

# The Howey Political Report



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I don’t know this person. I have never had any dealings with this person.”

- East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick on his administration’s dealings with a former cocaine kingpin, Ron Markowski, to the *Post-Tribune*

## Fort Wayne GOP ads backfiring?

### Momentum shifts back to Richard

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Fort Wayne

The Fort Wayne mayoral race appeared to gyrate wildly, with negative television ads by Republican Linda Buskirk possibly creating a backlash that could doom her challenge to Mayor Graham Richard.

In Evansville, Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr. lashed out at the *Evansville Courier & Press* for its coverage of the race, a signal that he is fighting for his political life against the challenge of State Rep. Jonathan Weinzapfel. But Lloyd insisted to *HPR* that “momentum is on our side.”

At Anderson, both major state political parties were injecting large sums of money as Democrat Bob Rock tried to fend off Republican Kevin Smith. Rock posted a big money advantage, but still seemed to be on his heels.

In Muncie, the once slam dunk expected from Republican Mayor Dan Canan doesn’t appear to be so easy now, as observers see the property tax issue clawing into Canan’s lead to give Democrat Dennis Tyler a fighting shot.

And at Noblesville, an *HPR/Teleserch Poll* shows Republican Mayor Dennis Redick trailing at least one of his three challengers. In a poll of 298 respondents (margin of error +/- 7.0) independent-Republican John Ditsler had a 37-30 percent lead over Redick, who was arrested last summer on a domestic abuse charge at a Jimmy Buffet concert. Democrat Karen Goldstein came in at 16 percent, independent Larry Snair had 8 percent (10 percent were undecided). Ditsler had a 45-30 lead over Redick with Republicans.

## Battle of Fort Wayne

More often than not in Indiana in recent years, nega-

## INSIDE F E A T U R E S

<b>Ticker: Pastrick Roundup</b>	<b>p. 5</b>
<b>Horse Race ‘03: Mayoral roundup</b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b>Con-Con: State vs. local showdown</b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b>Columnist: Krull, Colwell</b>	<b>p. 8</b>
<b>Horse Race ‘04: What will Joe do?</b>	<b>p. 9</b>

*Covering 10 years of Indiana politics*

# TICKER

## T A P E

**REAL TIME ELECTION RESULTS ON NOV. 4:** Secretary of State Todd Rokita has announced that election returns from every mayoral contest in the state and the Orange County gambling referendum will be posted live on the Secretary of State's website, [www.sos.IN.gov](http://www.sos.IN.gov), next Tuesday. Results will be updated throughout the evening. "We believe this will be the only place where you'll be able to access voting results from every mayoral race in the state in real time," Rokita said. "This is an important service, and we're pleased to be able to provide it to Hoosiers." The polls in the following cities close at 7 p.m. Indianapolis time: Boonville, Crown Point, East Chicago, Evansville, Gary, Hammond, Hobart, Lake Station, LaPorte, Michigan City, Mount Vernon, Portage, Princeton, Rensselaer, Rockport, Valparaiso, and Whiting. All other polls in Indiana close at 6 p.m. Indianapolis time. The site received 55,238 hits during the week of primary elections, May 4 through May 10. Rokita's website also contains statewide election results for all elections dating back to 1997.

**MAGGIE KERNAN SAYS 'NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE':** The wife of Gov. Joe Kernan knows how to

tive advertising has backfired in Indiana. It may have turned the tables on upset-bound Linda Buskirk when she ran a television ad calling Richard the "invisible mayor" and criticized the Fort Wayne Police Department regulations that allow the hiring of past recreational drug users.

Buskirk alleged that Richard was "misleading everyone about the city's \$12 million deficit" and said, "Richard's idea of crime fighting is allowing past cocaine users to join Fort Wayne's police department."

The campaign quickly pulled the ads last week as several GOP insiders told HPR the ads had backfired with Republican voters.

Richard got a quarter of his support from Republicans in 1999.

At the annual Allen County Republican Bean Dinner last Friday night, Dan Stockman of the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* reported, "A Buskirk campaign worker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said officials were surprised by the backlash the negative ads created. When Buskirk took the stage after (U.S. Rep. Mark) Souder's introduction, what should have been a roar by the party faithful 12 days before the election was instead warm applause -- and dozens of people who twice did not rise to give her a standing ovation, despite the most passionate, stirring speech she's given in the campaign. Those who did not stand for Buskirk stood for keynoter Ari Fleischer."

Souder confronted the backlash worries, pleading with the crowd not to stray. "When the last election was decided by 100 votes, we don't need to be defensive, we don't need to have Republicans splintering off. We need to stand together. I hear some Republicans saying, 'Why are you doing negative ads?' Linda was trashed last time. Doesn't anyone remember?"

A WTPA-TV poll had Richard leading Buskirk 47-38 percent. Richard told the *Journal Gazette*, "Everybody loses some part of their base, people from their

own party who don't vote for them. Typically that's about 5 or 10 percent. She's losing 20 to 25 percent. That's a problem."

Buskirk, who was warmly received at the Fort Wayne Rotary Club meeting last week, said that is not true. "He can speculate all he wants," Buskirk said (*Journal Gazette*). "But I would like to talk to the mayor about the issues. That's what's been most frustrating. With the cancellation of three debates, the media is focusing on advertising because there's nothing else to report."

While it was Richard fending off the debate cancellations and his refusal to release his personal and business tax returns last week, the emphasis this week in the media and from observers of both parties was Buskirk's negative ads.

Another tell-tale clue was reported by WPTA-TV last night: A mailing from Buskirk that deals with abortion. The mailing identifies Buskirk as a candidate endorsed by the Indiana Right to Life. It also includes this line: "Graham Richard, a pro-abortion Mayor we don't need."

Richard campaign manager Greg Haegele told WTPA, "I honestly don't know his position. It's just not anything that occurred to me to ask, because it's not relevant to a mayor's race."

Haegele called it the act of a desperate candidate. "This is an attempt to solidify your base, this is the kind of thing you would send if you were concerned that people that normally vote for you might not turn out to vote for you."

Buskirk countered, "Some people don't take the abortion issue into account when choosing elected officials, but many people do. And it's viewed as an issue related to ... how you make decisions, and what you value. And so, for those that take that into account ... that's who got that mailing."

## Lloyd lashes out

Another tell-tale sign of trouble is when a candidate lashes out at the news

*Continued on page 3*

## HPR has questions for subscribers

As *The Howey Political Report* heads deep into its 10th year of publishing, we are planning a redesign of our products.

Send me an e-mail at [brianhowey@howeypolitics.com](mailto:brianhowey@howeypolitics.com), and answer the following questions:

1. Do you primarily read *HPR* and the *HPR Daily Wire* on your computer?
2. Do you print out your newsletters for reading?
3. Do you do both?

Your feedback will be appreciated and should allow us to provide you with a better product to fulfill your needs.

- Brian A. Howey ❖

media, as was the case with Evansville Mayor Lloyd. "I've felt ever since Rep. Weinzapfel got into the campaign, (the newspaper) has shown an inclination toward his candidacy and against mine," Lloyd said Monday.

On Sunday, Weinzapfel received the *Courier & Press* endorsement, with the editorial saying the challenger is "capable of aggressive leadership." The editorial said of Lloyd, "few accomplishments during Lloyd's first term occurred directly as a result of his perseverance, leadership and political skill."

Lloyd told *HPR* that "momentum is on our side" and explained he had visited 7,000 homes since August. "I'm getting a great reaction from average people," Lloyd said. "Folks are genuinely concerned about the "trust" issue with Rep. Weinzapfel."

Weinzapfel has attacked Lloyd for proposing deficit budgets to the City Council. Lloyd turned around that criticism Tuesday, saying Weinzapfel "has never voted for a balanced budget in Indianapolis, not even once. Can any of you remember a time when he gave a speech or held a press conference about his objections to the state's unbalanced budget? I can't" (John Martin, *Courier & Press*). He also asked why Weinzapfel's local House colleagues didn't support his bid for speaker.

As for the *Daily Show* piece on Comedy Central, Lloyd said the show was "a non-factor. Occasionally young people

tell me they liked it. I went door to door in the area that flooded, (and) other than college students no one mentioned it."

### Battleground Anderson

In what may be the most competitive race in the state, Ken de la Bastide of the *Anderson Herald-Bulletin* reported on Monday, "The amount of money pouring into Anderson's mayoral race continues to shatter records. In just a week, Kevin Smith ... took in almost \$60,000, bumping its total to \$162,786. The Indiana Republican Party chipped in \$40,831

Democrat Bob Rock, has raised \$271,225, including \$37,000 in a week, \$16,000 of it coming from the Indiana Democratic Party. "The state (Republican) party knows it is a winnable race," Smith said. Rock explained, "The Republicans are hungry and this is an open seat. It appears that Jim Kittle is stealing a page from the Democratic Party playbook. They are trying to build the party from the grassroots up to be ready for the governor's race next year."

### Epilogue

We'll still be surprised if Muncie Mayor Canan loses. Best prospects for Democratic pickups appear to be Lafayette, New Albany, Mishawaka and Evansville. Best pickup hopes for Republicans appear to be Crown Point, Anderson, Kokomo, LaPorte and Valparaiso. ❖

## TICKER T A P E

make people feel comfortable when they meet her. And as a politician's wife, she also knows how to work a crowd. That's what she did Tuesday at the Executive Inn at a fundraiser for Evansville mayoral candidate Jonathan Weinzapfel. But the room of about 80 women wanted her to talk about a potential candidate. Their question: Is her husband going to seek election as governor? "He has made no decision yet," she said (Roberta Heiman, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Maggie Kernan has advised her husband not to shut the door on a run for the office, and she said she will have a voice in the decision. The reason no decision has been made, she told the local audience, is "partly because we haven't had much time to talk about it." In the six weeks since the death of Gov. Frank O'Bannon, the Kernans have communicated in "five-minute snippets," she said, as they adjust to new roles. Maggie Kernan grew up in a home where "politics was front and center," she said. Her father, Bill McCullough, was a Boston Irishman who believed in the Democratic Party and taught his children to do the same.

**MUNCIE TAX REVOLT BREWS:** State Rep. Jack Lutz, R-Anderson, found out

*continued on page 4*

# TICKER

T A P E

Monday what some Delaware County residents think of reassessment and Indiana's property tax system (Rick Yencer, Muncie Star Press). "There's got to be a better way than what Indiana is doing," said Robert Burns, a retired factory worker from Eaton. Burns said his property taxes increased 85 percent after the latest reassessment and it was time the Legislature did something about it. "I am not disagreeing with you," said Lutz. Fifteen people showed up Monday for Lutz's town hall meeting, which was rescheduled twice in recent months. Most were vocal about skyrocketing property taxes from reassessment and spending increases by local government and schools. Lutz, who is in the minority of the Indiana House, favors throwing out Indiana's property tax system, moving toward financing government with sales and income taxes.

**McCLOSKEY RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL:** Former U.S. Rep Frank McCloskey has been released from Bloomington Hospital after 12 days of treatment for bladder cancer. McCloskey, 64, left the hospital Tuesday. The former Bloomington mayor was diagnosed with bladder cancer in September 2002, and his health had worsened at the time he was admitted (Associated Press).

*continued on page 5*

## 2003 Racing Form Indiana Mayoral Races

**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:** Both state parties are dumping in late resources, so this is expected to be close. **General Status:** *LEANS SMITH.*

**Crown Point Mayoral:**

**Republican:** Dan Klein. **Democrat:** Wayne Isailovich. **1999 Results:** Metros (D) 3,005, Kemp (R) 2,671. **2003 Outlook:** This race got very dirty during Tuesday's debate, with Isailovich pointing out Klein's firing by his union. We still believe that Sheriff Dominguez's rebuke of the Democrat and his mother's support of Klein suggest the Republican will prevail. **Primary Status:** *LEANS KLEIN.*

**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:** Miller has a \$138,000 to \$53,000 money edge over Perron. A number of former Perron backers, such as Art Decio, are supporting Miller. Perron has been running an anti-Miller campaign, and not really running on his own five-term record which is a bit puzzling. Perron could have co-opted the "incumbent" advantage but didn't do so. Miller made one critical mistake at a really bad time. When Delois Barnes was picked to replace her husband Ben on the council and as a candidate, Miller made some comments that came across as crass considering Ben Barnes had been dead a little more than a week. That could hurt. Miller gets the edge here. His administration started slowly, but has picked up some steam. One note: Perron won in an upset in 1983 and it could happen again. **General Status:** *LEANS MILLER*

**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:** Lloyd insists he has the momentum and said that touring the neighborhood with the sewage problem featured on the Comedy Central's *Daily Show*, only one person brought the issue up. Maggie Kernan stumped for Weinzapfel and Sen. Bayh is doing a TV ad. GOP Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. was in town to bolster Lloyd, who has knocked on 7,000 doors since August. We still give an edge to Weinzapfel given the united Democrats. **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:** We had this racing shifting toward Buskirk last week, but her negative TV ads and fliers appear to have backfired and even ardent Republicans believe she is damaged goods. It was tempting to put this race in the Leans Richard category, which would have been our first "Leans to Leans" shift, but given the volatility of this race and the level of polling, we'll go with the tossup. **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**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:** The day McDermott criticized Dedelow for a lack of economic development during a debate, Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis and the Indiana Department of Commerce came to Hammond, appeared with Dedelow and announced the establishment of the Triad high tech park. But we don't have a defining read on this race and there is no polling data, so we'll say it's a ... **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**

# HORSE RACE

**Results:** Peterson (D) 102,870, Gilroy (R) 83,044, Horning (L) 7,772, Gibson (OP) 2,145. **2003 Forecast:** A WISH/Telesearch Poll (700 likely, +/- 3.8 percent) had Peterson leading 52-35 percent, and only 11 percent said the property tax issue would impact their vote. In the survey of 400 likely Marion County voters taken during a four-day period ending Monday night, Peterson leads Jordan by a margin of 58 percent to 29 percent (*Indianapolis Star*). The big question is whether Peterson can poll 60 percent and pull in the first Democratic Council of Unigov. Seeing 3rd District challenger Mike Edmondson's direct mailing compared to the amateurish A-Team mailing the GOP out this week certainly points to takeover. **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 Waiz 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.*

**Lafayette Mayoral: Republican:** Clerk Lisa Decker. **Democrat:** Councilman Tony Roswarski. **1999 Results:** Heath (R) 6,237, Weiss (D) 5,496. **2003 Forecast:** Sen. Bayh endorsed Roswarski; Rep. Buyer endorsed Decker. The candidates have sparred over Roswarski's living wage proposal, with Decker saying it will scare off companies looking to locate in the city. Our sense is that while this race will be close, Roswarski gets a slight edge. **General Status:** *LEANS ROSWARSKI.*

**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:** The sister of Seybold is defending her brother's qualifications to be mayor and his skating career that Democrats have questioned during the campaign. Kim Seybold-Catron had not been active in her brother's run for mayor. But the Fishers resident said letters to the editor criticizing her brother have belittled their Olympic experience (*Marion Chronicle-Tribune*). The brother-and-sister duo competed in pairs figure skating at the 1988 Winter Olympics. "I kind of got angry about it because it was the town of Marion who put us there, and it was the citizens of Marion who helped us realize our Olympic dream," the 38-year-old mother of two said, referring to the money the community raised for her and her brother to train and get to the Olympics. "And to me, that should not have entered this political race. That's something we accomplished long before Wayne decided to run for mayor, and I'm not running for mayor, so it shouldn't be belittled." **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:** Local Republicans say this race has tightened up, in part due to anger over property taxes. Delaware County GOP Chairman Kay Whitehead aired a radio ad criticizing Democrats over an insurance firm. Gary Crawley, a Ball State University political scientist, told the Star Press, "I suspected Canan was in good shape, but the race is a bit closer than it seemed," Crawley said. **General status:** *LEANS 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:** *SAFE LUECKE.*

**Valparaiso Mayoral: Republican:** Jon Costas. **Democrat:** Mayor David Butterfield. **1999 Results:** Butterfield (D) 3,532, Costas (R) 3,336. **2003 Forecast:** Costas had to fend off Butterfield allegations of drug use and his financial portfolio this week. Those are hardball tactics from an incumbent mayor fighting for his life. **General status:** *LEANS COSTAS.* ❖

# TICKER

## T A P E

McCloskey represented southwestern Indiana's 8th Congressional District from 1983 to 1995. Since 1999, he had served as the Monroe County Democratic chairman; he resigned in July to concentrate on his cancer fight.

**FEDERAL LAWSUIT SEEKS TO OVERTURN EAST CHICAGO ELECTION: A lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court on Wednesday aims to disqualify East Chicago Mayor Robert A. Pastrick's win in last May's Democratic primary for mayor (Post-Tribune). Lawyers in the Chicago office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) filed a voting rights lawsuit naming Pastrick and members of the Lake County Election Board and Lake County Democratic Party Chairman Stephen Stiglich as defendants. MALDEF, a Latino civil rights organization, filed the lawsuit on behalf of East Chicago residents Maria Gonzalez, Alicia Rodriguez, Juan Paul Fernandez and George Pabey. The lawsuit claims Pastrick and his supporters "engaged in a predatory pattern of inducing Latino voters to engage in absentee balloting ... and to unlawfully assist the voter in completing the ballot."**

**PASTRICK CALLS POST-TRIBUNE STORY**

*continued on page 6*

# TICKER

## T A P E

'IMMORAL': East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick angrily denied knowledge of a drug kingpin working on behalf of his administration (Steve Patterson and Michael Puente, Post-Tribune). Pastrick responded Wednesday to a Post-Tribune investigation, which detailed how one contractor involved in illegal city work in 1999 said he took orders from East Chicago resident Ronald Markowski. In a 1983 federal indictment, Markowski was identified as the head of an international cocaine trafficking operation. "I don't know this person," Pastrick said after an unrelated news conference. "I have never had any dealings with this person." But Dave Johnson, owner of Munster-based Dave's Tree Service, said in a Sunday story that Markowski was his City Hall contact, delivering orders and approving payment for work done in 1999. City records show no record of Markowski ever having been employed by the city. But records show no contracts were signed for more than \$20 million in city work done in 1999, including paving, tree removal and electrical work on private property. Federal prosecutors, who have so far indicted six city officials for coordinating that work, say the work was done to encourage votes for Pastrick. Pastrick declined to return calls seeking com-

## Statehouse showdown ignoring big picture

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - With a crisis mentality gripping the Indiana General Assembly, a skirmish line has been established between legislative leaders critical of local government spending and municipal and county officials who feel wedged between the proverbial rock and hard place.

Missing from the discussion has been the concept of government restructuring, whether it comes in the form of a constitutional convention, or a convocation of the executive, legislative and judicial branches to develop constitutional amendments.

At the local level, there are public discussions underway in Fort Wayne, Evansville and Lake County about the potential cost savings by merging governmental units. Hoosier citizens in the Louisville metro area have a front row seat to that city's merger with Jefferson County over the past year.

At the state level, there has been some resonance about the concept of government restructuring. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Joe Andrew came out in favor of a constitutional convention. State Sen. Vi Simpson urged reformers to read Crowe Chizek LLC's Coalition on Monitoring Public Efficiency and Tax Expenditures Project (COMPETE) study (see [crowechizek.com](http://crowechizek.com), hit publications button). Republican David McIntosh called for the elimination of township government. Sen. Murray Clark was open to the idea of restructuring.

The problem is that within the next month, all of those gubernatorial campaigns could be out of business.

The remaining frontrunning campaigns (presumably those of Republican Mitch Daniels and Gov. Joe Kernan), have yet to wade into the idea of taking Indiana's 1851 government structure and modernizing it for greater efficiencies and service delivery.

How important is the concept of government restructuring as opposed to the burgeoning life sciences or the eroding manufacturing base? According to Crowe Chizek, Indiana governmental units in 1997 spent \$3.5 billion on services, including \$970 million on public safety, \$485 million on health and welfare, \$47 million on poor relief, \$533 million on roads and highways, \$125 million on conservation and planning, and \$139 million on culture and recreation. Spending on local government approaches \$1 billion a year. "Compared to other states, Indiana has the largest number of separate government units and officials," the COMPETE study notes. Counties, cities, towns and townships "collectively form one of the biggest components of Indiana's economy."

With none of the major players left grasping what should be the central issue of the day, what we've seen is the inevitable tug of war and finger pointing between legislators and mayors, county councilmen and commissioners.

### Bauer presses for changes

House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer has been pressing for the Nov. 18 organization day as a time to tweak the historic 2002 tax reforms.

He has found critics ranging from mayors to Senate Republicans. "I would say it's premature to try to develop legislation when we really haven't studied the effects of this reassessment," Mishawaka Mayor Robert Beutter told the *South Bend Tribune*. "Doing something in a hurry may have some very long-lasting effects on the property tax structure."

And Beutter commented on Bauer's assertions that local governments are out of control. "I resent the blame being assessed on local governments," Beutter said. "I mean, we're the downhill guys, we're where the buck stops."

Senate President Robert Garton, in

announcing Senate hearings throughout Indiana over the next two weeks, observed that changing the rules on levy caps and appeal buffers could penalize the counties that finished reassessment in a timely manner by making them conduct new budget hearings and recalculate bills. "We have to respect the local level of government," Garton said. "To ask them to do it all again, I just don't think it's practical as well as not wise."

Said Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, "I am still of the opinion that to do more than just the tweaking, it's too early to do that. You can't do it without Lake County, and you can't do it without Allen County, two of the largest counties in the state."

And, perhaps, Indiana will never be able to do it without recognizing the bigger picture. The state has been hamstrung with a severe lack of data collec-

tion on elementary things such as sales taxes. It faces an aging population and a shift from rust belt manufacturing to advanced manufacturing and life sciences.

Where the \$50,000 a year UAW worker will find a job during this conversion over the next five years (Wal-Mart, the state's largest employer, or a Guidant clean lab?) is totally relevant to such key factors as personal income, which will probably decline further, as well as sales and income tax collections.

If the current battle lines play out at the Statehouse over the next several months, it's going to be fratricide between state and local lawmakers. Only one of the major 2004 gubernatorial candidates, and hopefully both major party nominees, can lead a meaningful discussion to a durable conclusion on the bigger picture. Otherwise, God help Indiana. ❖

## Embarrassments for both political parties

In the northern corners of Indiana, two embarrassing episodes are playing out, making folks in both major political parties cringe.

In Northwest Indiana, the *Post-Tribune* reported that Ronald Markowski, a former drug kingpin with ties to the Colombian Medellin cocaine cartel, served as a go-between for East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick's scandal-riddled sidewalk paving program that helped win him the 1999 primary election and contractors. "I gave Ron my prices before doing any trees and he'd say 'yay' or 'nay,'" said Dave Johnson, owner of Munster-based Dave's Tree Service (Steve Patterson, *Post-Tribune*). "Ron would ride with us every day and show us which trees to do. He'd go every day and get his list from the city."

It was only months ago that a Pastrick endorsement was a sought-after prize in the Democratic gubernatorial race.

Pastrick called the story "immoral" (*see Ticker Tape*). Markowski, who had ties to Pablo Escobar and Manuel Noriega and was convicted and sentenced to 45 years for flying coke into small Hoosier airports in 1983, told the *Post-Tribune*, "Those people (at City Hall) don't intimidate me whatsoever. I'm no idiot. I did 20 years (sic). Those (expletives) don't scare me. Leave me out of your story."

**In Steuben County**, former Republican 3rd CD and county chairman Don Clark, 66, is facing rape and criminal deviate sexual conduct charges for allegedly soliciting sexual favors from women seeking poor relief from Clark's Pleasant Township trustee's office. He was arrested last summer when police observed him inappropriately touching one woman. Since then, four other women made similar allegations. The irony here is that Clark's Congressional District was home to two of the nation's greatest advocates of "family values" and "compassionate conservatism," former Vice President Dan Quayle and U.S. Sen. Dan Coats. ❖

## TICKER T A P E

ment last week, but after reading of the Markowski ties, Pastrick said he was "distracted" by the story and said the *Post-Tribune* was "immoral" for writing it. Pastrick said he then talked with "two or three department heads" to find out if they had any communication with this person, whomever he is, and they denied it. "I was ready to do some drastic things. I talked to my attorneys and I cooled down." Pastrick insisted, Markowski was not acting on behalf of his administration. "Nobody knows of him," Pastrick said. "They (department heads) don't have any idea that there was a connection." Tim Raykovich, special assistant to Pastrick, said the story "knocked our socks off."

**EAST CHICAGO POLICE CHIEF RETIRES:** Saying he has accomplished as much as he could in his 33-year career with the East Chicago Police Department, Chief Frank Alcala on Wednesday announced his retirement from the force (*Post-Tribune*). Alcala's last day with the department, where he has been chief for the past 10 years, will be Dec. 31. "It's the right time. When you feel it's the time, it's time," Alcala said. "I've accomplished just about everything I could on the department." Mayor Robert A. Pastrick said Alcala imple-

*continued on page 8*

# TICKER T A P E

mented a number of initiatives during his tenure as chief, such as the canine unit, neighborhood bike patrols and gang narcotic unit, while partnering with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. "I admire the work that Frank has done," Pastrick said. "I will miss Frank Alcalá." Alcalá's departure comes at a time when the city has seen 16 homicides and internal discord with some of his officers, some of which has resulted in lawsuits against him, the city and the mayor. Alcalá, who maintains residences in East Chicago and Munster, had also been accused of voting by absentee ballot in last May's Democratic primary for mayor, possibly violating state election laws. Pastrick emphasized that Alcalá was not forced out, as suggested in recent news reports. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

**PASTRICK SAYS HE WILL HIRE REFORMER CHIEF:** A reform-minded specialist will lead the East Chicago Police Department on an interim basis and help select a new chief, Mayor Robert Pastrick said at Wednesday's news conference formally announcing the retirement of Chief Frank Alcalá (Times of Northwest Indiana). "I no longer have the fire in my gut for the political side of it," Pastrick said. "My fire is for the best for the community. It's important we

# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**John Krull, *Indianapolis Eye*** - These are dark times for civil libertarians. Those of us who love individual liberty and revere the Bill of Rights have seen constitutional protections that have served this country well for more than two centuries swept away in an instant. You think I'm exaggerating? In 2001, Congress passed the ill-named USA Patriot Act, which allowed law enforcement officials to open people's mail, search their belongings and eavesdrop on their conversations without so much as a by-your-leave, in 45 days. Normally, members of Congress spend more time than that deciding what they want on their pizzas. And there were the mass detentions, generally on the flimsiest of pretexts, of more than a thousand material witnesses all across the country. These folks were denied access to counsel, were not charged with any crimes and were held indefinitely. When Nicaragua did such things in the 1980s, we Americans justly condemned the Sandinistas' actions. Then there were the plans to do away with attorney-client privilege, the wholesale unlawful detentions at Guantanamo Bay, and the attempts to suppress dissent. As I say, all in all, it's not a happy time for those of us who believe that freedom is the thing we Americans should be committed to protecting. And yet, even in a dark time, one can see signs of light. During an appearance at the Indiana Civil Liberties Union's Statewide Student Conference a couple of weeks ago, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence said he had told Attorney General John Ashcroft that a second, even more onerous, version of the Patriot Act would not make it through Congress. (This second version, among other things, would grant the executive branch the almost unilateral right to determine who is a citizen and who isn't. Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and John Adams rightly rebelled when

kings attempted to claim such powers.) What's more, Rep. Pence also said that he supported repealing part of the first Patriot Act, the truly noxious "sneak and peek" provisions. These provisions allow law enforcement officials to search your property without telling you they have done so for 120 days or more. That legislation is now before the House. Thank goodness. ❖

**Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*** - A principal reason for the growing skepticism about Bush administration policy in Iraq is that key figures in the administration, particularly civilian politicians in the Defense Department, oversold how swiftly military victory would be followed by a remarkable transition to democracy and oil-fueled prosperity. That's why the costs, about which there were no realistic early estimates, now come as a shock. The president himself, listening presumably to political advisers, promoted the idea of a mission accomplished with that dramatic flight to the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to proclaim major combat finished. Instead of listening to the rosy scenario of advisers, the president should have listened to people such as Sen. Dick Lugar, who warned even before military action was launched that there was not adequate planning for what would happen after Saddam Hussein was toppled. Explain to the American people what could be expected in time and cost of the nation-building that would follow military victory, Lugar urged. The president turned a deaf ear to Lugar, a Republican who certainly had the president's as well as the nation's best interests at heart. Instead, Bush left the inadequate planning to those who believed naively that a grateful Iraqi population would hail the conquering U.S. troops and quickly get their country up and running again.

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# 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:** Will Kernan run? If

we had to make an educated guess with a little "gut feeling" thrown in for good measure, the ol' Horse thinks he will (as does Jim Kittle). The Draft Kernan Committee has sprung up ([draftkernan.com](http://draftkernan.com)) and is sanctioned. The gover-

nor has picked up his political schedule with stops or help coming in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Wabash, Evansville and Jeffersonville. More importantly, First Lady Maggie Kernan seems to be finding her voice as she has stumped in South Bend, Fort Wayne, Evansville and Indy. The First Lady told the Evansville Courier & Press that no decision has been made, but that story also revealed the political activism Mrs. Kernan grew up under in her Boston/Irish home. Now, what do you suppose ol' Honey Fitz would advise the reluctant governor and his wife to do?

Here's another factor bouncing between the Horse's mind and gut: How will Gov. Kernan be able to sit on the sidelines a year from now while watching Chairman Kittle trash the O'Bannon-Kernan record and legacy? Our gut feeling is that a Kernan-Daniels matchup will start out very close with Daniels. Andrew's campaign issued a newsletter this week with the candidate telling supporters, "After our new First Lady hinted that Gov. Kernan might consider running for a full four-year term and my lieutenant governor candidate Bren Simon dropped out, Hoosier Democrats have been left scratching their heads, wondering what all of this means.

What it means for Joe Andrew is simple: We are moving forward. With dogged perseverance, I will continued to talk about ideas that will make this a better state." Miller kicked off his GOP gubernatorial campaign in Hendricks County on Monday. It didn't get much media play, but Miller was adamant about staying in the race. "From the time we set up our exploratory committee last September (2002), we have said we are not running against any candidate," Miller said (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "I am running to be governor." Miller said in his announcement, "With a lot of candidates getting in and out and the uncertainty that comes with that, we wanted to make our campaign official. We are in the race to stay and in the race to win." Mayor Harris said Monday that he has no plans to drop out before the primary. "Of course, Mitch is certainly getting all the publicity, but I think we have a lot more to offer the people." Daniels campaigned with former White House spokesman Ari Fleischer on Friday in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne. His campaign RV lost its awning just south of Deerfield. There were no injuries. Simpson continues to push her prescription drug plan, telling the press in Gary, "It impacts every taxpayer in the state of Indiana because we all pay those bills for Medicaid recipients, for state employees." Gary Mayor Scott King introduced Simpson at the news conference. She has campaigned for mayoral candidates in Greensburg, Seymour, Lafayette and Logansport **General Status: TOSSUP (if Kernan runs)**

**U.S. Senate: Republican:** Marvin Scott, Dwight Wilkerson. **Democrat:** U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats (R) 1,267,972, Hogsett (D) 900,148. **1998 Results:** Bayh (D) 1,012,244, Helmke (R) 552,732. **2004 Forecast:** Dwight D. "Ike" Wilkerson announced his candidacy Wednesday at the Statehouse. In 1995, Wilkerson joined the Pat Buchanan for President campaign, where he served as a national campaign organizer and as assistant to the chief legal adviser. Condemning "uncontrolled borders and broken immigration policy" that he said led to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Wilkerson said he would seek to stop the annual flow of about 500,000 undetected foreign nationals into the United States. "We must know who is coming across our borders and what they are bringing with them," said Wilkerson, a Carmel attorney. "It's that simple. And we need to track down and remove those who are here illegally now."

**Status: SAFE BAYH.** ❖

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improve upon the perception of our community."

**PATRICK RAISED ALMOST \$300,000:** Mayor Robert A. Pastrick has raised nearly \$300,000, including hefty contributions by nearly all of his top city department heads, in his ninth consecutive campaign for re-election (Post-Tribune). Between April 12 and Oct. 10, the Committee to Re-Elect Robert A. Pastrick raised \$297,034, according to campaign finance reports released this week. With \$3,159 already in his account, Pastrick's re-election campaign amassed a total of \$300,194. Since the beginning of the year, Pastrick's committee raised \$446,643.

**WAYNE COUNTY TAXES GO DOWN:** Wayne County tax rates are in, and they went down (Richmond Palladium-Item). That is exactly what they're supposed to do to keep property taxes reasonable when property reassessments increase. Wayne County Auditor Chris Beeson is optimistic about how tax bills will turn out for Wayne County residents. "Overall the reassessment has gone pretty smooth," Beeson said. "Our rates went down enough."

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