbers in the lower 40th percentile is in big trouble.

Gregg's selection of Hale is designed to signal and reach a wider electorate. Hale is a bright face fronting a probing, practical mind. She caught my attention when she pondered a U.S. Senate candidacy in the spring of 2015, observing that some 350,000 Hoosier children live in food insecure homes; one in six girls are sexually assaulted by the time they get in high school; and household income has been declining since 2000. These on top of the HIV/opiod epidemic that had surfaced in Scott County a few months earlier, which Hale framed as "third world



State Rep. Christina Hale with Democratic gubernatorial nominee John Gregg (top); while Gov. Mike Pence is with Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb at his swearing in ceremony last March. (HPI Photos by Mark Curry)

problems" festering in her home state.

And she should know, having served as chief communications officer for Kiwanis International, a global service organization, working of health issues in Asia.

**When Gregg introduced** her last Tuesday, she brought a narrative that will resonate with many Hoosier women, and not just on the professional side of things. "I grew up in a middle-class family in Michigan City, Ind., and I had a pretty solid idea of how my life was going to turn out until I became a single mom at 19," said Hale. "A lot of people at that time told me, 'Game over.' In fact, I had a number of people very close to me who said, 'Face it,

Christina, you're always going to be a loser.'"

"I've always learned that no matter what happens in life, you have to keep moving forward," she said. "And I learned the value of hard work. I bring this up because that is what Hoosiers need to do."

Pence is sideways with female voters. In the April WTHR/Howey Politics Indiana Poll, the governor was trailing the Democrat with female voters 52-41 percent, and independent women voters 54-40.

So the tickets are set. Hoosier voters have six months to weigh and decide which one to punch. ❖

## Drake, Orentlicher await 8th CD recount

By THOMAS CURRY

INDIANAPOLIS – Two Democratic 8th CD candidates are waiting for the Indiana Recount Commission to schedule a retally in a race where Ron Drake leads David Orentlicher by 50 votes.

Last week, Orentlicher's petition for recount was unanimously approved by the Indiana Recount Commission, chaired by Secretary of State Connie Lawson. Scheduling of the recount was to be determined this week. Both Drake and Orentlicher tell HPI that they have not been contacted by Recount Director Philip Sicuso to discuss a schedule.

Angela Mussmeyer, Indiana Election Division Democrat representative, observed, "These recounts require a great deal of coordination between the recount commissioners, attorneys, State Board of Accounts staff, Indiana State Police and 21 county clerks. It will take time to choreograph the work to ensure the process is transparent and the findings are organized and accurate."

More than 58,000 votes are involved in the recount. The candidates and their lawyers, as well as state election officials, will be looking over the recount process to insure the accuracy of the tally. That is going to take time.

**To add to that timeline**, the Recount Commission also approved a recount in SD36 between Democrats Jesse Karbanda and Sean Gorman, where Gorman leads 4,768 to 4,729. That recount will involve close to 10,000 votes.

Orentlicher remains patient with the process, telling HPI he expects results for his race sometime near the end of June and expects a schedule this week. By law,

the recount commission has until mid-August to declare a winner, but Orentlicher doesn't think that it will go on that long.

Drake has been more critical of the process, telling the commission in late May, "Every day that goes by is another day we lose to make our case."

**U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon**, R-Newburgh, gets what is essentially auxiliary time to campaign to defend his seat without a Democratic nominee who can raise money. When a winner is finally declared, Bucshon will have the advantage of facing a candidate who is now, by even the quickest estimates, two months behind in the fall campaign.

Chris Sautter, who is a leading expert in the field of recounts and who has played a role in both Bush v. Gore and the famous 1986 McCloskey recount, said that the current 8th CD recount is not a usual set of circumstances. Sautter explained that primary recounts are rarer than general recounts because "usually the political party encourages the apparent loser to not proceed," due to the time and money required for the recount.

**However, Orentlicher** reportedly raised more than \$200,000 for his primary campaign and had no trouble paying both the \$6,590 fee needed to approve the recount petition as well as the legal fees that go into hiring counsel. That explains why Orentlicher is patient with the process. The other side of the coin is that Drake, who waived his right to legal counsel and is representing himself in all recount matters, raised a mere \$25,000 and could use all the time he could get to start fundraising and campaigning.

Ultimately, Sautter describes it as a trade-off. On one hand the candidates lose time and money to fundraise and organize the campaign, but on the other hand they get a boost in name recognition from media coverage of the recount. Sautter said that of three or four primary recounts he has participated in, all of the candidates that went through a recount ended up winning anyway. ❖



David Orentlicher (left) and Ron Drake.



# 9th CD race has signs of a potential upset

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Garin-Hart-Yang Poll that Democrats released on the 9th CD race between Shelli Yoder and Republican Joseph Albert “Trey” Hollingsworth III, showing the pair tied at 41%, generated a few headlines in Indiana. But it was really aimed at Democratic campaign decision makers in Washington.

It gives a glimpse into what could become one of those “perfect storm” scenarios at the congressional level. Those include an attractive second-time female Democratic nominee, running against a carpetbagger Republican who won his nomination after he and his dad spent more than \$2 million. Other than millions of dollars to spend, Hollingsworth has virtually no ground game or even allies in the 9th CD Republican Party. In fact, some Republicans might be inclined to settle for two years of “U.S. Rep. Yoder” with the notion of recouping the seat with a true Hoosier in 2018. It comes with a controversial Republican presidential nominee in Donald Trump, who has the potential of setting off a national wave dynamic, and a weakened Gov. Mike Pence, who faces an array of issues confronting what many see as a key election voting bloc – suburban, moderate and independent women.

Essentially, the 9th CD is loaded with wild cards.

When the 2011 maps created the new 9th CD, early Howey Politics Indiana analysis found it to be reliably Republican, rating +9 on the Cook Partisan Index. It is different than the old 9th, which was centered in the Louisville and Evansville media markets with campaigns using some Indianapolis area cable. The new 9th requires Indianapolis and Louisville advertising, a more expensive proposition. But our analysis was that in the right brew, the 9th had the potential to be competitive.

In her 2012 race against U.S. Rep. Todd Young, Yoder lost 55.4 to 44.6%, or by a little more than 32,000 votes. It was Young’s first reelection campaign and his war chest was massive. According to former Indiana Democratic chairman Dan Parker, Yoder has more cash on hand now than her entire 2012 campaign. In her first quarter FEC report, Yoder posted \$109,000 raised for the quarter, \$353,000 for the

cycle, and had \$296,000 cash on hand. In contrast, Hollingsworth raised \$409,000 for the quarter, \$1.103 million for the cycle, including \$400,000 from the candidate. By the primary, the candidate had pumped in \$1.2 million. USA Today reported that virtually all of the Hollingsworth campaign money came from his father, John Hollingsworth Jr., who also pumped in money through a super PAC.

“Trey Hollingsworth is the poster child for what’s wrong with campaign finance these days,” Parker said.

Democracy 21 President Fred Wertheimer, one of the leading critics of super PACs, used the 9th CD as an example, telling USA Today the practice is a “flat-out evasion of campaign-contribution limits” and makes a “mockery” of election laws.

“The notion that a super PAC funded by a family member ... is independent is simply an oxymoron,” Wertheimer said. Howey Politics Indiana had reported prior to the primary that the Hollingsworth campaign had posted B-roll from a video shoot last winter where TV ads from the super PAC could then use the video for its “independent” advertising.

HPI normally doesn’t give much credence to campaign-generated polling. A similar poll from the Hollingsworth campaign in March from an unknown polling firm did not include top lines, cross tabs or a memo from the pollster. But the Garin-Hart-Yang poll was conducted by Fred Yang, who polled for HPI in 2012, and included a memo from the pollster.

Yang explained, “The 9th Congressional District remains challenging territory for Democrats, with President Obama’s approval rating at 36% and Donald Trump leading Hillary Clinton by 51% to 37% in the election for president. Yet despite the 9th CD’s Republican leanings – voters prefer a Republican over a Democrat for Congress by 50%-36% – there is a real opportunity for Democrats to win this seat due to the unique vulnerability of the Republican candidate and the impressive appeal of the Democrat. In fact, Shelli Yoder starts the general election locked in a tie with Trey Hollingsworth in the initial Garin-Hart-Yang trial heat at 41% with 18% undecided.

The polling data clearly show that Hollingsworth has been hobbled by attacks on his recent residency by fellow Republicans during the GOP primary, which he won with an unimpressive 34% of the vote. While he has 59% name recognition, he also has a polarizing image among voters (18% positive, 18% negative), including a lackluster showing among Republicans (28% positive, 12% negative).”



Monroe County Councilwoman Shelli Yoder’s campaign is floating a Garin-Hart-Yang Poll that shows her tied with Republican Joseph Albert Hollingsworth III.

Yang continued, "By contrast, Yoder, who has 43% name recognition, is well regarded, has a positive image by nearly four to one, and shows bipartisan appeal with a net positive among independents AND Republicans. Furthermore, among respondents who know both candidates, Yoder leads Hollingsworth by a sizable margin (57% to 32%), suggesting that as she becomes better known, her common sense, pragmatic record, and impressive personal background can garner her support among swing voters."  
**HPI Horse Race Status:** Leans Hollingsworth.

**Governor**

**Pence announces \$505 million to local governments**

Further evidence of the power of the office on campaigns was revealed on Wednesday when Gov. Mike Pence announced that county auditors have distributed \$505 million to local government units, including \$435 million that can be used for transportation infrastructure maintenance for counties, cities, and towns as part of Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 67, which was signed into law on March 23, 2016.

"Early this year, we committed to investing significant new funding in state and local infrastructure maintenance to preserve the Crossroads of America," Pence said.

"Today, we make good on that promise with the distribution of funds to local governments to further improve infrastructure and spur economic development and quality of life in communities across Indiana."

On April 22, the state made a one-time, special distribution to counties for distribution to other local units using excess Local Option Income Tax (LOIT) reserve funds. SEA 67 required county auditors to distribute all funds to local government units before June 1 in the amounts determined by the Department of Local Government Finance. As part of the distribution, counties, cities, and towns received \$435 million that can be used for transportation infrastructure maintenance. Other local government units received \$70 million for deposit in their rainy day funds.

In his State of the State Address, Gov. Pence outlined a plan to provide more than \$1 billion in new funding to preserve and maintain state and local infrastructure, without raising taxes. In addition to SEA 67, Gov. Pence also signed into law House Enrolled Act 1001, which provides for additional state infrastructure maintenance funds, while also fully funding the Regional Cities Initiative.

**New Pence, Gregg TV ads**

This week brought new TV ads in the governor's race. The Pence campaign had First Lady Karen Pence in the campaign's third ad talking about education issues.

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"Our scores are up, our graduation rates are up," Mrs. Pence says.

"Hoosier students, teachers and administrators are doing great work in Indiana's classrooms," said Marc Lotter, deputy campaign manager of Mike Pence for Indiana. "Being a school teacher by trade, Mrs. Pence is delighted to discuss how Gov. Pence's administration has provided the largest increase in spending in history for our children's schools, implemented the first ever Hoosier Pre-K program to help children get a jump-start on life, and has provided more parents the opportunity to choose the right school for their child."

The Pence ad mentioned his pre-K pilot program, but that opened the door for Democrats to remind voters that Pence refused to apply for an \$80 million federal pre-K grant, emailing out more than a dozen critical articles and editorials blasting that decision.

The Pence campaign ran the ad during Sunday's ABC Sports broadcast of the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500.

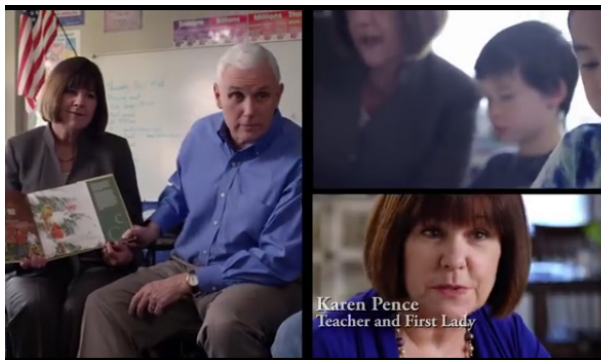
Gregg posted its "Work Hard" ad, more of a biography piece noting Gregg's Sandborn roots, his six years as Indiana House speaker, and his interim Vincennes University presidency. It is an attempt by the Gregg campaign to define the candidate early. In the April WTHR/Howey Politics Indiana Poll, Public Opinion Strategies pollster Gene Ulm described the largely unknown Gregg as a "blank slate."

This ad features a first, former Republican State Rep. David Yount, who says, "In the face of the recession, John joined my fellow Republicans to balance the budget and fund education."

Democratic sources were saying this morning that Pence is "preparing to go negative," with initial plans to cancel the current ad buy and replace it with one from the RGA that is expected to be critical of the Democrat. The source said that changed when the RGA couldn't get the lower candidate advertising rate.

## Republicans tie Gregg to Clinton

A key component the Pence campaign will use against Gregg is to tie him to likely Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. Gregg has been conspicuous in avoiding association with Clinton. While he showed up at a Bernie Sanders Steelworkers union rally in April, Gregg



The Gregg campaign's second TV ad features former Republican State Rep. David Yount (top), while the Pence campaign has First Lady Karen Pence talking about education issues.

did not appear with Clinton at any of her Indiana events prior to the primary.

In an email on Wednesday, the Republican Governors Association pointed out that "Gregg served as honorary chairman in Indiana in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign." It also noted that he gave the "maximum possible donation to the Clinton campaign for the 2016 primary."

There was also an RGA attempt to tie Gregg to President Obama, who visited Elkhart on Wednesday. "John Gregg Is Ready For Obama's Third Term," the RGA proclaimed, noting that he donated to the 2012 Obama re-election bid, praised "Obamacare as a game changer" and said he "defended the Obama administration's coal-killing, Clean Power Plan." **HPI Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

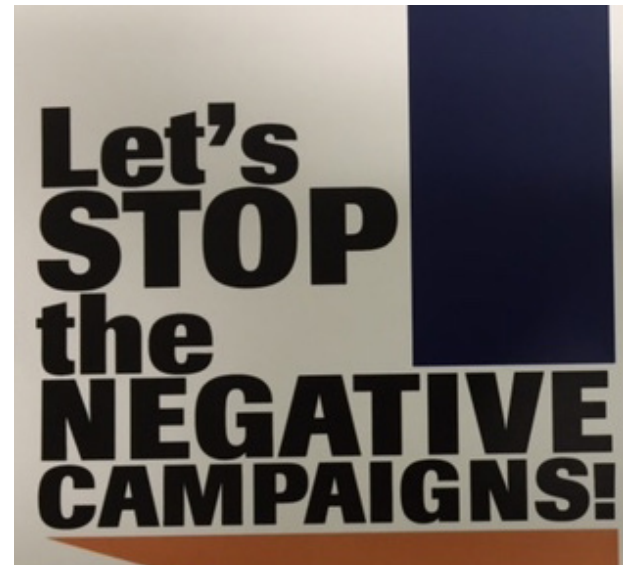
## Statewides

## GOP faces a superintendent choice

Among the choices state Republican delegates will face at the party's convention in June is nominating a candidate best suited to regain control of the Indiana Department of Education from Democrat Glenda Ritz, who is seeking reelection four years after she pulled off a major upset against a GOP incumbent (Schneider, IndyStar). Republican power brokers are throwing their support behind Jennifer McCormick, a school superintendent from Yorktown, who they believe has the public school experience to right what they argue is wrong with Ritz's administration. But McCormick has competition for the party's nomination at the June 11 convention. Her opponent, Tea Party-backed Dawn Wooten, is traveling the state with a message appealing to dogged social conservatives, the belief that the state's academic standards remain too much like the controversial national set called the Common Core. As McCormick goes into the convention considered the favorite to win the nomination, Wooten says she hopes this year's political climate, dominated by a sense of dissatisfaction with the establishment, will give her the same boost it did Donald Trump in his clinching of the GOP nomination for president.

## McCormick picks up chair endorsements

With the Indiana Republican Party State Convention just days away, McCormick picked up endorsements from county chairs from across Indiana, including: Will



Two direct mail pieces that went out the Wednesday before election day helped Indianapolis Councilman Jack Sandlin defeat the slated Jefferson Shreve.

Statom of Delaware County; Daniel Elliot, Morgan County; Mike O'Brien, Hendricks County; Russell Willis, Madison County; Don Hayes, Dubois County; Ethan Manning, Miami County; Barbara Hackman, Bartholomew County; Richard McClain, Cass County; Mark Flint, Pike County. Statom said, "Jennifer is bright, well-spoken, and the best qualified candidate. She has excelled at every level of education. She will unite Hoosiers and listen to their ideas, a quality that is non-existent in the current State Superintendent's office." **HPI Horse Race Status:** Likely McCormick.

**General Assembly**

**Sandlin 4th candidate to beat the slate**

Indianapolis Councilman Jack Sandlin became only the fourth candidate in four decades to beat the Marion County Republican Party slate when he upset Jefferson Shreve in SD36. "We ran a good ground game," Sandlin told HPI. "We touched a lot of doors." He estimates he and his 30 volunteers knocked on some 6,000 doors. Many of those came in Johnson County.

The campaign noted that Shreve did not buy cable in Johnson County. "So we walked seven of 12 precincts," Sandlin said. He was able to essentially tie Shreve in Marion County, losing by just five votes there, while rolling up a 421-vote plurality in Johnson County.

Then there was the "birds nest" direct mail piece put out by Marion County Republicans on behalf of the slated Shreve, accusing the councilman of "feathering his nest." Sandlin and his campaign media consultant Blair Englehart said they anticipated the mailer that came out on the Wednesday before the primary, and responded with a mailer that proclaimed, "Let's stop the negative campaigns!"

"We dropped that mailer on the same day," Sandlin said. That, along with a strong absentee and early vot-

ing strategy, allowed Sandlin to join Indianapolis Councilors Christine Scales and Jenny Cain, as well as State Sen. Brent Waltz, who defeated Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst in 2004, as candidates who beat the slate.

Sandlin will face the winner of the Democratic SD36 recount. Sean Gorman has a small lead over Jesse Karbanda.

**3rd CD: Snyder nominated by Libertarians**

Huntington County resident Pepper Snyder will represent the Libertarian Party on Indiana's 3rd Congressional District ballot in the fall (Howey Politics Indiana). Snyder was picked by the Indiana Libertarian Party's State Central Committee and has filed paperwork with the Federal Election Committee. "I look forward to taking my message of individual liberty and fiscal responsibility to the voters of Indiana's 3rd Congressional District," Snyder said. "Too often candidates look to government to micromanage both society and the economy. I am the only candidate running in the 3rd Congressional District who wants government out of both our personal lives and our wallets," added Snyder. ❖

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# What a difference a month makes

By **CRAIG DUNN**

KOKOMO – What a difference a month makes!

One month ago, Republicans in Indiana were drawing battle lines in the rarest of rarities, a primary that actually meant something. In a ham-handed deal, John Kasich and Ted Cruz worked up a “deal” in an effort to derail Donald Trump’s express train to the Republican presidential nomination. Kasich cleared the field and Cruz crowed that without the distraction of a third candidate, he would put the Donald in his place.



One month ago, liberal and conservative pundits predicted that the Republican presidential race would come down to a contested convention that would destroy the Republican Party.

One month ago, Hillary Clinton led Donald Trump in national polls by nearly 20 percent.

One month ago, with the elite of the Indiana Democrats backing her, Hillary Clinton looked to win the Indiana primary and close out the Democratic presidential race.

One month ago, John Gregg was shopping for a big old comfortable chair for his future digs in the governor’s office, while counting his big labor donations to his gubernatorial campaign.

This immediately brings to mind a song by the great songstress, Dinah Washington, “What a Difference a Day Makes.” Make that a month and, well, you get the point. Things have changed.

In the past month Donald Trump absolutely destroyed Ted Cruz in the Indiana primary and, with his victory, any chance to stop Trump from becoming the presumptive Republican nominee for president. Okay, Craig, take a deep breath, count to 10 and repeat after me, “Donald Trump will make a great president. Donald Trump will make a great president.”

**Most talking head pundits**, and I now number myself amongst their muddled and befuddled ranks, got it absolutely wrong by predicting a contested Republican National Convention. We’ve learned in the past 30 days just exactly how angry the voters are. They are fed up and not going to take it any longer. I guess the media literati and those of us who sit in the ivy-covered palaces of the Republican establishment elite were just clueless as to the pent up anger raging in the American public. Now we are not.

With the smashing Trump victory in Indiana, the myth of a disintegrating Republican Party being destroyed

by a contested convention got smashed in the process. What looked to be a mixed martial arts slugfest at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, now promises to be a patriotic, telegenic lovefest of delegates singing “Kumbaya” and waving the Trump flag. Oh sure, there will be some heartburn from a four-day diet of eating crow, but it will be a far cry from fistfights in the aisles projected by the gleeful national media.

Hillary Clinton has seen her head-to-head national poll numbers sink quicker than the Lusitania over the past month. From a staggering, insurmountable lead over Donald Trump to a neck-to-neck polling status, lingering questions over Clinton’s trustworthiness, honesty and competence have returned her to the land of reality.

**Indiana played a big role** in Clinton’s descending poll dance. The openly avowed socialist in the stealthy Socialist Democrat Party, Bernie Sanders, gave Hillary a good old-fashioned Hoosier whoopin’ and guaranteed that she cannot act more conservative until well after the California primary in June.

Democratic presidential candidates have long used the strategy of running along the left wing of their party until the nomination is closed out and then, with the nomination safely in hand, moving to the right in an effort to capture those swing voters in the center. This strategy relies on low-information voters, a compliant national media and a totally unscrupulous candidate. While this sounds like a situation tailor-made for Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders has Hillary’s tootsies held firmly to the fire and she is forced to act in public like she really doesn’t have a hot line to Goldman Sachs.

This brings us to Democrat gubernatorial candidate John Gregg. There was a time in the post-RFRA afterglow when Gregg must have felt that his path to the governor’s office had been cleared by the gods of fate. With an alliance of angry teachers and the GLBT community to sustain him, Gregg toured the Hoosier State beating the RFRA dog to death. While persevering on his limited message, a funny thing happened along the way. Gov. Mike Pence began piling up a big string of economic development victories across Indiana.

Polling has informed us that the voter problems associated with the Religious Freedoms Restoration Act have largely faded and have been replaced by heightened voter attention to job growth and economic opportunity. This has played directly into Gov. Pence’s hand and bodes well for his eventual reelection in November.

**The brief glimmer of hope** that Gregg may have experienced over a fractured Republican Party has been replaced by the realization that with Donald Trump on the Republican ballot, an army of voters who, by a two-to-one margin, declare the economy to be their number one concern, will flock to the polls. No one can dispute that Gov. Pence and Indiana have been on a long streak of economic development and jobs victories. Leading the Midwest in job growth because of Republican policies and priorities has put Gov. Pence in prime position to win a

race that once looked very much in doubt. As Democratic strategist and media gadfly James Carville likes to say, "It's the economy, stupid." The economy is where Pence holds all of the cards.

**Prospective voters are now** learning that John Gregg has largely been an empty suit when it comes to providing a vision for Indiana. Gregg has ridden the GLBT pony into the dust and much of the teacher angst has been alleviated by the elimination of the ISTEP exam. To the average Hoosier, when it comes to either creat-

ing good-paying jobs or allowing transsexuals to pick the restroom of their choice, jobs will win every time.

What a month it was! Assumptions shattered. Trends reversed. Sacred cows sacrificed. We now know how quickly the world can spin and the political world be turned on its head. Just imagine what changes the next five months will bring as the 2016 elections unfold. ❖

**Dunn is chairman of the Howard County Republican Party.**

## Targeted by Koch and Soros on campus

By MICHAEL HICKS

MUNCIE – Last week a small protest group, unKoch My Campus, appeared at Ball State. This group is funded by billionaire (and convicted inside trader) George Soros, through a grant to Greenpeace. This group clearly aims to intimidate into silence any faculty and students with whom they might disagree. Now this is a serious accusation; how do I know it is about free speech and not about Koch Foundation funding, as they claim? It's simple really; they targeted me. Their representative told the local paper I am "among their [Koch's] most trusted academics."



Flattering as that may be, there's just one problem with that claim. I've never submitted nor received a grant from the Koch Foundation, never been paid by the Koch Foundation nor received any gifts or honoraria from them. Though I give about 50 talks per

year, I've never knowingly given a speech to or attended a Koch-sponsored event. The reason for this is simple; the Koch Foundation doesn't typically fund the type of research my research center performs.

**My apparent connection** is having a co-author whose employer took about 1.0 percent of its funding from the Koch Foundation. By the way, that research was instrumental in ending a failed \$1.4 billion corporate give-away program in Michigan. Ironically, among those recipients were several in which Mr. Soros had financial interests. Now there's a story.

So, make no mistake about it, this is merely an effort to intimidate people with whom the Soros Foundation disagrees or finds intellectually (or financially) inconvenient. The stunning hypocrisy of this new McCarthyism

suggests they are a short-lived phenomenon. Still, this offers a great opportunity to explain what universities do with private grants, contracts and donations.

The research center where I work receives contracts or grants to answer a research question such as "What happens to household location decisions when a tax rate changes?" Typically, we'll use the bulk of this money to hire students. For graduate students we usually offer nearly free tuition and a stipend. For undergrads we offer pay, experience and mentorship. None of the center's staff receives extra pay for this.

**The work we do is challenging** and fast-paced. We have no time for an ideological litmus test on employment. We care about work ethic, skills, and almost nothing else. I am very proud to say that in my 16 years as a professor, I've helped support the education of more than a hundred students.

My university needs more, not less of this, and if you want to help please drop me a line [atcberdirector@bsu.edu](mailto:atcberdirector@bsu.edu).

Here at Ball State, the Koch Foundation along with "Papa John" Schnatter are funding entrepreneurial education. While some folks might tremble at the thought of thousands of American college graduates starting their own business, I don't. But, against this notion the Soros-funded youngsters offer neither an opposing argument, nor money to support education, research or free speech.

This isn't about ideas, it is about intimidating faculty and students into rigid intellectual conformity. It is exactly this sort of intolerant nonsense that any honest faculty and student body must vigorously reject. ❖

**Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University.**

# President Obama takes a victory lap in Elkhart

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – President Obama closed an early loop of his presidency in the twilight of his second term in Elkhart Wednesday, using the RV industrial cluster to highlight the economic recovery during his tenure.

When he took his first trip out of Washington as president in February 2009, the jobless rate in Elkhart was 19%. When he returned Wednesday, it was 4%. The White House touted his impact, saying that the city is “is symbolic of America’s recovery.”

“By almost every economic measure, America is better off than when I came here” seven years ago, Obama said. “But we would not have come this far – Elkhart would not have come this far – if we hadn’t made a series of smart decisions. The result proves our focus has paid off. Elkhart proves it.”

It was Obama’s third visit to Elkhart County, which didn’t reward him for the stimulus package he pushed in 2009. In 2012, Republican Mitt Romney carried 62% of the vote in Elkhart County. In 2008, Obama carried 44% of the vote in the county in his race against Republican U.S. Sen. John McCain.

When Obama came to Elkhart in 2009, he recalled campaigning door-to-door in the city in his 2008 primary race against Hillary Clinton. “I have not forgotten,” Obama said at Concord HS that day. “What I’m trying to underscore is what the people of Elkhart already know: This is the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.”

“I came here precisely because this county votes Republican,” Obama said on Wednesday. “If the economy is what is really what’s driving this election, then it’s going to be voters like you who have to decide between two very different visions of what’s going to strengthen our middle class.”

**Now with a 4% jobless rate,** Obama used the reunion to wade into the controversial 2016 race to replace him, saying, “If what you really care about in this election is your pocketbook; if what you’re concerned about is who will look out for the interests of working people and grow the middle class, then the debate isn’t even close. I don’t care whether you’re a Republican or a Democrat or an Independent. Why would you do that? Less oversight on Wall Street would only make another crisis more likely? How can you say you’re for the middle class and then you want to tear down these rules?”

“Don’t think that actually this agenda is going to help you?” Obama continued. “It’s not designed to help you. And the evidence of the last 30 years, not to mention common sense, should tell you their answers to our challenges are no answers at all.”

Obama continued, “One path would lower wages,

eliminate worker protections, cut investments in things like education, it would weaken the safety net, it would kick people off health insurance, it would let China write the rules for the global economy. It would let big oil weaken rules that protect our air and water, and big banks weaken rules that protect families from getting cheated, and cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans to historic lows,” Obama said.

**“I know it sounds like** a strange agenda for politicians claiming to care about working families. But these are their plans. You can find them on their websites. When I hear about working families voting for those plans, then I want to have an intervention.”

“Fortunately, there’s another path that leads to more jobs. Higher wages. Better benefits. A stronger



President Obama speaks at Concord HS in Elkhart on Wednesday, a return to his first visit as president in 2009.

safety net,” said Obama as Elkhart’s Republican Mayor Tim Neese watched in the crowd. “A fairer tax code. A bigger voice for workers. Trade on our terms. It will make a real difference for the prospects of working families. It will grow the middle class.”

Obama had praise to Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, who he had sparred with prior to his first visit in 2009 when Pence was in Congress. As Obama pushed his stimulus package, then U.S. Rep. Pence said, “I believe the American people rejected that under Republican control, and I believe that’s the reason why support for this stimulus bill is collapsing by the hour. The American people know we can’t borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing economy. The only thing this bill’s going to stimulate is more government and more debt.”

**But on Wednesday,** Obama noted, “To his credit, he did expand Medicaid,” a reference to Pence’s HPI 2.0 Medicaid expansion after months of negotiation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Indiana Democrats note that the Pence HIP 2.0 success story that has enrolled more than 350,000 Hoosiers is actually part of Obamacare, which Pence has stridently opposed.

An opinion column by Gov. Pence that was published by the Elkhart Truth attributed the state's recovery to a business-friendly environment as well as strong work ethic, character, and ingenuity, not to the president's efforts. "Mr. President, we welcome you back to Elkhart since your first visit since 2009," wrote Pence, who did not attend the event. "I believe the people of Elkhart and my fellow Hoosiers have brought our economy back in spite of the burdens that higher taxes, mandates and increasing regulations from Washington, D.C. have placed on them. Our state has experienced an economic comeback because the story in Indiana has been very different."

**U.S. Sen. Dan Coats** reacted to the President's visit, saying, "Elkhart is in the national spotlight for its remarkable resilience. Hit hard during the recession, the citizens of Elkhart persevered and dramatically changed the city's trajectory for the better. Today's visit by President Obama should not be about glad-handing but should instead be a celebration of Elkhart's strong work ethic and renewed economic success. I hope the president also acknowledges the pro-growth policies pursued by the state of Indiana, which have made our state one of the nation's economic success stories."

But U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly cited "absurdity" in the Republican response, saying, "I have to laugh at the absurdity of those who are using the President's visit to claim or deny credit for Elkhart's economic recovery. The truth is that Elkhart is an example of the type of economic progress we can achieve when we work together. I thank the President for his commitment to Elkhart and Indiana from Day 1. We've come a long way, and the only way we will continue to get things done is by working together."

**PBS town hall**

President Barack Obama joked, discussed the economy and talked about his waning presence on the basketball



President Obama with Gwen Ifill at the Lerner Theater in Elkhart on Wednesday prior to a nationally televised town hall. (Elkhart Truth Photo)

court (Vandenack, Elkhart Truth). In an interview Wednesday at Elkhart's Lerner Theatre with PBS NewsHour co-anchor Gwen Ifill, he also talked about the ongoing presidential campaign, lamenting the harsh tone of some of the rhetoric. He alluded to some of the tough talk in the Republican presidential campaign, but, when pressed by Ifill, wouldn't mention Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP nominee, by name. But he did let Trump's name slip out once. "He seems to do a good job mentioning his own name," said Obama, who met with Ifill and took part in a PBS town hall gathering at the Lerner.

**Speaking more** generally during the town hall meeting, responding to questions put to him from the audience, he lamented the "reality

culture" and the "talk radio culture" for encouraging brash political talk.

"And so if you're civil and quiet and polite, nobody covers you," Obama said from the main stage of the Lerner, where the town hall meeting was held. "But what I would say is that every voter here, Democrat or Republican, if you want more civility, then you vote for folks who are civil... and not just somebody who's popping off. And that's true whether it's on the left or the right." ❖

**Photography With Punch**  
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# Pence and Gregg tell tales like they usta

By **MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – They’re telling tales now, like they never usta.

My now-departed friend, George Bond, sent me many emails with verses to that old refrain, “They’re laying eggs now, like they never usta, ever since the roosta came into our yard.” It comes into my head, and doesn’t leave, every election year.



I’m told a hen will lay eggs whether or not there is a rooster, but some say she’ll be more productive with the noisy fellow about. Politicians tell tales whether or not there is an election, but they are more proficient at it during election periods.

Gov. Pence and former Speaker Gregg are running about the Hoosier barnyard crowing about our economy. The governor proudly

points to many thousands of new jobs for Hoosiers during his term in office. Speaker Gregg laments Hoosier earnings are lagging. Both have facts on their side, perhaps somewhat embellished, but facts none the less.

Let’s look at those facts. The governor was inaugurated in January 2013, so let’s say his influence started in April of that year. From April 2013 to April 2016, private sector jobs in Indiana increased by 146,600.

Our growth in private sector jobs was 5.9 percent vs. 6.8 percent for the nation. If we merely matched the national average growth rate, there would be 24,700 more jobs in Indiana today. Our growth in public sector jobs equaled only 400, a 0.1 percent increase vs. the nation’s 1.0 percent rise. Indiana saw strong growth in manufacturing jobs, 6.2 percent compared to 2.4 percent nationally, but that strength is in the weakest sector of America’s economy. Yes, there are more jobs today in Indiana (and the U.S.) than at any time in history. Currently, Hoosier jobs are up 3.1 percent from 2007, yet the nation advanced 5 percent.

**Now let’s look at average earnings** (including benefits) per job. The data take us to only 2014. In that year Indiana hit a milestone, the average Hoosier job earned over \$50,000 for the first time in history (without accounting for inflation). Sounds good, but the U.S. passed that milestone six years earlier.

In Indiana, average earnings per job were below the national average by at least 10 percentage points every year in this century. And you have to go out a few decimal points to find something good to say about the growth of our earnings per job. From the start of the Great Recession (2007) and well into the recovery (2014), Indiana’s average earnings grew by 2.088 percent per year

vs. the nation’s 2.080 percent. However, in 2014 itself, the U.S. advanced by 2.7 percent while Indiana achieved an increase of only 1.9 percent.

That’s the chief lesson of these data on jobs and earnings; however good things seem to be in Indiana, they are less than mediocre compared to what’s happening in America. Our share of the nation’s jobs and the earnings they provide is in long-term decline. Short-term thinking won’t correct our problems.

Maybe we should focus less on chickens and eggs and find a good rooster. ❖

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# The referendum on Gov. Pence

By **JACK COLWELL**

SOUTH BEND – If the election is a referendum on Gov. Mike Pence, he will lose.

That’s why the governor needs to shift the focus away from him and get voters to look critically at Democratic challenger John Gregg. But Gregg seeks to keep the focus right where it is, on Pence and the controversies during the Pence administration.



Polls show trouble for Indiana’s Republican governor as he seeks a second term, dangerously high disapproval percentages and many voters, especially women voters, saying they would prefer a new

governor. Those controversies, particularly over education and the religious objections law that Pence signed, have taken a toll. “He cannot run on his record,” Gregg said as he talked about his rematch with Pence during a South Bend stop to introduce his running mate for lieutenant governor, State Rep. Christina Hale.

“He will have to take the focus off his record,” Gregg said. Gregg and Hale seek to prevent that shift in focus. Gregg hit at the controversies and portrayed Indiana as with an economy “not working for working people” and with roads and bridges neglected. Hale talked of “the gaffes of the past four years” and portrayed Pence as an ideologue abandoning bipartisan cooperation.

**Pence is defending his record**, citing unemployment rate improvements, tax cuts and building a surplus. He knows, however, that he can’t let focus be just on his record, not with those disapproval ratings. Pence wants voters to look at the race not as a referendum on him but

instead as a comparison to determine which of the two candidates would be the better governor for the future. He wants negative focus on Gregg as not fiscally conservative, as a Democrat who would spend too much and tax more to pay for it.

That's why Pence, who renounced negative campaigning in 2012, went on the attack right after the primary election this time, denouncing Gregg's record as a former speaker of the Indiana House. That's why Gregg quickly defends his time as speaker back in 1996-02, saying it was a time of bipartisanship, and seeks to keep focus on Pence as a promoter of social issues sought by a narrow segment of voters, not by moderates in either party. He seeks the middle ground, courting independents and those he calls "Dick Lugar and Mitch Daniels Republicans."

**As Pence launched his campaign**, he spoke directly about Gregg's effort to make the race a referendum on the governor.

"My opponent says it's about my record," Pence said. "He's half right. It's about his record as well. John Gregg has a record. He spent 16 years at the Statehouse. His record couldn't be any more different than mine."

Pence certainly is more conservative. Gregg would

agree to that, though labeling Pence as extremely conservative. The selection of running mates shows the differing strategies. In picking Hale, a state representative from Indianapolis with a reputation of bipartisanship, Gregg stressed a moderate image for the ticket. The soft-spoken, issue-oriented Hale clearly wasn't selected as a partisan attack dog.

Also, in picking a woman, Gregg, needing to continue to do well with women voters, drew a contrast with the removal of a female lieutenant governor from the Republican ticket. With Sue Ellspermann off the ticket, replaced as lieutenant governor by Eric Holcomb, a former state Republican chairman, Pence has a running mate who can seek to nail a negative image on Gregg. Ellspermann had disdain for negative campaigning. She also wasn't in total agreement with Pence on the religious objections issue. She now is president of Ivy Tech.

Both campaigns went on television with ads right after the primary. Both will stay on TV right up to the Nov. 8 election, turning to a fierce presentation of differing messages, Gregg seeking a referendum on the governor, Pence seeking to build an unfavorable opinion of Gregg in a quest for a successful comparison contest. ❖

## A return of the infamous 'bar tab'

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – It would appear it is one of those "déjà vu all over again" kind of things. Just like the loquacious Yogi Berra used to talk about in television commercials.



Nevertheless, the handling of the disposition of records involving drunken driving cases in Lake County, at least in one of the courts, is about to come under the microscope. Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter has asked the state police to investigate the handling of drunken driving cases in Lake Station City Court. There are allegations that documentation from drunken driving convictions aren't being sent to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. That documentation can

result in the suspension of driving privileges and higher insurance rates.

**The allegation from Mayor** Christopher Anderson, who was city judge when the alleged wrongdoing occurred, was that court clerk Miranda Brakley was responsible for transmitting the DUI conviction information to the state but never did. Brakley, the step-daughter of

former Mayor Keith Soderquist, is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to embezzling \$16,000 from the city court. Soderquist pleaded guilty to trying to cover up the theft by trying to replace the money.

Carter has said he is concerned the reporting failures could involve hundreds of drivers.

**Noted defense attorney** Thomas Vanes, who represents Brakley, said his client is a scapegoat and that all courts should be checked. It was some 30 years ago that the Lake County court system hit a low when the "operation bar tab" probe into the fixing of drunken driving tickets was in full swing. Hundreds of drunken driving records were involved in that probe as state police investigators found that scores of conviction records never were sent to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

In most cases, it cost the driver \$1,500 to have his records disappear. While some of the officials involved didn't receive any kickbacks, they were convicted of helping cover up the wrongdoing. Two small claims court judges, the county clerk, a deputy prosecutor, bailiffs and lawyers were convicted and went to jail. Operation bar tab played out for several years in U.S. District Court in Hammond.

Unfortunately for Lake County's reputation, some appear to be choosing to bring back the same scheme that left the county in disgrace many years ago. ❖

**Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is a columnist for The Times of Northwest Indiana.**

**Paul Mannweiler, IBJ Forefront:** After Donald Trump won the Indiana primary and his opponents dropped out of the race, the political elite began pontificating on the great division in the Republican Party. The Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal and all the major networks led with stories about this huge chasm and how detrimental it could be for the Republicans in November. The Democrats must have felt ignored. While Hillary Clinton attempted to turn her attention to Trump and to unite her party, an even more dangerous division has developed in the Democratic Party. Bernie Sanders continued to win primaries (he's won 11 of the last 19 contests), his supporters were incensed by the Clinton machine tactics in the Nevada state convention and petitions have been filed for the Democratic National Chairwoman to step down in light of her continued bias for Clinton. Talk about party unity? ❖



**Laura Asher, NWI Times:** It's one thing to support bad economic policy. It's another thing to choose policies that disproportionately attack the livelihoods of Indiana veterans. Nearly one year ago today, with one stroke of a pen, Gov. Mike Pence and his allies in the Legislature managed to do both. In repealing Indiana's prevailing wage law — known as the common construction wage — Pence disregarded the overwhelming consensus of economists who have concluded these policies do not increase construction costs but do promote stronger local economies and lower poverty. Earlier this month, first of its kind research from VoteVets.org exposed an arguably more troubling impact of Pence's wage cut. It disproportionately impacts military veterans, who work in the skilled construction trades at substantially higher rates than non-veterans. The research also shows states with prevailing wage laws see even more veterans join in the construction workforce and a reduction in poverty among those veterans by as much as 31 percent. Those of us who have borne the cost of defending this country understand coming home from war can be just as trying as war itself. There are physical and psychological wounds to heal, strained family relationships to bridge and a difficult transition to civilian employment to undertake. These challenges have been well documented — in VA backlogs, suicide and divorce rates, an unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans that consistently outpaces the national average and a poverty rate among veterans that has been climbing nationally and is approaching 8 percent in Indiana, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. For generations of veterans like me, a job in skilled construction was the best way to avoid becoming one of these statistics. It was a way to put the leadership and problem-solving skills I learned in the military to work in my community in a way that could support a middle-class life for my family. But one year ago, Mike Pence and the Legislature decided we should be forced to take a pay cut. The effect of their deci-

sion is well documented by the research. More veterans will leave their jobs and lose their health care. More will join the ranks of the working poor and rely on government assistance. More veteran-owned construction businesses will close. More state construction contracts will go to out-of-state firms, using less-skilled workers. The U.S. military now trains fully 20 percent of the skilled construction apprentices in the United States because it understands that the best way to address veteran underemployment is to help us prepare for middle-class career options in our nation's fastest growing industries. It is sadly ironic that the wage-cut law that disproportionately impacts Indiana veterans was signed into law during the same month that honors those veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. That's not exactly "supporting the troops," is it? ❖

**Stephen Collinson, CNN:** It's all about Donald Trump. From his condemnation of journalists to his racially tinged attacks on a judge presiding over a lawsuit related to Trump University to his feud with New Mexico GOP Gov. Susana Martinez, there's one thing in common about the mounting Trump controversies: The presumptive Republican presidential nominee is aiming to make the entire 2016 campaign about himself. American politics is littered with larger-than-life personalities. But no presidential candidate in living memory has built a campaign so exclusively on the foundation of his own personal, brand, self-congratulatory rhetoric and life story as Trump. And don't expect anything different if he makes it to the White House. "You think I'm going to change?" he told reporters at a press conference this week. "I'm not going to change." ❖

**Michael Gerson, Washington Post:** For those of us with a certain political bent and background, this is the most depressing moment of all. The best of the GOP — Marco Rubio and Paul Ryan, the intellectually serious reformicons who have called attention to issues of poverty and the need for Republican outreach — are bending their knee to the worst nominee in their party's history. Ryan drags himself slowly. Rubio eventually went with a quick Band-Aid pull. But the largest political choice each man has made this year will be one of the worst mistakes of their careers. How do I know this? It doesn't require fortune-telling. Just days before Rubio offered to speak on Trump's behalf at the Republican convention, the presumptive nominee declared the 1993 suicide of Vince Foster to be "very fishy," especially given Foster's "intimate knowledge of what was going on" with the Clintons. And Trump attacked the Republican governor of New Mexico, Susana Martinez, for allowing Syrian refugees to be "relocated in large numbers" to her state. "If I was governor," he said, "that wouldn't be happening." This is Trump on his best behavior, trying (once again) to act "presidential." ❖

## Pence email account hacked

INDIANAPOLIS — No, Gov. Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, are not stranded in the Philippines and don't need you to wire them money (Groppe, USA Today). Pence's personal email was hacked by a scammer asking for money, and Pence has since changed the AOL account. "Although I hear the Philippines is lovely this time of year, you may be relieved to know that we are safely in the Hoosier state and quite well," Pence said in an email Wednesday to those who had received the fake communication. "All kidding aside, I do apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you." The counterfeit email claimed the Pences had been attacked on their way back to their hotel, losing their money, bank cards and mobile phone. "I'm urgently in need of some money to pay for our hotel bills and my flight ticket home, will definitely REFUND as soon as back home," the fake email said. "Kindly let us know if you would be able to help us out so we can forward you the details required for wire transfer." Impostor scams, in which someone impersonates someone else to commit fraud, were the third most-common complaint reported last year to the Federal Trade Commission. The nation's consumer protection agency received more than 350,000 complaints of impostor fraud.



## Trump involved in 3,500 lawsuits

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump is a fighter, famous for legal skirmishes over everything from his golf courses to his tax bills to Trump University. But until now, it hasn't been clear precisely how litigious he is and what that might portend for a Trump presidency. An exclusive USA TODAY analysis of legal filings across

the United States finds that the presumptive Republican presidential nominee and his businesses have been involved in at least 3,500 legal actions in federal and state courts during the past three decades. They range from skirmishes with casino patrons to million-dollar real estate suits to personal defamation lawsuits. The sheer volume of lawsuits is unprecedented for a presidential nominee. No candidate of a major party has had anything approaching the number of Trump's courtroom entanglements. Just since he announced his candidacy a year ago, at least

70 new cases have been filed, about evenly divided between lawsuits filed by him and his companies and those filed against them.

## McConnell urges Trump tax release

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, is calling for Donald Trump to make his tax returns public, reviving months-long questions over whether the presumptive Republican nominee will release the documents before the general election (CBS News). "For the last 30 or 40 years, every candidate for president has released their tax returns, and I think Donald Trump should as well," McConnell told Business Insider on Tuesday.

## State closing Henryville prison

INDIANAPOLIS — The state Department of Correction will close its minimum-security Henryville Correctional Facility in southern Indiana by July 1 in a cost-saving move, the agency announced Wednesday (Associated Press). The 140 inmates at the prison about 20 miles north of Louisville, Kentucky, will be moved to prisons in Branchville or Edinburgh, and its 36 staff members will be offered vacant positions at prisons in Edinburgh, Branchville and Madison, the department said in a news release.

The number of minimum-security inmates has fallen under new sentencing guidelines passed by the General Assembly in 2014 and 2015 that called for people convicted of Level 6 (formerly Class D) felonies to be restricted from state prisons beginning January 1, 2016, the department said. The overall prison population has fallen by more than 1,100 inmates — from 27,246 last July 1 to 26,142 as of April 30, the department said. All of the reductions have occurred at prisons housing minimum-security offenders.

## Bloomington passes public safety tax

BLOOMINGTON — A proposed tax increase to fund public safety got a key green light Wednesday night (Banta, Bloomington Herald-Times). Bloomington City Council members unanimously supported a 0.25 percent local option income tax increase dedicated to public safety. The nine-member city council holds 59 of the 100 votes on the county income tax council, which includes fiscal bodies throughout Monroe County, and thus has majority power to approve the proposed tax increase.

## Tharp resigns as Howard Dem chair

KOKOMO — Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight announced Tuesday that city development specialist David Tharp will replace current Deputy Mayor Randy McKay, who announced his retirement earlier this month. Tharp will assume the deputy mayor position on June 4, one day after McKay's retirement becomes official. McKay, the city's first deputy mayor, will remain in his position as president of the Kokomo Board of Public Works. In addition, Tharp announced Tuesday he will step down as chairman of the Howard County Democratic Party, a move he said was necessitated by the extensive responsibilities of his new position.