

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I sure as hell don't recall having – I sure as hell did not have any conversations with anyone saying this is a fund-raising event,”
- Vice President Al Gore, declaring he did not know a '96 event at the Buddhist temple was a Democratic fundraising event.

The veepstakes and our boy Evan Bayh

Many paths seem to lead toward....

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**
The Howey Political Report

INDIANAPOLIS - We are heading into the home-stretch of the veepstakes - who will join George W. Bush, and more importantly from an Indiana perspective, Al Gore as their runningmates.

The predominant conventional wisdom on the Republican side is that Bush will go with someone from the governor class - Pennsylvania's Tom Ridge (the pre-primary favorite), Ohio's George Voinovich (comin' on strong, but name won't fit on a button), Michigan's John Engler (bruised by McCain in the primary), Wisconsin's Tommy Thompson (welfare king) or Oklahoma's Frank Keating (Catholic who dealt with adversity ranging from terrorism to tornadoes).

I'm prognosticating Voinovich, but it will likely be Ridge, who adds zest to the convention in Philly.

But what about our boy, Evan Bayh? I'm still prognosticating a Gore-Bayh ticket, although Sen. Russell Feingold from Wisconsin would help the Vice President through the campaign finance goo. Forum on Campaign Ethics panelists Ron Gifford and Jeff Lewis were forecasting Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, who is seen as coming on strong for being a Midwesterner, a Catholic, whose Senate term doesn't expire until 2002, and has ADA and ACLU ratings at 80 and 69 percent.

The word on Bayh is that he's not exciting, which is nothing new to Hoosier Democrats who glaze over when he speaks. The *Baltimore Sun's* Jack Germond thinks Bayh is as boring as Gore. So that's the big rap - Bayh is boring.

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GANNET BUYS THE STAR: Central Newspapers Inc., parent of The Indianapolis Star, agreed to be acquired today by Gannett Co. for \$2.6 billion, the Associated Press reported. The announcement ends weeks of speculation. Phoenix-based Central, which also owns The Arizona Republic and smaller newspapers, announced June 7 that it was exploring a sale. Gannett, the nation's largest newspaper company, said it will pay \$64 a share, more than double Central's stock price June 7 and slightly above the stock's closing price today.

BUSH LEAD OVER GORE EXPLODES: The latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll shows Texas Gov. George W. Bush leading Vice President Al Gore 52 to 39 percent. That lead is 5 percent bigger than earlier this month. Bush's lead among women is now 48 to 42 percent. "That's a major shift from the June 7 survey, where Gore led by 8 points," said CNN's Bernard Shaw.

BAYH PROTEGES WRITE NOW: Responding to leaders of the National Organization for Women and the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League who say Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh could hurt the national Democratic

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But let's work through the list, with the help of Washington-based Chris Sautter of Sautter Communications.

Sen. Bob Kerrey: "He's about the only electable Democrat with both an interesting biography and charisma." But he backed Bill Bradley. Oops!

Sen. Bob Graham: So, he's more electrifying than Bayh? Hmmmm. But he doesn't bring along Florida. Ouch!

Sen. Diane Feinstein: Oh, yes, her record as mayor of San Francisco will sell well in Peoria. Then there's the hubby's finances that conjure images of Geraldine Ferraro with sultry 5-hour press conferences in August. And Gore already has California locked up, right?

Gov. Gray Davis: He has publicly said no. And Gore already has California locked up, right?

Bill Richardson: We've kept his name in this just for fun and to gauge the precipice. He was chased out of the Senate and told by Robert Byrd not to come back over the Los Alamos scandal. Hopefully he'll avoid the entire Midwest, too, where gas prices could induce mobs.

So, Durbin right? Particularly with Bill Daley running the Gore campaign? Steve Neal wrote in the *Chicago Sun-Times* last week that Bill Daley "in" means Durbin is "out." The Daleys are feuding with Durbin and, besides, Republican Illinois Gov. George Ryan would appoint his successor.

"All of this appears to be leading back to Evan Bayh, who clearly wants the job," Sautter observed. "My sense in talking with the Gore people I know personal-



ly is that if the decision were based on who Gore would want to serve as his vice president as opposed to campaigning for VP, he would pick Evan without hesitation. Gore is very comfortable with Bayh. I think Al and Tipper make this decision and I think they'll wait as long as possible to weigh all the dynamics."

The Bayhs and supporters were active this week. Susan Bayh spent a day with Tipper Gore last weekend in Indianapolis. Allies stamped out comments by NOW's Kim Gandy that Bayh would cause the pro-choice movement to reach for their Tums.

Meanwhile, one obstinate panelist wondered why Bayh would even want the job. HPR's Mark Schoeff Jr. observed that having Bayh on the ticket followed by victories by Dick Lugar, David McIntosh, Mike Pence and John Hostettler would do something Hoosier Republicans have never done: Win with Bayh on ballot. "It would bring him down to earth," Schoeff said. "Why now? He's young and he'd be viable for another 20 years."

Schoeff also looked at the irretrievable damage the vice presidential nomination did to Dan Quayle and Jack Kemp.

Schoeff's pick: Gore-Feinstein with the Hispanic surge toward Bush putting California in play.

I look at what the veepstakes did for FDR, HST and LBJ. So does Bayh. ♦

Peterson-Gilroy '99 revisited

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**
The Howey Political Report

So, what really did happen to Indiana's Republican rising star, Sue Anne Gilroy, back in 1999?

At last week's HPR/Baker & Daniels Forum on Campaign Ethics, two key players in the historic '99 mayor's race - Cameron Carter of the Gilroy campaign and Deputy Mayor Mike O'Connor - filled in some huge blanks on a race historians will be studying for years on its impact.

"It was a death of a thousand cuts," Carter, who served as the Gilroy campaign's pit bull, explained. "There was an undercurrent of sexism and our internal squabbles."

That tended to confirm what HPR had been hearing from numerous insiders. Gilroy never fully took charge in a campaign that was essentially run by committee and manipulated by the control freak Stephen Goldsmith and the good ol' boy Jack Cottey. If that wasn't bad enough, there was the demographic shift of Republican voters out of the county, and, lest we forget, the extreme discipline of Bart Peterson.

"Without exception, Bart Peterson set the agenda in that race," Carter said. "You set the agenda and you're always the winner."

Peterson's 200 new cops took the law and order issue out of the Republican's hands (despite the ardent support of Goldsmith, Cottey and Prosecutor Scott Newman) and turned it into a losing fiscal issue at a time when "help wanted" signs could be found in virtually every business.

O'Connor, who managed the Peterson campaign, cited three principal reasons for a Democratic victory. The GOP demographic shift out of the county and "an increasingly independent voting bloc" along with a Hispanic influx was one. "In each year since 1988, the down

ballot races - clerk, auditor, treasurer - were getting closer and closer." The way Evan Bayh and Joe Hogsett ran in elections earlier in the decade allowed the Democrats to raise money - historic money for them. "We were blessed with financial competitiveness," O'Connor said. "Plus, Mayor Peterson didn't strike fear in the business community, which even embraced him."

O'Connor finally cited Peterson's discipline. "It was a focused, disciplined campaign," he said. He recalled Peterson saying early in the fall, "If I say 200 more cops one more time, I'll throw up."

There was the homestretch Gilroy campaign media campaign. While a sunny Evan Bayh campaigned vigorously for Peterson on TV ads, Gilroy responded with a dark, brooding Goldsmith defending an attacked city budget. Then came the Cottey radio ad and fliers that many said were racist in tone. "We were also aided in October by the influx of the competition's negative message," O'Connor said. Carter explained, "Too many cooks in the kitchen" and added, "I will not defend the piece that Cottey sent out. I can't defend racism."

And who could ever forget "The Peterson Plan." Carter called it a "wonderful marketing tool. It was a roadmap to governance and that's why it scares me." Carter said that when he saw the plan in its slick, glossy cover in a church basement one day last summer, "I knew we were fighting a defensive war. It was a master stroke." O'Connor saw it more as a "management tool" and insisted that Peterson had always said, "We'll be held accountable to that document."

Finally, there was Gilroy's "unilateral" disarmament - the vow not to go negative, which she did anyway. "You never want to unilaterally disarm," Carter said. "Never curtail your First Amendment right." ♦

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ticket if he should get the vice presidential nomination, a group of Indiana women have written back. In a June 26 letter to Kim Gandy, executive vice president of NOW. Former Indiana Democratic chair Ann DeLaney wrote, "We take serious exception to your characterization of Evan Bayh as weak on women's rights. Your one-dimensional view is unfair as well as inaccurate. No one familiar with his record on issues of importance to women or on appointments of women would ever make such as a claim. On the issue of a 24-hour waiting period, you are simply wrong. The law was actually an 18-hour waiting period and Gov. Bayh not only didn't support it, he vetoed it." In Sunday's Indianapolis Star, NOW's Gandy said a potential Bayh vice presidential nomination "causes me no small amount of heartburn" primarily over abortion rights issues. DeLaney noted that Bayh voted for a recent resolution calling Roe v. Wade "an important constitutional right." She noted that Bayh as governor appointed 33 women to the judicial bench, including an Indiana Supreme Court justice. During the two Bayh administrations, three quarters of state employees "worked for agencies headed by women," including half of the state's major agen-

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cies. "We can only assume that the disparity between your conclusions and fact stems from ignorance of his record and not willful misstatement," said DeLaney, who spent Monday gathering up the signatures of leading Bayh appointees and office holders, such as former Attorney General Pamela Carter. "We are justifiably proud of Evan Bayh's strong record of support for women's rights and women's issues, as you should be."

SUSAN BAYH SPENDS DAY WITH TIPPER GORE: Sen. Bayh's wife, Susan, spent Sunday with Tipper Gore as she addressed the American Nurses Association in Indianapolis. "The Bayhs have been friends for years," Gore said of the two couples. "But I'm not going to comment on speculation of the vice presidential selection" (John J. Shaughnessy, Indianapolis Star).

LIBERTARIANS ON THE AIR: Indiana Libertarians began airing radio ads on Monday to pitch the phrase "LessGov.com" which is the party's call for "smaller, less expensive, and less intrusive government," said 6th CD nominee Joe Hauptmann. TV ads aimed at pulling more readers to the website are planned for the end of the month. Also, Indiana Libertarian Executive Director Brad Klopfenstein

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Gas prices fail to ignit CD races

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Rising gasoline prices have become a prominent issue in the Indiana gubernatorial race and in the presidential campaign. On the Congressional level, for the most part, they have failed to ignite a political firestorm.

Candidates in four Hoosier districts acknowledge that people are expressing concern about substantial increases in fuel costs. An HPR/TeleResearch Poll released on June 19 shows that rising prices has become the second most important issue to voters.

But only in the 5th CD is that translating into political warfare. In an op-ed published this week in the *Kokomo Tribune* and the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*, Democratic challenger Greg Goodnight criticized incumbent Republican Steve Buyer for accepting PAC money from oil companies, who Goodnight said are gouging Hoosier motorists.

Buyer responded by saying oil PAC money constitutes less than one half of 1 percent of his total financial support, with most of it coming during his first run in 1992. "The congressman has taken more money from labor unions than from oil companies," said Josh Hammond, Buyer's campaign manager. Buyer has issued three gas price statements in the last two weeks, blaming the Clinton administration for a weak foreign policy that has increased U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

Although gas prices have fallen about 7 to 12 cents per gallon in the Midwest over the past week, the average price per gallon is \$1.66, a 50-cent increase from last year. Some areas of the Midwest are still experiencing nearly \$2 per gallon. Gov. Frank O'Bannon made national news last week by suspending the 5 percent Indiana gas sales tax, effective Saturday. The move could shave 7 to 10 cents per gallon off of the pump price.

"It's the hot topic wherever you go," Goodnight said. "In the last two to three weeks, it's the number one issue out there." He has heard complaints from small business owners, farmers, commuters, and families planning vacations. Goodnight favors temporarily lowering the 18.4 cent federal gas tax, tapping fuel from the domestic Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and launching an investigation of oil company pricing practices.

CONGRESS WATCH

In the 8th CD, Democrat Paul Perry relates the situation at the gas pump to circumstances at

the drug counter. "I see this as a deliberate attempt to gouge consumers, not unlike pharmaceutical companies are doing," said Perry, an orthopedic surgeon who has focused solely on health care during his campaign. "People are just as frustrated by what they're paying at the pharmacy." Perry praised O'Bannon's gas tax roll back. "I'm not opposed to doing something similar at the federal level."

The office of Rep. John Hostettler, the incumbent Republican in the 8th CD, did not return two phone calls seeking Hostettler's position.

In the 2nd CD, Republican Mike Pence said that gas prices have broken into the top tier of issues, joining prescription drugs, tax cuts and military spending. He opposes suspending the federal gas tax because it would take money away from highway construction. "Indiana continues to be a donor state on transportation money. Of all the different types of taxes, the gas tax, in a very real sense, is a logical user tax."

Pence is running for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, who is challenging O'Bannon.

The cause of rising gas prices is an

environmental regulation that went into effect on June 1, Pence said. At that time, the Environmental Protection Agency instituted rules that required metropolitan areas like Chicago and Louisville to use cleaner burning fuel, known as reformulated gasoline (RFG) that contains additives. "Rather than suspend taxes on gas, the Clinton administration should declare an immediate moratorium on the RFGII program. This is a classic case of the economic impact of onerous government regulation," said Pence.

Independent candidate Bill Frazier also takes the Clinton administration - and previous administrations - to task for failing to implement an effective energy policy. He focused on this issue in his 1976 campaign against long-time 2nd CD Rep. Phil Sharp who served as chairman of a House energy subcommittee. "People are upset when they have to pay \$2 for gasoline," said Frazier. "It's not necessary if political leaders had done what needed to be done."

Frazier's prescription for reducing America's energy dependence is to increase the use of ethanol and biomass fuels, which are produced from plants or organic waste. He praised work being done by Sen. Richard Lugar, who wrote a bill, which passed both houses of Congress this spring and was signed into law by President Clinton. It establishes a six-year, \$49 million annual research effort to bring biomass ethanol to market. "That's another reason I'm running for Congress," Frazier said. "It doesn't make sense that people haven't acted on these things."

The gas price issue hasn't displaced education, prescription drugs, and senior health care as the top issues on the minds of voters, said Mary Jo Rock, campaign manager for her son, Democrat Robert Rock Jr. She said there has been a strong positive response to O'Bannon's actions but that hasn't translated to much concern about federal action.

In the 3rd CD, Republican Chris Chocola echoed the familiar GOP theme

on gas prices. "It's primarily the responsibility of our administration to have an energy policy," he said. He cited a lack of leadership from Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, a decrease in domestic oil production, an increase in foreign oil dependency, and lack of U.S. moral suasion to convince OPEC countries to increase oil supplies.

He said the top issues he's hearing on the hustings include taxes, education, Social Security and health care. But gas prices are moving up. "This is the recreational vehicle capital of the world. We have seen some slow down in the RV industry, and that's due at least in part to the rising gas prices."

Chocola doesn't favor repealing the federal gas tax. "It's worth considering a suspension of it. It's not going to help the people going on vacation over the Fourth of July or the RV industry. It's not a solution. It's a bandage."

Incumbent Rep. Tim Roemer issued a statement on June 26 calling for a federal investigation into high oil prices in the Midwest. He said he talked to Richardson, the head of the Federal Trade Commission, and EPA administrator Carol Browner. "There is no economic rationale for the dramatically higher prices for gasoline," said Roemer in his statement. "The federal government must conduct an aggressive inquiry into possible price gouging by the oil companies." He also called for a Midwest summit of political leaders and government officials to develop a strategy for lowering gas prices.

Although voters are being stung at the pump over the summer, the political climate can change quickly and dramatically. Today's storm can be ephemeral, giving way to a larger system by the fall. "It's too early to tell," said Amy Walter of the *Cook Political Report*. "If the Clinton-Gore administration takes the brunt of the blame, then it may have an effect down ballot. I'm not all that sure where people are placing the blame. There is not universal anger at the administration on this." ♦

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said in a Monday e-mail that "It is looking like the Libertarian candidate for president will be one of only three candidates for that office on the ballot in Indiana. As of this notice, it looks like the Green Party's nominee Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan will not appear on the Indiana ballot this fall."

GAS TAX CUT SPIN: Indianapolis attorney John Price, erstwhile Republican candidate for governor, thinks Gov. Frank O'Bannon's plan to suspend the state's sales tax on gasoline is brilliant. After all, it was his idea (Mike Smith, *The Associated Press*). Back in March, Price proposed cutting the sales tax on gas to 3 cents a gallon because Indiana was realizing a windfall in tax revenue that should stay in Hoosiers' pockets. Democrats poo-pooed the plan then, and some Republicans now are calling O'Bannon's move "pure politics."

PETERSON SPOILS PROBOD: In the first look at how contracts have been awarded under new administrations in Indiana's three largest cities, the Indianapolis Star reported that Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson's administration has awarded 76 no-bid contracts valued at \$6.3 million to firms that donated to his 1999 campaign. Peterson's

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victory ended 32 years of Republican domination. The story by Doug Sword noted, "A large majority of contracts, nearly 400, went to companies that did not contribute to Peterson's election." Peterson was quoted, saying, "If somebody's trying to say that there's a tie between a contract and a campaign contribution, I can say first and foremost that's absolutely untrue." But Jack Miller of the Alliance for Democracy said, "I don't care if it's Bart doing it or Goldsmith, it stinks. The thing about these campaign contributions and contracts, if nothing else, it gives the impression of corruption." In addition to Indianapolis, new mayors from different parties took office in Fort Wayne and Evansville this year, although there has been little analysis of contracts in those cities.

SUZUKI SCRATCHES INDIANA: The Japanese car-building company has taken all Indiana sites off its list of potential construction candidates (Kristi Osenbaugh, Logansport Pharos-Tribune). Logansport was on a list of potential Hoosier sites. Toa Industry Co., a Suzuki supplier, also took Logansport and Peru out of consideration for a new plant. Toa narrowed its field to Mooresville and Danville, Ill.

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Kyle Hannon, Elkhart Truth - The Elkhart Board of School Trustees voted last week not to allow the posting of the Commandments in our public schools. As a parent, and a Christian, I think they did the right thing. This year my only New Year's pledge was to read the Bible from beginning to end. I'm not quite through the Old Testament yet but I have read the Ten Commandments in their Biblical form. For those of you keeping score at home, they start in Exodus, Chapter 20. The first interesting point is that the Commandments are not numbered. Furthermore, the bulk of the text is devoted to worshiping no deity but God. In fact, those who worship other gods are not only cursing themselves but also their children down to the third and fourth generations. The gist of the Commandments comes through. In fact, it is better in its edited version, in my opinion. And it is best that we stop at Chapter 20, because Exodus Chapter 21 outlines the laws regarding slaves. It doesn't prohibit slavery. It merely tells us to treat them better. Also in Chapter 21 verse 17 it lays out that the penalty for cursing one's father or mother is death. That death penalty is repeated in Leviticus, Chapter 20 verse 9. Can we settle for a spanking? ❖

Mike Leonard, Bloomington Herald-Times - Longtime *Baltimore Sun* political columnist Jack Germond tells the National Society of Newspaper Columnists that America should not expect much out of either of the presumptive nominees for president, Al Gore Jr. or George W. Bush. "I don't think there's a genuine bone in either of their bodies," Germond says. The influence of the press? "Neither party ever nominates the person the reporters would want," he says. "The guys we'd like to see — Howard Baker, for example. Mo Udall. They never get anywhere." A liber-

al bias? "Nixon crystallized the natural hostility between the press and politicians and ascribed it to hostility toward conservatives," Germond explains. "We never talked about ideology. We disliked Nixon because he was a bad guy." Shouldn't we then be concerned for the future of the Republic? "If we can survive 12 years of Reagan-Bush and eight years of Clinton, we're a pretty healthy country." ❖

Max Jones, Terre Haute Tribune-Star - Like or hate him, Bill Clinton has personality and charm. Like him or hate him, George Bush was just quirky enough, in his Ivy League way, to become an endearing public figure. Like him or hate him, Ronald Reagan had style, grace, charisma and irresistible magnetism. Our three most recent presidents, though each had his share of political problems, were interesting and sometimes entertaining individuals. They were rarely boring. As we close in on another presidential election, I'm sorry to say this string of distinctive presidents is about to change. The two major-party candidates — Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush — carry none of the electricity of their predecessors. In fact, they may well be two of the dimmest bulbs on the national political scene in a long, long time. They didn't get where they are now on their own. For them, politics is a birthright. ❖

Kevin Leininger, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel - Gov. O'Bannon has announced that he will suspend Indiana's gasoline sales tax. Not only could this move cost the state more than \$12 million, it will send all the wrong messages. Instead of promoting conservation of fuel and the use of public transportation, lowering the cost of gasoline will induce people to drive more, increasing toxic emissions. ❖

Indiana 2000 Racing Form

GOVERNOR, congressional races

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** Indiana Troopers Association endorsed O'Bannon. Horning called for a moratorium on Indiana's death penalty. Indiana is scheduled to execute its next prisoner - Edward Earl Williams - in July in what could turn into a dramatic political event. Horning will feed off this issue. Gov. O'Bannon has a study committee working to review the death penalty which he helped write, but does not believe there needs to be a moratorium. Neither do Attorney General Karen Freeman-Wilson or her Republican opponent, Steve Carter. McIntosh also favors the death penalty, but agreed with Texas Gov. George W. Bush's recent decision to delay an execution so that DNA testing could verify the conviction. McIntosh called Bush's move "common sense" and said that "in some cases that would be appropriate." As for applying cutting edge DNA testing to existing death penalty post-conviction appeals, McIntosh said, "That's what we should do in Indiana - use the latest technology." McIntosh hosted Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore and vowed to make Indiana "the high-tech capital of the Midwest." And there was the Democrats' challenge to have O'Bannon, LG Joe Kernan and AG Karen Freeman-Wilson take on McIntosh, Murray Clark and Steve Carter in the Muncie Gus Macker three-on-three basketball tournament July 22-23. If that were the basis of deciding this race, we'd have to call it "Safe O'Bannon." O'Bannon was a varsity basketball player at IU, Freeman-Wilson was on the Harvard women's team and Joe Kernan was not only a Notre Dame baseball player, but, what the heck, let's just say it, the former Hanoi Hilton roadie would be a mean ol' SOB in the paint. In handicapping this challenge, we admit we don't know much about Clark's game. Steve Carter might be formidable in defending the lane, being an old haybaler from Lowell, but clearly the Achilles heel of the GOP game would be McIntosh, the ex-East Noble tuba player. C'mon, you can't match up collegiate varsity talent against a tuba player! **TECHNICAL FOUL** on the Democrats! For shame, for shame! Now, in a final moment of clarity here, Horse Race came real close (reeeee-al close) to putting this race in the Tossup zone last week after TeleResearch had O'Bannon leading by just 44-40 percent. O'Bannon used the most powerful tool he has (incumbency) and pulled the gasoline-soaked bunny out of the hat. His suspension of the state gas tax was a political master stroke that got him all sorts of press portraying him as a decisive leader, which is just what he needed at that precise time, kicking the FSSA fiasco off the front pages. **General Status: Leans O'Bannon.**

HORSE RACE

2000 Indiana House races

House District 4: Republican: Rep. Ralph Ayres. **Democrat:** Mike Bucko.

Geography: Porter, LaPorte counties. **1994 Results:** Ayres (R) 14,672. **1996 Results:** Ayres 20,986. **1998 Results:** Ayres 14,207. **2000 Forecast:** Democrats are optimistic they will compete in this demographically shifting district that O'Bannon carried in '96. **Status: Leans R.**

House District 15: Republican: State Rep. Dan Dumezich. **Democrat:** Kevin J.

Duda. **Geography:** Schererville, Merrillville, Lake County. **1994 results:** Fesko (R) 9,159, Savage (D) 3,743. **1996 Results:** Fesko (R) 15,134. **1998 Results:** Fesko (R) 9,914, Blacklund (L) 986. **2000 Forecast:** With Chicagoans migrating in, this district could eventually go D. The question is whether that will happen in 2000. **Status: Leans R.**

House District 19: Republican: Ron Johnson. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman.

Geography: Crown Point, south Lake County. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Results:** Kuzman 9,130,

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GARY MAYOR IN A HURRY: Mayor Scott King decided to call a special meeting of the City Council for Tuesday, instead of waiting for the regular meeting date of July 5. King wants the council to vote on his \$42 million redevelopment package (Steve Patterson, Gary Post-Tribune). The plan calls for \$5 million for renovation of the Genesis Convention Center, \$2 million for improvements to parking areas around the center, \$20 million for building a downtown minor league baseball park, \$15 million to renovate the vacant Mercy Hospital into a new police station, city clerk office and city court. Another \$5 million would go to the demolition of Buffington Harbor's Lehigh-Portland Cement Co. so the owner of the Majestic Star Casino can invest in lake-front development on the site.

GOP CONGRESSMEN UNDER THE GUN: Speaker Dennis Hastert and the National Republican Congressional Committee are pressuring GOP House members to come up with serious money for use in the hottest races this year. They are looking for checks totaling five or six figures. The Wall Street Journal reported that each member received a pledge card, and those who don't fulfill their pledge are asked to make an

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appointment with Hastert. The NRCC said it will focus its efforts more on the ground rather than the air this year.

DEMOCRATS ANGERED BY STAR CARTOON: Indiana Democrats are upset that an Indianapolis Star editorial cartoon depicting Gov. Frank O'Bannon as falling through a wheelchair is insensitive to people with disabilities. The cartoon ran in the June 20 edition. "As a person who uses a wheelchair, I think it's repugnant that The Star or anyone else would choose to depict a person's diverse characteristic in that manner," said Greg Fehribach, an Indianapolis attorney. "No one's personal characteristics -- such as their gender, race, creed, or disability -- should ever be portrayed as a negative." The Star's use of a wheelchair in the cartoon is typical of the how the media portray persons with disabilities, says Greg Bedan, marketing manager for the Tourism Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "The image is so far from the truth about disabled people," said Bedan, who uses a wheelchair because of a spinal cord injury. "Disabled people hold down jobs, have families and are productive people. To me, that cartoon depicts people with my condition as helpless and feeble."



Gasparovic (R) 6,917. **2000 Forecast:** The Indiana Chamber has endorsed Johnson. O'Bannon won this district in '96. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 24: Republican: Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Bob Sabatini.

Geography: Logansport, Cass, Carroll, Miami counties. **1994 results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz (D) 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538. **1998 Results:** McClain 10,281, Fincher (D) 7,345. **2000 Forecast:** Republicans acknowledge that Sabatini will be a tough challenge for McClain. Sabatini, a former Cass County sheriff, reclaimed the seat after 22 years in the GOP column and helped forge the first 50/50 House split. This will be a battleground seat. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 30: Republican: Karen Burkhardt. **Democrat:** State Rep. Ron

Herrell. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,660. **1998 Results:** Herrell 7,711, Burkhardt (R) 7,520. **2000 Forecast:** This will be an intense rematch between former Rep. Burkhardt, chosen to fill out Padfield's term, and U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer's sister, and Herrell, who won by fewer than 200 votes. This stands to be one of the premier races. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 32: Republican: State Rep. Eric Turner. **Democrat:** Bart Herriman.

Geography: Madison, Grant and Miami counties. **1994 results:** Turner (R) 9,496, Beck (D) 7,722. **1996 Results:** Turner 13,188, Stanley (D) 8,981. **1998 Results:** Turner 10,006, Schmidt (D) 6,607. **2000 Forecast:** Herriman has been raising money. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 52: Republican: Ken Wonderly. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Sturtz.

Geography: LaGrange, Noble counties. **1994 Results:** Sturtz (D) 6,837, LeCount (R) 5,789. **1996 Results:** Sturtz 10,049, Hanneman (R) 6,258. **1998 Results:** Sturtz 6,677, Wonderly 6,385. **2000 Forecast:** Sturtz got a scare in '98, but the former LaGrange County sheriff appears to be ready for battle this time. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 57: Republican: Mike Herndon. **Democrat:** J.D. Lux. **Geography:**

Shelbyville, Shelby, Bartholomew and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Linder (R) 12,626. **1996 Results:** Linder 13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Forecast:** Lux has hired Carrie Stiers to run his campaign. Lux is going door to door in precincts where he did not poll well in his 1996 Senate race against Bob Jackman. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 60: Republican: John Shean. **Democrat:** State Rep. Peggy Welch.

Geography: Bloomington, Bloomfield, Lawrence. Greene and Monroe Counties. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Results:** Welch 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Forecast:** Shean has aggressively recruited volunteers and raised money. Welch has been doing door to door and realizes the threat. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 68: Republican: Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Bischoff.

Geography: Lawrenceburg. **1994 results:** Bischoff 9,427, Ketcham (R) 8,993. **1996 Results:** Bischoff (D) 12,088, Fehrman (R) 8,968. **1998 Results:** Bischoff 11,881, Kristoff (L) 1,742. **2000 Forecast:** Leising has finally surfaced, doing county fairs in the district. She did little to help Kevin Kellems in the 9th CD primary. That could haunt her now that the national GOP has written off the 9th and the resources won't be as plentiful. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 89: Republican: State Rep. Larry Buell. **Democrat:** Brian Sims.

Geography: SW Indianapolis, Irvington, Beech Grove. **1994 Results:** Buell (R) 9,583, Feeney (D) 5,770. **1996 Results:** Buell 11,281, Osborn (D) 7,872. **1998 Results:** Buell 8,235, Jeffers (D) 5,761, Hubertz (L) 230. **2000 Forecast:** Sims is expected to test the durability of the new Indianapolis Democratic organization and the creaky nature of the GOP. Mayor Peterson won it in 1999 with 48.1 percent in a four-way race and O'Bannon polled 49.6 percent in '96. Sims has a good volunteer campaign doing door to door. We sense a real battle shaping up here, and a demographic shift similar to what occurred in HD94 in 1998. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 94: Republican: Paul Ogden. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jeb Bardon.

Geography: NW Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Results:** Bardon 8,411, Marendt 6,834. **2000 Forecast:** Ogden will try to reclaim this seat, but he'll have to be on target and message in order to have a chance to take out Bardon, already a seasoned politico in a district where demographics get better for the Ds (Peterson won it with 58.9 percent in '99 and O'Bannon won it with 56.1 percent in '96). **Status:** *Leans D.*