



# Pence on brink of Trump ticket?

A Trump-Pence ticket potential roils the Indiana political scene

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – In an election cycle that couldn't be any more bizarre, surreal, toxic or polarizing, the next unpredictable chapter could return to Indiana in the next several days as Donald

Trump bromances with Gov. Mike Pence.

The two will link up at 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday at the Columbia Club,

where the Manhattan billionaire will host a high-dollar (\$250,000 to \$2,700) fundraiser, coming just three days before the Indiana governor faces a drop dead ballot deadline. The Trump campaign is indicating it will make a decision next week, a change from an earlier stance that the veepstakes would end at the RNC in Cleveland. Pence

campaign spokesman Marc Lotter confirmed that Pence will attend. His political future lies in the magnificent brain of the mercurial Trump, who has flipped and flopped through an array of policy issues and political stances.

NBC News is reporting that the vice presidential



Gov. Mike Pence and Donald Trump meet at the Governor's Residence in April before Pence endorsed Ted Cruz. (IndyStar Photo)



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## A political indictment

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Hillary Clinton will not face criminal charges over her private server email controversy. But in announcing that prosecution won't happen, FBI Director James Comey couldn't have been more damning

of the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.

If anything took a hit, it was confidence in the system that Republican presumptive nominee Donald Trump calls "rigged."

"Our judgment is that no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case," Comey announced on Tuesday morning in yet another surreal moment in the 2016 presidential race.



**"I will admit that I'm a Mike Pence fan. He is so well rounded, served as governor and I think he's a great conservative. So I don't think he could go wrong."**

*- U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, who dropped out of the Trump veepstakes Wednesday*



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It was an unusual press conference to begin with, coming, literally, at the time that Hillary Clinton was boarding Air Force 1 with President Obama for their first joint campaign appearance. The lead-up to that recommendation is enough fodder to fuel Trump and Super PAC TV ads against Clinton for the rest of the cycle.

**"Although we did** not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence that they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information," Comey said of the former secretary of state. "There is evidence to support a conclusion that any reasonable person in Secretary Clinton's position, or in the position of those with whom she was corresponding about those matters, should have known that an unclassified system was no place for that conversation."

Comey noted that 113 emails were classified, and eight were top secret.

The hits kept coming. "Only a very small number of the emails containing classified information bore markings indicating the presence of classified information," Comey continued. "But even if information is not marked 'classified' in an email, participants who know or should know that the subject matter is classified are still obligated to protect it."

**Then there were** the hackers. "We do assess that hostile actors gained access to the private commercial email accounts of people with whom Secretary Clinton was in regular contact from her personal account," Comey said. "We also assess that Secretary Clinton's use of a personal email domain was both known by a large number of people and readily apparent."

And Comey talked about "sophisticated adversaries," saying, "She also used her personal email extensively while outside the United States, including sending and receiving work-related emails in the territory of sophisticated adversaries. Given that combination of factors, we assess it is possible that hostile actors gained access to Secretary Clinton's personal email account."

This comes after Clinton had repeatedly said there were never classified emails on what we now know were multiple servers outside of the security purview, with Clinton insisting in 2015, "There were no security breaches."

Yikes.

Washington Post "Fix" blogger Chris Cillizza observed, "It's hard to read Comey's statement as anything other than a wholesale rebuke of the story Clinton and her campaign team have been telling ever since



the existence of her private email server came to light in spring 2015. She did send and receive classified emails. The setup did leave her, and the classified information on the server, subject to a possible foreign hack. She and her team did delete emails as personal that contained professional information."

**Bloomberg Politic's** Mark Halperin called it "a political indictment" of the former secretary of state.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, who serves on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said, "While the FBI is not recommending indictment for Secretary Clinton, the agency's investigation is a harsh indictment of her decision-making and judgment while serving in one of the most important positions in the U.S. government. Whether it was gross negligence or blatant disregard, it is undeniable that Secretary Clinton broke federal law and mishandled classified information, putting American lives at risk and endangering our national security."

Comey's puzzling conclusion that no "reasonable prosecutor" would bring charges had people across the spectrum shaking their heads.

For a generation now, we've watched the Bill and Hillary soap operas spread a wide swath of personal destruction to friends, aides and allies. But on Tuesday morning, that wake seemed to catch up with Sec. Clinton. She leads in the polls in most swing states, but not by much. Her national leads, other than one ABC/Washington Post outlier poll released last week, are close to the margin of error.

**It gave Trump a** predictable opening, a rare occurrence. "The system is rigged," Trump tweeted. "General Petraeus got in trouble for far less. Very very unfair! As usual, bad judgment."

The lack of criminal charges will keep Clinton in the race. An indictment might have forced her out, leaving a Democratic National Convention scenario of nominating the socialist Bernie Sanders, or perhaps the best sce-



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**DRUDGE REPORT**

nario for Democrats, enticing Vice President Joe Biden into the race. So this is actually a better scenario for Republicans than an indictment.

**But there is no** doubt that the "establishment" took another big hit. So does the trust factor that has prompted 69% of voters in a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal to say they don't trust Clinton. And that is fuel for the Trump fire. Or as Trump put it in Cincinnati last night, "The FBI did me a favor. I would rather face her than almost anybody else."

These past few days we've watched Trump stumble over his Star of David tweet criticized as anti-Semitic that obscured Clinton's Saturday interview with the FBI. He defended it again last night. And then came his praise of Saddam Hussein, in Trump's view a killer of terrorists and not a perpetrator of genocide on the innocents.

Now Clinton credibility has sustained another broadside. Both Trump and Clinton have a long history of manipulating the facts and, well, lying.

Are these the leaders we deserve? ❖

**Trump/Pence, from page 1**

nomination appears to be between Pence and former House speaker Newt Gingrich, who appeared with Trump at a rally in Cincinnati on Wednesday. "In one form or another, Newt Gingrich is going to be involved with our government, that I can tell you," Trump said. "He's going to be involved. He's smart, he's tough, he gets it. I'm not saying it's Newt, but if it's Newt, nobody's going to be beating him in those debates, that's for sure, right? Nobody. Nobody's beating Newt in the debates."

NBC describes a "vocal camp" inside Trump Tower pushing for Pence. U.S. Sens. Bob Corker and Joni Ernst dropped out on Wednesday, with Ernst saying, "I will admit that I am a Mike Pence fan. He is so well rounded, served as a governor and I think he's a great conservative. So I don't think he could go wrong."

Pence has the backing of key Trump family members and campaign manager Paul Manafort, who "cannot control a Gingrich, whereas he can control a Pence." Asked by NBC News this weekend if he would "like" the VP job,

Gingrich responded bluntly: "Listen, we'd be willing to consider it. Like is a pretty strong term."

Several influential Hoosier Republicans speculate that Pence may know he's on the inside track. Rex Early, Trump's Indiana campaign chairman, said on Wednesday, "I think it's 60/40 that Pence gets it. He's got so many things going for him. Trump needs the Cruz people. Cruz finished second out of 17 and the Cruz people wonder if Trump is truly a conservative. They don't have to worry about Mike. When you look at all the things he can add, no one can touch him." In Early's view, Gingrich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie would have a tendency to upstage the boss.

Pollster Kellyanne Conway, who polls for Pence and now Trump, told NBC News, "When Hillary Clinton promised to put the coal industry out of work in West Virginia, her shocking comment reverberated westward, across at least six or seven states, all which Pence could help in picking up one, two, three points right through the Midwestern states, where Romney bombed spectacularly." In his gubernatorial race, Pence has made coal a key issue.

But if a Pence veep nomination comes off the rails, there could be lasting damage to his already precarious reelection rematch against Democrat John Gregg.

Battle for the White House			
RCP Poll Averages			
Election 2016	Clinton	Trump	RCP Average
RCP Poll Average	44.9	40.3	Clinton +4.6▲
4-Way RCP Average	41.1	36.4	Clinton +4.7▲
RCP Electoral Map	210	164	
Battlegrounds	Clinton	Trump	RCP Average
Pennsylvania	46.0	43.7	Clinton +2.3
Florida	46.5	42.8	Clinton +3.7
Ohio	44.3	41.8	Clinton +2.5
Virginia	43.8	39.8	Clinton +4.0
North Carolina	44.0	43.3	Clinton +0.7
Georgia	40.8	45.0	Trump +4.2
New Hampshire	44.5	41.8	Clinton +2.7

Pence interviewed for the Trump "show" to become his apprentice vice presidential nominee over the holiday weekend, in a meeting described as "warm and productive." Lotter told HPI, "They talked about policies that are working in Indiana and the future of this country. Nothing was offered and nothing was accepted."

It is a position that dozens of Republicans wouldn't touch with the proverbial 10-foot pole. But after FBI Director James Comey's stunning press conference Tuesday morning where he passed on indicting Hillary Clinton while inflicting enormous damage to her trust factor and credibility – perhaps the best scenario for the Republican Party – the notion of a Trump/Pence ticket is no longer a fool's errand. There is a path to victory.

The scenario is unprecedented in the last half century. Rarely has a vice presidential nominee gone to someone already on the ballot, though Barry Goldwater picked U.S. Rep. William Miller in his 1964 landslide loss to President Lyndon Johnson and Democrat Walter Mondale selected U.S. Rep. Geraldine Ferraro in 1984. Unprecedented is an Indiana gubernatorial nominee prepared to bolt the ticket. A similar circumstance occurred in 1860 when Henry Lane was nominated and elected, only to resign, elevating Lt. Gov. Oliver P. Morton to the governorship, who then appointed Lane to the U.S. Senate.

This has placed Pence in yet another peculiar position. He is now vying for two jobs. On Sunday, Gregg observed, "I find it more than a little appalling. I mean, he's telling everybody he wants to be governor. Now he's trying to bail out." And on Tuesday at the Steelworkers Local 1999 where he met with soon to be laid-off Carrier workers, Gregg said, "I think what's interesting is the governor is obviously interviewing for one job while he's got his foot back here acting like he wants to keep this job, and the truth is this job is too important to just have as a stepping stone."

Pence would say on Sunday, "My focus is Indiana. I'm here today running for reelection as governor of the state of Indiana." On Tuesday at the Shelby County Fair, Pence put it this way: "I love my job and I love my country. And we haven't been asked to consider any other job than the one we have. So I'm out here at the Shelby County Fair working to earn reelection as governor of the state of Indiana, and that will continue to be our focus. I would have to refer you to the campaign for whatever pro-

cess they're involved in. I would just tell you as a family, we were truly grateful to spend time with the Trumps this past weekend."

Steelworkers Local 1999 President Chuck Jones put it in this perspective: "Him and Trump. That'd be a hell of a team. All we need to do on that is throw a circus tent up and get a couple of elephants and couple lions and we'd have a hell of a circus going on."

So this is a double-edged sword. A wink and a nod from Trump and Pence is back on the national stage, one he was forced from in March and April when he bungled the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. If Pence is left holding an empty bag, he will look like an ambitious politician spurned.

He seeks to join Trump, described by James Dobson as a "baby Christian," whose dedication to right-to-life issues is malleable, and whose positions on the proposed Muslim ban have been described by Pence as "offensive" and "unconstitutional." Pence would be taking orders from a presidential nominee who is open to LGBT rights, something he has resisted as governor.

Peter Wehner, a senior fellow for the Ethics and Public Policy Center, who worked in the Reagan and both Bush administrations, observed of evangelicals backing Trump, "This fulsome embrace of Mr. Trump is rather problematic, since he embodies a worldview that is incompatible with Christianity. If you trace that worldview to its source, Christ would not be anywhere in the vicinity. Time and again Mr. Trump has shown contempt for those he perceives as weak and vulnerable, 'losers,' in his vernacular."

"What Mr. Trump admires is strength," Wehner continued. "For him, a person's intrinsic worth is tied to worldly success and above all to power. He never seems free of his obsession with it. In his comments to that gathering of evangelicals, Mr. Trump said this: 'And I say to you folks, because you have such power,

such influence. Unfortunately the government has weeded it away from you pretty strongly. But you're going to get it back. Remember this: If you ever add up, the men and women here are the most important, powerful lobbyists. You're more powerful. Because you have men and women, you probably have something like 75, 80 percent of the country believing. But you don't use your power. You don't use your power.'"

Trump and Pence are on a power play.

Conservative New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote in June, "Some conservatives believe they can educate, convert or civilize Trump. This belief is a sign both of intellectual arrogance and psychological naiveté. The man who just crushed them is in no mood to submit to them. Furthermore, Trump's personality is pathological.



**Democrat John Gregg with Steelworkers Local 1999 President Chuck Jones (top photo) and Gov. Pence campaigning at the Shelby County Fair Tuesday. (HPI and Fox59 Photos)**



Gov. Mike Pence and Lt. Gov. Holcomb at the latter's swearing-in ceremony in March, as Speaker Bosma and Sen. Merritt (upper left) look on. (HPI Photo by Mark Curry)

It is driven by deep inner compulsions that defy friendly advice, political interest and common sense. Incapable of understanding themselves, they are also incapable of having empathy for others. They simply don't know what it feels like to put themselves in another's shoes. Other people are simply to be put to use as suppliers of admiration or as victims to be crushed as part of some dominance display. Therefore, they go out daily in search of enemies to insult and friends to degrade."

At this point, Pence's ambition appears to have trumped what have long been his publicly conveyed core values.

## The Pence dominoes

Pence's flirtation with Trump has now roiled the Indiana Republican Party, with dozens of influential members watching in amazement that the governor may bolt. If he does, it must occur by July 15, and is already setting in motion a churning jockeying toward an unprecedented void.

To date, Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb, House Speaker Brian Bosma, U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita, U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks, State Sen. Jim Merritt, Republican Chairman Jeff Cardwell, Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, former Indianapolis mayor Greg Ballard and Auditor Suzanne Crouch have expressed interest and are making or receiving phone calls. Some want Purdue President Mitch Daniels to return.

Indiana statute and state Republican Central Committee rules involving a potential gubernatorial ballot vacancy would require candidates currently on the ballot to resign their nominations.

The Trump campaign is signaling it will unveil the vice presidential nomination next week, possibly in Indianapolis next Tuesday.

Fifth CD Republican Chairman Kyle Hupfer, who heads the Rules Committee for the state GOP, told *Howey Politics Indiana* that if Gov. Pence were to resign by July 15, the state committee would have 30 days to select a new nominee. Because a nominee cannot be on the ballot for two offices, any potential replacement would have to resign their current office by July 15. That impacts Holcomb, Bosma, Brooks and Rokita. Candidates currently on

the ballot for other offices can drop off the ballot only if they die, move or are convicted of a felony crime.

As the *NWI Times'* reporter Dan Carden noted, it's less risky than it sounds. For example, if Holcomb withdrew as the GOP nominee for lieutenant governor and didn't win the party's nomination for governor, the Republican State Committee simply could insert Holcomb back on the ballot to fill the party's lieutenant governor vacancy. Likewise, a caucus of precinct committeemen in congressional and state legislative districts could fill ballot vacancies by renominating a candidate who withdrew but was unsuccessful in the GOP governor's race. Gov. Pence could even try to manipulate the outcome by immediately resigning as governor once Trump picks him for vice president. That would elevate Holcomb to the state's top job and make it seemingly impossible for the Indiana Republican Party, which Holcomb led from 2010 to 2013, to deny him the nomination.

Bosma, who has already signaled that he will seek the governorship in 2020, told HPI, "That is my understanding, yes," on Hupfer's interpretation of rules and statute. Asked if this would change a potential gubernatorial candidacy if Pence vacates the nomination, Bosma responded, "If selected, of course. Presumably all of this will come together in a timeline that facilitates ballot replacements without someone stepping down prior to their selection."

On Monday, Bosma said, "It's still pretty speculative at this point, but if he is picked, I will seek to be our party's candidate. I have received a number of calls this weekend encouraging me to do so." Holcomb told HPI Monday night, "I'm focused on my full-time job and supporting the governor by keeping the state moving forward. If anything changes, we'll be in touch, which is exactly what I've told everyone who reaches out to me."

At this stage, Holcomb would be an early front-runner as several Central Committee members tell HPI there is a "next man up" sentiment. But Holcomb has not been a strong fundraiser as state Republican chairman and as a U.S. Senate candidate. Bosma is the other power center, having raised well over \$10 million for the House Republican Campaign Committee, has a statewide

network and a 71-member caucus with vast loyalty.

It's important to remember Bosma's body of work. In 2008, Gov. Mitch Daniels won reelection with 58% of the vote, but didn't pull in a House majority. He was saddled with Speaker B. Patrick Bauer for two more crucial years. It was Bosma (with the help of Chairman Holcomb) who recruited House candidates, took a majority in 2010 just in time for redistricting, then super-sized it with a 69-member super majority in 2012 and increased it to 71 in 2014.

In an April 2015 Howey Politics Indiana Poll conducted by Bellwether Research's Christine Matthews, key players in the Pence dominoes all have low fame. Bosma's fav/unfavs stood at 11/13% with 53% name ID. Holcomb stood at 5/3% with 48% name ID, though that has certainly gone up since his Senate candidacy and ascension to LG. Rokita stood at 12/7% with 49% ID.

Another scenario conveyed to HPI by an informed source has Brooks entering, possibly with Pence's imprimatur. If Pence endorses and transfers his gubernatorial war chest to an annointed one, it's game over.

At this point, Central Committee sources tell HPI, there is no reliable head count on how the committee would vote. "There will be a lot of bloody noses and ruffled feathers," one committee member told HPI. "No one is going to commit to anyone until they know what's happening and who's in."

## Epilogue and forecast

The Pence veepstakes has the same feel of potential that I felt in 1988 when U.S. Sen. Dan Quayle emerged late as a leading contender. I remember telling my Elkhart Truth colleagues on the Monday before the Republican convention began that Quayle had a real shot. I have a similar premonition today, though George H.W. Bush is far more predictable and conventional than Donald Trump.

Perhaps Trump and Pence already have a deal and just aren't saying. Trump may be stroking various bases. For Pence's sake, a deal is critical. If it collapses, there could be incalculable damage to the Pence reelect, as ambition leaps over the traditional "stay the course." Pence can say he is honored and it's a testimony to the hard workin' Hoosiers, but what has been on display here is naked ambition for a politician in a tough reelection battle.

If Pence ascends, I look for Holcomb and Bosma to be the power centers, with Holcomb an early favorite. But don't underestimate Bosma's statewide network and his fundraising ability. The longer the replacement period runs, the stronger Bosma is likely to become. If Pence endorses Brooks or Holcomb, that could be a game changer. There has been considerable tension between Pence and Bosma and the governor would not likely endorse him.

Worth repeating in this surreal era of trashed conventional wisdom is this mantra: Anything can happen. Anything. ❖

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# Early ready to place bets on Gov. Pence

By MAUREEN HAYDEN  
CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS - As speculation swirls around Gov. Mike Pence's chances of becoming Donald Trump's running mate, the man who managed Trump's successful primary campaign in Indiana is ready to place his bets.

"I'm 100 percent for Mike getting job, and I think it's an 80 percent chance that he's going to get the job," said veteran political strategist Rex Early.



Early offers the caveat that he's had no contact with the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. Nor has he talked to anyone on the Trump campaign, for that matter, about his choice of a running mate.

"It's pure speculation on my part," he said. "I don't know anything."

But he's happy to feed the din of speculation now that the Indiana governor and six-term congressman is mentioned on the VP short-list, having met with Trump over the weekend at a golf course in New Jersey.

On Wednesday, chatter about Pence's chances got even louder when two other widely presumed choices, Sens. Bob Corker, R-Tennessee, and Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, took themselves out the running after meetings with Trump earlier in the week.

As of late Wednesday, the likely list appeared to be winnowed to two high-profile, hard-charging politicians - former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who endorsed Trump after dropping his own bid for the White House earlier this year.

Ernst told Politico that she advised Trump to pick Pence: "He is so well rounded, served as a governor, and I think he's a great conservative. So I don't think he could go wrong," she was quoted as saying.

**Early, a former chairman** of Indiana's Republican Party, agrees with her assessment, though for another reason. Pence's appeal is in his relatively small political stature and lack of star power, he said. Early likened it to President George H.W. Bush's pick of the largely unknown junior senator from Indiana, Dan Quayle, as his running mate in 1988. "You don't take somebody who will outshine you," he said.

Craig Ladwig, director of Indiana Policy Review, a conservative think tank where Pence worked before going to Congress, sides with Early on that estimation.

He called Pence a "natural politician" who loves to campaign and also knows how not to make too many

waves. But Ladwig said he's not sure that Pence's traditional conservatism adds much to the ticket, given the clamor among Trump supporters for radical change. "He's a wonderful fellow," he said. "But there's not much demand for wonderful fellows."

Political pundits hail Pence as a reasonable pick because of his traditional conservatism and popularity among evangelical Christians - characteristics that could neutralize some of Trump's perceived negatives.

**But Ron Johnson**, head of the evangelical Pastors Alliance of Indiana and a longtime Pence ally, said he isn't so sure that Trump would be influenced by Pence's point of view. "We're grabbing for straws here," he said. "We're looking for some glimmer of hope. I'm not sure having Mike Pence as your running mate is the straw that will work."

Pence, meanwhile, is allowing rumors to flourish - by saying little about them. On Tuesday, while campaigning for re-election as governor at a county fair, he told reporters that he is "ready, willing and able to help Donald Trump anywhere he asks us to help him."

Typically presidential candidates keep details of their vice presidential searches under wraps. But just as the Trump campaign has defied conventional wisdom and tradition, it's hard to read the political tea leaves.

Trump is scheduled to visit Indianapolis on July 12 for a fund-raiser at the private Columbia Club, a bastion of traditional Republicanism.



Gov. Pence with GOP chairs Clark, Early, McDaniel, Durnil, Cardwell and Holcomb.

Early said he believes Trump might announce Pence as his vice-presidential pick then, affirming a tweet that Trump sent over the weekend, having met the governor and his wife, Karen: "Very impressed, great people!"

Corker, having met with Trump, told reporters that the candidate will make his pick before July 15.

**That's also the final day** for Pence to withdraw from the Indiana gubernatorial race, allowing the Indiana Republican Party to select a replacement to face Democratic challenger John Gregg in November.

However, Trump has also downplayed a deal with any potential vice presidential pick, telling Fox News: "I'm actually looking at about 10 people - some names that haven't surfaced yet." ❖

# A vice president named Mike Pence?

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE – The next step in this presidential campaign – at least the next logical step though both likely presidential nominees regularly slip in missteps that rather overwhelm normal progression – is the selection of vice presidential running mates.

There isn't a lot of worldwide precedent for vice president with a king or queen. With Trump or Hillary occupying the throne, one conjures up a vision of a graying Prince Charles with great-grandchildren bouncing on his knee when he isn't opening up a home and garden show somewhere.



On the other hand, this is the first time in my lifetime when the presumptive presidential nominee of both parties could blow up before they even

become eligible for impeachment. Voters might actually think more about the back-up plan more than normal. I will focus on the Republicans, where accepting the veep slot entails far more risk. Trump has interjected some new variations of how to avoid consideration.

**Method 1: Haley's Comet.** Disappear rapidly and only be identified by the trail of your departure. Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina began denying that she'd accept the job long before it became apparent that Trump would be the nominee.

**Method 2: Love's Goodbye.** If your name is floated, say you don't even want to be in the same room with the person. When a credible float was given to star Congresswoman Mia Love of Utah, she immediately announced that she could see no benefit to the people of Utah of her even attending the convention.

With no inside information at all, if Trump has an "inside" even in his own head, and assuming political logic (risky), here is my order of likelihood for Trump's veep: 1) Who knows, 2) Pence, 3) Fallin, 4) Gingrich, 5) somebody who already said "no" like Kasich, or 6) Christie.

While the Trump campaign does not follow a

normal political strategy, it is not that they aren't politically savvy. Campaign manager Paul Manafort and Roger Stone were celebrated for less than above-board methods of destroying anyone who opposed them, but Stone and Manafort, Trump's Svengalis, are seldom outsmarted. Lewandowski is a junior clone. The three aren't the same as in traditional clones, but rather are methodological clones. They unsettle, use unorthodox methods that may or may not be ethical, challenge the outer boundaries of any rule or convention, and only are predictable if you try to assume unpredictability, and then they will hammer you with a traditional blow. They either win or flame out.

They also fight among themselves because they each one thinks he is the smartest. They also fight among themselves less than it appears to outsiders. They take turns getting fired so they can speak more "freely." Then they influence the candidate, the others, and the media with public declarations. Some of those declarations are purposely not as appears (i.e. a form of secret code) and some are straightforward. It definitely keeps everyone unsettled and uncertain of how to respond. The trio fits Donald Trump perfectly. It is impossible to tell what idea is his and what belongs to one of the trio.

Lewandowski floated Pence's name this past weekend for a purpose. Did he disagree with the others involved in the decision-making? Was it a media misdirect? Or was it a traditional float to see what the reactions would be? The answer of course is "yes," it was probably a bit of everything.

I listed Mike Pence first because I think his choice makes most political sense for Trump for many reasons, and they (including Trump) are politically smarter than generally given credit for. Just because I don't care for the group, Trump or his advisors, doesn't mean that I don't respect their abilities to dominate media for political purposes. In discussing the Pence competition, it clarifies why our governor makes so much political sense for Trump.



Gov. Mike Pence campaigning with Ted Cruz in Marion on May 2.

**New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie:** A New York/New Jersey ticket is a Democrat strategy, and a poor one even for them; has no foreign policy experience; alienated conservatives during the primary; does have the huge Trump plus of having demonstrated the ability to be led around like a dog on a leash, barking when told to bark, yet a lapdog when told to shut up.

**Newt Gingrich:** While a brilliant idea guy, hard to imagine fitting both egos in the White House even counting the extra space in the

Executive Office Building; former speaker but didn't leave on a high note; tends to say what he thinks, not what Trump thinks.



**Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin:** Former congresswoman, current governor of Oklahoma, not likely to upstage Trump, pro-Israel (Diane and I were in Israel on an AIPAC trip with her), a successful female with a good life story; in Congress was well-liked but very conventional; in other words, a safe choice but likely wouldn't add as much as Pence.

**Mike Pence:** Backed Cruz, popular among evangelicals, held a leadership post in the House (friendly with Speaker Paul Ryan), served on the International Relations Committee, hugely popular among friends of Israel because he is one of its greatest champions (do not underestimate this or the particular timing of Lewandowski even just floating his name), while the gay rights issue hurts him among liberals it actually counter-balances that Trump is pro-gay rights, like Fallin has a strong pro-NRA record.

Furthermore, Pence speaks well and calmly. He smiles rather than glowers. Proved while serving with Speaker John Boehner that he could swallow a lot out of

loyalty, even when he disagreed. That certainly has been calculated into the Trump analysis. Pence is good at raising money among social, economic, and pro-Israel conservatives. Could be turned loose to fire up conservatives. He's not good at being an attack dog, but Trump seems to want to do that himself. Regardless, anti-Hillary venom is probably something others will keep well covered.

Even in health care, Pence is an asset. With Trump being out there having preferred an alternative the Bernie Sanders approach (to the left of Clinton), while some conservatives didn't like Pence's Indiana compromise, Pence's plan is something that Trump and most conservatives would likely be able to live with.

Mike Pence is the logical choice for veep. Why Pence would take it, or let it disrupt his gubernatorial campaign to even consider, is less clear. ❖

**Souder is a former Republican congressman from Indiana and a regular HPI contributor.**

## No surprise in a Trump/Pence ticket

By RICH JAMES

MERRILLVILLE – You've got to wonder what's going through the head of Gov. Mike Pence. I suspect he is giddy about the possibility of being the running mate for Donald Trump, who will be the Republican presidential candidate unless something terribly unforeseen happens in the next week or so. Being considered as a vice presidential candidate does a lot for one's ego. I suspect there is something special about being a heartbeat away from being the most powerful man on the globe.



We know Pence in the past talked about running for president but backed away and instead did the sure thing in running for governor. Other than the late Bob Orr, I can't remember anyone looking more like a governor than Pence. And, unfortunately, too many people still vote based on a candidate's looks.

**I suspect Pence could** be a help for Trump. The social conservatives aren't enamored with Trump. Pence, being an ultraconservative, would help bring that faction of the party into the fold. And, yes, I've got to think that Pence is interested or he wouldn't have accepted Trump's invitation for a visit last weekend.

It wouldn't shock me if Trump picked Pence. The

others that he ought to be considering are some of those 16 folks who were part of the presidential sweepstakes. And Trump insulted most of them. What's that saying about not burning bridges?

**The fact that Pence is being** considered reminds me of a Hoosier who ended up being vice president. When George H.W. Bush was running for president in 1988, he was lagging in the polls. It seems that Bush was doing poorly particularly among young people and women. In an effort to increase his appeal among those two groups of folks, Bush selected the young, good-looking Dan Quayle. And, of course, Bush won.

Besides both being quite conservative, Quayle and Pence both served in the U.S. House of Representatives. ❖

**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.**

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# Gregg posts \$3.025M in 2Q; Pence raises \$4.1M

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Democrat John Gregg will report raising \$3.025 million for the second quarter and will have \$5.833 million cash on hand. Gov. Mike Pence raised \$4.1 million. Pence has \$7.4 million cash on hand.



“As the campaign enters this next phase, we will continue to be aggressive,” Marty Obst, executive director of Pence’s re-election campaign told the IndyStar on Wednesday. Of Pence’s \$4.1 million haul, \$2.6 million were

from direct contributions, with the remainder from in-kind contributions.

“These might change a little because treasurer has not finalized numbers yet,” Gregg communications director Jeff Harris told HPI. “The key take away is we started last year trailing Pence by \$3.5 million in cash on hand and we have cut that down to \$1.6 million this quarter. He is showing \$7.4 million on hand to our \$5.8 million. He had a \$2.6 million advantage after the first quarter, so we cut his cash advantage by \$1 million this quarter.”

The Republican Governors Association spent \$1.47 million on behalf of Pence in June. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reported the RGA has put in more than \$3 million this election cycle. The Democratic Governors Association has given \$526,000 to Gregg’s campaign but hasn’t run any ads.

Gregg campaign manager Tim Henderson told the Associated Press Gregg would have outraised Pence without the help of the RGA, which has donated more than \$2 million in ads and cash to Pence. Finalized numbers do not have to be reported to the Indiana Secretary of State’s office until July 15, but large donations are reported more quickly. Records show Pence swept up nearly \$200,000 in large donations toward the end of June, much of it coming from businessmen. Gregg has collected large sums from labor unions, who are perhaps his strongest financial backer. The most expensive race in state history was in 2004, when Daniels and Democratic Gov. Joe Kernan spent a combined \$33 million on the governor’s race.

## Gregg attack ad

Gregg went on the offensive Tuesday, launching his first ad criticizing Gov. Mike Pence (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The ad accuses Pence of being “asleep at the switch” when thousands of Carrier and UTEC employees found out their jobs were being shipped to Mexico. The Gregg campaign put the ad up Tuesday and sent a fundraising email out to keep it up. “Even though Gov. Pence found time to meet with Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and other big-name out-of-state politicians, he still won’t

meet with workers who are losing their jobs at Carrier,” the email said. The Pence campaign shot back, saying Gregg is trailing in the polls and fundraising, and calling the ad “woefully inaccurate.” Shortly after the Carrier/UTEC announcement, Pence met with union leaders and company executives, and successfully negotiated with the company to repay economic development incentives, among other things. But he has not met with rank-and-file workers losing their jobs. “Carrier made its decision because of federal regulations, which will only get worse under John Gregg and Hillary Clinton,” said Marc Lotter, deputy campaign manager for Pence.

## Republican Central Committee members

If Gov. Mike Pence drops off the ballot, selecting a replacement will fall to the 24-member Indiana Republican Central Committee.

Here are the members: Chairman Jeff Cardwell, Vice Chair Misty Dees Hollis, Secretary Barb McClellan, Treasurer Domezich, 1st CD Chair Chuck Williams, 1st CD Vice Chair Rebecca Holwerda; 2nd CD Chair Deb Fleming, 2nd CD Vice Chair Nick Barbknecht, 3rd CD Chair Barbara Krisher, 3rd CD Vice Chair Bill Davis, 4th CD Chair Craig Dunn, 4th CD Vice Chair Barbara Knochel, 5th CD Chair Kyle Hupfer, 5th CD Vice Chair Judy Buck, 6th Chair Mark Wynn, 6th CD Vice Chair Ginger Bradford, 7th CD Chair Tom John, 7th CD Vice Chair Jennifer Ping, 8th CD Chair C. Richard Martin, 8th CD Vice Chair Brenda Goff, 9th CD Chair Jamey Noel, 9th CD Vice Chair Beth Boyce, National Committeeman John Hammond III, National Committeewoman Marsha Coats.

## Statewides

### Lucas, Domezich to chair Hill finance

Republican attorney general nominee Curtis Hill announced that Forrest Lucas, founder of Lucas Oil Products, Inc., and Dan Domezich, current treasurer of the Indiana Republican Party, will serve as co-chairs of the campaign’s finance committee. “Forrest Lucas and Dan Domezich are both recognized nationally for their success in business and their commitment to public service,” said Hill. “Forrest’s courage and determination to take a risk in building Lucas Oil paid off not only for his family, but for the dozens of causes and organizations that benefit from his constant generosity.” Lucas said, “Curtis Hill brings the good sense and integrity that is so badly needed in this very important position of attorney general. He brings new and fresh ideas to the debate and has a proven record of success on behalf of the citizens of Elkhart County.” Domezich added, “As a state representative and longtime supporter of Republican candidates, I can’t think of anyone better to help Indiana fight back against excessive federal government overreach and ensure that our state and its people are safe from drugs, crime and violence.

**Congressional**

**8th CD recount nears**

Eighth CD Democrat David Orentlicher, who trails Ron Drake in the razor close May 3 Democratic primary, says a "precount" is about to begin, with a recount just days away. "Our pre-recount inspection begins this Thursday, July 7, in Brazil with a review of the Clay County voting records," Orentlicher said. "We'll also be in Newport and Terre Haute later that day for a review of the Vermillion and Vigo County voting records. By taking a look at the voting records before the recount, we can speed up the recount process." Orentlicher added, "After our pre-recount inspection in the three counties, we can begin the actual recount in all 19 counties. That will probably start on either Friday, July 8, or Monday, July 11. And once we get into the counting, we'll have a better sense of how long the entire process will take. Most likely, we'll know by Friday, July 22, or Friday, July 29, how the recount will change the vote totals."

Drake told HPI last week, "I have indicated multiple times that every day that goes by is one day less to campaign. Orentlicher has said all the way through the campaign that his goal is to turn the district blue but it seem he is attempting to overturn the will of the people. I won that primary. It would seem that his primary concern is not the district, where he parachuted in to and has no

ties, it would seem his interests is his own personal interest."

**General Assembly**

**O'Donnell rematch with Rep. Slager**

Highland attorney Thomas O'Donnell is answering the Democratic Party's call for another round with state Rep. Hal Slager, R-Schererville (NWI Times). Indiana Democratic Chairman John Zody recently conducted a caucus of Democratic precinct committeemen in the 15th House District who nominated O'Donnell, 53, a Dyer resident. He will run in the Nov. 8 general election for the legislative seat representing Dyer, Schererville and part of Griffith, St. John and unincorporated St. John Township. O'Donnell, who has been in law practice since 1987 and who served 12 years on the Lake County Council, is making his second bid for a seat in the Indiana General Assembly. O'Donnell and Slager first ran against each other in 2012 after the Republican-controlled Indiana General Assembly redrew the boundaries of the 15th District to center on the Tri-Town area, following population shifts over the previous decade. Slager won with 51 percent of the vote. Slager won again in 2014 against Democrat Jim Wieser with 59 percent of the vote. ❖

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# Historic gender gap shaping up

By **GEOFFREY SKELLEY**  
**Sabato's Crystal Ball**

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – With four months to go in the 2016 general election campaign, national polls suggest that it's quite possible that the Hillary Clinton-Donald Trump clash may well set a new record for partisan differences between the sexes. Since Clinton effectively sewed up the Democratic nomination on June 7, the average gender gap in 22 national polls is 24.4 points and the median gap is 26 points, slightly ahead of the exit poll era record set in 2000, as shown in Table 1 below. This sample only included poll results for questions asking respondents about just Clinton and Trump, thus excluding those that asked the horse race question with Libertarian Gary Johnson and/or presumptive Green Party nominee Jill Stein included. This choice largely reflects the fact that early polls tend to overstate the performance of third-party or independent candidates, which in turn affects the major party candidates' totals.

**Table 1: Potential record-setting gender gap in 2016**

Notes: \*Mean gender gap in 22 national surveys taken since June 7 based on responses to head-to-head Clinton-versus-Trump questions. Polls from the following are included: ABC News/Washington Post, American Research Group, CBS News, CNBC, CNN/ORC, Fox News, IBD/TIPP, Monmouth University, Morning Consult, NBC News/SurveyMonkey, NBC News/Wall Street Journal, Public Policy Polling, Quinnipiac University, Rasmussen, and USA Today/Suffolk University. Special thanks to CNBC, Rasmussen, and SurveyMonkey for responding to requests for crosstab data. Other national polls taken since June 7 are not included due to lack of gender crosstab data or because they did not include a Clinton-versus-Trump head-to-head question (i.e. the horse race questions named Johnson and/or Stein in the question).

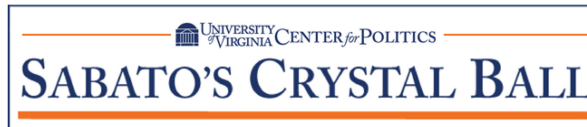
Overall, 16 of the 22 surveys found the gap to be 20 or more points, which is notable simply because the 2000 election was the only cycle where the national exit

poll found at least a 20-point gap. On the low end, a June 15-20 Morning Consult poll found the divide at just eight points. In fact, Morning Consult's polls have routinely found a noticeably smaller gender gap than other pollsters, releasing four of the six post-June 7 polls with a gender gap smaller than 20 points. On the high end, a June 17-20 American Research Group survey showed a 44-point gap in gender voting intentions. The ARG poll tied for the largest lead for Trump among men in any poll (14 points) and it had the largest lead for Clinton among women (30 points), thus the huge (and likely exaggerated) chasm. This large disparity in gender gaps is just one more reason to look at polling averages and medians rather than one poll at a time.

## The gender gap is nothing new

The gender gap has long been an electoral reality in American politics, whether in presidential races or down-ballot. In most elections, men tend to vote more Republican and women tend to vote more Democratic. Based on the national exit polls, there has been a notable

divide in how men and women vote in every presidential election going back to 1980, when Ronald Reagan helped convert a significant segment of men, but not women, to the Republican Party. In fact, outside of 1992, every contest since 1980 has featured a gap of at least 10 percentage points. The all-time record in the exit poll era (1972-present) is 22 points, observed in the 2000 election cycle, when Al Gore won women by 11 points and George W. Bush won men by 11 points. Table 2 below shows partisan gender voting data in the exit poll era.



Year	Gender gap
2016*	24
2000	22
2012	18
1980	17
1996	17
1988	15
2004	14
1984	13
2008	12
1992	5
1972	2
1976	0

**Table 2: Gender vote in presidential elections, exit polls 1972-present**

There are always questions about what causes the gender gap. Fundamentally, ideological and policy differences explain it to some degree, with women generally favoring more government intervention in areas such as health care. For instance, an April poll by Pew found that more women (41%) than men (36%) thought the Affordable Care Act has had a "mostly positive" effect on

the country. Women also tend to favor more liberal immigration policies. A June The Economist/YouGov survey showed that 49% of women believed that illegal immigrants should be allowed to stay in the county and eventually apply for citizenship, versus just 41% of men. These are just two examples of issue areas where women and men demonstrate notable differences in their views.

But these existing divides appear to be exacerbated by the two major-party standard bearers in 2016. Clinton is the first woman to win a major-party nomination, and given the power of identity politics, it's not hard to imagine her winning over at least some women because of that status. At the same time, she's had trouble with male voters, even in the Democratic

Year	Men		Women		Gender gap
	Dem	GOP	Dem	GOP	
1972	36	62	37	61	2
1976	50	48	50	48	0
1980	36	55	45	47	17
1984	37	62	44	56	13
1988	41	57	49	50	15
1992	41	38	45	37	5
1996	43	44	54	38	17
2000	42	53	54	43	22
2004	44	55	51	48	14
2008	49	48	56	43	12
2012	45	52	55	44	18

primary: In the 27 states with entrance or exit polling for primaries and caucuses, Clinton did worse among men than women in every single Democratic contest versus Bernie Sanders, with a median performance of 11 points worse. Meanwhile, Trump has a history of misogynistic remarks that hurts him with women voters. And his appeal to blue-collar white voters may particularly boost him among men but at the expense of women in that racial demographic: The most recent Quinnipiac poll showed Trump winning handily among white men but actually trailing among white women. The only Republican in the exit poll era to lose among white women was Bob Dole in 1996, when he faced Bill Clinton.

All in all, we could see the largest gender gap in the modern history of U.S. presidential elections in

November. Should that happen, never before will Venus have been quite so far away from Mars. ❖

**Photography With Punch**

Mark Curry On Indiana Politics

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<http://mark1tc.smugmug.com/Political/>

# Voter self interests

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – Voters don't always vote in their own self-interest. Sometimes, in anger or ignorance or a combination thereof, they vote to rescind their nose to spite their face. So it was in Britain, where a majority of voters chose to leave the European Union.

Now, already, buyer's remorse settles in as Britons see their stock market crash and the value of their pound and their investments plummet. A prior forecast for growth is replaced by fears of lost jobs and recession. The nation's credit ranking tanks. Trade deals must be renegotiated from a position of weakness. There is concern over whether Scotland and Northern Ireland will remain in the United Kingdom. Then England loses to Iceland 2-1 in the European Soccer Championships.



Iceland? Iceland! Little Iceland? Little Iceland! Blame it on the Brexit voters? They are blamed for everything else. Rightly so, in most cases. So, maybe they even made their national team colder than Iceland.

Britons were warned of the consequences, although not of the ultimate indignity in soccer. Financial experts warned of the effect on the economy. The mainstream news media warned of the dangers, even as media segments selling sensationalism focused instead on fears of immigrants and conspiracy theories. "Establishment" political leaders warned of the dangers of "Ignore the World: Britain First." Academic experts warned of what rejecting the facts, the truth, would mean.

A majority of voters, however, scoffed at the warnings. They listened to the claim that rejection of European unity would make Great Britain great again. That would be huge. Maybe reclaim lost parts of the British Empire? India? Canada? Pennsylvania? Maybe more like now losing Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**They listened to claims** that they were cheated in EU trade deals, even as they were one of the most prosperous EU nations. Now, they will have to negotiate new trade deals, bargaining from a weakened state. They listened to stories of hordes of immigrants coming to take their jobs, their land and their lives. They chose to believe the worst, reject the facts.

They listened to the voices of anger. They would cut off their EU participation to spite their leaders, the establishment, the lying news media. They listened to "leave" advocates who now belatedly admit they really can't keep their promises. Those promises plastered at campaign sites now are described as just "a series of possibilities."

Voter remorse isn't unusual, here as well as there, although not often involving nation-shattering consequenc-

es. Most of us can think of some election when voters, angry at some local prosecutor, sheriff, judge or mayor over one decision, voted the official out, only to find that the slogan-slinging incompetent they elected made them mad over every decision.

An Indiana example was when Republican primary election voters decided that Sen. Dick Lugar had been a statesman too long and voted him out. They instead voted for Richard Mourdock. Richard Mourdock!

**There actually were** some African-Americans who voted for segregationist George Wallace. They were angry, too, about Washington bureaucrats. But did they vote in their own self-interest in supporting that segregationist? There were angry Democrats in Florida who voted for Ralph Nader for president. They elected George W. Bush. Was that what they wanted in their self-interest? There were angry Republicans who voted for Ross Perot. Was the election of Bill Clinton what they deemed to be in their self-interest? Voters, angry over taxes and lack of government services, can be fooled by the claim of clueless politicians that some great and grandiose program can be paid for simply by "eliminating waste, fraud and abuse." The slogan certainly is simple.

Now, we have voter anger with Uncle Sam, who used to be a symbol of national unity, national strength. Now Sam is portrayed in ridicule as a symbol of Washington. Is it in our self-interest to vote to cut off Sam's nose to spite that place? ❖

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

# Hoosier tourism lags

By MORTON MARCUS

INDIANAPOLIS – The award-winning Indianapolis Airport is a great place to watch people and think about whatever you happen to think about. I was thinking about travel, tourism and retirement, which led me to consider how little our state does to encourage people to visit and retire here.



Our Indiana highway map has lots of ads about where you might go, but doesn't help you get where you want to go. Most state highway maps include good maps of the largest cities. Indiana shows you only Indianapolis. Either we have no other cities or we are ashamed of them. But how can there be room for city maps when we have sold one whole side of our map

to advertisers? Many states have impressive, sparkling clean "welcome centers" as you enter the state. Indiana has a fine showplace off the highway in Hammond, but

that's it. Our other "welcome centers" are adjuncts to smelly toilets. Our website is okay, but look for yourself and see what others have done.

**For decades Hoosier** officials charged with promoting travel and tourism have bemoaned the low level of funding they receive. In addition, it's virtually impossible to gather statistics on travelers and their activities. Firms in the travel and tourism business don't want to cooperate with government, to reveal information they believe will help only their competitors and increase their taxes.

Nationally, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) maintains a Travel and Tourism Satellite Account on the industry with funding from the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. Those data don't (can't) distinguish between money spent by Americans on the road or Aussie visitors at the 500 race. What the numbers tell us is that travel

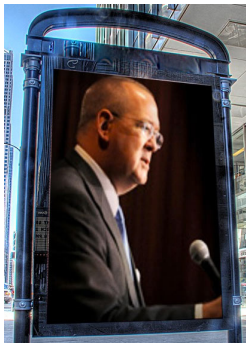
and tourism accounted for 5% of all economic activity (GDP) in 2015, down from 5.8% in 2000. Although at an all-time high in 2015, travel and tourism output grew by only 11% since 2000 while the national economy advanced 30%.

**Which brings us to a weak "study"** of the best places to retire by Bankrate.com. Four of the five top places in the nation are in the D.C. suburbs. Carmel ranks 137th of 196 U.S. cities, Anderson 160th, and Indianapolis 176th. No other Hoosier places are mentioned. But that's what is out there and what people will read. We haven't heard a word from candidates for governor or the legislature about their plans to attract more travelers, tourists or retirees to Indiana. Perhaps they're too busy worrying about who uses which restroom. ❖

## Indiana economy not as good as it could be

By **MICHAEL HICKS**

MUNCIE – It is election season and the Op-Ed pages are filled with commentaries on the good and bad features of the Hoosier economy. As an economist, I have a somewhat different perspective.



Today, the Hoosier economy is performing much better than it should be expected to. In nearly every metric Indiana outperforms the nation as a whole. Job growth is strong, incomes rise, the labor force expands, GDP and investment all grow briskly. Viewed through the short-term prism, Indiana's growth is the envy of most of the nation.

The credit for much of this unexpected prosperity lies both in significant policy changes of the last decade and serendipity. Quite simply, as the Great Recession began to ebb, Indiana had its fiscal and regulatory policy house in order. This meant the recovery was stronger, and broader than it should have been. Objectively viewed, growth in Indiana's economy is much faster than expected. The problem is that we start so far behind.

**Indiana incomes continue** to be much below the nation as a whole, and cost of living differences don't get close to making up the difference. The simple reason for lower income is that Indiana continues to suffer low educational achievement. This is due to historically poor educational performance and the inability of the state to attract educated workers to our cities.

A little analysis of the impact of this is helpful. Given Indiana's educational attainment (the share of adults with a bachelor's degree) our per capita income should be

roughly \$1,500 less than it currently is. One interpretation of this is that Hoosiers are \$1,500 richer than they should be, in part because of serendipity and a strong business climate. But that's not the important lesson from these data. If over the past half century Indiana managed to boost educational attainment from where it is now, to the national average, incomes would be higher by \$5,500 per person.

**In other words, we are** currently doing better than we should be expected to, but are much worse off than we should be. So, the policy debate of the 2016 general election should be about changing this. That is no easy task, for it means boosting the share of adults with a college degree from 22.5 percent to the national average of 28 percent. Along with this, we need to elevate every other metric from high school graduation rates to professional degrees. I will take two broad efforts.

First, we have to continue our educational reforms in ways that deliver results. We need a Department of Education that cares about both success for all students; in public and private schools, and is focused on something other than preserving the status quo.

**Second, we have to make** more of our cities into places that people want to live in and move to. We simply cannot raise educational attainment without population growth. The Regional Cities Initiative is a strong first step, but we need to go much further.

Without more vigorous attention to education and population growth, Indiana's long-term prospects will never match the short-run success we are currently enjoying. ❖

**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.**

**Matt Tully, IndyStar:** The potential political marriage between Donald Trump and Mike Pence actually makes sense. It's also a reminder that Pence's focus has never truly fixed on Indiana. First there was Gene Simmons of KISS fame. And then came Andrew Dice Clay, Meat Loaf and La Toya Jackson. And now, starring as Donald Trump's latest apprentice, is one Michael R. Pence. Formerly known as the governor focused squarely on the state of Indiana and on his reelection campaign (his words), our governor is now thinking about joining Team Trump. Or at least he is letting the world believe he is thinking about joining Team Trump. Either way, his flirtation with the developer turned reality TV star turned politician is just the latest in a long series of actions that have made clear Pence's inability or unwillingness to focus on and adjust to the role of governor. I understand ambition and wanting to move up in the world. Neither of those things is a sin. But if Pence is willing to ditch Indiana in the midst of a gubernatorial reelection campaign for a running-mate slot with Trump — well, that shows his level of commitment to the job of being governor. And, there is the dichotomy of a man signing up with the likes of Donald Trump after spending decades portraying himself as driven so much by his moral compass, religion, family values and conservative principles. Give me a break. ❖



**Jeff Ward, Muncie Star Press:** Running as Donald Trump's vice president could be the perfect job for Gov. Mike Pence, but not so great for Indiana. Pence met last weekend with Republican nominee Trump, presumably to gauge his chances of becoming Trump's running mate. What came of that meeting is unknown, so maybe this is all academic and Trump told Pence, "Thanks for the interest, but no thanks." The Washington Post lists Pence as a long shot behind Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who ran a failed primary campaign, endorsed Trump and is often viewed by his side at public events. I can't see Trump sharing the stage, before, during or after the election, with someone like Gingrich or Christie, who seem to enjoy the white-hot media spotlight. I doubt Trump would want to be upstaged by his running mate. Egos, and such. Which is why Pence would be perfect. He's not as verbose as Christie or as brash as Gingrich. Pence would dutifully play the role of VP contender, without shifting the focus off Trump. We already know where Pence stands, since he endorsed Trump after Cruz was knocked out of the race. An added benefit, Pence would find himself one step closer to the presidency, which is something others say he's long contemplated. His name was mentioned as a presidential contender while still serving in the House. A Pence candidacy could help bridge the gap between Trump and evangelicals and social conservatives, who are unsure exactly where Trump stands on gay rights and abortion. And that's where a Pence can-

didacy as VP candidate could hurt Indiana. It's precisely those issues that continue to reinforce the erroneous image of Indiana as a backward looking, unwelcoming state. Should Pence be Trump's choice, the national media will focus on Pence's first administration as governor. It would be like ripping the scab off a healing wound. Hoosiers will be forced to endure close scrutiny — again — of issues that we've grown weary of discussing. ❖

**Eric Bradner & Tom LoBianco, CNN:**

The prospect of Donald Trump tapping Indiana Gov. Mike Pence to serve as his running mate has both national Republicans and local party members salivating -- but for different reasons. Pence is deep in Trump's vice presidential vetting process, tasking two aides with coordinating with the campaign and flying over the weekend with his wife, Karen, to meet with Trump in New Jersey. After meeting Trump, Pence told aides Wednesday he expects "business as usual" in the governor's office -- but also indirectly confirmed that he'd accept the vice presidential nod if offered, and would remain Indiana governor through November's election, rather than resigning his post to focus on the campaign. "Even if I become vice president, I can fill out my term," Pence told staffers, according to an Indiana Republican familiar with the discussions. Pence meets Trump's stated needs, a veteran Washington insider who could shepherd Trump's agenda through Congress, where he rocketed to prominence as a member of the Republican leadership. He also fulfills desires from national GOP elites: unflappable message discipline and a bridge to social conservatives and top-dollar GOP donors. It also makes for a good fit for Indiana Republicans, who are ready for Pence to go after a tumultuous first term in Indiana that has opened up a chance for Democrats to claim the governor's office. If that means sending Pence on the road with Trump, all the better. Removing Pence from the governor's race, several senior Indiana Republican officials, aides and operatives said, would allow the state GOP to escape from the turmoil of years of social battles over same-sex marriage and religious freedom. Pence would accept the vice presidential nomination if he's asked, several sources who have spoken with him or have been briefed on his meeting with Trump said, arguing he could help Trump with the party's most conservative factions. For Trump, there'd also be symbolism in tapping Pence. Indiana was the state that clinched the Republican nomination for him. The deeper damage to Pence was among women voters -- one area of weakness for Trump that Pence would be precisely the wrong candidate to help with. Still, a leader in the national conservative movement said Pence would be a "solidifying" choice for Republicans not yet sold on Trump. The conservative said Pence -- a devoutly religious man -- would need to be sure he feels "called by God" to abandon the governor's office to run for vice president. ❖



## Trump posts \$51M in June

NEW YORK — Donald Trump's fundraising sprang to life in June, pulling in a \$51 million for the month and smashing totals from all previous months. The campaign said slightly more than half of which came from the team's burgeoning digital and small-dollar operation, between the campaign itself and its joint venture with the Republican National Committee. But Trump's skeletal campaign still trails far behind Hillary Clinton relied on the Republican Party and the billionaire's own wallet for about half its haul. By comparison, Clinton raised \$68.5 million: \$40.5 million to the campaign, and \$28 million to the Democratic National Committee and state parties through the Hillary Victory Fund. Four years ago, the Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, raised more than \$100 million in June.



## Justice closes Clinton probe

WASHINGTON — U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch on Wednesday confirmed that the investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state will be closed without criminal charges. The announcement brings to a formal end a probe that for months dogged the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee's campaign. "Late this afternoon, I met with FBI Director James Comey and career prosecutors and agents who conducted the investigation of Secretary Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email system during her time as Secretary of State. I received and accepted their unanimous recommendation that the thorough, year-long investigation be closed and that no charges be brought against any individuals within the scope of the investigation," the attor-

ney general said.

## Pence exit would set off scramble

NEW ALBANY — If Gov. Mike Pence actually is snagged as VP for presidential candidate Donald Trump, what would that mean for Indiana?

"I don't know what's going to happen, and anybody who tells you they know what's going to happen — it's just impossible to know," self-published political columnist Brian Howey said (Beilman, News & Tribune). But the unknowns aren't keeping experts from making a few educated guesses. For one, Pence leaving his re-election bid mid-campaign will turn the governor's race upside-down. "It completely changes the whole dynamic because [Democrat opponent] John Gregg has positioned his campaign on kind of a referendum on Governor Pence," Howey said. "And with Pence gone, that changes everything. We'll have to wait and see who replaces Pence on the ticket." "I can tell you that, in my opinion, Eric Holcomb has the overwhelming support" of committee members, Clark County GOP chairman and state committee member Jamey Noel said. Another favorite is House Speaker Brian Bosma, who raised a lot of money for House Republicans while Holcomb hasn't, Howey said. Whoever is chosen, Democrats would no longer have Pence's track record to campaign against, Noel said. "They would have to totally scrap that idea and re-engineer whatever their strategy is to beat Eric Holcomb," he said.

## Trump angry, defiant in Cincy

CINCINNATI — Donald J. Trump on Wednesday offered a defiant defense of his campaign's decision to publish an image widely viewed as anti-Semitic — saying he regretted deleting it — and vigorously reaffirmed his praise of Saddam Hussein, the

murderous Iraqi dictator (New York Times). In the span of 30 minutes, an often-shouting Mr. Trump breathed new life into a controversy that was sparked on Saturday by his posting of an image on his Twitter account of a six-pointed star next to a picture of Hillary Clinton, with money seeming to rain down in the background. The image was quickly, and broadly, criticized for invoking stereotypes of Jews. Mr. Trump deleted it two hours later, and replaced the star image with a circle. "You shouldn't have taken it down," Mr. Trump recalled telling one of his campaign workers. "I said, 'Too bad, you should have left it up.' I would have rather defended it." "That's just a star," Mr. Trump said repeatedly.

## Trump says Knight will speak at RNC

CINCINNATI — Former Indiana basketball coach Bob Knight called Donald Trump "the most prepared man in history" to be president during an April rally in Indiana (Indy-Star). The legendary coach will have another chance to speak on the behalf of the presumptive Republican nominee. This time, it'll be with the nation watching. Trump announced Wednesday during his speech in Cincinnati that Knight will indeed speak at the Republican National Convention.

## Hogsett press aide placed on leave

INDIANAPOLIS — Mayor Joe Hogsett's press secretary was placed on administrative leave this week following accusations he kicked a woman's car (WRTV). Shavon Wilson says she is getting an attorney, and wants to file charges against Dan Goldblatt, Hogsett's press secretary. Wilson is accusing Goldblatt of exploding in an act of road rage and kicking her car near the intersection of Pennsylvania and Washington streets downtown. She claims she was slowing down at a yellow light when Goldblatt started to cross the street. She claims he then kicked her car angrily.