

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Borst is like Don Quixote. He’s charged out of there with his lance on his horse, and he’s going for broke. He’s scaring people to death...” - State Sen. Luke Kenley, on Sen. Larry Borst’s ‘Forward Indiana’ tax plan

Indiana will have 6 CDs in play in 2002

Three live-wire primaries set for May

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

State Rep. Ed Mahern was unapologetic when he cobbled together the nine new Indiana Congressional Districts.

At last November’s HPR Forum, Mahern said, “There are more Congressional districts competitive right now than in any state in the country. I believe there are five Congressional districts out of the nine that can be competitive, especially if they are open seats, and that’s the 2nd, the 6th, the 7th, the 8th and the 9th. All of those can be competitive. We’ll have contests for the next 10 years and I think that’s healthy.”

At the brink of Indiana’s filing deadline Friday, Indiana stands to be at the epicenter of not only determining which party might control the U.S. House with three and possibly four competitive seats next fall, but with former Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke’s challenge to U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, there will be three fully engaged Congressional primaries heading into May.

In addition to the fascinating Helmke-Souder showdown, there is the simmering donnybrook between U.S. Reps. Steve Buyer and Brian Kerns in the new 4th CD, and Jill Long Thompson’s comeback in a crowded 2nd CD Democratic primary. These three races, played out largely in Northern Indiana between now and May 7, offer enough great story lines, subplots and confrontations to induce *Roll Call* to open up a satellite office in Kokomo.

Here’s HPR’s comprehensive analysis of the primary and general election showdowns:

Helmke vs. Souder, 3rd CD: A day after Helmke

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BAUER TALKING ABOUT INTERIM CAUCUS LEADER: House Ways and Means Chairman Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, said "many members of the caucus" are talking about choosing an interim caucus leader (Shannon Lohrmann, Lafayette Journal and Courier). Bauer is running for speaker, but said he would first talk to Gregg about how an interim speaker's position "could work and may work. I want to do something where everybody has a consensus," Bauer said. Nearly 10 of the fewer than 50 Democrats running for re-election are expected to seek the speaker's position. The caucus typically selects its leader a few days after the election, but jockeying for the position started before Gregg was done with his announcement last week. If they start campaigning for the top spot soon, Gregg worries they will lose focus of approving a tax and budget bill during the session to lower homeowners' property taxes and balance the state budget. "If they start fighting now, someone will win and a lot will lose," Gregg said. "Some may take their marbles and go home. I want to make sure the speaker is a Democrat," he added. Speaker Pro Tempore Chet Dobis, D-Merrillville, said last week that he would honor to be chosen as

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announced his challenge to Souder by injecting the IPFW "Corpus Christi" theatre controversy and the congressman's term limits hedge, Souder flung in his first brush-by pitches while expressing dismay in Helmke's decision.

"I'm disappointed. Down deep, I didn't think he would run," Souder said. "He saw the gubernatorial option disappear. He's saying this (running for Congress) is my strong hand, even if it's not a good one. He hasn't given a legislative reason why I shouldn't be a congressman. It's more an opportunistic career move for him rather than being driven by any legislative agenda. He wasn't happy in the private sector."

Money Chase

When Helmke entered the Republican primary in the new 3rd CD on Tuesday, it changed the incumbent's professional life. Mark Souder now has a new priority -- raising money. Since winning the 4th CD seat in the 1994 election, Souder has only sought the amount of cash he'll need to win a race. For this cycle, he has raised \$73,601 and has \$42,222 on hand.

"It wasn't obvious that I needed a lot, so I didn't raise a lot," said Souder. "But I'm going to be dialing for dollars, as they say. My primary job, other than my legislative job, is to raise money." Souder estimates that the primary will require \$250,000.

Helmke also needs to garner a warchest. But he may not find many sources of funds in Washington. Political action committees in the capital are loathe to oppose an incumbent. Both the National Republican Congressional Campaign, the GOP campaign arm in the House, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will back Souder. "We'll fully support the incumbent," said Carl Forti, spokesman for the NRCC. "Mark Souder would have the resources and expertise of the NRCC at his disposal, should he call on us for assistance."

Despite Souder's frequent opposition to trade measures -- although he did vote in favor of fast track in December -- the Chamber has endorsed him. "Souder's been a friend of business since he's been in Congress," said Bill Miller, vice president for public affairs and political director at the Chamber. "I'm certain we'd support his candidacy for re-election."

In addition, Helmke has low name identification in Washington. Even if PAC directors know him, they may not know where he stands on their issues. "Paul's repertoire has been on a much more local basis," said a Washington representative of a company with a presence in the new 3rd CD. "He has not addressed federal issues to this point. I have no idea where we might fall in that primary."

Mark Helmke, Paul's brother and a Washington political veteran, said that Paul would spend little time trying to raise money in the capital. "This is a northeast Indiana race. He needs to be there, not here."

Conservative Credentials

Although Souder and Helmke are likely to agree on many issues, Souder said he would emphasize his conservative credentials. "When he differs from me, it will be from the left," said Souder. He cited taxes. "He repeatedly raised taxes as mayor. He annexed, which raised taxes, and he supported Clinton's tax increase publicly," said Souder, referring to a 1993 bill.

Helmke and Souder are both pro-life, but Souder said that that issue doesn't often come up in a stark pro-life versus pro-choice vote. Instead, it is embedded in legislation involving cloning, stem cell research and reproductive policy in foreign medical facilities receiving U.S. or UN funding. "He's on the left-flank of the party and I'm on the conservative side of pro-life issues."

Another area where Souder draws a distinction is gun control, preparing to use a wedge issue that helped propel the GOP House takeover in 1994 and his own victory over Jill Long. He pointed to a Helmke interview with Handgun Control Inc. as evidence that Helmke is out of step with the district. "We have a fairly sharp difference of opinion on the Second Amendment," said Souder. "He represents the liberal faction, I represent the conserv-

ative faction."

Helmke said that a placement firm representing Handgun Control contacted him near the end of his mayoral term in 1999 to see if he would be interested in heading up the organization. Helmke met with them, but no job was offered. "They may not have felt I was as strong on some of their issues as they would have liked," Helmke wrote in an e-mail to *HPR*. Helmke favored the Brady Bill and the assault weapon ban. "During the 1998 campaign, I consistently made the point that I support the 2nd Amendment," Helmke wrote. "I indicated that I also supported trying to keep guns out of the hands of the 'bad guys' and allow the 'good guys' to have guns."

Helmke added, "I was also interviewed by the Bush White House (Card and Rove) a year later and was one of two final people under consideration for the head of the WH InterGovernmental operation."

Souder's conservatism may serve him well in the new counties in the district -- Kosciusko and Elkhart. He said he has visited Elkhart 19 times and Kosciusko 18 times since redistricting occurred earlier this year. He is slated to speak at the Elkhart County Lincoln Day dinner on March 9. In addition, he has had four radio ads in rotation on 10 stations in the district for the past month. Mostly bio spots, one highlights his wife's Elkhart County heritage. Helmke argues that he won Kosciusko County by a wide margin in his 1998 Senate primary bid against two opponents -- John Price and Peter Rusthoven -- who ran to his right.

"If anything, that district has become more conservative," said David Gogol, head of Sagamore Associates in Washington. "Paul is a quality guy, but it's a tough race for him to be in."

Hill Reaction

Internecine warfare in northeast
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speaker. But, for him, the question of an interim speaker is not on the table. "It is not worth the discussion," he said, adding he would not talk about the option with members of his caucus.

O'BANNON OUTLINES PAINFUL CUTS: Governor Frank O'Bannon today announced details of the latest round of state spending cuts that will reach \$782 million and help to balance the state's budget. This round of cuts - \$109 million worth - will change the way Indiana delivers some services and may even cause some to deteriorate, the governor said. But the recession has taken such a toll on Indiana that, to balance the budget, several drastic steps - including these cuts - are needed, he said. "I don't want to make these cuts. I take no joy in reducing the services we've worked so hard to provide to Hoosiers," O'Bannon said. "But I was elected to lead this state in good times and in bad, and I must opt for fiscal integrity over quick, politically popular fixes."

BORST ANNOUNCES 'FORWARD INDIANA' TAX RESTRUCTURING: "Forward Indiana" - the plan devised by Sen. Lawrence Borst, R-Greenwood - would raise sales, income, ciga-

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rette and gaming taxes, as well as establish both a business payroll tax and a franchise tax (Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "This is about as revenue-neutral as you can get," Borst said. "If a homeowner puts a buck in, they get a buck in property tax relief. If a business puts a buck in, they get a buck in relief." Borst's proposal was missing one crucial element, however, because it doesn't address the budget shortfall the state is experiencing. "There is no money to bail out the budget," said Borst, who believes Gov. Frank O'Bannon can make the current budget work through spending cuts and borrowing from various state dedicated funds. There is some language addressing Medicaid reductions, fee increases and allowing schools to transfer money from other funds to cover what is expected to be a one-time tuition support cut. Borst said he has enough votes for approval Thursday from the Senate Finance Committee, of which he is chairman, but full passage remains in doubt. Part of the reason for the concern is a divide between Borst and Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton, R-Columbus, who has repeatedly said he wants to wait before acting on reassessment. Tuesday, Garton reiterated that "it's better to deal with facts rather than projections" (Mary Beth

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Helmke talks about his decision

FORT WAYNE - Former Mayor Paul Helmke created the third competitive Indiana Congressional primary when he announced he is challenging U.S. Rep. Mark Souder in the new 3rd CD. HPR conducted this interview with Helmke shortly after he made his announcement.

HPR: Tell me about your thought process going into this.

Helmke: I had people starting to talk to me about it last year after the new districts came out. Mark Souder started saying the new district meant he didn't have to follow his term limit pledge. While I hadn't paid too much attention to that statement, I began getting calls from elected Republicans saying that didn't make sense to them. That's the sort of thing that turns people off when a politician breaks his promise. It got me thinking about the possibility. I was really looking more at the possibility of running for governor, but I continually had people raise the Congressional seat race. Every time Mark got attention or in controversy with whatever issue, there would be more people calling. Then there was the "Corpus Christi" issue and it wasn't the issue that John Price and some of the state senators were involved with. After the play was done and the court case was over, Souder kept bringing it up. I'm hearing these issues and different concerns and did some polling in December.

HPR: Who did that poll?

Helmke: Massie & Associates.

People were giving me advice on different things: Run for secretary of state, run for governor, run for Congress, run for mayor again. I thought before I made any decision I wanted to see what my name ID was like and what the favorables were like and what the matchups were like. We did the poll in the eight counties that constitute the new Congressional district. That reason was two-fold. If I wanted to run statewide, I had to have solid support in this area. This is the area that got me the

U.S. Senate nod, or the bulk of it. It's been my strongest area of support. I wanted to see the breakdowns of how I was doing in Fort Wayne, the Allen County area, and the new areas of the district. I threw in Mark Souder's name in the horse race question for two reasons. When the poll shows that 82 percent of the people don't know who Murray Clark is, it's sort of a wasted question. It can give you some ideas of how strong a McIntosh will be. I got the poll back and I was very pleased with the results. Strong favorables; low unfavorables; very positive matchups in the governor's race against either Kernan or McIntosh, but also good numbers against Souder.

HPR

INTERVIEW

Basically too close to call. I started talking to my advisers after that, asking if I could use this as a basis for running for governor. Were the money people going to be there? Were the political people going to be there? A lot of the sense was that people were going to wait and see what Mitch Daniels was going to do. Is there some other savior for the party. That puts a big question mark on the governor's race."

HPR: What do you think Mitch Daniels is going to do?

Helmke: I think it's too early to say. It's going to depend on how he's doing, how the president's doing. If the president wants him to stay, he stays.

HPR: That's a huge question mark for the gubernatorial race.

Helmke: Right. That puts a big question mark on the governor's race. I started talking more seriously about the Congressional race. I went through the analysis. If you look at this as a new district, then certainly if it were an open seat in the new district I would certainly be looking at it. I've got something to offer. There are important issues here, post Sept.

11 issues with the economy. I felt what I had done in Fort Wayne and what I had talked about in the Senate race would be relevant here.

HPR: Rep. Souder is obviously going to rely on his base of social conservatives. How do you deal with his attempts to portray you as a moderate-to-liberal Clintonian mayor?

Helmke: I've always considered myself to be a traditional Republican conservative. As mayor, my focus was how to keep property taxes low. How do we increase public safety? How do we return government as much as we can to the local level? It's all about how do we make local government stronger? I'm pro life. I'm a firm believer in lower taxes, fiscal integrity. Those are Republican issues. I think my approach is looked at as not as strident as some on the right. I don't always follow the party line. I try to think about things independently. I try to be realistic and figure out what's going to work. I'm all for saying we want less money going to political pork, but if it's going to be going someplace, it might as well come back here. Those are some of the things that make some people say I'm not a Republican; not a conservative. The spat with Rex Early during Clinton's term, what I was fighting for was very close to some of the issues that are coming out today: An economic stimulus for our cities when we were facing a recession. If you take that line, George W. Bush is more liberal than some of the people talking; Richard Lugar is a liberal. I feel good being in that company.

HPR: How will you deal with the Big City vs. the Small Town element that might surface in this race?

Helmke: Actually, Mark Souder lives in one of the wealthiest townships in Indiana. He's worked in Washington since 1984. What we've got here is the Fort Wayne hometown boy versus a guy who's lived in DC for 17 years. He's no more a country boy than I am. ground going to be?

Helmke: I looked at the county-by-county numbers of Souder's primary race against (Mike) Loomis in 2000 and county-by-county numbers from my race against Price and (Peter) Rusthoven in 1998. It's interesting to see how close the numbers are. When you look at the six counties, we're very close in terms of raw numbers out of the counties and close in terms of percent. He had 61 percent out of the core four counties and I had 56. But I had 23,500 votes and he had maybe 22,000 votes, and mine was a three-way race. It's going to be close. I also looked at Kosciusko and Elkhart counties. Kosciusko was one of my strongest counties where I got 7,000 votes in the primary which was two-thirds of the voters. In Elkhart County, Price won.

HPR: Are you going to try and attract Democrats?

Helmke: Most Republicans don't even vote in the primary. Most Democrats don't vote in the primary. The issue here is to get people to vote in the primary who haven't always voted before. I think that's going after people who want to vote Republican in the fall, but don't show up in the springtime.

HPR: How many votes do you need out of Fort Wayne?

Helmke: My guess is we'll have about 60,000 votes cast in the Republican primary and we'll need to get 30,000 plus to win the thing. I can assume I'll get one third of the votes coming out of Fort Wayne and the suburbs. You've got one third of the vote coming out of the two new counties. So it's going to be an interesting mix.

HPR: Will Elkhart County be the battleground?

Helmke: In the polling the numbers weren't that dissimilar between Allen County and the two new counties. The ID level for both of us fell in the two new counties, but Steuben County was one of my strongest counties in the Senate race. I polled 66 percent there in that race. ❖

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Schneider, Indianapolis Star). And the facts about how court-ordered changes to property taxes will affect homeowners won't be known until assessors complete their work and bills are mailed out next spring, he said. Borst, who was not joined by other Senate Republicans, began his press conference by saying: "This program is my program. In no way do I speak for the Republican caucus" (Mike Smith, Associated Press).

BAUER SAYS TAX RESTRUCTURING 'ENTRENCHED IN PARTISAN POLITICS': Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, Borst's fiscal counterpart in the House, said he appreciates Borst's work on tax restructuring but hopes there is still room for some agreement on the budget (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "The issue has become entrenched in partisan politics," he said. Bauer seemed concerned that both the income tax increase and the payroll tax could prove fatal to the bill for Republicans. "If (Borst) can sell that, he's pretty good," Bauer said. "We are still absolutely adamant we need to address the budget problems," Gov. Frank O'Bannon spokeswoman Mary Dieter said (Shannon Lohrmann, Lafayette Journal and Courier).

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BURTON SURVEYS HIS NEW DISTRICT; RUSHES BACK TO ILL WIFE: Rep. Dan Burton, R-6th, said Monday night that the newly drawn 5th congressional district is very similar to the 6th District he currently represents, as both are heavily agricultural. Burton made an early visit to what could be his new congressional district if he is re-elected to an 11th term in the House (Rebecca Green, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). He spoke Monday night to the Republican County Committee at Huntington County's Lincoln Day Dinner. Burton left the dinner quickly to return home to Indianapolis to be with his wife, who is ill.

COMPETITION GATHERS FOR BODIKER SEAT: The open Indiana House District 56 seat has attracted several Democrats (Rick Yencer, Muncie Star Press). David L. Brock, a former police officer, and Milton farmer Phillip Pflum recently filed for the Democratic nomination to the House seat that includes Henry and Wayne counties. New Castle teacher Donald Hamilton, a recent law school graduate, filed last month in the Democratic primary along with Cam-bridge City businessman Richard Hamm, who filed for the Republican nomination. Rep. Richard Bodiker, D-Richmond, who decided not to seek re-election

Indiana 2002 Racing Form

TRENDLINE: It's almost impossible to imagine what the political atmosphere is going to be like going into next fall's elections. However, keep in mind one significant date: Sept. 11, 2002. That's when Americans will be inundated with first anniversary stories about the terror attacks.

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Randall Tobias, Eric Miller. **Democrat:** Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** Helmke didn't get in the 3rd CD this race because of a couple of newspaper editorials and columns. The reason for the Helmke challenge lies with OMB Director Mitch Daniels. While Daniels told HPR last week that "It's not good manners to propose to a girl who's spoken for" (which was picked up in Sunday's edition of the *New York Times*), Daniels is really leaving the door open for a potential gubernatorial run in 2004. It's also sucking the oxygen out of the governor's race for other GOP

hopefuls, be they Helmke, Murray Clark, Luke Kenley or David McIntosh. Helmke said he took a long, hard look at running for governor. But with the specter of Daniels coming home in 2003 and running, that opportunity just didn't seem stable. "I have very positive matchups in the governor's race with either Kernan or McIntosh, but also good numbers against Souder," Helmke said of a December poll conducted by Massie & Associates. "I started talking to my advisers after that asking if I could use this as a basis for running for governor. Were the money people going to be there? Were the political people going to be there? A lot of the sense was that people were going to wait and see what Mitch Daniels was going to do. That puts a big question mark on the governor's race." **McIntosh** appears to be prepared to engage in a battle for the soul of the GOP, urging the Senate to reject any tax increase while Sen. Borst is pushing his Forward Indiana plan with some tax hikes, while rejecting "McIntosh plans." This could have implications for restructuring and 2004 if enough senators reject the Borst plan. **Kenley** has released a video tape to Republican party officials touting his candidacy. Kenley said he will vote for the Borst plan in committee but doesn't know how it would fare on the floor (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Kenley said Borst's plan was so comprehensive and "forward-thinking" it would take time for the public to digest it and convince themselves that the tax increases will be used entirely to cut other taxes. "So members of the Senate are going to be put on the spot of having to get out ahead of their constituency if they are going to be interested in doing this," Kenley said. On Tuesday, Kenley said of Borst's unveiling of his "Forward Indiana" tax plan, that the Senate Finance Chairman "is like Don Quixote. He's charged out of there with his lance on his horse, and he's going for broke. He's scaring people to death." **Status:** *Leans D.*

Secretary of State 2002: Republican: Kent Benson, Mike Delph, Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Richard Mourdock, Dr. John McGoff. **Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **Libertarian:** Paul Hager. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Results:** Gilroy 828,557, Little (D) 652,565, Dillon (L) 51,775. **2002 Forecast:** One Indiana newspaper wrongly reported that Benson declared bankruptcy twice and was linked to a third bankruptcy — that of his former wife, wrote Doug Wilson of the *Bloomington Herald-Times*. This report was incorrect. Benson declared personal bankruptcy once, in 1999, and was a shareholder in a corporation, Benson Egan Chevrolet Cadillac Inc. that declared bankruptcy in 1991. Benson says the personal bankruptcy of his ex-wife, Monica Benson, has no relevancy to him, except that his social security number is listed on it because he and his ex-wife used to own a business together. In addition, Benson says both the 1991 and 1999 bankruptcies were caused by a former business partner, Stephan Egan, who took advantage of him while Benson was focusing his attention on a gravely ill daughter who has since recovered. Benson said as soon as he found out about his partner's business practices, he reported him to the proper authorities. Benson depleted his personal assets

HORSE RACE

paying off the debts his former partner had accumulated, he said, resulting in the personal bankruptcy recorded in 1999. Rather than being embarrassed by his bankruptcy, Benson said the integrity and responsibility with which he handled the situation is a highlight of his business career. "This has not been a factor whatsoever," Benson said of reaction to his bankruptcy since he began campaigning in December. Even Benson's critics say they don't expect his financial problems to be a major issue. Political analyst Ed Feigenbaum said he thinks Benson's biggest liability, so far, is the failure to state clearly his planned goals or initiatives for holding the office of secretary of state. Feigenbaum said other candidates have offered more specific proposals. He pointed to the failed candidacy of NASCAR legend Richard Petty in the 1996 North Carolina secretary of state race as evidence that being a highly revered athlete won't necessarily be enough to make Benson's candidacy successful. The *Herald-Times* quoted *HPR*'s Brian Howey, citing a list of former athletes who launched successful political careers, including Lee Hamilton, Baron Hill and Frank O'Bannon in Indiana; and Jim Bunning, Steve Largent, Jack Kemp and J.C. Watts in other states. "You have to spend a lot of money to get famous, so Benson has a leg up over the field of lesser known and largely younger candidates," Howey said. **Status:** Toss-up.

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:**

Melina Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,070. **2002 Forecast:** Fox is in Washington this week, saying, "I will continue to work on passage of the Senate version of the Farm Bill which includes farm payment limits that have direct benefits to those producers who need it the most and country-of-origin labeling on imported food....vital to bio security. For the past several years, I have contributed to the policy/issues of the new Farm Bill (Senate version)." **Status:** *Leans Pence.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Julia Carson. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** Carson officially declares for re-election. **Status:** *Leans Carson.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:**

Bryan Hartke. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **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) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Results:** Hostettler 116,860, Perry (D) 100,461. **2002 Forecast:** It appears McCloskey is turning down strong recruitment efforts by the DCCC and Democratic leaders, reliable sources tell *HPR*. McCloskey received personal calls from House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt, DCCC Chair Nita Lowey, and Democratic Whip Nancy Pelosi urging him to run. The DCCC was encouraged by a poll it commissioned showing Hostettler very vulnerable to a challenge from McCloskey. The survey of 400 8th District voters was conducted on February 3-4 by Garin-Hart-Yang Research. According to the poll, 38% of 8th District voters consider themselves to be Democrats, 34% consider themselves to be Republicans, and 23% consider themselves independents. The survey found that Hostettler's re-elect number was only 40% (anything over 50% is considered good; anything 40% or less is considered very vulnerable) with 38% willing to consider someone else and 22% saying they would definitely vote against Hostettler irrespective of the opponent. Hostettler's name identification in the new 8th is 87% while McCloskey's is 72%. McCloskey's name recognition is lower than Hostettler's in the newer part of the new 8th District. The initial head-to-head was Hostettler 48% and McCloskey 35%. However, McCloskey seems very happy with his current lifestyle in Bloomington. A run would probably have required him to move -- 39% of voters said the fact that McCloskey no longer lived in the district was a "very convincing" reason to vote against him, even though he represented the district for 12 years. **Status:** *Likely Hostettler.* ❖

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tion, has held the seat since 1987.

REP. COOK TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF PLYMOUTH: State Rep. Gary Cook made it official Monday by formally announcing he wants to be Plymouth's next mayor. But the Democrat who's served 12 years in the Indiana General Assembly won't find much support from local Democrat leaders, who may already have a new District 17 candidate in Culver Town Board President Ralph Winters (Anita Munson, South Bend Tribune). And the current Plymouth mayor, Jim Yeazel, threw the would-be successor out of the mayor's office Friday when Cook stopped by to tell Yeazel of his decision to run. Cook said, "I cannot in good conscience file for re-election for state representative knowing that I am going to run for mayor next year." Rumors of Cook's possible mayoral bid for the last couple of weeks left Marshall County and Plymouth Democratic party leaders up in arms even before the announcement was official. Michelle Livinghouse, county Democratic chairwoman, and Mike Vollrath, city Democratic chairman, issued a joint written statement before Cook made his official announcement that said they "are fully supporting Plymouth Mayor Jim Yeazel." Kevin Foley, a Culver

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Republican, has announced for Cook's seat. Foley said the legislature "should have listened to the Indiana Chamber of Commerce 10 years ago when they called for tax restructuring, but they didn't listen. It's time to get some vision and leadership."

PENCE DUSTS IT UP WITH McCAIN OVER CAMPAIGN FINANCE: An irate U.S. Rep. Mike Pence stood up at Wednesday's Republican Conference meeting and accused Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) of being "in bed" with Democratic attempts to defeat Republican incumbents over campaign reform" (ROII Call). "This guy is so deep in bed with the Democrats on this issue that his feet are coming out of the bottom of the sheets," charged Pence, as his colleagues hooted in response. Pence was angry because he believes that McCain adviser John Weaver is working with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to defeat GOP incumbents. He cites as evidence the fact that the DCCC sent out a press release Monday alleging that Pence was breaking a promise he made to McCain to support the House version of the McCain-Feingold reform bill. When a reporter from the Anderson Herald Bulletin called Weaver for comment, the McCain adviser said that Pence "either directly or indirectly voiced support for real campaign finance

PERHAPS... W E W A N D E R

By Brian Howey

Get ready for the Senate to force Kernan to break tie

INDIANAPOLIS - Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton is becoming the pathetic figure in the Indiana General Assembly.

This is a man motivated by fear and his own political survival instead of what's good for the State of Indiana. On top of that, this is a political figure who doesn't appear to be getting along with anyone of significant consequence. While senior House leadership in recent years (John Gregg, Paul Mannweiler, John Keeler, Mark Krizan) have decided that it's time to turn the reins of leadership over to the next generation, Garton views himself as the indispensable man. Enough of his timid minions in the Indiana Senate appear to be prepared to help perpetuate the façade.

During the week when Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, R-Greenwood, came up with a bold tax restructuring plan named "Forward Indiana," Garton was essentially telling the state, "Hey, what about me?"

In doing so, Borst raised the rhetorical question: "How do we, as legislators, combat our constituents, who say 'for God's sake, don't raise any taxes'?" Garton, was telling reporters that he ran into a former Democratic opponent in Columbus who told him, "Remember, no new taxes." He suggested that tax restructuring be postponed until after next November's elections.

Going into this potentially historic session, key legislative leaders such as Speaker Gregg and Chairman Borst were suggesting that tax restructuring be put off until after the elections. They've all come around, with Borst pronouncing that, indeed, the time is now. When he unveiled his plan, the Greenwood Republican suggested, "Indiana could be on the verge of economic greatness. There are certain

things that can be done in restructuring of tax laws to make Indiana a very attractive place to do business in. We're fairly close to coming to a pretty good conclusion."

It's a logical stance echoed by Purdue University President Martin Jischke, who said, "I can't imagine a more important discussion for the state and our state government."

Eli Lilly CEO Sidney Taurel observed, "This is a very critical debate. Indiana has an industrial age tax code."

With such key people expressing urgency, a deeper look into Garton's ballot box fears make his reluctance to get the job done somewhat mysterious.

Republicans hold an overwhelming 31-19 edge in the Indiana Senate. In fact, most of the analysis centers on whether Senate Republicans will pick up enough seats in order to form a quorum without the Democrats. There's no way the GOP is going to lose the Senate this November.

There isn't even an obvious endangered Republican senator seeking re-election, and that includes Garton himself. So this is what makes Sen. Garton such a pathetic figure. He is setting the tone for his caucus, where even the Borst plan may be rejected on the Senate floor, which essentially will simply stall out restructuring until Gov. Frank O'Bannon calls for a special session. Not one Senate Republican showed his soul when Borst unveiled his plan on Tuesday.

The only thing that Garton might be working on to explain his timidity is the "Ristine Scenario," which is to create a 25-25 tie in the Senate, forcing Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan to cast the tie-breaking vote, designed to bloody him up for 2004. Lt. Gov. Richard O. Ristine was forced into that scenario in 1963 and lost the governorship in 1964, partly because of the LBJ landslide. Lt. Gov. Bob Orr did the same thing in 1973 and went on to become a two-term governor. ❖

Helmke, *from page 3*

Indiana is not necessarily worrying campaign officials in Washington. "Whoever comes out of the primary will be the next congressman from that district," said the NRCC's Forti.

Some Helmke supporters suggested he will pick up Democratic and independent support against Souder. But Allen County Chairman Steve Shine recalled the 1999 Fort Wayne mayoral primary when crossovers were also said to be in play. "The number of crossovers was minuscule," Shine said.

HPR Status: We see this as a "Leans Souder." It is going to be tough to unseat an incumbent, particularly one as politically astute as Souder who will be able to energize his voting bloc. But that could change if Helmke is aggressive and uses family resources to get on the air quickly, or Souder overplays his hand.

Buyer vs. Kerns, 4th CD

We sense that Buyer is in relatively firm control here. He has a significant money edge, and Kerns has not established a credible campaign. Plus, he's repeatedly getting ridiculed, as in a recent Lafayette Journal and Courier editorial cartoon poking fun at Kerns over franked mail. State Sen. Mike Young has shown no traction on the fundraising front. The most interesting development here is that two largely unknowns have filed, crowding the field. We think that further helps Buyer. **HPR Status:** *Likely Buyer.*

Jill Long Thompson, 2nd CD

Souder defeated Jill Long Thompson in 1994. She is making her comeback in the new 2nd CD where she holds a significant fundraising lead and boasts powerful endorsement from the district's big city mayors, members and former members of Congress, former DNC Chairman Joe Andrew, and former Sen. Birch Bayh. State Sen. Bill Alexa is expected to be her biggest primary chal-

lenger, but he's been hampered by his duties in the Senate. That would get worse for him if tax restructuring isn't accomplished and there's a special session. **HPR Forecast:** *Leans Thompson.*

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In the general election, we see the three competitive races taking shape:
Thompson v. Chocola, 2nd CD

We expect a JLT-Chris Chocola race to begin as a "tossup." It's an open seat and both sides will be well funded. Buyer has also said he'll throw his remaining resources behind Chocola. The national environment could determine the winner. **HPR Status:** *Tossup.*

Hill vs. Sodrel, 9th CD

We expect Republican Mike Sodrel to prevail over Jeff Ellington in the primary and give U.S. Rep. Baron Hill a real race. The district votes Republican presidentially, so a popular President Bush could really have a huge impact. Plus, Hill may have alienated previously ardent labor support. **HPR Status:** *Tossup.*

McVey vs. Carson, 7th CD

The key questions here are whether U.S. Rep. Julia Carson has alienated some moderate, white Democrats; and whether a popular President Bush will give Republican Brose McVey a tailwind strong enough to overcome the Frank Anderson sheriff candidacy that will help Carson. **HPR Status:** *Leans Carson.*

Pence vs. Fox, 6th CD

Right now with Bush polling well, Pence appears to be in good shape. However, Fox is raising money and if the issues turn domestic, this could become a race. Pence has become one of the most conservative members of the House, citing by the *National Journal*. He is also fully aware that the dynamic of this race could change. If Fox runs as a moderate and the dynamic changes, she might have a chance. **HPR Status:** *Leans Pence.* ❖

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reform" during the Senator's 2000 campaign visit for Pence. "I just want you to know who you're dealing with," Pence told the group. "This guy does not have our best interests at heart" (Washington Post). "I was pretty worked up about it." A spokesman for Mr. McCain's Straight Talk America political action committee did not return a phone call seeking comment. McCain spokeswoman Nancy Ives said the senator was working yesterday with "the leaders of reform in the House" but otherwise kept to his Senate schedule.

INDIANA DELEGATION SPLIT ON CFR BY PARTY: Indiana's Democrats joined the majority of the U.S. House on Thursday in passing a bill containing the biggest changes in federal election financing in more than 20 years. All of the state's Republican representatives opposed the measure, which President Bush has indicated he probably will sign (Maureen Groppe, Gannett News Service). After more than 16 hours of debate, stretching until nearly 3 a.m., the House passed the bill 240-189. A similar version passed the Senate last year with the support of both senators from Indiana -- Republican Richard G. Lugar and Democrat Evan Bayh. "Big money has influenced our politics for too long," said Rep. Tim Roemer. "It unfairly amplifies the voices of the few and powerful at the expense of the public agenda." ❖