

Gubernatorial coattails overrated

Myers could eclipse Pearson in Indiana's landslide loss annals

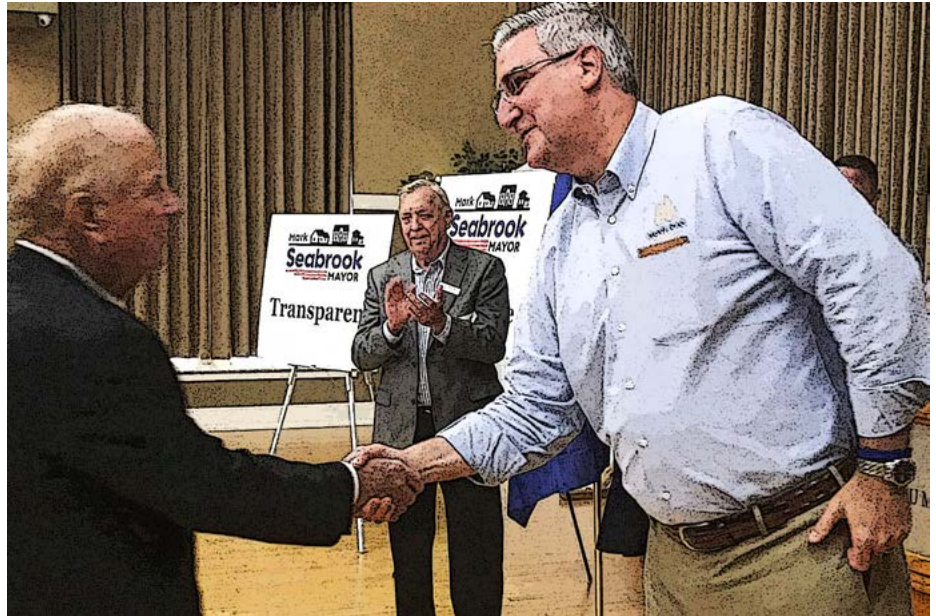
By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – If there was a poster boy for gubernatorial futility prior to 2020, it would be Republican Linley Pearson in 1992.

Pearson easily won the Republican nomination, but had a GOP convention meltdown over who the attorney general nominee would be. In the general election, Pearson faced popular Gov.

Evan Bayh who was perceived as destined for the national ticket. Bayh ended up walloping Pearson by 559,618 votes, or by a 25% plurality landslide. In the television age of Indiana politics, it stands as historic relief between the two major parties.

But in Bayh's landslide win, the yield down ballot



was limited, with Democrats picking up just five General Assembly seats.

The surreal, pandemic-stricken 2020 election cycle stands to rewrite the landslide annals. A SurveyUSA Poll

Continued on page 3

Missing e pluribus unum

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Two Hoosiers were on conspicuous national stages this month when they were asked what in just about any other era would be perceived as Chicago-style softball questions.



Vice President Mike Pence was asked by debate moderator Susan Page, "President Trump has several times refused to commit himself to a peaceful transfer of power after the election. If Vice President Biden is declared the winner and President Trump refuses to accept a peaceful transfer of power,

what would be your role and responsibility as vice president? What would you personally do?"

And U.S. Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney



“We are obviously keeping the mask mandate. It obviously is working. This ultimately comes down to our personal actions.”

- Gov. Eric Holcomb, extending the mask mandate while keeping Indiana at Stage 5 despite a record surge of COVID-19 cases over the past week. See Page 20.



Howey Politics Indiana
WWWHowey Media, LLC
c/o Business Office
PO Box 6553
Kokomo, IN, 46904
www.howeypolitics.com

Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington
Mary Lou Howey, Editor
Susan E. Joiner, Editor

Subscriptions

HPI, HPI Daily Wire \$599
 HPI Weekly, \$350
Lisa Houchell, Account Manager
 (765) 452-3936 telephone
 (765) 452-3973 fax
 HPI.Business.Office@howeypolitics.com

Contact HPI

bhowey2@gmail.com
 Howey's cell: 317.506.0883
 Washington: 202.256.5822
 Business Office: 765.452.3936

© 2020, **Howey Politics Indiana**. All rights reserved.
 Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, whole or part, is a violation of federal law without permission from the publisher.

Jack E. Howey
 editor emeritus
 1926-2019



Barrett was asked by Sen. Dianne Feinstein at Monday's Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing, "Does the Constitution give the president of the United States the authority to unilaterally delay a general election under any circumstances? Does federal law?"

That these two questions would even have to be asked is a troubling sign of our times.

Why?

Because President Trump has stoked the body politic into believing that he might not accept the results of the Nov. 3 election. Trump said he would "see what happens" when pressed about a peaceful transition of power during a Sept. 23 news conference. "There won't be a transfer, frankly, there'll be a continuation."

In July, Fox News Sunday host Chris Wallace pressed Trump to "give a direct answer" on whether he would accept the Nov. 3 election results or not. "I have to see," Trump responded. "Look, you — I have to see. No, I'm not going to just say 'yes.' I'm not going to say 'no' and I didn't last time either."

Trump has suggested on multiple occasions he should get a third term, after watching autocrats like Putin and Xi revamp their constitutions to create lifetime power.

Here's how Vice President Pence answered Page's question: "Well, Susan, first and foremost, I think we're gonna win this election." Turning to his opponent, Sen. Kamala Harris, Pence continued, "When you talk about accepting the outcome of the election, I must tell you, Senator, your party has spent the last three and a half years trying to overturn the results of the last election. It's amazing. When Joe Biden was vice president of the United States, the FBI actually spied on President Trump and my campaign."

Pence continued, "So let me just say, I think we're gonna win this election. President Trump and I are fighting every day in courthouses to

prevent Joe Biden and Kamala Harris from changing the rules and creating this universal mail-in voting, they'll create a massive opportunity for voter fraud. We have a free and fair election; we know we're going to have confidence in it. And I believe in all my heart that President Donald Trump's gonna be reelected for four more years."

As for the vote fraud allegation, Secretary of State Connie



Lawson told HPI last month there was "no evidence" of such a threat.

Judge Barrett answered her question this way: "Well, Senator, if that question ever came before me, I would need to hear arguments from the litigants and read briefs and consult with my law clerks and talk to my colleagues and go through the opinion-writing process." She begged off becoming a "pundit" and promised to approach matters with "an open mind."

The U.S. Constitution leaves no doubt on both matters. Article II, Section 1 states: "The Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States."

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution requires: "The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January ... and the terms of their

successors shall then begin.”

Title 3, Section 1, Chapter 1 of the U.S. Code specifies: “The electors of president and vice president shall be appointed, in each state, on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, in every fourth year succeeding every election of a president and vice president.”

In my six decades as a citizen of this great nation, I always believed in the “peaceful transfer of power,” even if that meant that two presidents, one departing, the other ready to take the reins, weren’t always in the best spirits. There have been a number of icy car rides down Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and U.S. Capitol.

In modern times, we’ve actually witnessed former foes – Presidents George H.W. Bush who was defeated by Bill Clinton in 1992 – become good friends. We just didn’t think that anything other than a peaceful transfer of power would occur, even after the razor tight elections of 1960



and 2000.

As our nation endures a pandemic that could stretch into another year, and the reverberations that have severely impacted our economy and many other aspects of our lives, the words of reassurance from Vice President Pence and Judge Barrett would have been a tonic for a wary people.

Pence could have said, “We will follow the legacy of 240 years established by President George Washington and, subsequently, enshrined in our Constitution.”

For Judge Barrett, the wise answer would have been a simple “No.”

Their convoluted answers with Pence suggesting a payback is in order, while the judge was open for arguments on what should be proven law are troubling, because they seemed couched for that audience of one, President Trump – instead of E pluribus unum – Latin for “Out of many, one.” ❖

Coattails, from page 1

released Wednesday has Holcomb with a 55-35% lead over Democrat Woody Myers with 10% for Libertarian Donald Rainwater. In the BK Strategies Poll released by Indiana Republicans last week, Holcomb had a gaping 60% to 21% lead over Myers, with Rainwater polling at 6%.

Next Tuesday, Holcomb, Myers and Rainwater participate in the statewide Indiana Debate Commission event, presenting an extremely narrow path for the Democrat and Libertarian nominees to get into a more competi-

tive posture.

If that margin holds in that neighborhood – and there is little indication that Holcomb is facing any serious erosion despite President Trump’s meltdown and a resurging pandemic – it would be an epic rout, eclipsing Doc Bowen’s 14% plurality over Secretary of State Larry Conrad in 1976, Gov. Mitch Daniels’ emphatic 18% reelection plurality over Democrat Jill Long Thompson in 2008, and Evan Bayh’s historic rebuke of Pearson in 1992.

Bayh’s shellacking of Pearson is even more impressive when you consider that Vice President Dan Quayle

Gubernatorial coattails in the television age of Indiana Politics 1960-2016

Year	Governor	Plurality	Senate	House	Coattails
1960	Matthew Welsh D	+1%	26D 24R	66R 34D	+3D Senate, +13D House
1964	Roger Branigin D	+7%	35D 15R	78D 22R	+9D Senate, +34D House
1968	Edgar Whitcomb R	+5%	35 R 15D	73R 27D	+14R Senate, +7R House
1972	Doc Bowen R	+6%	29R 21D	73R 27D	NC Senate, +19R House
1976	Doc Bowen R	+14%	28D 22R	53R 47D	+5D Senate, +9R House
1980	Robert Orr R	+16%	35R 15D	63R 37D	+6R Senate, +9R House
1984	Robert Orr R	+5%	30R 20D	63R 37D	-2R Senate, +7R House
1988	Evan Bayh D	+6%	26R 24D	50R 50D	+4D Senate, +2D House
1992	Evan Bayh D	+25%	28R 22D	55D 45R	+2R Senate, +3D House
1996	Frank O’Bannon D	+5%	31R 19D	50D 50R	+1R Senate, +6D House
2000	Frank O’Bannon D	+14%	32R 18D	53D 47R	-1D Senate, NC House
2004	Mitch Daniels R	+8%	33R 17D	52R 48D	+1R Senate, +3R House
2008	Mitch Daniels R	+18%	33R 17D	52D 48R	NC Senate, +1D House
2012	Mike Pence R	+2%	37R 13D	60R 40D	+4R Senate, +9R House
2016	Eric Holcomb R	+6%	41R 9D	71R 29D	+1R Senate, -1R House

was running on the losing ticket with President George H.W. Bush. Bayh's breakthrough victory over the 20-year Republican dynasty with Quayle on the ticket in 1988 is equally impressive.

And it takes away an excuse for Myers' anemic campaign. Some might say that Vice President Mike Pence's station on President Trump's ticket, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, made it impossible for Myers to win, crimping his fundraising despite his promising resume. Myers reported a mere \$14,000 cash on hand on his 2019 year-ending report, despite kicking off his campaign the previous summer, and failed to find much traction in the three and a half months before Gov. Holcomb imposed the lockdown in mid-March. On his mid-year report, Myers had less than \$73,000 cash on hand. Christina Hale's 5th CD campaign has raised \$3 million, showing that the pandemic can be an opportunity for some.

How bad is the Myers campaign? He is being out-raised by Libertarian nominee Donald Rainwater, who landed a \$50,000 donation from William Perkins III of Houston, on top of the \$100,000 he received from the same source on Sept. 25. The Rainwater campaign announced Wednesday that it has raised more than \$65,000 from over 200 individual donors. Myers reported just under \$15,000 in large donations over the past two weeks.

The Trump/Pence ticket maintained its 10-point advantage in the CBS Battleground Tracker released over the weekend, 54%-44% and SurveyUSA had Trump up 49-42%.

Had the Myers campaign displayed even a modicum of fiscal prowess, it might have put in motion the ticket-splitting that down-ballot Democrats like Hale and a handful of General Assembly candidates need to take



HOWEY
POLITICS INDIANA



President (U.S. & Indiana)



President Donald Trump (R), Joseph Biden (D), Jo Jorgensen (L)

HPI Horse Race:

National: Likely D; Last week: Leans D
Indiana: Likely R; Last week: Safe R

Indiana Governor



Gov. Eric Holcomb (R), Woody Myers (D), Donald Rainwater (L)

HPI Horse Race:

This week: Safe R
Last week: Safe R

Indiana Attorney General



Todd Rokita (R) Jonathan Weinzapfel (D)

HPI Horse Race

This week: Leans R
Last week: Leans R

Congressional 2nd



U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorki (R) Pat Hackett (D)

HPI Horse Race

This week: Likely R
Last week: Likely R

Congressional 5th



Victoria Spartz (R), Christina Hale (D), Kenneth Tucker (L)

HPI Horse Race

This week: Tossup
Last week: Tossup

Congressional 9th



U.S. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth (R) Andy Ruff (D)

HPI Horse Race

This week: Likely R
Last week: Likely R

advantage of the anti-Trump blue wave developing nationally. Myers' impotency has sent an unmistakable message to down-ballot Democrats: You're on your own.

Joe Biden's presidential campaign's calculus isn't counting on Indiana, meaning the national party will not invest here.

In all fairness to Myers, the notion of gubernatorial campaign coattails is more myth than fact. Congressional and General Assembly realignments tend to come in mid-term elections. In 1970, House Republicans saw their 73 seats shrink to 54. In the Watergate election of 1974, a 73-seat



GOP House majority reverted to a 56-seat Democratic majority. Democrats regained the House in 1998, and again in 2006 when they not only regained the House majority, but picked up three congressional seats. In 2010, it was Republicans who regained the House majority with a 12-seat pickup, forging a 60-40 majority that has since evolved into two straight cycles of super majority rule.

The coattail kings would be Gov. Edgar Whitcomb, whose 1968 victory brought in 14 new Senate Republicans and seven in the Indiana House, and Doc Bowen's breakthrough 1972 victory ushered in 19 new House Republicans. Those two elections helped forge the 20-year GOP dynasty.

When Evan Bayh broke that dynasty in 1988, his coattails were quite modest, bringing along four new Democratic Senate seats and two in the House that forged the historic 50/50 split. During his massive 1992 reelection victory, his coattails notched just five new Democratic seats (three in the House and two in the Senate).

Gov. Frank O'Bannon's 1996 upset of Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith resulted in six new House Democrats and a second 50/50 split.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, the powerful Republican bookend to Democrat Bayh, ended the 16-year Democratic dynasty with a very modest four new Republican General Assembly seats, though the party retook the House with a three-seat pickup. In the 2006 mid-terms, Democrats retook control 51-49. In his 18% reelection win, Daniels did not usher in any new Senate seats and Democrats actually picked up a House seat as Barack Obama became the first Democratic presidential candidate to win the state.

Daniels and House Minority Leader Brian Bosma engineered the 2010 mid-term House takeover for the GOP, and drew the new maps in 2011 that have put Indiana on course to be essentially a one-party state.

The new maps had more to do with the nine-seat GOP pickup in 2012 than Gov. Mike Pence did. Pence became the first modern governor unable to crack the 50%



Indiana General Assembly SD8



**Sen. Mike Bohacek (R)
Gary Davis (D)**

HPI Horse Race
This week: Tossup
Last week: Tossup

Indiana General Assembly SD30



**Sen. John Ruckelshaus (R)
Fady Qaddoura (D)**

HPI Horse Race
This week: Tossup
Last week: Tossup

Indiana General Assembly HD5



**Rep. Dale Devon (D)
John Westerhausen (R)**

HPI Horse Race
This week: Tossup
Last week: Tossup

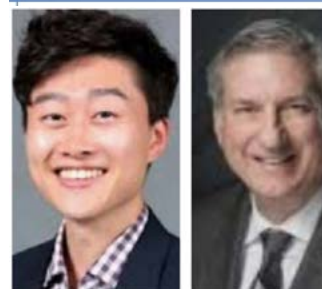
Indiana General Assembly HD7



**Rep. Ross Deal (D)
Jake Teshka (R)**

HPI Horse Race
This week: Tossup
Last week: Tossup

Indiana General Assembly HD15



**Rep. Chris Chyung (D)
Hal Slager (R)**

HPI Horse Race
This week: Tossup
Last week: Tossup

barrier in his defeat of Democrat John Gregg with less than a 3% plurality.

Poll has Trump, Holcomb, Rokita leading

Three Republicans hold leads of varying degrees in their campaigns for the support of Indiana voters, a new poll of several high-profile contests shows (WPTA-TV). The SurveyUSA poll crowdsourced on GoFundMe by Andrew Ellison a self-described "lifelong Democrat," was conducted from Oct. 8 through Oct. 13 and included 757 registered voters, 527 of whom were determined to be "likely" to cast a ballot. In the race for president, Donald Trump leads his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, by a 49-42% margin, 3% for "other" and 6% undecided. The poll did not name the Libertarian nominee, Jo Jorgensen, but allowed participants to answer that they would vote for another candidate. The results show strength for Biden in Indianapolis, but Trump leading in the broader regions of the state and among those who say the economy is their top concern and those who consider themselves "strongly pro-life." The poll puts Holcomb's support at 55%, followed by Dr. Woody Myers at 25% and Libertarian Donald Rainwater at 10%. Two-thirds of those surveyed said they approve of the way Holcomb has governed. In the race to fill the state's Attorney General seat, Republican Todd Rokita leads Democrat Jonathan Weinzapfel by a 48-35% margin.

The 'contested race' for governor

NWI Times reporter Dan Carden captured the prevailing sentiments in the gubernatorial race: "If you don't know there is a contested race for Indiana governor on the general election ballot, you're likely not alone. As usual, the presidential campaign is overshadowing the contest for Indiana's chief executive, and coupled with COVID-19 all but eliminating traditional campaign activities this year, most Hoosiers know little about the men challenging Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb's reelection bid. That has Holcomb in the catbird seat, able to tout both his speedy reopening of Indiana amid the coronavirus pandemic and his prepandemic economic growth initiatives that he promises soon will pay off – without having to even acknowledge his opponents, let alone spend a dime of his more than \$8 million campaign war chest against them."

Rainwater cites tax, COVID for getting in

Navy veteran Donald Rainwater began to turn away from the Republican Party four years ago when state lawmakers considered raising taxes on cigarettes (Sikich, IndyStar). Rainwater thought the GOP super majorities should stand for limited government. The idea to charge \$1 per pack ultimately failed, but Rainwater had had enough of a GOP he thought was increasingly expanding government. He turned to the Libertarian Party and began the first of four runs for office. "I decided it was time for me to stop being aggravated and to get up and do something," Rainwater said. "I felt like the Libertarian Party most closely mirrored the majority of my principles."



Indiana General Assembly HD19



Rep. Lisa Beck (D)
Julie Olthoff (R)

HPI Horse Race
This week: Leans Beck
Last week: **Leans Beck**

Indiana General Assembly HD35



Rep. Melanie Wright (D)
Elizabeth Rowray (R)

HPI Horse Race
This week: Tossup
Last week: Tossup

Indiana General Assembly HD37



Rep. Todd Huston (R)
Aimee Cole Rivera (D)

HPI Horse Race
This week: Likely R
Last week: Likely R

Indiana General Assembly HD88



Chris Jeter (R)
Pam Dechert (D)
Open: Brian Bosma

HPI Horse Race
This week: Likely R
Last week: Likely R

Indiana General Assembly HD89



Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer (R)
Mitch Gore (D)

HPI Horse Race
This week: Likely R
Last week: Likely R

Myers sees a 'different Indiana'

Dr. Woody Myers, a former state health commissioner and the Democratic nominee for governor, sees a different Indiana, an Indiana where too many Hoosiers, including women and minorities, aren't sharing in the largess envisioned by Holcomb (Carden, NWI Times). "Before COVID-19, Hoosier women were already ranked 49th in the nation when it came to economic status, with women making only 75 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts," Myers said. "As governor, I will do much more to give Hoosier women and their families long-term solutions to address the disparities they face every day. There's been a lot of talk and zero action at the Statehouse when it comes to actually fixing the disparities."

Holcomb's new ad

Holcomb's reelection campaign launched its latest statewide television ad, the sixth of his campaign. The new ad, titled "Momentum," features a Hoosier mother and small business owner from Boone County. "Hoosiers across the state are feeling the impact of Gov. Holcomb's leadership," said Kyle Hupfer, campaign manager for Gov. Holcomb's reelection. "He's tackling our state's biggest challenges, and Indiana's not just competing – we're winning. We must keep that momentum going for four more years."

NWI Times endorses Holcomb

The NWI Times has endorsed Holcomb: "Incumbent Gov. Eric Holcomb continues to ensure projects and priorities for Northwest Indiana remain at the top of his agenda. Holcomb has demonstrated a keen understanding of how our Region's economic fortunes feed the state as a whole. His steadfast support for commuter rail expansion, one of the biggest economic development plans in recent memory, shows that he understands what will move the Region's economic needle, bolster our sense of place and keep our state connected with the vital nearby economy of Chicago. Holcomb deserves another term to see this and so many other initiatives through."

Statewides

Attorney general: Times endorses Rokita

On the AG's race, the NWI Times says: "We endorse Region native and former Republican Congressman Todd Rokita for the office of attorney general. There's a benefit to having the state's top legal mind also grasp the ins and outs of Northwest Indiana. Rokita will need to do some reputation repair in the office, and he's up to the task."

General Assembly

Following the late money

It's follow-the-money time, and that leads us to conclude that SD30 is truly a tossup race while Republican State Reps. Dale Devon and Martin Carbaugh are trying to stave off challenges from Dr. Donald Westerhausen and Kyle Miller, while the House Republican Campaign Committee is targeting the rematch between State Rep. Lisa Beck and Julie Olthoff.

SD30: In the tossup race between Republican State Sen. John Ruckelshaus and Democrat Fady Qaddoura, Qaddoura received \$2,000 from LIUNA State Indiana District Council PAC; Ruckelshaus received \$10,000 from Northern Indiana Joint Operators Management-Labor PAC, and \$10,000 from Jill Ruckelshaus of Washington state.

Viewers contacted WTHR-TV after an attack ad claiming corruption and program cuts caused children to suffer. Reporter Sandra Chapman dug into the records to sort out the claims. The ad in question was paid for by "Hoosiers for Ruckelshaus," the campaign committee for the state senator. The ad: "It was a shocking case of political corruption. Fady Qaddoura eliminated preschool funding for 'at risk kids' but gave over a million dollars in city contracts to a consulting firm and then went on their payroll. Corrupt Fady Qaddoura used public office for personal gain, while children suffered." The ad is talking about the "On My Way Pre-K" pilot program, it started in 2015 by former Republican Mayor Greg Ballard. The idea was to provide pre-kindergarten for 3-year-olds in Marion County for a five-year pilot program. The city of Indianapolis provided millions in funding. He was the city controller last year. His job was to pay the city's bills and maintain a balanced budget. But Qaddoura had no authority to end preschool for 3-year-olds on his own. Mayor Hogsett has stated in news reports that it was his decision with the backing of the City County Council."

Qaddoura reacted to WTHR-TV's fact check: "Many voters across Senate District 30 were angry to see distorted attacks made against my character and my campaign, and I'm happy WTHR came to the same conclusion we all

Late Money To Indiana Senate Candidates

District	Candidates	DEM	GOP	TOTAL
30	Fady Qaddoura	\$2,000		\$29,624
	John Ruckelshaus		\$27,624	
32	Belinda Drake	\$3,249		\$4,249
	Aaron Freeman		\$1,000	
35	Pete Cowden	\$0		\$3,500
	Mike Young		\$3,500	
36	Ashley Eason	\$4,000		\$4,000
	Jack Sandlin		\$0	
		\$9,249	\$32,124	\$41,373

knew: John Ruckelshaus is not only lying, but he resorted to the same tactics we've grown tired of from national politics." **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

SD32: In her challenge to State Sen. Aaron Freeman, Democrat Belinda Drake has received \$1,249 from Jan Reed (Zionsville); \$1,000 from Tallian for Senate; and \$1,000 from Indiana Senate Democrats. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Freeman.

SD35: Republican State Sen. Mike Young has received \$1,000 from Rachel Hawkins (Indianapolis) and \$2,500 from Zink Distributing. He is being challenged by Democrat Pete Cowden. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Young.

SD36: In her race against Republican State Sen. Jack Sandlin, Democrat Ashley Eason has received \$2,000 from Laborers International Union and \$2,000 from Journeymen, Plumbers, and Steamfitters Union. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Sandlin.

HD5: Republican Rep. DeVon received a total of \$18,000 in late contributions as follows: \$15,000 from HRCC; \$2,000 from Sherman for State Rep; and \$1,000 from NiSource PAC. Democrat Donald Westerhausen received \$1,000 from 314 Action PAC. As a St. Joseph County Council member representing heavily Republican Granger from 2002 to 2012, and then over the past eight years as a state representative, Rep. DeVon either ran unopposed or enjoyed double-digit percentage wins each election (Parrott, South Bend Tribune). In his six elections for both offices, DeVon had run unopposed three times and won his three races by 16%, 26% and 36%. So in 2018, when Granger cardiologist and political newcomer Don Westerhausen came within 466 votes, or two percentage points, of winning DeVon's House District 5 seat, one might wonder if it shocked the longtime home builder. "No, we expected it," DeVon said. "He spent a couple hundred thousand dollars. We tried to stay dollar to dollar with him. He worked hard and we did too." DeVon actually nearly doubled Westerhausen's expenditures in 2018, spending about \$392,000 to the challenger's \$209,000, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Indiana Secretary of State's Election Division. DeVon said he figures he also was hurt by typically lower voter turnout in an off-presidential election year, since the Granger part of the district is so heavily Republican and many people vote straight-ticket. Westerhausen said he knew "right away" that he wanted a rematch in 2020, fueled largely by two factors. He said he had sought advice from South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg

before the 2018 campaign, and Buttigieg told him, "To measure your commitment you should ask yourself, are you willing to do this two times in a row if you lose the first time?" **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

HD12: In the open seat of State Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, Democratic nominee Mike Andrade is seeking to fend off Republican Tom Wichlinski. Andrade received a total of \$14,300 as follows: \$2,000 from Iron Workers Local 395 PAC; \$5,000 from I-PACE; \$1,300 from Listing Leasers Northeast of Highland; \$5,000 from Indiana State Iron Workers PAC; \$1,000 from Better Indiana of Zionsville. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Andrade.

HD81: In another rematch between Rep. Carbaugh and Democrat Kyler Miller, the HRCC pumped \$20,000 to Carbaugh. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

HD37: In a challenge to new House Speaker Todd Huston, Democrat Aimee Rivera Cole has received an additional \$776 from Act Blue for a total of \$4,171. Huston began airing TV ads earlier this month. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Huston.

HD39: In her challenge to Republican State Rep. Jerry Torr, Democrat Ashley Klein has received \$2,000 from Laborers District Council, and \$3,000 from Iron Workers Local 22. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Torr.

HD75: In this open seat, Democrat John Hurley received \$5,000 from State Ironworkers. He faces Republican Cindy Ledbetter. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Ledbetter.

HD88: In the seat of former speaker Brian

Late Money to Indiana House Candidates

District	Candidates	DEM	GOP	TOTAL
5	Donald Westerhausen	\$1,000		\$19,000
	Dale DeVon		\$18,000	
12	Mike Andrade	\$14,300		\$14,300
	Tom Wichlinski		\$0	
19	Lisa Beck	\$0		\$20,000
	Julie Olthoff		\$20,000	
35	Melanie Wright	\$0		\$17,500
	Elizabeth Rowray		\$17,500	
37	Aimee Rivera Cole	\$4,171		\$4,171
	Todd Huston		\$0	
39	Ashley Klein	\$5,000		\$5,000
	Jerry Torr		\$0	
75	John Hurley	\$5,000		\$5,000
	Cindy Ledbetter		\$0	
81	Kyle Miller	\$0		\$21,000
	Martin Carbaugh		\$21,000	
88	Pam Dechert	\$4,518		\$4,518
	Chris Jeter		\$0	
		\$33,989	\$76,500	\$110,489

Bosma, State Rep. Chris Jeter is seeking to fend off Democratic challenger Pam Dechert, who received a total of \$4,518 in late contributions as follows: \$1,518 from Act Blue and \$3,000 from I-PACE. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Jeter

HD19: Calling a winner won't be easy in the race for the 19th House District. State Rep. Lisa Beck, of Hebron, who has represented this section of south county since her narrow victory two years ago, is running for reelection (Dolan, NWI Times). Julie Olthoff, of Crown Point, who was the 19th District representative for four years before her defeat to Beck, wants that seat in the Indiana House of Representatives back. As the incumbent, Beck has the advantage of proving she can do the job from her recent accomplishments in the General Assembly, which she has reminded her constituents in glossy mailers. Olthoff can hope the voters fondly remember her past public service. Neither candidate is assuming anything. "This is a toss up district," Julie Olthoff said. The district is centered on Crown Point and its rural outskirts, which were solidly Republican until three decades ago when Democrats increasingly made their presence felt in local elections. Jim Wieser, the Lake County Democratic Party chairman, argues the Republican-controlled General Assembly tried to turn back the clock by redrawing the 19th's boundaries several years ago to include heavily Republican precincts in Porter County. That redistricting favored Olthoff in 2014 and 2016, when she narrowly outpolled her Democratic candidates. Wieser said Democratic Party candidate Beck just out-hustled Olthoff two years ago. "And (Beck) is working very hard again," he said. Dan Dernulc, the Lake County Republican chairman, said 2018 was a fluke year when Democrats prevailed almost all the way across the ballot. He said Olthoff, "is working her tail off this year and I'm confident she will win this time." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Beck.

HD15: Slager working rematch harder - The Nov. 3 election for the 15th District state representative will be a repeat of the 2018 legislative contest between Democrat Chris Chyung and Republican Hal Slager (Dolan, NWI Times). Slager lost by only 82 votes two years ago in a stunning upset to Chyung, a political newcomer, who won what had been considered a solid Republican district since its boundaries were redrawn after the 2010 census to encompass Dyer, Schererville, much of St. John and Griffith. Dan Dernulc, the Lake County Republican chairman, said Slager was a victim of a Democratic tsunami of votes two years ago that overcame many local Republicans. "I'm confident he will win this time. He is working 10 times harder than before," Dernulc said. Slager had served three terms on 15th District House seat from 2012 to 2018 and a decade before that on the Schererville Town Council. He said some critics complained he had been in office too long. "But Democrats have had no problem reelecting state Sen. Frank Mrvan Jr. for the last 40 years," Slager said. Slager said he was overconfident two years ago. "Our polling was off and I didn't put in the

work, but this year I have really been getting into it and I've been well received. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

HD4: Teacher challenging Soliday - This is a rematch between seven-time Republican incumbent Ed Soliday and elementary school music teacher and former Valparaiso Councilperson Deb Porter, a Democrat (Wieland, NWI Times). Porter, 61, an elementary school music teacher in the Portage Township School District, has served as the teachers' union president, working with the legislature on bills. Being on the union's bargaining team has also given her a good understanding of the budget process, she said. "I've seen the damage the legislature has done to my profession," she said. "The biggest priority of the upcoming session will be the budget and we will have to address the declining state income as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown. The other thing is the state of public education. We have a teacher shortage and declining salaries, and the emphasis is on testing that has meant less mastery and a narrower curriculum rather than the broader one the students need. We are teaching to the test." **Horse Race Status:** Likely Soliday.

HD7: In one of the few Indiana House seats that appear to be up for grabs in this year's election, incumbent State Rep. Ross Deal, D-Mishawaka, hopes to fight off Republican challenger Jake Teshka and stop the GOP from adding the seat to its legislative supermajority (South Bend Tribune). Democrats have held state HD7 for at least 40 years. But in 2018, Deal's predecessor, Joe Taylor, faced a close election in which he beat Republican Troy Dillon by just more than 700 votes, of the nearly 22,000 that were cast. With Deal facing his first general election for the seat, he admits Republicans see him as "vulnerable," and Indiana political commentator Brian Howey earlier this year named the district one of just a handful of "tossup" races in the state. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

Congress

CD2: Hackett says Walorski 'entrenched'

Incumbent Republican Rep. Jackie Walorski is up against a familiar face as she seeks a fifth term in the Nov. 3 election (Parrott, South Bend Tribune). "As I've watched what has happened in our country and the role that Jackie Walorski has played in all of that, I felt very compelled to run again." "You need a long runway when you take on an incumbent like Jackie Walorski, who is entrenched," Hackett said. "She is an incumbent who is kept in office literally by outside financial interests. She's been able to hold the seat because of it, without appropriate accountability. She's someone who hasn't had a town hall since 2013 and she hasn't had to do that because it's a purchased seat."

Horse Race Status: Likely Walorski. ❖

Hale enlists the GOP superintendent rogues

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – There’s a political reason that, should he be reelected, Gov. Eric Holcomb will appoint a superintendent of public instruction. Look no further than the nationally watched 5th CD, where former Republican Supt. Suellen Reed endorsed Democrat Christina Hale on Wednesday.



Appearing in the ad with her husband, Phil, the Reeds introduced themselves as “lifelong Republicans.” Supt. Reed then says, “Cooperation, collaboration and compromise, that’s the

way we get things get done.” Later, Reed adds, “She seeks common ground. That’s how democracy works. We’re voting Republican ... and for Christina Hale.”

Reed’s endorsement makes it two out of the last three Republican superintendents to back Hale, who has been endorsed by current Supt. Jennifer McCormick. Former superintendent Tony Bennett has not weighed in.

Governors of both parties have long salivated over the opportunity that likely faces Holcomb after the election. Reed was the Republican who served with Democratic Govs. Evan Bayh, Frank O’Bannon and Joe Kernan. Gov. Mike Pence served his four years with Democrat Supt. Glenda Ritz.

Gov. Mitch Daniels helped engineer Reed’s exit from the GOP ticket in 2008 and he worked in tandem with Supt. Bennett to bring the education reforms of 2011 to fruition. But Bennett was upset by Ritz in 2012. McCormick’s nomination in 2016 was supposed to bring a Republican education realignment with Gov. Mike Pence. But Pence bolted to join Donald Trump’s ticket that July, Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb was nominated by the Republican State Central Committee, just weeks after McCormick won the GOP nomination, dispatching Fort Wayne educator Dawn Wooten 1,030 to 574.

In her pitch to the Republican convention, McCormick said, “This is a great day for the Republican Party. I bring strong experience as a teacher, principal and superintendent. People understand there are situations that need to be fixed. We have to put students before politics. Indiana students deserve to be put first. There is no wiggle room for political squabbling with our students’ education on the line.”

McCormick announced in 2018 she wouldn’t seek

reelection, citing politics. “We can get things done for kids but when the governance structure is becoming a problem for kids that’s not why I intended to get into office,” McCormick said. She had departed from GOP orthodoxy on issues such as testing and charter school funding.

The General Assembly passed and Gov. Holcomb signed the law creating the appointed superintendent and by the summer of 2019, McCormick was fully off the GOP reservation, appearing at a series of town halls with a Democratic gubernatorial candidate. So far this year she has endorsed a half dozen Democrats for the General Assembly, and now Hale.

The Indiana Republican Party has removed all references to McCormick and Attorney General Curtis Hill, who was nominated with McCormick in 2016. Hill was denied renomination after a 2018 groping incident and a 30-day Indiana Supreme Court suspension.

Hale’s strategy is using known Republicans to signal to others in the party that it’s OK to vote to send a Democrat to Congress. “Dr. Reed has dedicated her career to serving Hoosier students and families. She and Phil care deeply about our community and I’m so proud to have their support,” said Hale. “It’s clear that Hoosiers are tired of the partisan politics and gridlock. They want a representative who will go to Washington, reach across the

aisle, and get things done for this district. That’s what I did as a member of the State Legislature, where I passed 60 bipartisan bills, and it’s exactly what I’ll do as a member of Congress.”

The other big story out of the 5th CD is that money continues to spill in to this tossup race. Republican Victoria

Spartz announced her campaign raised \$1.1 million in the third quarter. She raised \$900,000 and loaned her campaign another \$200,000, following close to \$1 million in loans prior to the primary. Hale posted \$1.7 million in 3Q funds last week.

Hale has raised more than \$3.1 million, while Spartz has raised \$2.3 million, of which around \$1 million was from the candidate.

Spartz didn’t release any particulars, but said, “I am particularly humbled by the thousands of small donors who contributed to our effort because they believe that the election is important, our country is worth fighting for, and that we need more people with real world experience in office and fewer self-serving career politicians.” Hale cited 14,000 unique donors, of which 89% were \$100 or less.

The Cook Political Report cited 11 races it is watching, with the 5th CD among three open seats. Should Hale win, it would be the first time the 5th has flipped from the GOP in more than three decades. HPI’s Horse Race rates the 5th CD a “tossup.”❖



Biden leads in Georgia, tie in Ohio; up 11% nationally in NBC/WSJ

Howey Politics Indiana

With 20 days to go until Election Day, former Vice President Joe Biden has a lead over President Donald Trump in Georgia and the two are essentially tied in Ohio, according to Quinnipiac University polls of likely voters. Both states voted for Trump in 2016.

In Georgia, Biden leads 51-44% among likely voters, while 4 percent are undecided. "For Trump, 2016 is a distant memory. Defeating Hillary Clinton by 5 points when the polls closed then, and now down seven to Biden with three weeks to go. Warning lights are blinking red and alarms are going off in the Peach Tree state," said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

Democrat Jon Ossoff leads Republican incumbent Senator David Perdue 51-45%, while 3% are undecided. This compares to a virtual tie in late September when Ossoff had 49% and Perdue had 48%.

Democrat Raphael Warnock leads in the special election for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler, who was appointed in December of 2019. Likely voters give Warnock 41% of the vote, a jump of ten percentage points since late September when he received 31%. Republican Doug Collins gets 22%, which is unchanged from September, and Loeffler gets 20%, compared to 23% in September. If a candidate does not get more than 50% of the vote on Election Day, there will be a runoff. In hypothetical head-to-head matchups between Democrat Warnock and the top two Republican challengers, Warnock leads in both scenarios. Likely voters support Warnock over Loeffler 52-44%, and support Warnock over Collins 54-42%.

Tie in Ohio

The race for the White House in Ohio remains essentially tied, as likely voters support Biden 48% and Trump 47%, according to Quinnipiac. Four percent are undecided. This is identical to the last Ohio survey released on September 24th. "Going down to the wire, it's a nail biter in

Ohio four years after the Buckeye State delivered a decisive win for Donald Trump. Joe Biden and Trump remain locked in a race that is too close to call, and the needle hasn't budged with each candidate sitting exactly where they were in late September," said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Mary Snow.

Biden up 11% in national NBC/WSJ Poll

Less than three weeks before Election Day, Joe Biden maintains a double-digit national lead over President Donald Trump, with 6 in 10 voters saying that the country is on the wrong track and that it is worse off than it was four years ago. What's more, a majority of voters say they have major concerns that Trump will divide the country rather than unite it — the largest concern for either presidential candidate. Those are the results of a new national NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll — conducted after Trump returned to the White House from his hospitalization for the coronavirus — which finds Biden ahead of Trump by 11 points among registered voters, 53 percent to 42 percent. "The president may have recovered from Covid-19, but there is no experimental cocktail that can cure his standing with voters," said Democratic pollster

Jeff Horwitt of Hart Research Associates, who conducted the survey with Republican pollster Bill McInturff and his colleagues at Public Opinion Strategies.

Trump, Biden town halls at 8 tonight

President Trump will participate in a town hall with NBC News tonight, setting up a competing television event with Joe Biden in lieu of a presidential debate in which voters would have seen both presidential candidates engage with each other and discuss issues head-to-head. Trump abruptly pulled out of the second debate after a virtual format had been announced. Biden is set to appear in an ABC town hall, and both events are scheduled for 8 p.m. ET.

Biden raises \$383M in September

Biden announced Wednesday evening that his campaign and affiliated committees raised \$383 million in September, breaking a record he had just set the prior month as his campaign continues to ride a surge of online donations (Politico). ❖

RealClearPolitics Election 2020			
President	Senate		House
Election 2020	Biden	Trump	Spread
RCP National Average	51.5	42.3	Biden +9.2 ↕
Top Battlegrounds	49.4	44.5	Biden +4.9 ↕
Latest Betting Odds	65.5	34.7	
Electoral College	Biden	Trump	Toss Ups
RCP Electoral Map	216	125	197
No Toss Up States	374	164	
Battlegrounds ● ○	Biden	Trump	Spread
Florida	48.5	45.8	Biden +2.7 ↕
North Carolina	48.9	45.6	Biden +3.3 ↕
Pennsylvania	50.8	43.8	Biden +7.0
Wisconsin	49.9	43.6	Biden +6.3
Minnesota	47.3	40.7	Biden +6.6 ↕
Arizona	48.5	45.5	Biden +3.0 ↕
2020 vs. 2016	2020	2016	Spread
Top Battlegrounds	D +4.9	D +5.4	Trump +0.5
RCP National Average	D +9.2	D +6.0	Biden +3.2
Favorability Ratings	D +18.7	D +16.1	Biden +2.6
Battle for Senate		No Toss Ups	
47 Dems	7 GOP	51 Dems	49 GOP
State	Spread		
Maine	Gideon (D) +3.7		
Montana	Daines (R) +3.3		
North Carolina	Cunningham (D) +4.3 ↕		
Georgia	Perdue (R) +2.3 ↕		
Michigan	Peters (D) +5.0		
Iowa	Greenfield (D) +4.8		
Georgia	Warnock (D) +7.7 ↕		
Arizona	Kelly (R) +8.2 ↕		
Texas	Cornyn (R) +7.6		
Minnesota	Smith (D) +8.3		
South Carolina	Toss Up		
Colorado	Leans Dem		

Let's be clear about democracy

By **LEE HAMILTON**

BLOOMINGTON – I've been in and around politics for a long time, and not once, ever, have I encountered a candidate who said he or she might not accept the results of an election. Until now.



Certainly, in close-fought races candidates might ask for a recount. But once the precinct workers and town and city clerks and secretaries of state have checked and re-checked and certified, we consider the matter settled. We accept and abide by the results, at least until the next election. This year, we can't take that for granted.

Why does this trouble so many of us? Let's take a step back and start with the idea of elections themselves. In the end, democracy is about understanding and respecting the will of the people. We do this primarily by asking them to vote. This is what puts elections at the core of the American system; they are literally how we Americans decide where we're going to head as a nation. The elections process is at the center of who we are.

In fact, voting, and ensuring that the vote is fair and transparent, is how the institutions that represent us function. When the House of Representatives is deciding on policy, it votes. When the Supreme Court needs to decide a case, it votes. When state legislatures and city councils and New England town meetings have to set a budget or decide on taxes, they vote. Those votes are public, and they're tallied, and that's how we have confidence that the issue was decided fairly.

When elections are done, we commit to a peaceful transfer of power to the winners. We hand power to them without taking up arms and without casting doubt on the legitimacy of their win. That's been part and parcel of who we are for centuries, and it's one of the features of our system that has made the U.S. a beacon to others.

Now, however, we have a president who specifically questions whether

or not he will accept the result of the election and step down peacefully. He talks – jokes, he says – about serving beyond his constitutionally allotted time, raising the specter of an American authoritarianism that once seemed inconceivable. And if the election does not go the way he wants it to, he may do what he's done for much of his adult life, litigate and insist on its illegitimacy. All of these are extraordinary statements, out of line with everything we've come to accept about our elections.

There is no question that these will be difficult elections to administer. If nothing else, the pandemic ensures that. We're accustomed to knowing election results by the end of the night, but this year a lot of votes will come in later, and it's expected that days or even weeks could go by before we know the winner. This will not be because voter fraud is taking place; as FBI director Christopher Wray just told Congress, there's very little evidence that it exists. Instead, it will be because the hard-working women and men who administer our elections at the local level will be doing their level best to ensure that every eligible voter's ballot gets counted.

Already, President Trump seems to have much of his base convinced that the only way he could possibly lose is by fraud. This is a president who insisted there was fraud even after winning the 2016 election. So, the challenge is, how do we uphold this core feature of our democracy? How do we ensure the results are accepted as legitimate? These are tough questions for our democracy, but I do know one thing: Every state and local election official has to do their best to ensure that everyone who is entitled to vote can cast a ballot, and that those ballots are counted as transparently as possible, without vote-suppression shenanigans. ❖

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



Indiana
at your finger tips
Download it today!
howeypolitics.com

HPI Mobile Offers...

The Daily Wire - 6 Days a Week
Photo & Video Galleries
Access to HPI Columnists
News Alerts
and more for

\$0.96
per day

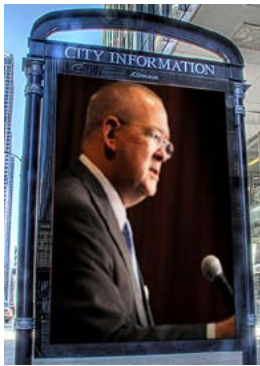
Now available for iOS and Android devices

The lengthening impact of COVID

By MICHAEL HICKS

MUNCIE – The COVID pandemic continues to affect commerce and government in what is clearly the worst year for the economy since the Great Depression. We don't yet know how deep this will be, but there is growing evidence of an increasingly delayed recovery.

There is some good news. The official unemployment rate has dropped significantly and commerce is clearly recovering in many places. Still, in October 2020, the risk of COVID remains significant and depresses consumer spending and business investment.



The most alarming piece of data is the growing number of permanently unemployed workers. The COVID spike in those reporting permanent job losses returned us to 2013 levels. The economic absorption of permanent job losses is a major factor in the duration

of recovery. If the re-employment of permanent job losers is twice as fast as it was after the Great Recession, it will take close to four years to recover.

I know of no economist predicting a labor market miracle in the wake of COVID.

COVID will continue to cause permanent job disruptions until a vaccine is widely available. It is easy to build a plausible scenario where permanent job losses weigh on the U.S. economy well through the 2020s. Worse still, the administrative data on job losses report more than twice the rates of job losses than do the survey data used to calculate the official jobless rate. Even with double the fraud and error rate, this means we are missing 10 million unemployed people in the preliminary unemployment statistics.

Of course, it is election season and one predictable bipartisan temptation is to spin the economic conditions in ways that are favorable to your side. That's normal, but believing your own spin is neither normal or healthy. That is particularly true when considering what steps might ease the economic crisis. Failure to take seriously the near certain risk that the underlying U.S. economy is weakening will delay recovery, perhaps for years. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the risk to state and local tax collections.

My colleagues and I just reported results from our analysis of state tax losses across the nation. We used three different scenarios of the economy. Our best scenario, which happens to be almost identical to the official Congressional Budget Office forecast, happens to be the fourth worst year since we started gathering data in 1929.

We estimated impacts to major tax instruments, such as income, corporate income, sales and gaming taxes. One problem we face is that this downturn impacts the more volatile tax instruments than did previous recessions. For example, in a normal downturn of this size, we'd expect Nevada's gaming taxes to drop by maybe 15%. In reality, they are down by more than 75% for the year.

Most states end up taxing heavily those things that were most affected by COVID. So, our reliance on historical tax and economic data offers just about the most favorable outcomes. In reality, this year and next will almost surely be the worst two years in state tax collections in history. We estimate that the second half of 2020 will be far worse than the worst year of the Great Recession. Tax revenue losses will be in the 5% to 10% range across our three different scenarios.

One way to judge the effects is to see how long it takes states to exhaust their Rainy Day Funds if they continued to spend money as they were in 2019. We use the most optimistic economic scenario to emphasize just how bad the situation really is. By our calculations, six states exhausted their Rainy Day Funds by June of this year and a total of 16 had done so by the end of September. By year's end, 23 states will have fully exhausted their Rainy Day Funds.

By the end of 2021, we anticipate, that under the most favorable of our scenarios, only 10 states will have any Rainy Day funds remaining. Of those, five are states with heavy natural resource extraction, which normally has huge, sometimes 100% reserves.

I don't think I can say it plainly enough. Nearly every American state faces tax revenue reductions that are so deep and so lasting that they imperil both a broad economic recovery and the continued functioning of state government.

Indiana is better than most, making it into the top dozen states. Still, this is a year when we should have been talking about restoring K-12 funding back to 2010 levels. That is not the conversation the legislature will have this year.

Congress must pass a state and local tax supplement. It is not a bailout of fiscally irresponsible states. After all, California will end 2021 with the largest surviving Rainy Day Fund. Moreover, it is not at all clear which states are fiscally irresponsible. It is nice to have a large Rainy Day Fund, but if your K-12 students don't have the tools to learn remotely you might be less fiscally responsible than you claim.

States have much less budget flexibility than they did in 2007. The expansion of Medicaid and cuts from 2007-2009 leave them very little room to make cuts without affecting public services. So, cuts, especially to education will be deep and likely result in long term economic damage. But, even if states could make personnel cuts to accommodate the looming revenue reductions, doing so will lengthen and deepen this already deep economic

downturn. It is time for Congress to help reduce the duration and intensity of this downturn by passing legislation to replace tax revenues lost to COVID. ❖

Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Cen-

ter 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.

Vice President Pence and the debate fly

By **KELLY HAWES**

ANDERSON – I didn't even notice the fly.

In the middle of a debate between Vice President Mike Pence and U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, a fly took up residence on the vice president's head, and social media exploded.



I don't know why, but while almost everyone else seemed focused on that fly, I was thinking about who won the debate.

As soon as moderator Susan Page closed the discussion, I flipped over to Fox News to learn that nearly all of the panelists thought Pence had dominated the evening.

You have to admit the vice president was focused. Regardless of any shots his opponent might take, he stayed relentlessly on message. Nothing could shake him.

"The American people have witnessed what is the greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history of our country," Harris said. But Pence was unmoved. He suggested that by criticizing the administration's handling of the pandemic, Harris was actually minimizing the sacrifices of average citizens.

"President Trump and I trust the American people to make choices in the best interest of their health," he said. "Joe Biden and Kamala Harris consistently talk about mandates."

When Harris said she'd take a coronavirus vaccine only if experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci recommended it, Pence accused her of trying to undermine public confidence. "Stop playing politics with people's lives," he said.

It didn't matter that Harris was simply saying what the vast majority of Americans actually think. When Harris pointed out that the administration had no plan for replacing the Affordable Care Act and protecting Americans with preexisting conditions,

Pence split from reality. "Senator Harris," he said, "you're entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts." And he said it with an earnestness that would be hard to match.

Page allowed both candidates to dodge questions they didn't want to answer. Harris slid around a question about whether she and Biden would try to stack the U.S. Supreme Court if Republicans were successful in seating Judge Amy Coney Barrett and handing conservatives a six-to-three majority. Neither candidate wanted to address the president's refusal to guarantee a peaceful transition of power should he lose the election.

Page also struggled to enforce the time limit. When a candidate ran out of time, she'd say, "Thank you, Mr. Vice President," or "Thank you, Senator," and when the candidate kept talking, she'd say it again. And again. And again. Critics suggested she should have just cut off the offending candidate. She should have said, "Your time is up," and turned to the other candidate. It's hard to say whether that would have worked.

A moderator's job isn't easy. His or her goal should be to let the candidates discuss the issues without getting in the way. To a great extent, Page accomplished that. The two candidates talked for almost the same amount of time. CNN clocked Pence at 36 minutes and 27 seconds. It said Harris spoke for 3 seconds less, 36 minutes and 24 seconds.

In the end, though, the real star seemed to be that fly. The Biden campaign went so far as to set up a website "flywillvote.com," which sent people to a page where they could make sure they were registered to vote and learn what they needed to do to vote by mail or in person.

Even the next day, Biden was still talking about that pesky insect. "Watching the debate, it was hard to take my eye off the fly," he said. And then there was this comment from Jonathan Lemire of The Associated Press. "The fly is the October surprise," he cracked.

I don't know how I missed it.

❖

Kelly Hawes is a columnist for CNHI News Indiana. He can be reached at kelly.hawes@indianamediagroup.com.



Presidential prospects in Michigan & Indiana

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND — Let's look at election prospects in Indiana, Michigan and the rest of the nation after a chaotic first presidential debate, the superspreader in the Rose Garden, that spread even to President Trump and the vice-presidential debate.



Q. Who's ahead?

A. Joe Biden. All the polls show it. Biden stretched his lead after Trump's unhinged debate performance and again when the president, who scoffed at masks and the seriousness of the coronavirus, wound up hospitalized with the virus. On Thursday, Nate Silver, the guru of presidential forecasting, moved Biden's chances of winning up to 85%.

Q. With the election so close, is Biden certain to win?

A. No.

Q. What could happen?

A. A lot. More surprises no doubt lie ahead. As president, Trump can and undoubtedly will spring surprises. Something totally unexpected could sway opinions. Remember how the FBI director's surprise announcement of allegedly new Hillary Clinton emails was devastating at campaign close in 2016. Also, consider what that 85% chance of winning means.

Q. Isn't it a prediction that Biden will win?

A. No. As Silver warns with his "fivethirtyeight" projections, they are only a snapshot of what's happening now, not a prediction of Election Day final totals. An 85% chance of Biden winning means Trump now still has a chance of about one in six to win. Kickers sometimes win football games with field goals from well beyond 50 yards that would seem to have no more than a one-in-six chance.

Q. Since the election depends on the Electoral College results, how does it look in key battleground states?

A. Good for Biden – right now. He is ahead in most of the key states, although not by much in some. The most positive projections for Biden are in the three states where Trump pulled upsets by narrow margins in 2016 – Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Q. Biden is ahead in Michigan?

A. Way ahead, so much so that the Trump campaign at times has virtually conceded it. The president's handling of the coronavirus hurt him especially in Michigan. It backfired on

Trump when he insulted and ridiculed Gov. Gretchen Whitmer as she sought to restrict activities through which the virus spreads.

Q. How about Indiana? Is there a chance that a blue wave will sweep across the state Trump won so big last time?

A. Sure. But not a good chance. Silver moved up chances of Biden carrying Indiana to 5% last week. Those odds are kind of like making a field goal from 60 yards out, against the wind. Could happen – if the winds shift and the blue wave becomes a tsunami.

Q. Why did that first debate hurt Trump so much? Wasn't Biden shouting, too?

A. Trump initiated and never stopped his interruptions and shouted at the moderator as well as at Biden. Trump's strategy was to make Biden look weak. It helped Biden when he withstood the blitz and had no gaffe.

Q. Why such effect from the Rose Garden superspreader?

A. The president wanted his big Rose Garden shebang and inside reception, celebrating selection of Amy Coney Barrett for the Supreme Court, to shift attention from the pandemic, his worst problem, to his determination to add conservative influence to the court. When those attending flaunted their disdain for precautions of wearing masks and social distancing, and then so many came down with the virus, all attention was back on the pandemic and how it is worsening.


Q. Who won the vice-presidential debate?

A. Both Vice President Mike Pence and Sen. Kamala Harris did what their respective sides wanted. Vice-presidential debates never have had much influence on presidential elections. And it is doubtful that many voters switched sides as a result of what Pence or Harris said or where the fly landed. ❖

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

ANTELOPE CLUB

615 N. DELAWARE ST. - DOWNTOWN INDY
antelopeclub@hotmail.com



>> Lunch & dinner 6 days a week

>> Cigar lounge

>> Beautiful view of Downtown from our 2nd floor patio

YOUR FRIENDS ALL HANG OUT HERE... DO YOU?

Where thou goest, Hoosier?

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**



INDIANAPOLIS — While the legislators are home telling their constituents just how wonderful they have been recently, the east entry to the Statehouse is closed for repairs. Thus I was surprised when I heard the rasp of a familiar voice coming from the back of the statue of Gov. Morton.

It was Sorethroat, my longtime conduit to all matters political below the radar. "Where ya goin'?" he asked, approaching the fence that separated us.

"To lunch," I replied.

"Lunch," he said. "With the price of cigs so high, I don't do lunch anymore. But I got something you could chew on."

"What's that?" I asked. "The hot topic for the legislature of 2021-22. It's going to be a barn-burner, so to speak. Where are people moving within metro areas?" he said. "You're pulling my leg," I responded.

"**Not in the least,**" Sorethroat objected. "Billions of dollars hang on figuring out if there is a revitalization and transformation of downtown spreading across America. We only know what we've seen, but the 2020 Census will give us a better picture."

"Come on," I said. "Just look at Chicago. Huge residential buildings and the services needed to support them. And we're seeing that, on a smaller scale, in Indianapolis."

"But," he rebutted, "is Chicago typical or just an

exception? Census has data comparing where people lived in 2000 with 2010. Only Bloomington showed a growth in downtown living of all Indiana metro areas. And that's probably a college town thing, as with Iowa City and Morgantown (WV)."

Since he got me thinking, I went home and pulled up the data from the Census Bureau, and Sorethroat may be right.

Basically, living within two miles of city hall can be thought of as living downtown. Chicago added more residents living downtown (48,300) than any other metro area in the U.S. between 2000 and 2010. Furthermore, among large metro areas, Chicago had the greatest percent growth (36.2%) in downtown residents. Dallas was close at 32% growth, but only a 12,100 increase in numbers. New York added 37,400, but only a 9% increase. Roughly half of all 366 metro areas in the nation saw more downtown living. Yet most of that was pretty small potatoes.

If Chicago is the trend-setter, what does that mean for the rest of the metro area? We have spent billions on urban sprawl and neglected the infrastructure of the central city. Where are jobs going? Are the new downtown folks downtown workers? Is the trend driven by the allure of downtown living or by the horrors of long commuting trips?

Except for Bloomington, all the other Hoosier metro areas lost downtown residents. South Bend was the biggest loser (down by 7,400 persons, 12%) followed by Indianapolis (down 4,700, 9.5%).

The new census will tell us if Chicago was the leader of the pack, or like the Cubs, an inexplicable phenomenon. ❖

Mr. Marcus is temporarily a one-armed economist. Reach him at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com. Follow his views and those of John Guy on "Who Gets

How rage shapes American politics

By **STEVEN WEBSTER**

BLOOMINGTON — Contemporary American politics is, above all else, rage-inducing. This is due in large part to our politicians, those architects of anger who benefit from the public's ire.

Donald Trump, in particular, is quite adept at stoking anger among his base. From his claims that immigrants from Mexico are "drug dealers, criminals, and rapists," to his references of COVID-19 as the "Chinese virus," to his disparaging comments about Democratic-run cities,



the president seeks to keep his base perpetually outraged. These messages are amplified by other Republican politicians and affiliated groups, some of whom have claimed that Democrats "don't love" America and seek to silence those with whom they disagree.

Joe Biden, too, traffics in anger. Despite his claims about wanting to "restore the soul of the nation," Biden has sought to arouse anger among his base by claiming that Trump's handling of the coronavirus crisis was all about "making sure ... his rich friends didn't lose money," and that the president "didn't do a damn thing" to keep Americans safe. And, much like Republicans have buttressed Trump's anger-inducing claims, prominent

Democrats have echoed Biden's remarks about Trump by calling the president "a threat to our democracy" and a

would-be autocrat.

Why do politicians — both Democrats and Republicans — seek to make their voters angry? Research from my book, *American Rage: How Anger Shapes Our Politics*, suggests that politicians seek to make their supporters angry because angry voters are loyal voters. Put simply, when a voter is angry, she is most likely to vote for her own party's candidates at all levels of the federal electoral system. Crucially, anger can bind a voter to her party's presidential candidate even when that candidate is not well liked. Anger, and not bonds of affection, is what drives political behavior in the United States.

This anger takes many forms. Americans are angry at the opposing party's politicians and supporters. They are also angry with the opposing party's policy ideas. Yet, while the specific nature of a voter's anger may vary, anger often leads to a predictable outcome.

When voters are angry, they seek to take an action — or set of actions — that alleviates their anger. This action is usually aimed at the source of one's anger. Because Americans' political anger is often due to the opposing political party, they most typically channel their frustration into pursuing outcomes that benefit their own party — or, perhaps more accurately, harm the opposing party. Most commonly, this action is casting a vote for one's party's candidates up and down the ballot.

And, unlike many things in today's political climate, anger is a bipartisan emotion. Both Democrats and Republicans are capable of experiencing anger, and both are increasingly outraged. According to data from the American National Election Studies (ANES), there has been a dramatic increase in the percentage of both Democrats and Republicans who reported feeling angry with the opposing party's presidential candidate.

In 2008, 43% of Democrats and 46% of Republicans reported that they experienced anger with the other party's standard bearer. By 2012, 56% of Democrats and 75% of Republicans indicated that they felt angry with the opposing party's presidential candidate. In 2016, these numbers soared. Among Democrats, 90% of respondents to the ANES reported feeling angry with Donald Trump; 89% of Republicans reported feeling angry with Hillary Clinton. Not coincidentally, the 2016 election saw high rates of partisan loyalty at the ballot box.

Using data from the 2016 ANES, I calculated whether a voter felt positively or negatively toward their own party's presidential candidate by examining their ratings of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton on a measure known as a "feeling thermometer" scale. This measure, which ranges from 0-100, asks respondents to give their affective evaluations of candidates and parties on this 101-point scale, where higher values indicate a more positive feeling. Individuals who rated their own party's candidate at 50 or below were classified as having a nega-

tive evaluation.

Among those with negative views of their own party's candidate, more frequently being angry with the other party's candidate was strongly associated with partisan loyalty. In fact, among those who did not like their own party's candidate and reported "never" feeling angry at the opposing party's candidate, only 22% remained loyal to their own party in the 2016 presidential election. Among those individuals who did not like their own party's nominee but reported feeling angry at the other party's candidate "some of the time," nearly 48% voted loyally for their own party. Most drastically, 95.8% of Americans who did not like their own party's candidate in 2016 but reported "always" feeling angry with the other party's presidential candidate voted loyally. Anger, then, can lead to behavior that is more characteristic of dedicated partisans.

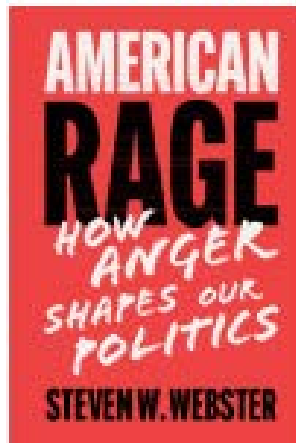
Though politicians have incentives to stoke voters' anger, these actions are not without cost. In fact, voter anger has a host of negative consequences. In particular, anger serves to reduce Americans' trust in the national government. In an era of heightened nationalization, the national government serves as the focal point for Americans' views about politics. Because anger causes us to evaluate people, places, and institutions in a negative fashion, politicians' stoking of voter anger specifically about politics has the unfortunate consequence of lowering Americans' trust in their governing institutions.

This decline in trust is marked. In 1958, 73% of Americans said they trusted the federal government "always" or "most of the time." By 2019, this figure had dropped to 17%. This diminished level of trust is problematic for effective governance. Trust in government has been shown to be essential for facilitating bipartisan cooperation and maintaining support for social welfare programs. Thus, should trust in government continue to decline, we are likely to see less bipartisanship and a further erosion of Americans' support for programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

Because politicians have an overarching concern with being reelected, and because anger aids in this pursuit, the outlook for the health of American democracy looks bleak.

The challenge is great if we are to make progress and hold together as a nation. Anger management is a good start. ❖

Steven Webster is an assistant professor of political science at Indiana University-Bloomington. His research interests are in political psychology, voting behavior, and public opinion. His book, *American Rage: How Anger Shapes Our Politics*, was released earlier this year by Cambridge University Press. Follow him on Twitter, @stevenwebster.



Mary McNamara, Los Angeles Times: Mayor Pete has found his format: the five-minute, remote-feed evisceration. He always looks so nice, Pete Buttigieg — handsome in that white, Midwestern, college yearbook way, with a smile that seems bucktoothed but isn't and those perfectly, and apparently naturally, arched eyebrows. Last year, as we got to know him during the Democratic presidential nomination race, he bore the weight of being the first openly gay presidential candidate easily, as if it was no big deal. Sure, it takes a certain level of, shall we say, personal confidence to imagine that going from mayor of South Bend, Ind., to the White House is a possible career trajectory, but his was a quiet, respectful confidence, befitting a Rhodes scholar and a Naval intelligence officer. So maybe it should not be surprising to discover that when Buttigieg swore to do whatever he could to ensure the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, that "whatever" turned out to include "speak softly and carry a sling blade." Last week, having served as stand-in for Vice President Mike Pence during Harris' debate prep, Buttigieg must have seemed a natural choice for a predebate interview. Fox News' Martha MacCallum and Bret Baier certainly thought so, asking Harris' former rival a preloaded question about her public policy differences with Biden. Standing in front of Kingsbury Hall in Salt Lake City, Buttigieg gave his now viral-famous answer: "Well, there's a classic parlor game of trying to find a little bit of daylight between running mates," Buttigieg said. "And if people want to play that game, we could look into why an evangelical Christian like Mike Pence wants to be on a ticket with the president caught with a porn star, or how he feels about the immigration policy that he called 'unconstitutional' before he decided to team up with Donald Trump." Cue stunned silence in the studio. ❖



Joe Nocera, Bloomberg: Remember when President Donald Trump promised to revive the coal industry? When he vowed to "put our miners back to work" during his 2016 campaign trips to coal country? When he said he would end "the war on coal?" A half-dozen times after becoming president, Trump signed bills and executive orders that were supposed to save the industry, always with coal miners standing behind him, applauding his promise to bring coal back. It hasn't exactly worked out that way. According to a recent article in the New York Times, 145 coal-burning units at 75 power plants have been idled during Trump's time in office ("the fastest decline in coal-fuel capacity in any single presidential term"). Power generated from coal has dropped from 31% to 20%. Coal production is down 34% ("the largest four-year drop in production since at least 1932"). And some 5,000 coal miners — nearly 10% of the workforce — have lost their jobs while Trump has been president. Not only has Trump not brought back the coal industry, he hasn't even been able to slow its decline. Remember when Trump said he was going to revive the steel industry? "Steel, we're

bringing back," he told supporters in Pittsburgh during his first presidential campaign. In 2018, he imposed 25% tariffs on steel imports from China, Europe, Canada and Mexico, arguing that making imported steel more expensive would cause domestically produced steel to become more competitive. Guess how that turned out? In an initial burst of enthusiasm, U.S. steel companies cranked up production and hired workers — only to lay many of them off when it turned out there simply wasn't enough demand to buy the increased U.S. production. By 2020, U.S. Steel Corp. was laying off thousands of workers and idling some of its blast furnaces. Meanwhile, companies that relied on steel had to raise prices on consumers. Many of them also laid off workers. How about manufacturing jobs? Remember when Trump said he was going to stop companies from shifting production abroad and even bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S.? Early on, Trump claimed to have cut a deal to keep a Carrier Corp. plant operating in the U.S. instead of moving to Mexico. But just eight months later, Carrier revealed that it was eliminating 338 jobs at the factory — and moving the positions to Mexico. Trump said he would punish companies that moved jobs offshore, but executives quickly realized he was never going to follow through on that threat. "Under Trump, U.S. jobs are moving overseas even faster than before," business website Quartz wrote in 2017. Two years later, the Guardian noted that since Trump became president, "nearly 200,000 jobs have moved overseas." And just a few months ago, the Economic Policy Institute reported that between 2016 and 2018 — the most recent year for which data is available — "nearly 1,800 factories have disappeared" from the U.S. manufacturing base. ❖

Aaron Carroll, New York Times: Of course we want everyone, including children, to be safe during the pandemic. We canceled school in the spring, camps in the summer, vacations, sleepovers, and more. My daughter turned 14 in June, and her friends drove by in cars, wishing her happy birthday while she waved from the lawn. All of this I swallowed. But the ruling on Halloween from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is a bridge too far. The agency recently announced that traditional trick-or-treating, with face-to-face candy distribution, is a high-risk activity. Even modified trick-or-treating with grab-and-go goody bags was labeled a moderate risk. But if I had to design an activity for children that might be safe during a pandemic, I'm not sure that I could do a better job than trick-or-treating. It's outside. It can be socially distanced. The food is individually wrapped (before anyone partakes, parents can wipe the candies down while kids wash their hands). It's the one night a year when kids will not argue at all about wearing masks. Homeowners could easily place the candy bowl six feet from the door and admire kids' costumes from afar. Candies could be laid out on platters and replenished, so kids don't have to root around in a big bowl. once. ❖

Souder book explores history of Fort Wayne TV

On Nov. 21, 1953, the voice of Hilliard Gates inaugurated the television era in Fort Wayne. Ever since, television has largely defined the historical memory of the people of Northeast Indiana. Former congressman Mark Souder, Melissa Long and Heather Herron have published the book, "[Television in Fort Wayne 1953 to 2018.](#)" Published by M.T. Publishing Co., it can be purchased by clicking here.

CHAPTER 11: Politics on Fort Wayne Television Richard Nixon's Makeup, JFK, and the Rise of Politics on Television

In 1952, President Dwight Eisenhower became the first presidential candidate to air a presidential ad. Roy Disney, Walt's brother, produced a simple comic strip which hammered home the campaign slogan, "I like Ike," inside a catchy song. His opponent Adlai Stevenson sniffed: "This isn't a soap opera. This isn't Ivory Soap versus Palmolive." Stevenson lost. He didn't lose because of his failure to run TV ads, however. After criticizing Eisenhower, Stevenson ran some ads as well. Only 9% of Americans had television sets in 1950, so television had a minimal impact. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/01/upshot/eisenhower-an-unlikely-pioneer-of-tv-ads.html>)

By 1960, Vice President Richard Nixon was nominated by Republicans to continue the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration for another four years. Nixon was expected to triumph over his comparatively inexperienced opponent, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. A key element of the political landscape had changed. In 1960, 87% of the American people now owned a television. (Eisenhower Museum, Abilene, Kansas).

Television played a major role in overturning what seemed to be the tide of history. Nixon showed up for the momentous first debate appearing tired, sweaty, somewhat growly, and like he forgot to shave. He faced off against the senator from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy, who was handsome, young, vigorous, and brimming with smiling charm. JFK's campaign, for example, had utilized a PT109 boat campaign pin that highlighted his Navy heroism to symbolize what was marketed as his youthful energy and strength to lead the nation. Nixon was also a vet, and in better health, but Nixon did not look like a hero.

The underdog JFK did not win the first debate on merits, according to those who listened on radio. However,

those watching on television, who reacted to visual images as well as words, felt Kennedy prevailed. The debates were important to Kennedy, sealing his upset bid to become president. While the first debate was just one of a series, the audience size estimates ran as high as 74 million and it was the defining first impression. An estimated 55% of the American people watched the first debate and 80% watched at least one debate. The contrast between the two candidates was burned into the American memory. To many Americans, it symbolized the dawning of a New Frontier. To political analysts, it showed the power of perception on TV and the new importance of debates. Politics in the television era became increasingly less dependent upon the political party structures and more on individual candidates. (Breaking News, Analysis, Politics, Blogs, News Photos, Video, Tech Reviews - TIME.com) (The Great Debates: Kennedy vs Nixon 1960, Kraus).

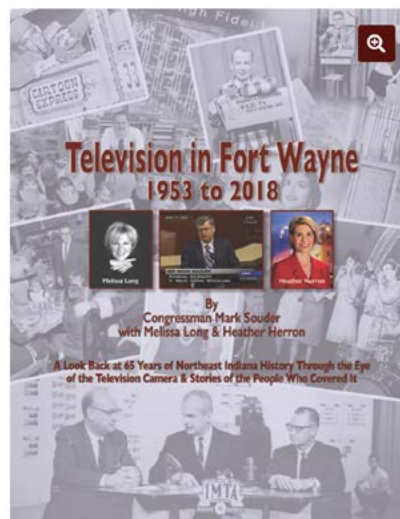
To many politicians, a key side question was this: Who in the world was in charge of Nixon's makeup? Decades later, Congressman Mark Souder arrived at FOX News studios in Washington to debate one of his colleagues on national television. He was escorted back to have makeup applied to offset the negative impacts that intense lighting and micro-closeups have on the average person.

Souder describes what happened next: "The lady coordinating the application of my makeup was an older lady, wearing a liberal application of makeup herself. She came up and said quietly to me, 'I helped Nixon with his makeup before his debate with Kennedy.' While verbally replying, possibly, 'That is amazing' or something of the sort, mentally I was thinking, 'What in the world possessed you to tell me that? Did I not shave close enough? Do I look like I sweat? Are you telling me that you can't cover the bags under my eyes?' It was the most incredible preparation room conversation I ever had."

Television had added a visual component to voice, print and photographs in politics.

A commanding presence had always been important in presidential politics, carefully cultivated by the many generals who became president from George Washington to Eisenhower, but it is less clear how John Adams, Abraham Lincoln or even FDR in a wheelchair would have fared during their eras had cameras exposed every aspect of their physical appearance and personal quirks.

"Tippecanoe and Tyler Too," the famed, irrelevant slogan of William Henry Harrison and John Tyler in 1840 was supplemented by log cabins on town squares where free hard cider was distributed. The Whigs were swept into the White House with a rare victory. The key point is this: It wasn't television that ruined substantive debate. Presidential campaigns have always been fairly superficial. Television has made it harder to control the narrative. ❖



COVID surge hits Dr. Box, family

INDIANAPOLIS — The surging number of COVID-19 cases in the Hoosier State now includes the person responsible for leading Indiana's response to the coronavirus pandemic, and possibly others working in the governor's office and State Department of Health (Carden, [NWI Times](#)). Dr. Kristina Box, the state health commissioner, confirmed Wednesday she has tested positive for COVID-19, along with her adult daughter and 23-month-old grandson, after two caretakers at her grandson's day care were confirmed to have the virus. Box said she is not symptomatic and her family members are mildly symptomatic — "God willing, none of us will become more ill than mildly symptomatic," said Box, who will be working from home for the near future. In accordance with COVID-19 prevention guidelines, state officials and employees who've recently been around Box, including Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb, were quarantining at work or home Wednesday until they also could be tested. The governor said he expects his test results will be available Thursday. According to the State Department of Health, more than 35,000 Hoosiers have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 30 days, which is approximately one-fourth of Indiana's total number of confirmed coronavirus cases since the state's first positive test on March 6. State data show there are 1,357 individuals currently hospitalized in Indiana due to COVID-19 — the highest number of coronavirus hospitalizations since May 13.



Holcomb renews masks, Stage 5

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Eric Holcomb said he does not intend to take Indiana off the final stage of his five-stage reopening plan by reimpos-

ing statewide restrictions on businesses, schools, large gatherings and everyday life in response to the increase in COVID-19 cases ([NWI Times](#)). He instead called on Hoosiers to redouble their efforts to minimize the spread of the virus by continuing to wear face masks in public places, maintaining 6 feet of social distance from others, regularly washing their hands, and cleaning and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces. "The shutting-down approach is missing the point," Holcomb said. "There is proof out there that folks are operating responsibly in stage five. We need to do more of that. Not less of that. That gets us through this." Holcomb noted every Midwestern state, including those with

10-person gathering limits, are seeing similar growth in COVID-19 cases, so he said it's really up to Hoosiers to make sure they're doing all they can to protect themselves and those around them from the virus. To that end, Holcomb said he is extending, until at least Nov. 14, his directive for Hoosiers to wear masks or other face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. Democrat Woody Myers reacted, saying, "By remaining at Stage 5 and failing to institute a true mask mandate, it's not surprising numbers are going in the wrong direction."

Fountain Co. clerk won't wear mask

COVINGTON — The Fountain County clerk is refusing to wear a mask while at work. Fountain County is a designated hotspot for coronavirus right now and has the highest infection in the state, according to the state health department. Clerk Paula Copenhaver tells [WISH-TV](#) that she has an exemption under the governor's mask mandate, but she did not say exactly what the exemption is. "There are exemptions under the governor's mandate and if somebody has an exemption it's none of my business to ask why they aren't wearing a mask," she said. "I'm not going to tell somebody they have to wear some-

thing. That is not my job, especially as an elected official." The Fountain County health director, Dr. Sean Sharma, is critical of Copenhaver's decision. "I think it's short-sighted," Sharma said. "It's an unfortunate interpretation of the restrictions. I think some people look for any way they can get out of safety precautions and that's not something we need to be doing at this time."

Indiana reopens rental assistance

INDIANAPOLIS — After not accepting applications for months, the state of Indiana is again offering help to Hoosiers who are facing the threat of eviction. Operated by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana's rental assistance portal is now taking applications for emergency rental aid for those facing financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic ([Segall, WTHR-TV](#)). "It's great news. It's something we've been hoping would happen ever since we got word the portal would be closing the first time back in August," said Andrew Bradley, policy director at Prosperity Indiana. "We've seen over the past few weeks, each week the average number of eviction intakes almost triples," explained Brandon Beeler, director of the Housing Law Center at Indiana Legal Services. "Eviction cases have dramatically increased throughout the state."

Ohio warns of travel to Indiana

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Ohio's Department of Health has added Indiana to its list of states with travel advisories. Ohio cites the Indiana COVID-19 positivity rate at 15.6% ([WANE-TV](#)). Indiana's dashboard shows the state at a seven-day rate of 5.3% for all tests and 9.6% for unique individuals. Those entering Ohio after travel to states reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19 are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.