

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“People say, ‘Graham, you could lose the election over this,’ but I made a promise to my wife and family to keep them separate from this...” - Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard, on why he won't release his tax returns, to the

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

Peterson weathers his ‘perfect storm’

But Lloyd, Richard may be in trouble

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Mike O'Connor seemed ecstatic late last week. “Ya know what? We've weathered the perfect storm!” he said.

Indeed, Mayor Bart Peterson appears to have done just that. The collision of Colts, skyrocketing property tax assessments, sneaky tax increases, costly sewer repairs and mounting costs ranging from public safety, to care for the poor at Wishard Hospital, to unfunded pensions, could have spelled an October riot and doom to a mayor.

But today, the question isn't whether Peterson will win, but by how much. Many are anticipating at least a 60 percent win, which would probably pull in the first Democratic City-County Council in Unigov history.

While Mayor Peterson seems to have escaped his storm, his counterparts in Evansville and Fort Wayne, Republican Mayors Russell Lloyd Jr. and Democrat Graham Richard, who eked out narrow victories in 1999, don't appear to be as fortunate. Many observers from both political parties see these two incumbents as extremely vulnerable.

As the **HPR Horse Race** explains (See pages 4-5), Democrats appear to have a good chance at picking up mayoralities in Evansville, Mishawaka, Lafayette and New Albany. Republicans appear to be on the inside track to pick up city halls in Fort Wayne, Anderson, Valparaiso, Crown Point, and Marion.

And for the sheer spectacle of it, the most interesting race may be taking place in Noblesville where Mayor Dennis Redick, facing a domestic abuse trial in December, is challenged by three opponents. He'd be more vulnerable if there was only one.

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BREN SIMON RESIGNS; REPLACED BY PHOEBE CRANE: Not only has she left the Joe Andrew campaign, Bren Simon has also resigned from the Democratic National Committee. Democratic sources said that when Simon resigned, prior to leaving the Andrew ticket, her reason was she needed more time for the campaign. Replacing her is Phoebe Crane of Whitestown. In a letter signed by Sen. Evan Bayh and Gov. Joe Kernan to the DNC they wrote, "Phoebe and her husband, Steve, have been steadfast supporters not only of the State Party but, also of the National Party. Every time either of us has called for help and assistance, Phoebe Crane has answered the call. We are confident of her ability to represent the values and ideals of Hoosier Democrats on the National Committee.

MAGGIE KERNAN STUMPS FOR RICHARD: Indiana's new first lady, Maggie Kernan, was in Fort Wayne on Wednesday to offer her support to Mayor Graham Richard's re-election campaign (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The low-key event for reporters was at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, where Kernan wore a "Graham Richard for Mayor" button and carried a cam-

A key question is, should these forecasts come true, what impact would such realignment have in 2004 and beyond. For that, the most interesting race comes in the Hoosier capital, Indianapolis.

Indianapolis

Mayor Bart Peterson liked to explain in 1999 that "dynasties don't go quietly." They screech, scream and make ugly noises. We saw that during the recent battle over the ballot, where Republicans tried to detach at-large council seats from Peterson's coattails.

Democrats now believe they got the better part of the compromise ballot. Polls show Peterson with anywhere from a 25 to 30 point lead over the hapless Republican challenger, Greg Jordan. Despite the array of "perfect storm" issues and plenty of voter anger over property taxes, Jordan has not been able to make his case via TV ads. He was neutered on the property tax issue because his name appeared on the property tax bills (as county treasurer) and he comes from the same party as the guy who wrote the tax reforms, Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst. Jordan couldn't take full advantage of the property tax increases because Borst's son, Phil, the council president, signed off.

But what was really amazing was that during an interview with Jordan in June, he was unable to provide a critical review of the 1999 Peterson Plan. It was as if the Jordan campaign hadn't even thought of opposition research.

Even more amazing is how Marion County and Indiana Republicans essentially ceded this race before it even began. Ask a Republican what a mayoral race would be like between, say, Sen. Murray Clark or Teresa Lubbers and Peterson, and many would say "close." With this county about a 50/50 split between Republicans and Democrats, the real story here is how the race was written off.

The bigger the Jordan debacle on Nov. 4, particularly if he pulls down the

GOP ticket with him, the greater chances are for a revolt among the younger ranks of the Marion County Republican Party. They will cite the lack of a marquee challenger, Chairman John Keeler's deal not to criticize Mayor Peterson, and a lack of party resources as the final seizing up of what was once the bulwark for Indiana Republicans.

While GOP strategists see that bulwark transferred to the doughnut counties around Indianapolis, the fact is that the capital city can still provide a significant amount of Republican votes in a 2004 gubernatorial race, and holding the mayor's office might better position the party for the coming fundraising wars.

So a post-election house cleaning in Indianapolis might be beneficial to Mitch Daniels.

Fort Wayne

While Mayor Richard was pointing to his 60 percent approval rating in September, here are some troubling facts for Democrats. A June poll had Buskirk up by 9 points. A WTPA-TV poll last week had Richard with a 45-35 point lead.

We're suspicious of that 18-point swing. The WTPA poll was conducted with only 76 percent of the participants as registered voters, and not even likely.

Richard won by fewer than 100 votes in 1999 because he enjoyed a 27 percent Republican crossover, in part due to the animosity between Buskirk and former Sheriff Joe Squadrino. We don't see that happening again.

We also don't see a profound issue dramatically altering this race. Of the issues that have surfaced in recent weeks, none can be considered helpful for Mayor Richard. He has refused to release his tax returns in light of the FSSA investigation that has ties to a company Richard started, Sigma Six. While linking Richard to that scandal appears to be a real stretch at this point, the fact that he has decided not to remove all doubt can't be helpful. Richard told the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*,

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HPR price changes for first time in a decade

Effective Nov. 1, a subscription to *The Howey Political Report* will be increased to \$350 from the current \$250. It is the first rate increase since the *HPR* was founded in 1994. The rate for the *HPR Daily Wire* will remain \$200. The premium package rate (*HPR* and the *HPR Daily Wire*) will be \$550. "We've held the line as long as we could," Publisher Brian A. Howey said. "We have provided our subscribers with complete and accurate political coverage for almost 10 years, and have become a significant asset for the players and spectators in Indiana's political scene. But our costs have risen, particularly on health insurance, just as they have risen for every other business." ❖

HPR urges respect for copyright

Poynter Institute columnist Eric Sinrod reports, "Companies and individuals need to be careful about not distributing copyrighted works, such as newsletters, without authorization. To bring this point home, as reported by the *Washington Post*, a federal jury in Baltimore just rendered a multi-million dollar verdict against financial services company Legg Mason for distributing unauthorized copies of daily stock market e-mail commentary *Lowry's Market Trend Analysis*, published by Lowry's Reports, Inc..

"Over that period, only a handful of Legg Mason employees reportedly had paid the annual \$700 publication subscription." Sinrod reported that "Lowry's alleged that Legg Mason for more than a decade had purchased a single subscription to *Lowry's Market Trend Analysis* for approximately \$700 per year and then distributed copies of each report by fax, e-mail, or intranet to as many as 1,300 Legg Mason stock brokers and favored clients, all in violation of the Copyright Act."

HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey urged consumers in Indiana and Washington, D.C., to respect the copyrighted material presented here and in other Indiana newsletters. "We have long been concerned about proper use of our intellectual property," Howey said. "We ask our customers to respect our copyright, so that we can continue to earn a fair living and provide our readers with timely news and commentary, and the best coverage of the 2004 gubernatorial, Congressional and statewide races." ❖

**Read Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis confirmation coverage at
www.indianapoliseye.com**

"People say, 'Graham, you could lose the election over this' but I made a promise to my wife and family to try to keep them separate from this."

And he might.

Richard will need an almost two to one split with independent voters, and it's that kind of issue that could turn them off.

Evansville

As Gen. Robert E. Lee said as he invaded the North in 1863 and was reminded that he might lose Richmond to

gain Washington, "Well, we'll swap queens." That seems to be the case between Fort Wayne and Evansville. Republican operatives have been confounded by Mayor Lloyd's continued references to his "*Daily Show*" appearance on Comedy Central about his attendance at a Cher concert.

Rep. Weinzapfel appears to have the momentum, in large part because Evansville Democrats are united behind him, and many believe that's enough to erase the 500 vote loss from 1999. ❖

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paign T-shirt. Kernan became first lady last month when Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon died and then-Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan took O'Bannon's place. Kernan and Richard are both Democrats. "Joe's and my support is fully behind him," Maggie Kernan said of Richard. "He's got a great vision for Fort Wayne." Kernan said Richard has protected the city from the worst of the national economic slump. "The recession has been horrible for cities, for the state, everybody," she said. "Fort Wayne has been so lucky - he's improved city services, the city's not in debt . . . and he's not raised taxes.

BORST SEEKS INPUT ON PROPERTY TAXES FROM ACROSS INDIANA: Saying they were as concerned about reassessment and higher property taxes as the Democrat-led House, Republican leaders of the state Senate announced plans Wednesday to conduct their own public hearings on the issue in the coming weeks (Mike Smith, Associated Press). "We wanted people to know the Senate is just as interested as the House is . . . on trying to find out what can be done to take care of any problems that have to be taken care of this year, and whether some of the things talked about can wait until

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next year," said Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, R-Greenfield. The Democrat-led House Ways and Means Committee has planned an initial hearing on property taxes and the reassessment at the Statehouse today, with more planned in other cities leading up to the General Assembly's organization day Nov. 18. Borst said Bauer was "beside himself" because the Legislature raised sales taxes last year to pay for more property tax cuts for homeowners, and some are still getting hit with higher tax bills. "He thinks legislators are getting blamed, and he doesn't think they should be, and I can feel his frustration," Borst said. "He is not out of bounds. Whether that needs to be corrected in December or in January, that is the question." Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus, said Senate Republicans were "putting citizens first on the priority list. The issues in the 2004 legislative session will not be taken lightly," he said.

BAUER WANTS ACTION THIS YEAR: House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer said he was pleased to hear that Senate Republicans "are engaged in this," but he still plans to press for legislative action this year instead of delaying it until the regular session begins in earnest in January. Borst said it could take up to three weeks in

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2003 Racing Form

Indiana Mayoral Races

Trendline: Forecasting mayoral races is always a bit of a crapshoot. There is little independent polling available, and what there is is often suspect. In some places, such as Evansville and Fort Wayne, there is daily coverage of the races. In smaller markets, coverage is sporadic at best, and in some cases almost non-existent. So analysts such as the ol' Horse tend to get spun around by the parties and campaigns while lacking the better data available in gubernatorial, Congressional and statewide races.

HORSE RACE

So with this in mind, we've watched the published reporting on the races, used our own background and insights, and we've put our hoof in the air (and, hopefully, not our mouth) and present these municipal forecasts.

Anderson Mayoral: **Republican:** Kevin Smith. **Democrat:** Robert W. Rock. **Independent:** Linda Haynes. **1995 Results:** Lawler (D) 9,411, Graham (R) 8,817. **1999 Results:** Lawler (D) 8,395, Czarniecki (R) 7,002 Haynes (I) 1,950. **2003 Forecast:** Rock appears to be in real trouble here, and the Democratic dynasty may be coming to an end as Anderson voters appear ready to clean house. **General Status:** *LEANS SMITH.*

Bloomington Mayoral: **Republican:** Fred Prall. **Democrat:** Mark Kruzan. **1999 Results:** Fernandez (D) Fernandez (D) 6,589, Lewis (FUSSA) 258, Clemens (I) 2,746 Maldi (I) 306. **2003 Outlook:** We expected Kruzan to cruise. **General Status:** *LIKELY KRUZAN.*

Columbus Mayoral: **Republican:** David Mann. **Democrat:** Mayor Fred Armstrong. **1999 Results:** Armstrong (D) 6,278, Paris (R) 2,599. **2003 Outlook:** We've yet to see the compelling issue or the silver bullet ready to take out Mayor Armstrong. At this point, we see his re-election. **General Status:** *Leans Armstrong.*

Crown Point Mayoral: **Republican:** Dan Klein. **Democrat:** Wayne Isailovich. **1999 Results:** Metros (D) 3,005, Kemp (R) 2,671. **2003 Outlook:** Isailovich probably uttered the best quote ("From the time I stopped drinking, I have dedicated my life to helping other people. My past is my greatest asset") of this municipal sequence. Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez smells a rat with Isailovich's cushy contract with former Sheriff Buncich. With that in mind, we see a narrow Klein victory. **Primary Status:** *LEANS KLEIN.*

Goshen Mayoral: **Republican:** Councilman Tom Stump. **Democrat:** Mayor Allan Kauffman. **Independent:** Clerk-Treasurer Ron Hoke. **1999 Results:** Kauffman (D) 2,861 Aust (R) 2,153. **2003 Forecast:** With Hoke in this race and possibly splitting the Democratic vote, Kauffman may be in trouble. We put this one in as a ... **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

Elkhart Mayoral: **Republican:** Mayor Dave Miller. **Democrat:** James Perron. **1995 Results:** Perron (D) 5,017, McDowell (R) 4,869. **1999 Results:** Miller (R) 4,959, Perron (D) 3,902. **2003 Forecast:** Elkhart has changed dramatically with an influx of Hispanics and its manufacturing economy under duress. Perron seemed to have Miller on his heels during last week's debate when they asked each other about accomplishments. Miller may be able to galvanize his core voters over his battle to keep the Ten Commandments monument on the City Hall lawn. This is a tough one to forecast. **General Status:** *TOSSUP*

Evansville Mayoral: **Republican:** Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr.. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Results:** Lloyd (R) 15,980, Borries (D) 15,461. **2003 Forecast:** Reading tea leaves and the moods of operatives, we sense that Mayor Lloyd is in real trouble and that this could be the big victory for

Democrats. Republicans are cringing over Lloyd pointing folks to his *Comedy Central* gig. If your campaign makes it on *Comedy Central*, you're probably in big trouble. **General Status:** *LEANS WEINZAPFEL*.

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Mayor Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Results:** Richard (D) 21,607, Buskirk (R) 21,531. **2003 Forecast:** A month ago, Mayor Richard seemed to have some momentum after a tough summer. But his refusal to release his tax returns in light of the SigmaSix/FSSA probe (even though this connection is a real stretch) and his backing out of the Chamber debate, the demographic changes, and long faces from some Indiana Democrats who know, make us believe this could be a GOP pickup. **General Status:** *LEANS BUSKIRK*.

Hammond Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Tom McDermott Jr.. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Results:** Dedelow (R) 10,192, Philpot (D) 8,527, Robinson (L) 278. **2003 Outlook:** There is great uncertainty throughout Lake County and this may extend to Mayor Dedelow, but we've yet to see the galvanizing issue that takes him out. **General Status:** *TOSSUP*.

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Treasurer Greg Jordan. **Democrat:** Mayor Bart Peterson. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Results:** Peterson (D) 102,870, Gilroy (R) 83,044, Horning (L) 7,772, Gibson (OP) 2,145. **2003 Forecast:** We see a 60 percent Peterson win as Bulen spins in his grave. **General Status:** *SAFE PETERSON*.

Jeffersonville Mayoral: Republican: Monty Snelling. **Democrat:** Councilman Rob Waiz. **1999 Results:** Galligan (D) 3,194, Cook (I) 640, Cooper (R) 619. **2003 Outlook:** We expect Wais to prevail, but he has to have some nagging concerns about a splintered party. This could be close. **General Status:** *LEANS WAIZ*.

Kokomo Mayoral: Republican: Matthew McKillip. **Democrat:** Councilman Andrew Castner. **Independent:** Cindy Dunlap. **1999 Results:** Trobaugh (R) 5,606, Kennedy (D) 3,581. **2003 Forecast:** We give a slight edge to McKillip, mainly due to the Democratic primary tie and Dunlap's potential for splitting the Dem vote. **General Status:** *LEANS MCKILLIP*.

New Albany Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Regina Overton. **Democrat:** Councilman James E. Garner. **Libertarian:** Melanie Hughes. **1995 Results:** England 6,845, Real (R) 5,886. **1999 Results:** Overton (R) 5,512, England (D) 4,205. **2003 Forecast:** With the police and fire unions reuniting behind Garner along with Overton's controversial first term, we see a Democratic pickup brewing. **General Status:** *LEANS GARNER*.

Marion Mayoral: Republican: Councilman Wayne Seybold. **Democrat:** Mayor Bill Henry. **1999 Results:** Henry (D) 3,979, Mowery (R) 2,998. **2003 Forecast:** Marion's sagging economy and an unemployment rate 3 percent higher than it was in 1999, plus Seybold's stinging rebuke during this week's debate when Mayor Henry tried to put a positive spin on all of it, points to a GOP pickup. **General Status:** *LEANS SEYBOLD*.

Muncie Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Dennis Tyler. **1995 Results:** Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Results:** Canan (R) 7,973, Smith (D) 5,611. **2003 Forecast:** **General status:** *Likely Canan*.

South Bend Mayoral: Republican: Thomas Schmidt. **Democrat:** Mayor Steve Luecke. **1995 Results:** Kernan (D) 14,309, Waite (R) 3,106. **1999 Results:** Luecke (D) 13,678, Bradley (R) 6,321. **2003 Forecast:** Luecke will win easily. **General status:** *Solid Luecke*.

Terre Haute Mayoral: Republican: Duke Bennett. **Democrat:** Kevin Burke. **1999 Results:** Anderson (D) 6,791, Hooper (R) 2,608, Cronk (I) 1,178, Brouer (I) 174. **2003 Forecast:** This is a slam dunk for the Dems. **General Status:** *SAFE BURKE*.

Valparaiso Mayoral: Republican: Jon Costas. **Democrat:** Mayor David Butterfield. **1999 Results:** Butterfield (D) 3,532, Costas (R) 3,336. **2003 Forecast:** Costas has the endorsements and money and this is his to lose. **General status:** *LEANS COSTAS*.

Vincennes Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Terry Mooney. **Democrat:** Ron Thomas. **1999 Results:** Mooney (R) 3,009, Hatcher (D) 1,939. **2003 Forecast:** Mooney is expected to win re-election. **General status:** *LEANS MOONEY*

- Brian A. Howey ❖

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late November and early December to get something meaningful through the General Assembly. "If he (Bauer) wants to show the public good faith and that he's interested in doing something this year, I'll go along with it," Borst said. "But once again, we simply need to find out what everyone wants to do and decide whether to spend taxpayer money (on a session) this year."

LLOYD SAYS RACE IS TIGHTENING UP: A new attack ad by state Rep. Jonathan Weinzapfel indicates the Evansville mayor's race is "tightening up," Mayor Russ Lloyd Jr. said Wednesday (John Martin, Evansville Courier & Press). The new ad on Evansville's TV stations accuses Lloyd of lying about Weinzapfel's legislative record. Lloyd's ads have slammed Weinzapfel for the higher property taxes some Evansville homeowners saw after the statewide reassessment. Weinzapfel notes that lawmakers were under a court order to reassess properties according to market value, and other bills were passed aimed at giving taxpayers some relief. Lloyd said Weinzapfel calling him a liar is "despicable." "I've had to deal with a City Council that's been hostile in a lot of ways, but I've never lied to them," Lloyd said. "I think if

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you ask anyone about Russ Lloyd they'll tell you I'm honest, even to a fault." Weinzapfel defended the ad, saying, "We have sat back and taken six months of Russ Lloyd's false attacks on my record."

POLICE EYE COMMISSIONER'S NEPHEW IN VANDERBURGH VOTE FRAUD: Evansville police sent a case file to prosecutors Wednesday, accusing a Democratic precinct committeeman of voter fraud (Evansville Courier & Press). The file accuses Donald Mosby - uncle of Democratic County Commissioners President David Mosby - of knowingly persuading a Henderson, Ky., resident to apply for an Evansville absentee ballot. The Henderson resident, Nelson E. Detalente Sr., was visiting his son in Evansville at the time. Donald Mosby's name was contained in a police incident report. Police do not normally provide the names of suspects in ongoing criminal investigations, but Police Chief Dave Gullede authorized the release of the report.

MRVAN PRESSES LAKE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD: Reforms appear to be coming to the absentee voting process (Post-Tribune). But they won't be coming from a Lake County committee created to inves-

Sodrel looks to grass roots in second run

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - In his second race for Congress in the 9th CD, Republican Mike Sodrel is taking a cue from his congressional next door neighbor and focusing less on spending his own money and more building on grass-roots organization.

Sodrel lost to Democratic incumbent Rep. Baron Hill, 51-46, in 2002 after spending \$1.6 million, more than two-thirds of it out of his own pocket. In this campaign, he will not use more than \$350,000 of personal funds. In the quarter ending Sept. 30, Sodrel raised about \$84,000 and has nearly \$72,000 on hand. Hill has raised \$438,000 in the current election cycle with \$388,000 on hand. Hill spent about \$1.1 million in 2002.

Although Sodrel, who declared his candidacy on Sept. 15, will have to concentrate more on fundraising, he points to 8th CD GOP Rep. John Hostettler in asserting that there's more to politics than money. "Races aren't entirely about money," Sodrel said during an HPR interview in Washington on Tuesday before he met with White House political office staff.

"John Hostettler is famous for not raising the appropriate amount of money to run a congressional race. He has people that believe in his candidacy, are willing to get out and work, put out yard signs, go to parades, bang on doors, and try to turn out the vote. I've talked to John quite a bit." Hostettler has pulled out tight elections since 1994 in the "Bloody Eighth."

Sodrel said he will have chairman in each of the 9th CD's 20 counties this time. But he is not relegating money to the sidelines.

Counting more on donations contributes to a stronger ground attack. "When you go out and grass-roots fund raise, it helps build support for your campaign," said Clark County GOP Chairman Glenn Murphy Jr.

Presidential Turnout

Support on the ground only matters if people show up at the polls. With a presidential and gubernatorial race on the ticket in 2004, Sodrel is confident about his chances next year in a district that voted for President Bush by 56-42 in 2000. "I didn't realize, having never run for political office before, the difference between an off-year election and a presidential year election," Sodrel said.

The Sodrel campaign also hopes that the candidate will have geography on his side in the sprawling, mostly rural district that runs east to west along the Ohio River from the Cincinnati suburbs to Spencer County and north to south from the Louisville suburbs to Bloomington and Columbus. The burly, laconic Sodrel lives and works in the southern part of the district and has been a civic leader. He owns trucking and coach businesses in Clark County that employ about 550 people. He won Floyd in 2002 by a narrow margin and lost Clark by 900 votes, results that far outpaced previous Republican candidates.

Hill Gains in East and North

But a Hill supporter said that Hill's victory in 2002 indicates that he is settling into the district he first won in 1998, taking over after the retirement of Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton. Mike Jones, 9th CD Democratic chairman, said that although Hill's vote diminished in Clark and Floyd counties, he held his own in the increasingly Republican area and gained in Harrison and Scott counties despite a barrage of Sodrel TV ads in the Louisville market. And Hill, a former state senator and financial analyst and high school basketball star in Seymour, gained elsewhere. "(His numbers) jumped dramatically in the eastern and northern parts of the district, which allowed him to win," said Jones. "It was his first campaign that had strength across the district."

With a reputation as a vigorous campaigner, Hill is working the district hard. "Baron's been more vocal and he's always on the move. Every weekend he come in," said Clark County Democratic Chairman Bill Stewart. In Floyd County, the election of New Albany mayoral challenger James Garner may help Hill's cause. "He has been with our mayor candidate door-to-door," said Floyd County Democratic Chairman Warren Nash.

Taxes, Iraq, Incumbent Power

Grass-roots backing requires finding the right mix of issues to motivate supporters. One area where Sodrel will try to distinguish himself from Hill is taxes. Sodrel criticized Hill for voting against tax cuts. This year, Hill opposed Bush's \$350 billion tax cut, and voted against bills that would permanently abolish the inheritance tax and reduce taxes for charitable giving. "His idea of being a fiscal conservative is that you don't reduce taxes, not that you spend less," said Sodrel.

Hill usually supports alternative tax packages that he says are more fiscally sound. In the spring, Hill endorsed a budget proposal by the Blue Dog Democrats, a group of conservative Democrats that Hill helps lead, that he said would balance the federal budget. The Blue Dog plan would have accelerated tax reductions for people in lower brackets, deferred tax cuts for those making more than \$140,000 until the cost of the war in Iraq is paid off, repealed the marriage penalty tax and provided immediate estate tax relief.

Hill spokesman Stefan Bailey said that on the separate vote on eliminating the inheritance tax, Hill supported an alternative measure that would have exempted individuals up to \$3 million and couples up to \$6 million in 2004. On the charitable gift tax, Hill supported a measure that "would have been completely paid for," said Bailey. "Fiscal responsibility is the message that we're trying to

advocate and work through here in Congress."

It's unclear whether Iraq will be another point of disagreement between Sodrel and Hill. Both supported the U.S. invasion of Iraq and the costs of rebuilding the country. Hill, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, recently returned from a visit to the Iraq, saying he is more optimistic about the prospects for the country. But he is critical of Bush's planning for postwar Iraq and the lack of international support.

Hill also can use his incumbency to establish support. Stewart said that Hill will benefit in Clark County from his efforts to secure federal money for building a second bridge over the Ohio River, building a road and bike trail between Jeffersonville and New Albany, and bringing a Lewis and Clark 200th anniversary event to Indiana. Hill also has made news this year with funding for Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center and by seeking more highway money.

NRCC Watching the 9th

Sodrel also is seeking a boost from Washington. He hopes that the National Republican Campaign Committee will back his run this year. The NRCC stayed out in 2002. "This race clearly has potential for a strong Republican, and Mike Sodrel is a strong Republican," said Carl Forti, NRCC spokesman. "We already know this is going to be a Bush district. We know Sodrel can run well in it. It's a question of his dedication and how much money he can raise." Forti pointed out that there were 53 open seat races in 2002 and only 14 in 2004. "There's going to be more money to go around to challengers."

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is not concerned about Hill's chances. "He's doing everything right," said DCCC spokeswoman Angela Belden. "He's raising the money and being a good congressman and he's good on the issues." ❖

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tigate voter fraud in the May primary. On Wednesday, the Lake County Election Board opted not to set any meetings, nor finalize members, for the special committee it had created in response to the rampant absentee voter fraud exposed. That board had been set to have its first meeting Friday. State Sen. Frank Mrvan, D-Hammond, came to Wednesday's meeting expecting, he said, to "see what you were doing" with that committee and to discuss potential legislation he could introduce to "tighten up the rules" on absentee ballots. "I'm sick of going to Indianapolis and hearing them laughing about us up here in Lake County," he said, "Somebody needs to do something because we're getting our bad reputation back. "I'm here for brainstorming." Also Wednesday morning, election board members were given a copy of proposed legislation sponsored by state Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary. Wieser recommended, and the board agreed, to "just discuss this as a board and not through a special committee," so "we don't reinvent the wheel" by taking steps already done by legislators. Mrvan wasn't the only one surprised by that move, as Secretary of State Todd Rokita was planning to come for Friday's meeting. Instead, his staff said, he will have a news conference here Friday

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to discuss the issue.

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCILMAN ARRESTED: A Hamilton County councilman and former Fishers Town Council member has been arrested on a preliminary charge of felony intimidation. James W. Wallace, 42, Fishers, was arrested Oct. 3 at the Fishers Police Department after his estranged wife said he threatened to kill her (Indianapolis Star).

BURKE OUTRAISES OPPONENT IN TERRE HAUTE MAYORAL RACE: Democratic candidate Kevin Burke has raised more than 13 times as much cash as Republican opponent Duke Bennett while seeking the office of mayor of Terre Haute (Terre Haute Tribune-Star). Burke has raised \$108,368 and spent \$87,889 as of Oct. 10, according to a pre-election campaign finance report. Burke has \$20,479 remaining in his political campaign committee, according to the report. Bennett has raised \$8,223 and has spent \$4,215 so far this year. Bennett has \$4,008 as of Oct. 10, according to his political committee report.

SIMPSON TO STUMP FOR LOGANSPORT CANDIDATES: Democratic gubernatorial candidate Sen. Vi Simpson (D) will offer her help to Cass County Democrats tomorrow, Friday Oct. 24, 2003 by campaigning with Logansport

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Robin Winston, Indianapolis Eye - With a little over a year left until the 2004 election, let's move the debate away from "should the governor run, what the appointment of Kathy Davis means, and what the supposed insiders know." It's time that we talk about the reality of running for statewide office.

First, you must have an organization that can garner 500 signatures in each of Indiana's nine congressional districts. In reality, you need about 700.

Second, you must have the intestinal fortitude to devote your entire life to a statewide campaign. That means speaking at banquets, marching in parades, attending events of every type, holding press conferences and a variety of other time commitments. It means things like eating pork at the Tipton Pork Festival, attending the pole-raising event at St. Leon, walking in the Circle City Parade, being visible at Fiesta Indianapolis, not missing the Dr. Martin Luther King events in Gary and eating perogies at Dyngus Day in South Bend. And those are just some of the highlights. Gov. O'Bannon never really had a holiday off because his were spent at King birthday celebrations, St. Patrick Day parades, Memorial Day events, Labor Day parades and a host of other activities.

Qualification: As Tom New, former O'Bannon manager of two successful campaigns would tell you, you have to totally submerge yourself in a schedule for at least a year of your life.

Third, money, money, money. It will take at least \$12 million for a Democrat to become governor in 2004. Even with that, we will probably be outspent by the Republicans. One week of a solid buy of Indianapolis television could cost a campaign \$125,000. That's one week in one media market. Indiana has 10 other markets that require a candidate's

presence. To be on television here in Indianapolis for just a month could cost a campaign over \$500,000.

A candidate for governor must make constant fundraising calls, hold events, travel in search of funds and realize that it will take the ability to raise over \$1 million per month between now and the election to be elected governor. That's \$50,000 per day, five days a week from now until the election. **Qualification:** You must have the ability to sit on the phone and dial for dollars every day between now and November 2004, while everyone else is telling you what to do.

Fourth, organization is essential. You have to build an organization in 92 counties that can get your yard signs in the ground, coordinate your volunteer phone banks, organize lit drops, arrange for rallies, staff the booth at the county fair and perform a variety of tasks. Some believe that you can win these elections via electronic media. I disagree. You must have volunteers and in some cases staff available to help get your message to voters. Voter registration takes time. Walking door-to-door and recruiting people to help is not easy.

Election Day Get Out the Vote Activities is hard. In 1996, we were not ready for a major effort on the ground. We were lucky in that Steve Goldsmith had no ground game at all and that our basic efforts led us to victory. In 2000, we devoted enormous resources to the ground effort. We placed almost 120,000 yard signs in the ground; volunteers called over 400,000 voters, made automated calls to over 700,000 voters, coordinated a bus tour to 45 communities and had staff on the ground in February of 2000. Our candidate for governor should replicate those efforts and build a strong grassroots organization now. **Qualification:** You must have staff with the expertise to develop

grassroots organization skills so that your campaign is not over reliant on electronic media.

Fifth, you must have a vision for Indiana that can be effectively communicated to voters. Evan Bayh is the greatest communicator that our party has known. He clearly understands the need to mesh empirical data with his philosophy of government. Our candidate must understand and be able to communicate his or her goals for the state. People in Gary must understand why they support our candidate as much as people in Farmersburg. Former Gov. O'Bannon's folksy demeanor and genuine interest in what was best for Indiana helped him win in 1996 and 2000. Our candidate must identify with voters. *Qualification:* You must be able to communicate with voters in their natural habitat. You must be able to leave voters with such a powerful impression of your campaign that they can articulate.

Sixth, you must be serious about running and you must meet certain

qualifications. This is not a profession for quick fixes, showmanship and flippant ideas. Voters can read candidates better than anyone and if they do not believe your conviction, they will turn their attention elsewhere. Besides all of the things mentioned earlier, our candidate must be totally committed to running. When I received then Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan's call on Dec. 9 to tell me that he was not running, I was devastated. We then went through a terrible December with daily rumors of who was in and who was out. We weathered the storm and Joe Andrew and Vi Simpson are uniquely qualified to be our nominee. And, when you add the possibility of now Gov. Kernan possible re-entering the race, we have outstanding candidates. *Qualification:* Even when everyone else is telling you to relax and take it easy, be serious about running as our nominee because every day that passes without action in your campaign is another day that you are behind. ❖

2004 Racing Form Indiana 2004 Gubernatorial

Governor 2004: Republican: Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris, Bob Parker. **Democrat:** Joe Andrew, State Sen. Vi Simpson, Roy Graham. **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:** The obvious key questions are, will Gov. Kernan run? And how bad is Joe Andrew hurt after the Bren Simon fiasco. Our answer on Question One: You'll have to ask him. We take him at his word to use our time better. On Question Two, there are the Joe Andrew-Ruth Lilly ticket jokes that everyone is telling. What we've noticed this week is an attraction to this story by the Democratic faithful. When I spoke to the 9th CD Democrats on Saturday, that's what everyone was talking about. *Indianapolis Star* reporter Mary Beth Schneider told about her visit to Asherwood to interview Bren Simon and then break the news to Andrew. An entire Asherwood wall is dedicated with photos to the twin sons of Sen. Evan Bayh. A strange and disjointed sequence of events comes to mind here. How pleased was Sen. Bayh when he wasn't called to the stage on the final night of the 2000 Democratic National Convention run by Joe Andrew? How pleased was Sen. Bayh when Joe Andrew in an HPR interview called the Democratic Leadership Council (which Bayh chairs) the "right wing of the Democratic Party." How pleased would Sen. Bayh really have been running with Joe Andrew? And how would Sen. Bayh have gotten along with a "Gov. Andrew?" the first Democrat since 1986 to have the audacity to break with Sen. Bayh. Daniels stumps with Ari Fleischer on Friday. Eric Miller kicks off his campaign on Oct. 27. **General Status:** *Leans Daniels* ❖

HORSE RACE

TICKER T A P E

Democratic Mayoral candidate Mike Fincher. Sen. Simpson will walk door-to-door with Fincher, passing out campaign literature and speaking with voters. In her ongoing effort to help elect Democrat mayors, Simpson has traveled across Indiana to campaign on behalf of Democrats running in this November's municipal elections.

BAYH SEEKS TO EXPAND DEMOCRATIC APPEAL: Two moderate Democrat senators are leading an effort to improve the Democratic Party's image among churchgoers and gun owners with the hopes of recapturing Congress and the White House next year (Cybercast News Service). Sens. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) and Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) said Democrats have adopted the wrong political strategy when it comes to countering Republicans on cultural issues like religion, gun rights and family values. "If we appear to be hostile to individuals of faith, hostile to those who own guns, indifferent to the concerns of traditional families and weak on national security issues," Bayh said, "that is not a winning prescription for the Democratic Party."

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