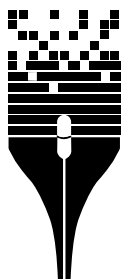


# The Howey Political Report



## Taxes keep getting GOP into trouble

A continually misplayed issue

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in *Indianapolis*  
and **MARK SCHOEFF JR.** in *Washington*

It was March of 1993 when newly elected Indiana Republican chairman Al Hubbard came to Fort Wayne for an introductory meeting and to assess the political landscape. Foremost on his mind was finding a candidate to challenge U.S. Rep. Jill Long before the emergence of Mark Souder.

As he went down a list of possible challengers, the name of Fort Wayne City Councilwoman Rebecca Ravine came up - possibly a good choice after the 1992 "Year of the Woman." HPR Publisher Brian Howey mentioned to Hubbard that Ravine had recently voted for the County Economic Development Income Tax. It was an initiative by then-Republican Mayor Paul Helmke to fix the city's rapidly crumbling streets. At a rate of 0.2 percent, the tax cost a household making \$28,000 a year about 93 cents a week, or \$48 a year.

"This meant the streets improved significantly, the backlog of neighborhood streets was finally being addressed, and we were able to continue our efforts at reducing the property tax," Helmke said. "Our overall income tax strategy allowed us to reduce property taxes by 13 percent during my time as mayor."

Despite the targeted nature of CEDIT, Hubbard immediately crossed Ravine off his list and couldn't hide his disgust. She had voted for a tax increase. That was a bad thing.

During the last several major elections, Hubbard played a major behind-the-scenes role in the 1996 gubernatorial campaign of Stephen Goldsmith, the 1999 Sue Anne Gilroy Indianapolis mayoral campaign, the 2000 David

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## "QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"You trained him well...."

- George W. Bush, commenting about his top domestic policy adviser, former Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith.

# TICKER T A P E

**NEWSWEEK HAS GORE LEADING BY 10 PERCENT:** The latest Newsweek Poll has Vice President Al Gore leading Republican George W. Bush by a 49 to 39 percent margin (Aug. 30-31, 755 registered voters, +/-4 percent). Newsweek reported, "Heading into the critical fall campaign, the results indicate continued momentum for Gore, who has seen a 20-point swing since early August." In the battleground state of Ohio, a Columbus Dispatch Poll had Bush leading Gore, 49 to 43 percent. However, in an ABC News analysis of the Electoral College, Bush is leading in states with 234 votes, Gore in states with 201 votes, with 100 up for grabs. The winner needs 270 votes. The key battleground states include Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Missouri.

**GORE VISITS LOUISVILLE:** In what may be the closest Al Gore gets to Indiana before the November election, the Democratic nominee gave a "somewhat rambling 28-minute speech" in Louisville, according to the Louisville Courier-Journal. It was the last and longest of a Labor Day marathon that also took him to Philadelphia; Flint, Mich.; Tampa, Fla.; and Pittsburgh. In Louisville and Pittsburgh, he appeared with AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

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## Taxes, from page 1

McIntosh gubernatorial effort, and the presidential campaign of George W. Bush. When Bush came to Indianapolis on Wednesday, Goldsmith was touted as his top domestic policy adviser and Hubbard as an influential old friend.

All these campaigns have a common thread - the offering of big tax cuts and/or the notion that no matter what, taxes are an absolute anathema to good government. And they've all gotten in trouble over the tax issue.

Last Sunday's *Indianapolis Star* poll revealed that Hoosiers simply aren't buying into McIntosh's "guaranteed 25 percent property tax cut" to the tune of 68 percent of Democrats, 60 percent of independents, and 30 percent of Republicans simply don't believe him. In 1999, Gilroy tried to turn crime and Bart Peterson's 200 new cops into a fiscal issue and was defeated by 11 percent. Goldsmith's 1996 loss for governor can't be tied specifically to his call for tax cuts, but Hoosiers were skeptical of Goldsmith's view of the world as a privatizer and as the potential "CEO of Indiana."

While the June HPR/TeleResearch Poll revealed that cutting property taxes

was the top issue at 30 percent, pollster Jeff Lewis said those numbers were made up "almost entirely by Republicans."

"Independents and Democrats weren't going for that," Lewis said.

Washington pollsters and analysts agree that Bush will have trouble getting traction on the tax cut issue this fall. "They're not important," independent pollster John Zogby said in reference to tax cuts. In addition, Gore has taken aim at the Bush notion of "privatizing" Social Security - an issue with Goldsmith's fingerprints all over it.

## Victims of own success

Republicans are victims of their own success, said Zogby, president of Zogby International. The GOP spent the 1980s and 1990s arguing in favor of balancing the federal budget, and they asserted that government couldn't be trusted, a major Goldsmith theme in 1996 that he has backed away from as a Bush disciple of compassionate conservatism where government plays a key role. Now people are leery of getting a tax break if it will undermine debt reduction and they are skeptical that government will deliver.

That notion sprang to life when the *Star* quoted Susan Deneen, a McIntosh

supporter from Noblesville, who said, "I don't think any person can cut taxes by 25 percent. That's outrageous."

It was Hubbard who in 1999 began spreading the notion that "property taxes have doubled" in Indiana in the last 10 years. It was rhetoric fully adopted by the McIntosh campaign and used with frightful consequences in the William Statom TV ad.

## Not well explained

"The tax issue is somewhat complicated and has not been explained well," observed Pat Kiely, who heads the Indiana Manufacturer's Association and was the influential Republican chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

"Most people don't understand the implications of the (Indiana) Supreme Court case that could cause residential property to go up 30 percent. They don't understand that the McIntosh plan would mitigate the 30 percent plus 25 percent. They don't get that the money would be paid to local government and it would not be a net cut to schools and other local entities."

"Finally," Kiely observed, "property tax cuts tend to be an issue for the over-40 crowd with a male bias. Education seems to be the issue with the most enthusiasm and tends to be more female than male. I would assume if you did not understand his plan, you could think the McIntosh plan is cutting education."

## Articulation failure

The GOP also fails to articulate a compelling case for tax cuts. "Too often, Republicans get caught up in billions and trillions," said Zogby. To be more effective, they must do a better job of explaining how they'll pay for tax cuts and how the average voter will benefit.

Average voters are not clamoring for tax reductions because, for the most part, they're prospering and are not hostile toward Washington. "Anger at government is nowhere near where it was in the

early 1990s or as it had been when Reagan was elected in 1980," CNN political analyst William Schneider told HPR.

Helmke noted that, "Up here, property taxes are not a major issue because of what we've done. People wonder why state politicians don't talk about cutting the state's revenue sources like the state income or sales tax."

In order to sell tax cuts in this atmosphere, Bush should take his cue from congressional Republicans, who have been passing a series of tax cuts, ranging from reducing the marriage penalty to eliminating the estate tax. "He should stop talking about the big package and start talking about the individual items," said Stephen Moore, president of the Club for Growth, a free-market oriented political action committee. "That would put Gore on the defensive. This is a case where the sum of the parts is greater than the whole."

The other argument that may resonate is one that taps into the stock market investing craze. Bush should frame tax cuts as public versus private investment, saying that individuals have more financial savvy than government. "There are an awful lot of people who feel they can and should control their own money," said Schneider.

Bush did exactly that this week in Indiana, declaring, "I trust people; I trust people with their own money."

But regardless of how the tax cut issue plays, Goldsmith shouldn't get too much of the credit, or the blame, for Bush's stance on the issue. The Texas governor's primary economic adviser is Lawrence Lindsay, a former Federal Reserve Board member. Although Goldsmith is a domestic policy adviser for Bush, his domain is privatization and new forms of governance. "If you're talking about economics, it's Larry Lindsay," said a Washington Republican insider. Goldsmith is one of many people who are consulted on specific issues and serve as a spokesperson in those areas. ❖

# TICKER T A P E

"We haven't been to sleep, really, because we wanted this 24-hour-a-day work-athon to honor the working families of America," Gore told the Louisville crowd as the low sun cast a mellow light on the stage. "The point of it is, we are working hard for you." The Labor Day tour was designed to set up Gore's announcement Tuesday of a more detailed economic plan, and he began the substantive portion of his speech by saying that the nation is much better off than it was when he and President Clinton ousted Bush's father and Dan Quayle almost eight years ago. "You remember how bad it was eight years ago?" Gore asked. "You gave Bill Clinton and me a chance to turn that around, and we appreciate it. . . . But I am not satisfied. You ain't seen nothing yet! This election is not a reward for past performance."

**BUSH MAKES DEROGATORY REMARK:** Standing on a stage in Naperville, Ill., just prior to making an address, Republican presidential nominee George W. Bush told his vice presidential running mate, Dick Cheney, "There's Adam Clymer, major league a----- from The New York Times." Cheney replied, "Oh, yeah, big time." Asked about the comment later Monday, Bush said, "I regret that the

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# TICKER T A P E

private comments made it to the public airwaves."

**THREE SUPER BOWLS:** IUPUI analyst Mark Rosentraub unveiled a study showing that the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's annual economic impact for the three major races amounts to \$727 million, 1,600 jobs and \$34.5 million in taxes paid. Rosentraub studied the impact of the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400 and the inaugural Formula One race to be run later this month. "It is not an exaggeration that Indianapolis annually hosts three Super Bowls," said Rosentraub.

**MAYOR LLOYD HITS HOLE IN ONE:** Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr. hit a hole in one on Labor Day. The perfect shot came on the 11th hole when Lloyd used a nine iron on a 120-yard shot across a lake into the hole. "It was a wonderful shot. We couldn't believe it," Lloyd said late Monday (Susan Taylor, Evansville Courier & Press). "It cost me 80 bucks," he said. He said it is tradition for a person who hits a perfect shot to buy a round of drinks.

**VISCLOSKY WOULD ADD DRUGS TO MEDICARE:** U.S. Rep Pete Visclosky, D-1st District, is co-sponsoring a bill that would cost the elderly \$25 a month and cut their prescription costs in half by adding the prescrip-

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# PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

## Bush's visit just in time for beleaguered GOP

INDIANAPOLIS - After seven years of publishing this newsletter, a sure-fired way of truly gauging what is happening is when angry partisans call or write, cancelling their subscriptions.

In 1994, my very first year of publication with minimal credibility, it was Democrats who couldn't bear the news. In 1996 and again in 1999, it was Republicans.

I always tell these folks, "Don't slay the messenger."

This year, I'm getting some of those already - Republicans once more. Last week's "David McIntosh's Disastrous Week" edition was too much. Then independent polls by the *Indianapolis Star* and WTPA-TV in Fort Wayne (where O'Bannon has an 11-point lead in the normally Republican Northeastern Indiana) backed up the analysis.

For that reason, the visit and rally by Republican presidential nominee George W. Bush Wednesday came at the perfect time. His visit splashed the image of him and David McIntosh on TV screens across the state, and on front pages of today's newspapers. It was the perfect antidote for McIntosh, who found himself facing a 21-point deficit in Sunday's *Indianapolis Star*.

It was a good visit for Bush, too. As HPR's analysis in August showed, Bush's convention acceptance speech was nothing less than a home run, establishing his credibility as a national power and his emergence from his presidential father's shadow.

Since then, Bush has fallen out of stride. He stumbled in explaining his tax cuts in late August. The military brass took on his assertions that the armed

forces are not prepared. He cursed a *New York Times* reporter. Al Gore planted a big wet kiss on his wife, shot up in the polls, and has controlled the agenda ever since, particularly when it came to prescription drugs.

So the 5,000 or so Hoosier Republicans who jammed an airport hangar heard Bush declare, "Help is on the way." He emphasized that 300 economists - including 6 Nobel laureates - had endorsed his economic plan. He talked plainly of the estimated \$4 trillion surplus, saying he wanted to spend half of it to sustain Social Security, \$1 trillion on new programs such as prescription drugs, and the last trillion would "go back to hard working Americans. I trust people; I trust people with their own money."

Bush's final promise brought the loudest cheer: "I will also swear to uphold the honor and integrity of the office." He then kissed his wife, Laura, on the cheek.

What Hoosier Republicans saw was a confident candidate, back on message and not sniping at Bill Clinton's shadow. It came on the same day that Gore acted like a buffoon when *Good Morning America's* Charlie Gibson on ABC-TV hounded him about ducking the debates he had once said he was ready for "any time, any place, anywhere."

There was a downside to the Bush visit. He left the state with \$500,000, money that David McIntosh could have sorely used. WTHR-TV showed Bush guffawing with Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey, and Stephen Goldsmith was back. Perhaps those images of the past (Cottey is no longer the king-in-waiting) would be good for the faithful, even if they conjured up the bad ol' times and Bush and McIntosh were supposed to erase in 2000. And then there is the thought of President Clinton coming to Indianapolis on Oct. 6, a month away. ❖

# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Morton Marcus, *Syndicated*** - In 1998, Hoosier commuters carried \$106 billion home from work. Of that amount 29% (\$29.4 billion) crossed a county line. Should economic developers seek to retain dollars earned in the county by encouraging more residential development? Or should local businesses take a greater interest in the workforce development programs of neighboring counties to ensure a flow of qualified workers? Commuting is a big business. With a good economic base, a county becomes a magnet for workers who may live over a wide area. Martin County (the Crane Naval facility) exported 77% of its earnings in 1998. Marion County exported \$8.7 billion to its neighbors. That was 37% of the total earned by workers in Marion County. The people who live in Marion County also participate in the daily inter-county exchange. They brought home \$1.3 billion in 1998, a sum that equaled, however, only 8% of all the income earned by Marion County's residents. For every dollar exported from Marion County, only 16 cents came back from other counties. Other counties with major negative imbalances are Martin, Howard, Vanderburgh, and Elkhart. ❖

**John Kass, *Chicago Tribune*** - "There's Adam Clymer, major league (naughty word) from the *New York Times*." If you heard it reported as a "slur" or "epithet, you might have thought Bush said something really nasty. That's what I thought, until I read the *Chicago Sun-Times*, which had no problem putting it before readers. The *Washington Times* said Bush used a "vulgar euphemism for a rectal aperture." The AP asked Clymer to comment about Bush calling him a "brass-mole." "I'm disappointed in the governor's language, said Clymer. Which just

proves what an absolute brass-mole this guy is. Any self-respecting reporter wouldn't be upset. It's a badge of honor to be called a brass-mole by a politician. ❖

**Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*** - Congressman David McIntosh, the Republican nominee for governor, traveled along U.S. 31 to hold news conferences in Kokomo and South Bend on the need to improve the main highway from Indianapolis to the north-central part of the state. How was he traveling? In reverse, said his Democratic critics. The Indiana Democratic organization quickly issued a statement saying that McIntosh, a congressman from Muncie, "failed to represent Hoosiers when he was absent from his job on May 19, the day the House of Representatives approved the 2001 transportation appropriations bill." In other words, the Democrats were complaining that McIntosh didn't put his recorded vote where his mouth was, that he wasn't there to vote for federal highway funds, even though he talked of more such funding at his South Bend news conference. Fifth District Democratic Chairman Robert Peterson of Rochester said McIntosh's past voting record showed a desire to slash transportation funds. This is no isolated instance of a quick response to almost anything McIntosh says. If he says "good morning" shortly before noon, chances are that a Democratic spokesman will point out that it really was afternoon in Washington, where McIntosh would have been if he wasn't skipping votes in Congress for political campaigning in Indiana. McIntosh, the challenger to Gov. Frank O'Bannon, is the one you would expect to be on the attack during the campaign. But he has often found himself defending his tax guarantee, his voting record in congressional sessions past and his absenteeism in the present session. ❖

## TICKER TAPE

tion benefits to Medicare (Patricia Briske, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). He admitted the cost would be \$30 billion a year, twice the cost of the Republican bill, but said it would leave no one without prescription coverage and force drug companies to slash prices.

**VISCLOSKY IN ILLINOIS:** Rep. Pete Visclosky traveled to University Park, Ill., to remind the Federal Aviation Commission that the Gary Airport is a viable choice for a third Chicago-area airport (Robin Biesen, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). He said expanding the Gary Airport would cost much less than building a new one near Peotone, Ill., and not destroy a great expanse of green space. He was joined by a pro-Indiana group making a pitch for the Gary site.

**BAYH, MICE STILL ON ROAD:** Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh took his campaign for added parental involvement in their children's schools on the road to Fort Wayne (Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). During his visit, he read "House Mouse, Senate Mouse" to the children. Bayh said if there is one parent monitoring a child's education it's usually the mother. "When both parents are involved..., the children do better in school," he said. He has sponsored legislation in the Senate to help schools

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increase parental participation.

**CLINTON COMING TO INDIANAPOLIS:** President Bill Clinton will appear at a fundraiser in Indianapolis on behalf of U.S. Rep. Julia Carson on Oct. 7. The fundraiser will take place at the home of Emmis Communication chief Jeff Smulyan. Carson told HPR there will probably be some type of public rally. Carson appearing at the Marion County Democratic Chairman's Breakfast last Thursday looked fit after she and Mayor Bart Peterson acknowledged rumors that she had left the presidential trip to Africa recently because she was ill. "You can report that you saw me this morning and I'm still breathing," the two-term congresswoman said. Carson explained that as the rumor spread that she was ill, "Even a mortuary called my office. Why, everyone wanted my body. Now that would have been a good fundraiser." Carson, who was hospitalized with heart problems in January 1997, is facing a challenge from Republican Marvin Scott.

**I-69 GETS NEW TWIST:** Some Vincennes speakers told the Indiana DOT at a hearing last week that they want the proposed extension of I-69 from Indianapolis to Evansville to

# Indiana 2000 Racing Form

**TRENDLINES:** A couple of things surprised us about the Indianapolis Star's poll released last Sunday. The biggest was Al Gore creeping to within 9 points of George Bush in Indiana. That spread will likely change after Wednesday's visit by Bush and the major exposure he got throughout the state. But the closing of the gap in the presidential race certainly lifts the millstone from around the necks of candidates like Paul Perry, Bob Rock and in some legislative districts. Remember, last June the HPR/TeleResearch Poll found Gore's fav/unfavs in the 25/75 percent range.

Secondly, the Star Poll tended to validate the Garin-Hart-Yang polling in the governor's race that the Democrats had shopped around last summer, which means that David McIntosh has a lot of ground to make up in a very short period. The debates will be absolutely critical for McIntosh. Finally, we find it extremely unlikely that the Republicans can retake the Indiana House, with Democrats in HD60 (incumbent Peggy Welch) and HD57 (open seat with J.D. Lux) looking very strong. And this looks to be another classic ticket-splitting election.

## 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:** Debate negotiations between the O'Bannon and McIntosh campaigns have been described as "bitter." O'Bannon's "Taylor" TV ad is not only cute, but devastatingly effective. The *Indianapolis Star's* poll (600 likely voters, Aug. 24-27, +/-4 percent) showing O'Bannon

# HORSE RACE

with a 50 to 29 percent lead over David McIntosh lent credence to the notion that the Republican's gubernatorial campaign is facing difficulties of landslide proportions. A WPTA-TV poll (Fort Wayne) in the normally Republican 4th CD (1,151 adults, automated, +/- 2.9 percent) had O'Bannon leading 42 to 33 percent. The *Star* Poll also revealed that 51 percent - including 68 percent of Democrats, 60 percent of independents and 30 percent of Republicans - aren't buying into McIntosh's "guaranteed 25 percent property tax cut." The *Star* predicted in the wake of the poll that McIntosh is poised to "go negative." The William Statom ad finally went out of rotation and was nothing less than a debacle. The *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* editorialized last week, "While McIntosh chooses to brush off this controversy as if it was irrelevant, his credibility is, at best, in serious jeopardy. Voters look for defining moments in political campaigns to tell them things they need to know about candidates before going to the polls. McIntosh, whether he admits it or not, has given them such a defining moment to ponder. And his 'moment' is not a good one." What is surprising about the McIntosh campaign is that his Congressional office has always been one tight ship, an extremely credible and savvy operation. The gubernatorial campaign has been just the opposite. Bart Peterson's 1999 Indianapolis mayoral campaign was a classic example of an effort that was disciplined and stayed on message. The McIntosh campaign has been the antithesis of that. The only silver lining for the Republicans is that the flap might have prompted some people to actually see what their property taxes really are, since many are included in their monthly mortgage payment. McIntosh's crime proposals seemed to get lost in the Statom fallout. Good news for McIntosh is that he got some great exposure with GWBush's visit to Indianapolis, with TV stations from South Bend, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute and Lafayette in town for the coverage. **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

**U.S. Senate: Republican:** U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. **Democrat:** David L. Johnson. **1988 results:** Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes (D) 668,778. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Forecast:** Memo to David Johnson from Horse Race: Next debate, straighten your tie. It drove us nuts. The Star Poll also had Lugar leading Johnson, 63 to 13 percent. During last Wednesday's debate against Lugar, Johnson charged that the Republican had wanted to close the Department of Education, a stance Lugar denied. The Johnson campaign released an Oct. 15, 1996, Associated Press story that appeared in *USA Today* to counter that claim. The story read, "Lugar, a faithful Republican, shares many beliefs with his brethren. He's against abortion, wary of affirmative action quotas and for a balanced budget amendment. He wants to pare government, reduce farm subsidies and close the Education Department." Johnson has begun the year's first rotation of attack ads, centering on the prescription drug votes that Lugar tried to head off in the debate. The problem with Johnson's strategy is that he didn't start with the typical "biography" ads. People don't know him. The real question here might be whether Lugar wins the Nobel Peace Prize. While Kosovo peacemakers might have been a logical favorite, the sinking of the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and the extreme Scandinavian sensitivity to that issue might give the authors of the Lugar-Nunn Act a timely boost. **Status:** *Safe Lugar.*

**Congressional District 2: Republican:** Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Robert Rock Jr. **Independent:** Bill Frazier. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 Results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:** Democratic legislative candidate J.D. Lux observed that 15 percent of Shelby County voted for Ross Perot in '92 and '96. "These same folks may pull for Frazier." He observed, "Frazier is working hard. I think this helps Rock." Pence insists that his polling shows that Rock is losing Democrats to Frazier as he is Republicans. GWBush told Pence at Wednesday's rally, "Mike Pence? You sure had a lot of signs out there." Dan Quayle, Speaker Dennis Hastert and Tom DeLay are scheduled to come campaign in October. The Indiana Farm Bureau will endorse Pence. Sen. Bayh campaigned for Rock in Anderson, telling the crowd, "The Bayh and Rock families have a long history together" and that Rock is a "distinguished candidate." Rock spoke at the MIA/POW Ceremony in Anderson and received the endorsement from Bud Biddle, the only living Indiana Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. **Status:** *LIKELY PENCE.*

**Congressional District 3: Republican:** Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Results:** Roemer 84,625, Holtz 61,041. **2000 Forecast:** Chocola told HPR that he has raised about \$530,000. "Our biggest challenge has been convincing people Roemer can be beat. I think we are turning the corner." Chocola said he is "controlling the dialogue" while past challengers couldn't engage Roemer. The Indiana Farm Bureau is set to endorse Roemer, after it gave the nod to Dan Holtz in 1998. The first debate has been scheduled for Oct. 12 in Elkhart. **Status:** *Leans Roemer.*

**Congressional District 5: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** Greg Goodnight. **Libertarian:** Scott Benson. **Geography:** Kokomo, Marion, Peru, Monticello, Lowell, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Buyer 108,575, Beatty 43,619, Alfred (L) 3,328. **1996 Results:** Buyer 133,604, Clark (D) 67,125, Lehman (L) 5,255. **1998 Results:** Buyer (R) 101,567, Steele 58,504 (D), Waters (L) 2,317. **2000 Forecast:** Buyer ponders releasing a poll. He told HPR that he will carry Kokomo and Howard County. **Status:** *Likely Buyer.*

**Congressional District 8: Republican:** U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Dr. Paul Perry. **Geography:** Evansville, Blooming-ton, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D)

# TICKER

## T A P E

take a new twist (Tim Starks, Evansville Courier & Press). They want it to follow U.S. 41 north of Evansville to Vincennes, then follow Indiana 67 to Indianapolis. Most of the speakers at the meeting favored the U.S. 41-/I-70 route through Terre Haute. More than 100 persons attended the Vincennes meeting.

**UNCLOGGING THE ARTERY:** The clogged artery of U.S. 31 between South Bend and Indianapolis is getting the attention of the Indiana DOT (Trevor Wendzonka, Elkhart Truth). Environmental studies are under way in Hamilton County and due to be completed in 2002. A request is due out soon for a similar study in St. Joseph County. The proposed new U.S. 31 route is expected to cost \$1 billion. Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan last week told Elkhart Truth editors the portion of the highway between the U.S. 20 bypass south of South Bend and U.S. 6 "will be dealt with shortly." He said the intention is to start construction in St. Joe County and on the east side of Kokomo as soon as possible.

**GARY REDEVELOPMENT SUIT DERAILED:** Lake Superior Judge William Davis last week ruled that a suit challenging Mayor Scott King's plan to spend \$47 million on redevelopment projects doesn't have

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# TICKER

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enough legal issues to warrant further consideration and ordered it dismissed in 10 days unless a \$2.5 million security bond is posted (Bob Tita, Gary Post-Tribune). The two city councilmen who filed the suit in July could keep the case alive by posting the bond to cover costs that would escalate during litigation. The city will use casino boat revenue to pay for construction of a minor league baseball stadium, renovation of the Genesis Center, remodeling the old Mercy Hospital building into a public safety center, and further work on Buffington Harbor for casino use, recreation and housing.

**POWELL AT IU:** Retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell, former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, will speak Nov. 3 at Indiana University. He will speak on "Challenges of a Changing World" at 4 p.m. at the IU Auditorium. Tickets are free and will be available first to students, faculty and staff.



81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Forecast:** Gore's improving Indiana horse race numbers in the Star Poll (47-38) and O'Bannon's strength have to be ominous for Hostettler. The CW was that Gore was in a position to drag Perry down. But now Gore is pounding away at Perry's top issue - prescription drugs - and that is resonating with people most likely to vote. One day after a local television station yanked campaign ads targeting 8th District Rep. John Hostettler, the ads were reinstated with a minor revision (Jessica Wehrman, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Attorneys for WFIE Ch. 14 announced last week that they would pull ads paid for by the national AFL-CIO because they were concerned the ad was inaccurate. However, after receiving a letter of protest and a one-word revision from the AFL-CIO the next day, they reinstated the ads. At issue is an ad on the Patients' Bill of Rights and whether HMOs can be sued for withholding medical care. The ad's script was altered from "Today, there's no law to hold HMOs accountable for withholding needed care" to "Today, there is no federal law to hold HMOs accountable for withholding needed care," according to Deborah Dion, a spokeswoman for the AFL-CIO. The rest of the 30-second spot was not changed. Dion said the law that the alteration referred to is an Indiana law that does hold HMOs accountable. Similar ads running in other districts across the nation will not be changed, she said. But Hostettler spokesman Michael Jahr said the ad is still inaccurate. He said under a 1974 law, patients can sue HMOs for withholding needed care. They cannot sue HMOs for malpractice, he said. **Status:** *Tossup.*

## INDIANA HOUSE races

**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, Gasparovic (R) 6,917. **2000 Forecast:** McIntosh telling the *Times of Northwest Indiana* that his 25 percent property tax cut won't apply to everyone in Lake County could help Kuzman. Republicans insist that Kuzman is fretting. **Status:** *Leans D.*

**House District 30: Republican:** Karen Buyer 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:** Talk that Burkhardt was not using her maiden name to disassociate herself from her congressman brother is pure BS. Democrats say the presidential year will help Herrell and Gore's growing strength will help him. We see this race going right down to the wire. **Status:** *Tossup.*

**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 has knocked on 2,000 doors this summer. Key question is whether the Indiana Chamber will get behind Wonderly with bucks. **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 taken of leave of absence from the attorney general's office to campaign full time. A debate is scheduled for Oct. 19. **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:** Indiana Farm Bureau and Right to Life staying neutral in this race. Bischoff is aggressively hitting doors. **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, Feeny (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:** Buell is aware that this district's shifting demographics, a decent candidate in Sims, the old influences of Julia Carson and the new influences Bart Peterson controlling the mayor's office. **Status:** *Tossup.* ❖