

# The Howey Political Report



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“If whining would work, I’d whine....”

- Indiana University President Myles Brand, testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee, *Indianapolis Star*

## Pulling the trigger on tax restructuring

Pull tabs, no Q&A, and elections loom

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Last February, Gov. Frank O’Bannon was asked by WIBC’s Eric Berman if there was anything in a tax restructuring/deficit reduction bill that would be a deal wrecker.

“I’ll look at whatever it is except for an expansion of gambling,” O’Bannon answered.

Terry Burns of the Times of Northwest Indiana followed: “What is your definition of an expansion of gambling?”

“Dockside would be an expansion of gambling,” O’Bannon began. “Pull tabs, which I finally figured out; somebody told me what pull tabs are. When you talk about dockside, you’re talking about expansion of gambling big time with new facilities going up, the number of stations increase. I’d rather see us control that.”

**Like Gov. O’Bannon**, most reporters probably didn’t know what pull tabs were. But all the governor or press had to do was go to the newsstand on nearby Market Street and check out the very legal Hoosier Lottery Pull Tab Vending Machine. It’s a dispenser that sells tickets from a free-standing, electronic, computerized machine in \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 denominations. It uses common gambling symbols to display game results. It can be played by anyone 18 years old or older.

In fact, the Hoosier Lottery has about 630 PTVMs in places not normally known as gaming havens, such as convenience stores and other retail outlets. Interlott Technologies CEO David F. Nichols, in announcing a sale of 500 PTVMs to the Hoosier Lottery, noted, “The new dispensers will help Indiana extend its successful automated

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE FEATURES

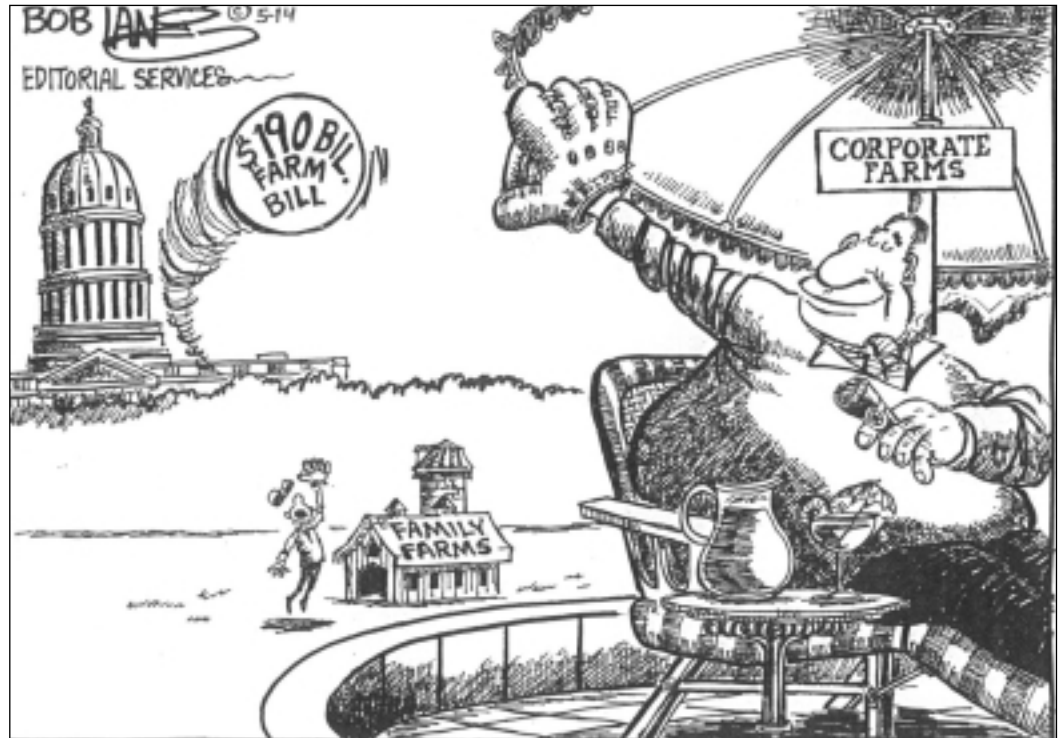
<b>Ticker: Bush at 77 percent in poll</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>Bob Lang: The Farm Bill</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>Horse Race: Summer Congressional, Legislative race roundup</b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b>Horse Race: Gilroy pushing Rokita</b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b>Horse Race: Dems gas Daniels</b>	<b>p. 9</b>

# TICKER T A P E

**BUSH APPROVAL AT 77 PERCENT:** A CBS News poll of 647 adults conducted May 13-14 (+/-4%) showed President Bush's Approval Ratings: 77% "approve" of the way President Bush is "handling his job as president;" 80% "approve" of the way President Bush is "handling the campaign against terrorism;" 63% "approve" of the way President Bush is "handling foreign policy;" 58% "approve" of the way President Bush is "handling the Middle East crisis;" 52% "approve" of the way President Bush is "handling the economy."

**AGUILERA WANTS APOLOGY FROM PASTRICK, MAHERN:** After his biggest victory ever, State Rep. John Aguilera, D-East Chicago, is looking for a few apologies. Although Aguilera handily defeated Milan Kestic in the primary election on May 8, Aguilera is not satisfied with the victory alone. "I stayed on my message to represent my community," Aguilera told HPR intern Brooke Boeglin Thursday morning. "My opponents made a big mistake trying to disenfranchise the Hispanic community." Aguilera's tense relations with East Chicago Mayor Bob Pastrick remain strained. During the election, Aguilera accused Pastrick, who had close ties to Kestic, of being too

*Continued on page 3*



instant ticket sales program to its pull-tab or break-open ticket program."

Hoosier Lottery director Jack Ross noted, "Automated systems for instant tickets assist retailers in controlling inventory and accurately accounting for ticket sales."

This past week, after Gov.

O'Bannon reneged on a promise to provide a tax restructuring plan as the Indiana General Assembly convened in special session on Tuesday. He deferred to Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, whose revamped plan included pull tabs for Marion County as a way to provide \$500 million in new revenue. Bauer suggested that O'Bannon may have to accept some things he finds odious.

Republican conservatives and anti-gaming lobbyists howled at the notion of pull tabs and the expansion of gaming. State Sen. Mike Young demanded on the Senate floor of O'Bannon and pull tabs, "Have him stand up and say whether he'll sign it or not," Young said.

A day later, when O'Bannon appeared before the House Ways and Means Committee, he reiterated his objection to pull tabs, but stopped short of an

emphatic veto if a restructuring deal included them. "I strongly object to pull tabs," O'Bannon said, apparently oblivious that his own Hoosier Lottery was already in the business. "I want caps and controls on gambling in the state of Indiana."

## Surreal atmosphere

It was yet another example of a surreal atmosphere in the Statehouse which found an equivocating governor, a legislator (Rep. Jim Buck) camping out on the Statehouse lawn in a tent in protest, House leaders Brian Bosma and Speaker John Gregg trying to reset a tone of compromise, a Senate that reconvened to the songs of Seymour grade schoolers asking the question "What is Hoosier?"

Bosma and Gregg both appear to have recalibrated the gravity of the crisis at hand, in part due to the \$86 million deficit in April revenues, with a similar dent expected later this month. "We are in extraordinary times in our state, perhaps extraordinary in institutional memory," Bosma said. "We are willing to talk about solutions and we are willing to talk about compromise."

Gregg, who opposed the session, said, "I think there has been change. We found out last week that another \$86 million was gone for April and the hole is getting bigger. I wouldn't say that sold it to our Republican colleagues, but that sold it to the rest of the Democrats that we have a budget problem."

While the rest of Statehouse leadership seemed to muddle along (Sen. Larry Borst said, "I'm beginning to think we can take care of this at a later time") Gregg played to the dignity of the House, which he said is poised to be the scapegoat. "We're going to have to do it without Frank, with Bob, without Larry. We can do it! We're Hoosiers!" Gregg pounded his fist on the podium and said, "Let's start right now. Let's go to work."

It may have to come down to Gregg, Bosma and Senate President Pro Tempore Bob Garton sitting down and hammering out a deal. Pinning O'Bannon down has been tough. On Wednesday, he refused to take more than one question before the Ways and Means Committee.

"If he's going to appear at that meeting then he should appear under the same rules everybody else appears," Espich said (Mike Smith, *Associated Press*). "I don't think any of us have ever been disrespectful to the governor nor would I be, but if you want the glory of the appearance, I think you have to have the nitty gritty of answering the questions."

Borst said O'Bannon called the special session and should have presented a plan specifying what he could and could not accept in a compromise package. "I have no idea what the governor is even for or against," Borst said (*Associated Press*). "The governor has said he was for the lieutenant governor's plan, then he was for Pat Bauer's plan, then he said my plan looked pretty good to him. At some place along the line he's going to have to say it and sit down and call those House members in one by one and say, 'Vote for it.'"

Espich added, "I think when you

get to major tax policy issues like this, it really requires gubernatorial vision and leadership to get it accomplished, to bring people together."

Defenders of O'Bannon insist he has to leave his options open and not reveal his trump cards, as Gov. Evan Bayh did in 1993. That year, it was the riverboat casinos that allowed him to cut a deal, but that came against a hard June 30 deadline of keeping the state solvent.

Outside Ways and Means, the governor said, "I am frustrated but I think, perhaps they are too. We've got real crisis challenges here that we've got to answer, and when you throw politics in the middle of it, it makes it difficult for people to stand up and make the decisions we need to make it work."

This year, with O'Bannon aloof and Budget Director Betty Cockrum leaving, House Speaker John Gregg and majority leadership retiring, and Bauer aggressively running for speaker, the context for who cuts a deal and how is as murky as an Indiana cornfield on a May flood plain. (*For Brian A. Howey's daily commentary on the legislature, see the HPR website at <http://www.howeypolitics.com/main.asp?SectionID=69>*)

## House Battleground

On the following *HPR Horse Race* pages, you'll read of the status of Congressional and Indiana House races we expect to be competitive for the fall elections. This includes 16 Indiana House seats, of which eight are open.

Of the eight open seats, five are Democratic; three are Republican. Our projections show Republicans are favored in four of those seats and two are tossups.

Of the six vulnerable Democratic incumbents, all currently lean Democratic. Of the two vulnerable Republican seats, one (Rep. Jim Atterholt) is a tossup and the other leans GOP. ❖

*HPR intern Brooke Boeglin contributed to this report.*

# TICKER

## T A P E

caught up with machine politics. Aguilera claims he attempted to make peace with Pastrick before the election. "He didn't have any time for me then," Aguilera said. "I am interested in what's best for the community. I think he owes the community an apology first." As far as amending relations between the two, Aguilera said he's leaving the door open and Pastrick knows where to find him. Aguilera's battle with State Rep. Ed Mahern is still on the brink. Aguilera claims that Mahern attempted to disenfranchise his main supporting constituency, the Hispanic population of East Chicago. "I think Ed Mahern owes the Hispanic community an apology," Aguilera said. "They did everything they could to try to sabotage me." Many people assumed that Aguilera was doomed because of all the political cards that seemed to be stacked against him on Tuesday.

**BAYH SUPPORTS 911 PROBE:** U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh commented on revelations that President Bush had been told of potential Al Qaeda highjackings in August 2001. "The president received a general briefing but unfortunately this reveals a lack of communication between the FBI and CIA," Bayh told CNN's Leon

*continued on page 4*

## TICKER

T A P E

Harris. "All of this points out not for the purpose of placing blame, but toward an investigation of how we can keep this from happening in the future." Harris asked Bayh how much did you know? "I did not know specifically what the President was informed of," Bayh said. "We did not know about the Phoenix story. We did not know what happened in Minneapolis. That should be troubling to all Americans. This needs to be pointed at moving forward and how we can keep it from happening again."

**BOEGLIN JOINS HPR STAFF:** Brooke Boeglin, a junior at Butler University in Indianapolis, has joined The Howey Political Report staff as an intern this summer. Boeglin is a political science major and will report and research for HPR and the HPR Daily Wire. She is a graduate of Terre Haute South High School.

**DANIELS CUTS VX GAS DESTRUCTION FUNDS:** The revised plan calls for neutralizing VX at the Newport Chemical Depot by late 2003 or early 2004, said Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., who learned Monday of the Army's decision. "This is a major breakthrough for our effort to complete the Newport neutralization project safely and quickly," Bayh said. The Army's decision comes after WTHR found that the White House

*continued on page 5*

## Indiana 2002 Racing Form

**Secretary of State 2002:** Republican: Mike Delph, Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Richard Mourdock, Dr. John McGoff. **Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **Libertarian:** Rebecca Sink-Burris. **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:** Now with the primaries over, this GOP race will start to fire up with the candidates crisscrossing the state visiting GOP delegates. There are no clear favorites at this point. Mourdock believes he has a shot at winning on the second ballot. Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy is actively working to line up support for Rokita. Delph is on leave from Rep. Dan Burton's office. **Status:** *Tossup.*

## Indiana Congressional Races

**Congressional District 1:** Republican: Mark Leyva. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky. **Geography:** Lake, Porter, Newton, Jasper, Benton counties. **Media Market:** Chicago. **Websites:** markleyva.com/MLMain/ **1994 results:** Visclosky 68,612, Larson 52,920. **1996 Results:** Visclosky 132,430, Petyo (R) 56,205, Crass (L) 3,122. **1998 Results:** Visclosky (D) 92,634, Petyo (R) 33,503. **2000 Results:** Visclosky 146,683, Reynolds (R) 56,200, Nelson (L) 2,907. **2002 Forecast:**

Leyva is a steelworker who turned to a career as a carpenter in 1989. The Highland Republican is given little chance of upsetting Visclosky, even though the district has expanded into more Republican farm country to the south. Al Gore carried the district with 59 percent in 2000 and Bill Clinton had 58 percent in 1996. Visclosky has been seen as a champion for steel tariffs, which were ordered by President Bush this spring. **Status:** *SAFE D.*

**Congressional District 2:** Republican: Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Jill Long Thompson. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **Websites:** www.jilllongthompson.com; www.chocolaforcongress.com **2000 Result:** Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Forecast:** This race will be one of the most fiercely contested in the nation. President Bush carried this district with 53.8 percent in 2000. While everyone is watching, we'll get an answer to an interesting political science question: Do people really care whether their congressional representative lives in their district? In 2000, Chocola tried to portray Tim Roemer as being out of touch with the district because his primary residence was in Washington. But Roemer prevailed. The diverse 2nd stretches from South Bend to Kokomo and from Elkhart to Michigan City. First the candidates must tell people they live in a new district. If they are just getting used to the new boundaries, are they going to then take the time to parse the addresses of the nominees? This race also will test whether voters are ready to consider Social Security reform. President Bush has indicated he wants to move forward with partial privatization. Chocola says it's time to try a new approach while protecting benefits for those near retirement. JLT warns that the stock market is too risky a place for Social Security funds, and has pointed to the Enron collapse as an example of the treacherous terrain. Will Enron fear produce traction anywhere outside congressional hearing rooms in Washington? JLT's advertising campaign will provide a useful gauge. If the race turns to social issues, JLT will draw on the pro-choice stance of the Methodist Church, of which she is a member, to defend her position. Chocola is pro-life, but he mostly concentrates on economic issues. In a close race in the fall, though, the social conservatives in the district may prove to be an important swing vote, forcing Chocola to talk about abortion. Chocola is expected to maintain a fundraising edge over JLT and will draw on resources from Reps. Steve Buyer (who served a good part of the new 2nd) and Mark Souder (who upset her in 1994). *The Rothenberg Political Report* also rates this seat as a tossup, noting that it will be a "good general election fight."

## HORSE RACE

Status: *TOSSUP*.

**Congressional District 3: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Jay Rigdon. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **Websites:** www.jayrigdon.com; www.house.gov/souder/ **2000 results:** Souder (R) 131,051, Foster (D) 74,492. **2002 Forecast:** Souder will easily be re-elected. After dispatching Paul Helmke this month and Mike Loomis in 2000, Souder has one of the safest Republican districts in the U.S. and can serve as long as he wants. **Primary Status:** *SAFE SOUDER.*

**Congressional District 4: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** Open. **Geography:** Tippecanoe, Clinton, Boone, Montgomery, Hendricks, Morgan, Lawrence and parts of Marion, Johnson, Monroe, Fountain and White counties. **Media Market:** Lafayette, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Evansville, Louisville. **2000 Results: Old 5th CD:** Buyer (R) 132,035, Goodnight (D) 81,423; **Old 7th CD:** Kerns 131,562, Graf (D) 65,174. **Website:** www.house.gov/buyer/ **2002 Forecast:** Buyer can relax in what will be a profoundly Republican district. He easily whipped U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns in the primary. Buyer may face primary challenges in the future, but we don't see anyone on the horizon likely to seriously contest his grip on this seat. **Status:** *SAFE BUYER.*

**Congressional District 5: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. **Democrat:** Katherine Fox-Carr. **Geography:** Indianapolis, Kokomo, Marion, Shelbyville; Wabash, Huntington, Howard, Grant, Tipton, Hamilton, Hancock and parts of Marion, Johnson and Shelby counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Lafayette. **Website:** www.house.gov/burton **2000 Results:** Burton (R) 194,771, Griesey (D) 72,821, Hauptmann (L) 8,874. **2002 Forecast:** The northern part of this district is new for Burton, but it's almost as Republican as his old 6th CD. He has more than \$600,000 cash on hand and should coast to victory. **Status:** *SAFE BURTON.*

**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. **Websites:** www.foxforcongress.com; mikepence.house.gov/ **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,070. **2002 Forecast:** Pence enters the fall sequence coming off a 51-percent win in 2000 and four new northern counties in the Fort Wayne media market. He is seen as a GOP rising star in Washington, but has etched out perhaps the most rightward stance of any Hoosier MC. Fox has raised decent money (\$175,000) considering Sept. 11 crimped her money raising for nearly three months following. She and Pence will mix it up on farm issues, Social Security, and trade. Pence looks to be in good shape now, but a national Democratic trend could allow Fox to make this competitive. **Status:** *Leans Pence.*

**Congressional District 7: Republican:** Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Libertarian:** Andy Horning. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **Websites:** www.juliacarson.house.gov; www.broseforcongress.org **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** McVey campaign manager Tim Searcy called Horning's entry into this race a "nuisance." Carson will benefit from sheriff candidate Frank Anderson, who will help turn out her base. McVey is looking a lot like a 2002 version of Rep. Mike Pence. The articulate, media savvy McVey has garnered strong support from the House GOP leadership, with the National Republican Congressional Committee indicating that it will fund the race. He also has demonstrated fundraising skill and has honed a disciplined message of fiscal conservatism while he will seek the middle ground in the fall against the liberal Carson. Although the NRCC points to a February poll showing that Carson is vulnerable, she still drew more than double the votes McVey won during the primary. Perhaps this is an indication of the Democratic lean of the district; perhaps it shows that Democrats are willing to get out and support Carson. It's true that McVey represents the strongest challenge that Carson has faced since winning the seat in 1996. But that also means that this may be the race in which Carson is the most energized. This could be the second-most competitive race in the state. **Status:** *Leans Carson.*

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

## TICKER T A P E

Office of Management and Budget had cut from its federal spending proposal millions of dollars the Army had sought for the work at Newport. The depot houses 1,269 tons of VX. Exposure to a single drop can kill a person in minutes. The chemicals had been scheduled for destruction by the end of 2006, but after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Bayh and others began pushing for an earlier deadline. In response, the Army asked that the federal budget include \$300 million for the Newport project. That request, however, was rejected by the budget office, headed by Hoosier Mitch Daniels. Daniels defended the decision, saying last week that the Army still needs to finalize its plans and timetable for the project. He also pointed out that the Army already has enough money to get started at Newport. "We have \$70 million sitting in an account for Newport right now, and we don't need any more right now. But the minute we do, we'll ask for it," Daniels told WTHR. "There's no difference of opinion about getting this job done as fast as we can - and money's not going to be the stopper."

**MICHIGAN CITY MAYOR BRILLSON WON'T RUN:** Michigan City's two-term Mayor Sheila Brillson won't seek re-election next year,

*continued on page 6*

# TICKER T A P E

and her announcement prompted a quick warning from Shaw Friedman, former LaPorte County Democratic Chairman and current legal counsel for the state committee, that prospective Democratic candidates for the mayor's job had better not think about fundraising until after the November general election. "We've got an important Congressional election and county elections this fall," Friedman said, "and we need to focus on winning those." The announcement prompted immediate speculation as to who might try to be Brillson's successor. Deputy Prosecutor Tom Alevizos, a former state representative and city council member, is one prospect. City Controller Chuck Oberlie is another.

**VOTER TURNOUT WAS 22 PERCENT STATEWIDE:** The State Election Division said Monday that only 22 percent of voters bothered to cast ballots (Indianapolis Star). Marion County Clerk Sarah Taylor said she believes the numbers are skewed by inflated voter registration lists.

**DOWNS LEAVING FORT WAYNE MAYORAL OFFICE TO RUN CENTER:** Andrew Downs, chief of staff for Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard, announced Tuesday he is stepping down from his post to lead

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. **Websites:** www.bryanhartke.com; www.house.gov/hostettler/ **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:** When the DCCC uses a phrase like "we're keeping a close eye on this race," it means that challenger Hartke had better raise a lot of money this summer to get Washington to pay attention. Hartke easily won the primary, in which twice as many Democrats cast votes as Republicans. Although the redrawn 8th adds many more Democratic voters to the district, Hostettler has developed a grass-roots organization that seems to be able to weather any kind of electoral storm. It was able to turn back a

strong challenge from well-funded, pro-life Democrat Paul Perry in 2000. So far, there's no reason to believe it won't prevail over an anemically funded Hartke. Hostettler, unlike Pence, is enough of an iconoclast that Bush's popularity may not have a big influence on how he fares at the polls. His conservative supporters back him because he often bucks the party if he thinks it has gone too soft. **Status:** *Likely Hostettler.*

# HORSE R A C E

**Congressional District 9: Republican:** Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Baron Hill. **Geography:** Bloomington, Columbus, Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville; Spencer, DuBois, Orange, Crawford, Perry, Harrison, Washington, Jackson, Brown, Jennings, Scott, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ripley, Ohio, and parts of Dearborn and Monroe counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **Websites:** www.house.gov/baronhill/, www.mikesodrel.com **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Results:** Hill 125,978, Bailey (R) 101,790, Chambers (L) 4,634. **2002 Forecast:** If it's a good fall for incumbents, Sodrel will have a difficult race in front of him. The redrawn 9th gave Bush 57 percent support in 2000. But Hill has proven that he can raise money and carve out a fiscal conservative niche in the House Democratic caucus. He won his first re-elect handily over Mike Bailey, a pro-life activist. Sodrel, owner of a bus and trucking company in Jeffersonville, will not fall into an easily stereotyped category. He'll be able to challenge Hill on economic issues. But Hill has shown extraordinary courage on trade votes, no doubt helping to build support in the agriculture and business communities, even as it enervates his labor backing. To prove that he has momentum, Sodrel will have to start raising money from individuals in the district. Republicans think that Hill is vulnerable on social issues (flag burning) and military spending votes. Maybe. But Hill can take advantage of his role on the House Agriculture Committee and his new appointment to the Joint Economic Committee, as well as his work on pension and education reform, to blunt some of the inevitable "out-of-touch" rhetoric that his opponents will hurl. **Status:** *Leans D.*

- Brian A. Howey and Mark Schoeff Jr. ❖

## Indiana House Races

**House District 8: Republican:** Carl Baxmeyer. **Democrat:** Ryan Dvorak.

**Geography:** St. Joseph County. **1998 Results:** M. Dvorak 11,613, Sulok (R) 6,715. **2000 Results:** M. Dvorak 15,660, Zirkle (R) 9,768. **2002 Forecast:** Ryan Dvorak, the son of State Rep. Mike Dvorak, who is running for St. Joseph County prosecutor, faces off against former 3rd CD candidate Carl Baxmeyer. This district is considered a 50/50 district and Baxmeyer has put together a well-structured campaign that won a tough primary by a 2-1 margin. Dvorak, an attorney, will benefit from the family name. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 15: Republican:** Don Lehe. **Democrat:** George Baranowski.

**Geography:** Schereville, Merrillville, Lake County. **1998 Results:** Fesko (R) 9,914, Blacklund

(L) 986. **2000 Results:** Dumezich (R) 15,134, Duda (D) 8,753, Backlund (L) 439. **Forecast:** State Rep. Dan Dumezich is not seeking re-election. Lehe lost to State Rep. Claire Leuck 11,810 to 11,674 in HD25 a district that was essentially eliminated in the 2001 redistricting. Lehe enters this open seat race as the favorite in a 65-percent Republican district. The GOP should hold on to this one. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

**House District 17: Republican:** Steven Heim. **Democrat:** Ralph Winters.

**Geography:** Plymouth, Culver, Marshall. **1998 results:** Cook 10,448, Beck 5,596. **2000 Results:** Cook 13,428, Roush 5,859. **2002 Forecast:** Heim is marketing director for IUSB. He worked with the Richard Mourdock congressional campaign back in the 1980s. It's one of the top targeted House seats. Bush polled about 54 percent. The seat is being vacated by State Rep. Gary Cook. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**District 19: Republican:** Crown Point Councilwoman Pamela Roth. **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 Results:** Kuzman 13,879, Johnson (R) 12,177. **2002 Forecast:** Lake County Republicans are getting behind Roth, a second-term Crown Point councilwoman and a nursing manager at Methodist Hospitals in Merrillville. She's been elected in a Democratic ward. Kuzman, a trial lawyer, is seen as a rising star in the House with close ties to Speaker John Gregg. He is young and energetic and enters this race as an early favorite after surviving a tough challenge in 2000. He should benefit from a better district. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 26: Republican:** State Rep. Sue Scholer. **Democrat:** Joe Micon.

**Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1998 results:** Scholer 5,750, Clapper 4,655. **2000 Results:** Scholer 9,086, Windler 5,186. **2002 Forecast:** Micon is a community activist who has had decent media exposure. Democrats believe he will credibly challenge Scholer, a House member since 1990. Democrats have long thought Scholer is vulnerable, and how she votes on tax restructuring with Purdue pushing for some decisions, could determine how this race takes shape. For the time being, we think Scholer is the favorite. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

**House District 27: Republican:** Bob Hicks. **Democrat:** State Rep. Sheila

Klinker. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1998 Results:** Klinker 10,553, Julian (R) 5,512, Rumps (L) 287. **2000 Results:** Klinker (D) 12,544, O'Brien (R) 8,095. **2002 Forecast:** Hicks is a middle school athletic director and his wife serves on the school board. He's already been running TV to bump up his name ID. Klinker has served in the legislature since 1982 and has enjoyed a number of comfortable victories. She was able to deliver on legislation to give Caterpillar Corp. an inventory tax break, a huge local issue that was in doubt until the end of the regular legislative session. That should help her. Republicans believe they can give Klinker a good challenge. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 44: Republican:** Andrew P. Thomas. **Democrat:** Open.

**Geography:** Brazil, Clay and Putnam counties **1998 Results:** Crosby 13,224. **2000 Results:** Crosby 16,132. **2002 Forecast:** State Rep. Susan Crosby's decision to retire is a real blow to House Democrats. Crosby has not even been challenged in recent years in a district that is basically Republican in makeup. Now they will have to pump in resources. Putnam County Councilwoman Lana Schempf has been endorsed by Crosby, but has not been chosen in caucus yet. Thomas is a Brazil attorney and his brother is the Clay County prosecutor. His uncle, State Rep. John Thomas, was defeated by Crosby in 1990. This is a 58-percent Republican seat. Bush polled close to 60 percent. Thomas is expected to run very strong in Clay County with good family name ID and this seat could be a GOP pickup. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

**House District 45: Republican:** Jasonville Mayor Bruce Borders. **Democrat:**

Alan Chowning. **Geography:** Sullivan, Daviess, Greene, Knox and Vigo counties. **1998 Results:** Gregg 14,351. **2000 Results:** Gregg 16,554, Hood 5,187. **2002 Forecast:** This is an open seat being vacated by House Speaker John Gregg. Chowning, a farmer, is a former Sullivan County commissioner who defeated Bicknell council president Wally Cullen by 900 votes. Borders is the mayor of Jasonville who won a three-way race against a former Sullivan

# TICKER

## T A P E

a political center founded in his father's memory (David Griner, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics is planned as a statewide clearinghouse for campaign and election information.

**WAYS AND MEANS WARMLY WELCOMES HOSPITAL DIRECTOR:** The medical director of the Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center testified to an Indiana House committee, pleading for their help to keep the center open (Jennifer Whitson, Evansville Courier & Press).. Dr. David Hilton, medical director for the center, presented the House Ways and Means Committee with petitions, signed by 22,357 people, in favor of keeping the center, which he called "just the tip of the iceberg" of support. "I am neither a politician nor a bureaucrat," Hilton said. "But I do know about severe mental illness in children. I know that closing (the center) would be a tragic mistake and would harm many severely mentally ill children and their families. I'm here to ask that the state Legislature intervene to help this most innocent and disenfranchised group of Hoosiers, our severely mentally ill children." His reception from the committee, which is charged with forming legislation on how to restructure Indiana's taxes and address the state's bud-

*continued on page 8*

# TICKER

## T A P E

get problems, was warm.

**O'BANNON ANNOUNCES KIDS FIRST GRANTS:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon today announced the award of \$2.37 million in grants from the sale of "Kids First" license plates to help fight child abuse and neglect in Indiana. O'Bannon said 87 organizations that serve all 92 Indiana counties will receive grants. The Indiana Children's Trust Fund reviewed applications for the funds and issued the grants. (See attached list of grantees). "Since Indiana began offering the 'Kids First' license plate in 1995, over \$10 million in grants have been allocated to agencies across our state dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect," O'Bannon said. "In that time, more than 100,000 Hoosiers have purchased these plates to help do their part in the fight against child abuse and neglect." The \$2.37 million in grants this year is just slightly below the \$2.39 million awarded last year.

**LUGAR CALLS FOR TREATY RATIFICATION THIS YEAR:** U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar (R-IN) called for Senate ratification of the new U.S.-Russia nuclear reduction treaty this year; warned that the treaty cannot be implemented without the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program and congressional passage of certification waiver

commissioner. Borders is also an Elvis Presley impersonator. It's hard to believe Gregg would allow this seat to slip in the GOP category, but we've got it on the list because it is open. And, let's face it, replacing Gregg with an Elvis impersonator would be somewhat of an interesting tradeoff. **Status:** *LIKELY D.*

**House District 48: Republican:** Elkhart City Councilman Timothy Neese.

**Democrat:** Bruce D. Carter. **Geography:** Elkhart, Elkhart County. **1998 Results:** Mock 16,833. **2000 Results:** Mock 14,876, Crabtree 6,777. **2002 Forecast:** State Rep. Dean Mock is retiring. This is about a 60 percent Republican district, but Carter upset Mock in 1986 after he used traffic congestion on Cassopolis Street as a key issue. Mock reclaimed the seat in 1988 and has not been threatened since. Neese has served on the Elkhart City Council for the past decade and while he enters as the favorite, Carter will have name ID, is energetic and could make this a race if the Democrats decide to throw resources in. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

## HORSE RACE

**House District 52: Republican:** Marlon Stutzman. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Sturtz.

**Geography:** LaGrange, Noble, DeKalb 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 Results:** Sturtz 9,536, Wonderly 7,825. **2002 Forecast:** Stutzman owns a trucking firm and is involved in a 4,000 acre family farming operation. He ran an impressive primary race, winning LaGrange, Noble and DeKalb counties, defeating Les Aligood, who had challenged Sturtz before. This is a 62-percent Republican district, but Sturtz is a former LaGrange sheriff and is very popular. Sturtz has been reluctant to vote for tax increases because of the makeup of this district and was one of three House Democrats to vote against tax restructuring. The critical question in the special session is whether his vote will be needed by Gov. O'Bannon. Could be a good race down the stretch. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 56: Republican:** Richard Hamm **Democrat:** Phillip Pflum.

**Geography:** Richmond, Wayne County. **1994 Results:** Bodiker 7,142, Hamm 7,087. **1996 Results:** Bodiker 10,772, Hamm 8,159. **1998 Results:** Bodiker 8,152, Paust 5,947. **2000 Results:** Bodiker 9,508, Pappin 8,882. **2002 Forecast:** Hamm owns a Wayne County casket company and has run three times against retiring Rep. Dick Bodiker unsuccessfully, including a close call in the GOP tidal wave year of 1994. Republicans believe he has a great chance to pick up this open seat and were surprised that Donnie Hamilton didn't win the Democratic nomination. Pflum is a Wayne County farmer and Democrats are saying they are satisfied this isn't going to be a New Castle vs. Richmond race. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**House District 57: Republican:** Roland Stine. **Democrat:** John R. Wheeler.

**Geography:** Shelbyville, Shelby and Bartholomew counties. **1996 Results:** Linder 13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Results:** Herndon 10,903, Lux 9,745. **2002 Forecast:** State Rep. Mike Herndon gave up this seat to run for sheriff, losing in the primary. Republicans have turned to Shelbyville Councilman Roland Stine, who is a history teacher at Shelbyville Middle School. Stine will square off against former Indiana State Police trooper Wheeler. This district is solid Republican and Stine is expected to run strong in Shelbyville. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

**House District 60: Republican:** Bloomington Councilman L. David Sabbagh.

**Democrat:** Peggy Welch. **Geography:** Bloomington, Greene, Lawrence and Monroe Counties. **1994 results:** Bales (R) 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Results:** Welch (D) 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Results:** Welch 13,961, Shean (R) 10,495. **Forecast:** Welch, a potential lieutenant governor nominee in 2004, has run strong in a district where President Bush ran at 60 percent. Sabbagh is a Bloomington councilman who owns his own software company and is strong on economic development issues. This could be a race to watch if a Republican trend develops. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 68: Republican:** John Keeton. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Bischoff.

**Geography:** Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, Dearborn, Switzerland counties. **1998 Results:** Bischoff 11,881, Kristoff (L) 1,742. **2000 Results:** Bischoff 11,746, Leising 11,544. **2002 Forecast:** Bischoff survived a tough race from former 9th CD candidate Jean Leising in 2000.



Redistricting has helped his district, but in picking up Switzerland County, he also got Keeton, a long time Purdue agriculture extension agent and a top Southeastern Indiana tobacco specialist as an opponent. Bischoff believes he can fend off the challenge, but with his district running 56 percent for Bush in 2000 and leaning Republican philosophically along with a decent GOP challenge from 9th CD candidate Mike Sodrel, Keeton could make this a race. Bischoff also voted for tax restructuring and that could become an issue. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 75: Republican:** Vanderburgh County Clerk Marsha Abell.

**Democrat:** Rep. Dennis Avery. **Geography:** Evansville, Vanderburgh and Gibson counties. **1998 Results:** Avery 11,714, Spurling (L) 1,250. **2000 Results:** Avery 14,850. **2002 Forecast:** Abell is the Vanderburgh County clerk running in a 53-percent Democratic district. She is a tough campaigner, a hard worker. Avery is against I-69, which will likely be an issue. Vanderburgh County GOP Chairwoman Bettye Lou Jerrel has declared this race to be her top priority. Abell is expected to concentrate on child support and the judicial system. Avery, a House member since 1974, has won convincingly in the past and will face his toughest challenge in years. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 86: Republican:** State Rep. Jim Atterholt. **Democrat:** Dr. David Orentlicher. **Geography:** Indianapolis, Boone, Hamilton counties. **1998 Results:** Sturtz 6,677, Wonderly 6,385. **2000 Results:** Atterholt 17,320, Goodloe-Coe (D) 9,708, Perry (L) 1,178. **2002 Forecast:** This will be the No. 1 battleground seat with Democrats believing that Dr. Orentlicher having the credentials to upset Atterholt. Orentlicher teaches medical ethics at the IU Medical School. Atterholt realizes the threat and has built a strong organization in a district where Bush polled 50 percent. Critical for Atterholt is some action taking place on tax restructuring, as many older homes in his Butler/Tarkington and Meridian/Kessler neighborhoods are awaiting huge property tax increases. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖

## Indiana 2004 Racing Form

**Governor 2004: Republican:** David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris. **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:** Hoosier Democrats have OMB Director Mitch Daniels in their sights. News that he tried to cut funding for the earlier disposal of VX gas at Newport not only angered Sen. Evan Bayh, who had been pushing for the earlier date since Sept. 11, but opened up a new era of political assault on the man Democrats see as the biggest threat to Kernan. Kernan began the special session of the Indiana General Assembly presiding over the Senate. Kernan testified today before the House Ways & Means Committee. **Status:** *Leans D.*

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## TICKER T A P E

authority requested by the President; and noted that the treaty is a critical step in preventing the nexus of terrorists and weapons of mass destruction. "The strategic environment during the Cold War was characterized by high-risk but low-probability of ballistic missile exchanges and the use of weapons of mass destruction," Lugar said on Wednesday. "Today, however, the opposite is the case - we live in a lower-risk but higher-probability environment with respect to ballistic missile exchanges and the use of weapons of mass destruction. Whereas previous strategic calculations assumed almost limitless offensive nuclear weapon systems but more or less rational actors, experiences with Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden, and others make this assumption less plausible today. President Bush has correctly pointed out that our Cold War nuclear strategy is not appropriate for the current threat environment."

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The  
Howey  
Political  
Report



Wei rd Scenes I nsi de  
the Statehouse Gol dmi ne

A speech by HPR's Brian A. Howey

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