

# The Howey Political Report



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I have learned that the only way the Kernan administration will listen is if I yell and wave my arms.”

- Indiana Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr.

## Kernan, Daniels: indispensible men

### Governor election drives 2004 Top 50

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

The annual *Howey Political Report 50 Most Influential List* is a snapshot of who stands at the points of power and clout that will drive the political events of the year. This list shifts with the changing dynamic of the times.

In 2002, the center of gravity was in the Indiana General Assembly when tax restructuring loomed. Last year, it shifted to Washington on the eve of war and in the shadows of terror.

War and terror still have the potential of determining the next chapters of Indiana's journey into a new century, but the two main gubernatorial candidates -- Gov. Joe Kernan and Republican Mitch Daniels -- have the potential for truly defining how Indiana emerges in the first quarter of the 21st Century.

There's a lot at stake. Hoosiers stood at a similar juncture at this time last century. And we made critical mistakes, such as turning our backs on Henry Ford, preferring our own isolation after Indiana entered the 20th Century at its cultural, political and literary apex. Those fateful bad decisions spelled a half century of turmoil for our state that included a takeover by the Ku Klux Klan and decades of scandal that didn't abate until the late 1950s.

Today, Indiana faces a drastic retooling of its economy. The stain of scandal once again seems to be spreading from Lake County to the Statehouse. Kernan and Daniels have the opportunity -- *the sacred opportunity* -- to reconcile the potshots and attempts at revisionist history with setting forth a vivid vision and roadmap for the future. The decisions voters make in the coming months, and degree of acumen the winners display, could have a huge impact on the state our children and grandchildren will inherit.

Here is the *2004 HPR 50 Most Influential*:

**1. Gov. Joe Kernan:** In a gubernatorial election year, the governor returns to the top of the list. It's significant to point this out because in the 2003 list, Gov. Frank O'Bannon had slipped to No. 7. Legislative leaders seemed to have a better grip on power than the late governor did in the twilight days of his career. Kernan has robustly changed that perception. He firmly steered a paranoid legislature out of town in December, saying it was too early to deal with property tax fallout. Kernan has returned the executive branch to

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**GALLUP PUTS BUSH APPROVAL AT: A USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll of 1,029 adults, conducted over January 2-5 (+/- 3%), shows: 60% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president"; 35% disapprove; 5% have no opinion. 54% approve "of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy"; 43% disapprove. 61% approve "of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq"; 36% disapprove. 58% approve "of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign affairs"; 39% disapprove. 57% approve "of the way George W. Bush is handling taxes"; 38% disapprove. 56% approve "of the way George W. Bush is handling education"; 35% disapprove. 43% approve "of the way George W. Bush is handling healthcare policy"; 49% disapprove. 55% are "satisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time"; 43% are dissatisfied; 2% had no opinion.**

**HEIM INTRODUCES BILL TO STUDY GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATION:** Legislation introduced on Wednesday by State Rep. Steve Heim (R-Culver) could lead to dramatic reforms of Indiana's property tax system and significantly restructure local government. House Bill 1124 would establish a statewide study

a true cabinet style of government and acted proactively with Cheryl Sullivan's appointment to FSSA and the hiring of Marshall Michael Carrington to thoroughly probe BMV. However, Kernan must bear the O'Bannon legacy, something he publicly embraces, but that will provide a myriad of challenges, many tainted by scandal. The key question for Gov. Kernan at some point will have to be, "Where was your seat at the table in the O'Bannon days?" How he answers that question could determine whether he wins his own term. Kernan has the potential, capabilities, resume and a new campaign team to accomplish this, despite the historic "Time for a change!" tide rolling up against him. An improving economy will help both President Bush and Gov. Kernan. Whether that good news is devoured on the front pages and top of the newscasts by the 100 nicks and cuts of scandal could determine his political fate.

**2. Mitch Daniels:** Daniels has prepared himself for the "agent of change" role. His opening campaign strategy of touring the smaller cities and towns across the state in an RV (while raising millions) was brilliant. Daniels has proved to be an outside-the-box thinker, studying the I-69 project and suggesting a route change to I-70 and the airport. He has embraced the concept of the constitutional convention to reorganize Indiana's layered, archaic governmental structure. He will be stressing the "who" more so than the "what" in the coming months. But there are challenges. Will he have to defend the \$500 billion federal budget deficit he presided over at OMB? The early tour may inoculate him from the "outsider" DC image the Democrats will attempt to affix. He will likely have to further deal with the IPALCO stock sale should a trial begin this year. And while the "time for a change" current is an obstacle for Kernan, no resident of Indianapolis has ever become governor of Indiana.

**3. State Sen. Larry Borst:** How vulnerable Borst feels about his looming

primary challenge from Johnson County Council President Brent Waltz could determine what does or doesn't happen in the Indiana legislature. Waltz has more assets than any other challenger attempting to knock off a legislative kingpin in recent history. Borst must worry about the array of municipal and school leaders he's brushed off over the years, the pro life wing of the GOP, plus the 50 percent of homeowners in his district who saw their property taxes go up. And Waltz can go for the upset by gathering up as little as 5,000 votes. This challenge, the first of Borst's 30 year career, has found the senator re-engaging in his district. His actions in the legislature to date, show a steady hand. It will be fascinating to watch how he deals with the crisis-like atmosphere facing the General Assembly, and his own political fortunes and a district potentially in a tempest.

**4. District Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen:** His first wave of indictments snared Indiana Democratic Chairman Peter Manous, a union leader, Lake County Auditor Peter Benjamin, Lake County Councilman Troy Montgomery, and the son of the mayor of East Chicago. Other major political figures -- beyond Mayors Pastrick and Scott King and Jewel Harris -- may also be in his sights. Van Bokkelen has the greatest potential to reshape The Region's political landscape since Richard Hatcher nearly a half century ago ... not via the ballot box, but the jury box.

**5. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh:** He's on the ballot in 2004; Sen. Lugar isn't. Bayh is an even more intriguing political figure this year because of his party's veer away from the center and to Howard Dean in the presidential race. How that turns out could greatly influence Bayh's political career. If Dean wins the nomination and loses to President Bush, Bayh will be a key figure to steer the party back to the center. If Dean doesn't get the nomination, Bayh's in good shape and maybe even on the veep short list. If Dean wins

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the nomination and beats Bush, Bayh and his "assisted suicide" comment will not be forgotten. Bayh's seat on the Senate Intelligence Committee makes him an important figure in the Senate, particularly if Al-Qaeda attempts to embarrass Bush by landing a terror hit on the homeland sometime this winter or spring.

**6. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar:** His relentless drive to use the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as the forum for serious policy discussion and formulation has given the panel influence that it hasn't enjoyed in almost two decades -- since the last time he led it. It's the place where U.S. efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, and every other dangerous part of the world are given the scrutiny that forces the administration to explain itself, and even improve its approach. If Iraq is the potential nightmare in a quagmire, Pakistan is a nuclear-tipped freak show that could explode in 2004. Lugar's views will be vital in the coming months. His political organization could prove to be an asset for his protegee, Mitch Daniels.

**7. Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr.:** Last year we wrote, "He's the Hoosier steed shooting out of a hornet-infested starting gate." We were dead-on there, weren't we? Kittle is the blustery "bad cop" in the war on Gov. Kernan, giving Daniels the high road. But will Kittle's cop role be accompanied with a loose cannon? Some influential Republicans fret. Kittle has been the most fervent critic of Kernan, and released a compilation of press clippings of Kernan's "Legacy of Neglect." What if Kittle crosses the line against a governor who reached his station via tragedy and a stint in the Hanoi Hilton? Many Democrats expect he will. Kittle has a lot riding on this election. If Daniels loses, Kittle will be under fire from rural and southern wings of the party's central committee, even more so if he's perceived as the loose cannon.

**8. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson:** Most of our top political figures face arduous elections or the chal-

lenges posed by current events. Peterson may have the biggest challenge: Forging a deal with Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay. A new deal and stadium for the Colts (a Super Bowl appearance would be helpful) could be primed for striking, and Peterson will call the final shots. His political organization could be a boon for Gov. Kernan.

**9. Prosecutor Carl Brizzi:** The Marion County prosecutor's probes of FSSA and BMV are getting under the skin of Democrats, who allege he is a "political prosecutor." Democrats fear that Brizzi's grand jury on FSSA could return embarrassing indictments just before or during the fall election cycle.

**10. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence:** He's forged himself a national reputation, appearing frequently on CNN's *Crossfire*, and is a fountain of quotes for the national press. Pence is also a rising conservative skeptic of the Bush administration, which he views as pulling away from its Reaganite moorings. The Medicare bill was the most conspicuous parting with the Bush administration. We see Pence assuming a significant national leadership role when the neo-cons begin reasserting their agenda in the final years of a second Bush presidency, should that occur.

**11. Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton:** True power resides in the Indiana Senate. That's what we said last year and it still holds true. Garton may be inclined to sit with a pat hand and let Gov. Kernan and Speaker Bauer stew over a slew of Democratic House districts facing skyrocketing property tax hikes. And that billion-dollar deficit? That's the Governor's problem, right senator?

**12. House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer:** Bauer needs a property tax deal, perhaps more so than Sen. Borst. But Garton holds the cards on this one. Bauer has appeared to be on the verge of panic at times this fall, not nearly as steady as Borst, Garton and Kernan. The Speaker would benefit if he made sure he was on the same page as his governor. If Bauer

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committee to examine the effectiveness, efficiency, fairness, and uniformity of the property tax system across Indiana, and determine whether alternatives to the property tax would be more effective and fair. The bill would also require a thorough analysis of the structure of local governments to determine if they are able to best serve the interests of taxpayers and whether a consolidation or reduction in the number of governmental units would be more efficient and effective. "The state's property tax system and the structure of local government remain relatively unchanged since the ratification of the state's Constitution in 1851, but our economy and society have changed dramatically over the last 153 years," said Heim. "Indiana progressed from an agrarian state to an industrial state and is now slowly adapting itself to the age of technology and information. The building of a technology-based economy, however, is a process that can easily be short circuited by a tax system and form of government stuck in the 19th Century." Specifically, HB 1124 requires the committee to examine and answer the following questions: (A) Is the township form of government necessary and relevant? (B) Should Indiana's 92 coun-

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ties be consolidated? (C) Should county commissioners and county councils be replaced with an individual elected county executive and an elected county board of directors? Would this lead to increased accountability and more efficient government? (E) What is the total cost of implementing the property tax system at all levels of government? (F) Would replacing property taxes with other sources of revenue for funding schools and local governments result in greater effectiveness, efficiency and fairness? "If we want to modernize our economy, then we must first modernize our government and the tax system that supports it," said Heim. The bipartisan committee, which would be comprised of legislators, local officials and members of local and statewide taxpayer interest groups, would publish its recommendations for legislation and Constitutional amendments by Dec. 1, 2005.

**POLICE BUST 1,200 METH LABS IN 2003:** Hoosier police shut down more than 1,200 illegal drug labs -- nearly all of them methamphetamine labs -- last year as Indiana's methamphetamine scourge continued to mount in rural areas.

"We don't see any end in sight," said Indiana State Police 1st Sgt. Dave Phelps,

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rips out on his own tangents, it could hurt both his caucus and Gov. Kernan. These are perhaps the most treacherous currents for Bauer in his career.

### 13. Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis:

Indiana's first female lieutenant governor will be crucial in helping Gov. Kernan trouble-shoot the scandals and economic development challenges in the months ahead. Her ability to gather facts, analyze them and forge credible solutions could be the difference in whether Gov. Kernan wins his own term. In a close election, Lt. Gov. Davis could make a critical difference on the gender gap that has long favored the Democrats in the Bayh-O'Bannon era. A significant challenge for Davis is developing the political "room awareness" that could make this smart choice into a savvy one.

### 14. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma:

He's made the biggest leap on the list (up from No. 34 last year) because he's consistently contributed constructive points to the public policy discussion and has put statesmanship above politics (i.e., he voted against tax restructuring, but allowed it to get out of the House in June 2002 by signalling to Rep. Mary Kay Budak to vote yea). Bosma could end up as House Speaker by the end of the year.

### 15. Ways and Means Chairman

**William Crawford:** This is a man in need of some deals to bring home some bacon (i.e. Indianapolis Colts, property tax relief for Rep. Orentlicher's Meridian-Kessler neighborhood). Crawford will have to work adroitly with Borst and Garton on the other side with a different agenda.

### 16. Chief Justice Randall

**Shepard:** The high court's ruling on mishandled gubernatorial vetoes, and his role in the transition between Govs. O'Bannon and Kernan was classy handling of two crises. Shepard could play a vital role if a movement toward a Constitutional Convention picks up steam.

### 17. Democratic Chairman Joe

**Hogsett:** Gov. Kernan said he wants to run a positive, visionary campaign for

Indiana's future. But how can he do that when Chairman Kittle is busting his balls over the "years of neglect?" All Democratic eyes will be on Hogsett to help muster a response. Thus far, Hogsett has moved silently, and carried a big stick (winning the top seven big mayoral races in 2003). It will be interesting to see how Hogsett plays his chess match with Kittle, and deals with the fallout from Van Bokkelen's attempts to clean up The Region while dealing with House districts rattled by high property tax increases.

**18. Bernie Toon:** Gov. Kernan's campaign manager.

**19. Bill Oesterle:** Mitch Daniels' campaign manager has a Harvard MBA and is a venture capitalist who is CEO of Angie's List. He and Toon's candidates start out about even in the polls. Both have been dealt a political hand. How they play the cards and execute could determine whether Kernan or Daniels wins in November.

**20. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard:** Richard ran what might be the best local campaign in Hoosier history to decisively win a second term. It came in a city that had demographically shifted to the GOP (via annexation) and in a bad economic year when more than 30 incumbent mayors were dumped by voters. Richard identified the voters he needed and then catered his campaign in seemingly clandestine fashion and got them to the polls in his rematch against Linda Buskirk, winning by 7,500 votes. It was a thoroughly state-of-the-art effort and it places Richard as the most savvy mayor in politics, even though his true passion lies in economic development.

**21. Kevin and Margaret Kellems:** He's moved from Paul Wolfowitz's office at the Pentagon to become Vice President Dick Cheney's spokesman. His wife, Margaret, is deputy mayor in charge of public safety and justice in Washington, D.C. They could write a hell of a book about their experiences since Sept. 11, 2001. He was in the Pentagon that day

and at the Al Rashid Hotel in Baghdad during an October missile attack. She's dealt with terror, anthrax and snipers. Kellems may eventually come back to Indiana for another Congressional run.

**22. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel:** He's the new Southern Indiana powerhouse and rising star in the Indiana Democratic Party, who won a 2,778-vote victory over incumbent Russell Lloyd Jr. Weinzapfel united the city's party, he's got vivid relationships in the Indiana General Assembly, he's young, sharp, handsome and personable. The sky's the limit.

**23. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola:** He has deftly used the backing of GOP House leadership and a plum position on the transportation committee to raise his profile in the district. His fund-raising machine has never taken a break. He has gone from a marginal victory in 2002 to prohibitive favorite in 2004. He's among the most reliable Bush supporters in the House. Perhaps the White House appreciates Chocola given the opposition it usually receives from Pence and John Hostettler in the Indiana delegation. Chocola is also likely to bring back Bush and Cheney to Indiana during this election cycle if challenger Joe Donnelly mounts a good challenge.

**24. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson:** Carson will not face a serious challenge for re-election this year, or any other in the near future. She presides over the state's top urban political organization. She has proved herself to have tough mettle, often working behind the scenes on issues such as wiping out Wishard Hospital's huge deficit. She is either approaching or at her political zenith.

**25. Pat Kiely:** Heads the Indiana Manufacturing Association .....

**26. Kevin Brinegar:** ... and he is the chief of the Indiana Chamber. Together (and we have confirmation that they sometimes work out of the same office) these two form the defense against House Democrats seeking to cut into the

gains of business and industry in the historic 2002 tax restructuring legislation.

**27. Terry Thurman:** As head of the UAW, Thurman single-handedly energized Joe Andrew's campaign during its credible beginnings. Plus, Thurman is great with the quotes. He's back in Gov. Kernan's camp and the governor will need this labor muscle on Election Day.

**28. U.S. Rep. John Hostettler:** Once again Hostettler, who possesses the top political organization in Southern Indiana, will face a serious challenge, this time from former Boston Celtic scout Jon Jennings. While Jennings is raising a lot of money, it appears that Hostettler is ideally situated no matter what happens in 2004. If President Bush surges to re-election, Hostettler will benefit from the coat-tails. If Bush is in a quagmire in Iraq, Hostettler is inoculated because he voted against the war resolution.

**29. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill:** The other Southern Indiana congressman will face a rematch against trucking executive Mike Sodrel. This time the Washington Republicans seem to be taking Sodrel more seriously. With this district trending Republican, particularly in presidential elections, and if Bush remains popular, Hill's district could be in the national crosshairs come next October and November.

**30. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton:** The senior Member of Congress from Indiana, he commands a now largely Northern Indiana district. His power in DC has declined since his days as chairman of the House Oversight Committee.

**31. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder:** He presides over the top political organization in Northern Indiana and has become a leading member fighting the losing battle on the war on drugs.

**32. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky:** In the wake of wave after wave of scandal scorching Region Democrats, Visclosky stands out as a beacon of how elected officials should conduct themselves.

**33. State Rep. David Orentlicher:**

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whose duties include helping clean up the drug labs in central Indiana (Lafayette Journal & Courier). ISP statistics show that 1,260 drug labs were shut down in 2003 -- up 26 percent from the 998 raided in 2002. Vigo County had Indiana's highest total in 2003 at 108.

**INDIANA DELEGATION SPLIT ON IMMIGRATION:** President Bush's plan to overhaul immigration laws will get a boost in Congress from Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, a Republican and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Maureen Groppe, Gannett News Service). But Rep. John Hostettler, R-8th District, who heads the House panel that oversees immigration issues, is not likely to be as supportive. On Wednesday Bush proposed allowing illegal immigrants to stay in the country legally as guest workers for three years if employers sponsor them. "The proposal by the president is generally in line with reforms that Senator Lugar has advocated," said Lugar spokesman Andy Fisher. In anticipation of the announcement, Lugar has been preparing to hold two hearings on immigration early this year. The first will focus on immigration from Mexico, dealing with several issues including guest workers and the legal and illegal status of immigrants,

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Fisher said. The second hearing will address visas, immigration from all countries and what has changed since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "Whatever finally occurs will certainly be different than where it started out," Fisher said. "And that's not bad or good. It just reflects all the political implications of U.S. immigration policy. (The president's proposal) is a good starting point."

Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh's spokeswoman said the senator, a Democrat, is still studying the proposal and has no comment. The Indiana congressional districts with the largest share of foreign-born residents -- nearly 5 percent -- are Rep. Pete Visclosky's seat in the state's northwest corner and Rep. Julia Carson's Indianapolis-based district. Visclosky, a Democrat, was still looking at Bush's proposal, according to a spokeswoman. Carson, also a Democrat, said in a statement that Bush should focus on job creation. "His proposal doesn't seem to offer any real benefit to the economy as we face a grim reality: 2.3 million private sector jobs have been lost since he took office," Carson said. Other members of the delegation did speak out against Bush's proposal, including Rep. Baron Hill, a Democrat, and Rep. Chris Chocola, a Republican. Hill said he

He's Speaker Bauer's indispensable man, sitting on a dome of political magma after his Butler/Tarkington/Meridian/Kessler district found scores of homeowners facing triple digit property tax increases. Orentlicher is already doing door-to-door campaigning in the hopes of stretching his 37-vote victory in 2002 to a second term. All eyes at the Statehouse will be on Orentlicher, who had a special session named after him.

**34. Gary Mayor Scott King:** He won a resounding third term last year and looked to be in the best position to have the greatest Lake County clout as Mayor Pastrick fades. But since Van Bokkelen sent the feds into his office and carted off boxes of files, King is in jeopardy. He'll be at the center of the next chapter of political/legal dramas in The Region.

**35. Bob Grand:** He's President Bush's main man in Indiana and a major component of the Kittle regime over at 47 S. Meridian.

**36. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer:** He has been the center of controversy, from his call-up for duty in Iraq last March that was later rescinded, to his criticism of Sen. Bayh and Rep. Carson over the Wishard Hospital bailout. Buyer faces a primary opponent and should win easily, but his stock has fallen, particularly among Indianapolis Republicans outraged by his handling of the Wishard deal.

**37. Tim Roemer:** His aggressive efforts to pry intelligence documents out of the Bush administration's hands has given him a high profile on the Sept. 11 commission. His vociferousness has put him in opposition to commission co-chair Lee Hamilton, who has been more measured in dealing with administration delays. As the panel completes its work this spring, Roemer will have a platform to promote policy that is close to his heart -- intelligence reform.

**38. Marty Morris:** Lugar's man watching over the Hoosier political scene.

**39. First Lady Maggie Kernan:** She didn't make the list in 2003, but in

one of those fascinating twists of fate became a huge partner in one of the most dramatic decisions that will impact Hoosier politics in 2004: Whether the governor would run for his own term. Since becoming first lady, she has hit the campaign trail and the schools and will play a vital role in the coming months as a top adviser.

**40. Tom Sugar:** He'll play a key role in directing access to Sen. Bayh, particularly if Bayh should surface on a veep short list.

**41. Secretary of State Todd Rokita:** With a number of counties putting new election systems in place for the 2004 balloting, and with the Indiana Election Commission in turmoil, Rokita could play a key role in the coming needed reforms.

**42. Shaw Friedman:** He's Howard Dean's Indiana chairman, a legal counsel to the Indiana Democratic Party Central Committee, and has worked tirelessly on utility reform issues in Northern Indiana. We see Friedman as a future state chair.

**43. Supt. Suellen Reed:** The leading Republican statewide vote getter since 1992, Reed has been welcomed back in the fold by Mitch Daniels and will play a key role in developing the Republican's education agenda while dealing with the fallout from President Bush's No Child Left Behind laws.

**44. Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy:** He presided over the election of the first Democratic council in Unigov history, the first Democratic sheriff in years, and augmented the Carson machine to ward off Brose McVey's challenge in 2002. Now Treacy will attempt to keep Marion County in the Kernan column in 11 months.

**45. St. Joseph County Chairman Butch Morgan:** The governor's county chairman, this key Democrat has the confidence of the first couple and he sits on the Indiana Election Commission.

**46. State Rep. Mike Murphy:** He will be the consensus choice this weekend

to take over the splintered and dispirited Marion County Republican Party. If he's successful in uniting the state's largest GOP unit and making it functional, he could save Mitch Daniels key resources that otherwise would have been spent developing a parallel organization.

#### 47. Allen County Republican

**Chairman Steve Shine:** While he couldn't recapture the Fort Wayne mayor's office, we still see the Allen County organization as one of the most progressive in the state. Shine's willingness to support the charter commission to look into dramatic local government reforms is a model other GOP chairs should follow.

#### 48. House Majority Leader Russ

**Stilwell:** As majority leader, he'll play a role in getting property reform issues out of the House.

#### 49. Steve Patterson and Michael

**Puente:** These two *Post-Tribune* reporters have dedicated themselves to cleaning up the scandalous aspects of Lake County politics. Patterson's "Godfather II" baptism scene story that covered East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick attending Van Bokkelen's "zero tolerance" on government ethics speech while U.S. marshals were rounding up members of his administration and city councilmen was some of the most vivid reporting in recent memory. They've also linked the East Chicago sidewalk scandal to a former cocaine kingpin associated with the Medellin cartel. That's gutsy journalism in a Region where people who rock the boat sometimes find themselves wearing cement shoes.

**50. Lee Hamilton:** As head of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, Hamilton has become a top Democratic foreign policy pundit. In fact, to the extent that a Democratic alternative to Bush's international efforts is being formulated, Hamilton is among those who is most articulate in outlining it.

## Honorable Mention

(in alphabetical order.)

**Treasurer Tim Berry:** A potential LG candidate.

**Brian Burdick:** A new Republican member of the Indiana Election Commission.

**Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter:** This is a guy who finds political and legal events swirling around him ... often uncontrollably. His interactions with AG Carter and Secretary of State Rokita have been ... interesting.

**Attorney General Steve Carter:** He is consistently compiling a reputation as a consumer watchdog. A possible LG selection in 2004.

**Steve Chancellor:** A "Ranger" for the Bush presidential campaign who gave \$244,000 in the 2000 cycle. But he threw his support to Mayor Weinzapfel in Evansville. Guess he knows a winner when he sees one.

**State Sen. Murray Clark:** He chairs the Daniels' gubernatorial campaign and would be heir to the Senate presidency, particularly if Daniels wins and Garton decides to retire in a couple of years.

**Deborah Daniels:** Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

**Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez:** He's had a controversial year that included a chat before Van Bokkelen's grand jury relating to the East Chicago sidewalk scandal.

**Mary Downes:** She returns as Gov. Kernan's chief of staff.

**Rex Early:** He's a 69-year-old agent of change, calling out John Keeler on his deal not to criticize Peterson. He's also chairing Brent Waltz's campaign against Chairman Borst.

**State Rep. Jeff Espich:** The go-to guy on fiscal matters in the House Republican caucus and a future Ways & Means chairman.

**State Sen. David Ford:** A declared candidate for lieutenant governor.

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agrees that the nation's immigration policies need to be overhauled, but not the way Bush proposes. "This country's policies should not reward and encourage lawlessness," Hill said. Chocola said he worries about how the Bush plan could affect national security.

**BILL WOULD GIVE CITIES NEW TAX OPTIONS:** In the midst of ongoing property-tax debates, a House committee on Wednesday considered allowing cities, towns and counties to raise income, sales, hotel, rental car and food and beverage taxes to help pay for their budgets and cut property taxes (Evansville Courier & Press). Currently, the Legislature controls which counties or cities can raise these taxes and only a handful of counties statewide have permission. Rep. Markt Lytle, D-Madison, proposed a bill that would allow cities, counties and towns across Indiana to raise a 1 percent local food and beverage tax, and 5 percent hotel and rental car taxes. "We have to look for a different way to fund local government," said Rep. Matt Whetstone, R-Brownsburg, who is co-sponsoring the proposal (Louisville Courier-Journal). "This is a good concept to consider. It would be a fairer system than property taxes." Rep. Jeff Espich, the fiscal leader for House

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Republicans, likes part of Lytle's concept. He supports giving local governments the authority to impose sales, income and other taxes — if the result is an equal reduction in property taxes.

**TAX URGES ON BOTTLED WATER, ICE:** Soil and water conservationists lobbied legislators this week for a sales tax on bottled water and packaged ice to fund their Clean Water Indiana program. "Indiana spends the least amount on soil and water conservation compared to neighboring states," state Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, said at a Tuesday conference (Seth Slabaugh, Muncie Star Press). "Indiana's counties and state government spend about \$7.2 million a year versus the Midwest average of \$21.4 million." Meeks added, "Indiana needs to do better, particularly if we are to take advantage of federal programs like the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program [CREP], which requires a state match." Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis spoke at the breakfast in support of more money for soil and water conservation. "Protecting our environment is so critically important to the future success and long-term competitiveness of the state of Indiana," Davis said. Gary Mayor Scott King said, "The quality of water substantially increases the quality of life for all of us. Improved quali-

**Fred Glass:** He heads the Capital Improvement Board and will be a key negotiator on the Colts deal.

**David Goodrich:** The point man on the life sciences initiative.

**Jen Hallowell:** She's the political director for Indiana Republicans.

**John Hammond III:** One of the most influential lobbyists.

**Jean Ann Harcourt:** Vice chair of GOP who we still think would be the ideal LG for Daniels. Her problem is she's pro-choice in a party that uses abortion as its primary filter.

**Brad Hiller:** A new member of the now divided Indiana Election Commission and campaign manager for Sen. Borst's re-election bid.

**Terry Holt:** The Elkhart native who has run campaigns from Rep. John Hiler to George Nethercutt (when he upset U.S. House Speaker Tom Foley), to U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola's 2002 breakthrough campaign. He is now spokesman for the Bush-Cheney re-election campaign.

**Al Hubbard:** A confidante of President Bush.

**Tim Jeffers:** Speaker Gregg's old sidekick whose lectures at the Chatterbox sent the HPR publisher on the path of the Constitutional Convention. Remember, this is the guy who ran for secretary of state in 1994 on the platform that the office should be abolished. Are we political minimalists?

**State Sen. Luke Kenley:** A future Senate Finance chairman. The question is, will he get there in 2005? Or 2009?

**State Rep. Brooks LaPlante:** How he recovers from his campaign finance violations and convinces voters that he has learned his lessons could determine whether the House goes Republican.

**Joe Loftus:** A super lobbyist at Barnes & Thornburg.

**Anthony Long:** A Democratic member of the Indiana Election Commission and 8th CD chairman.

**South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke:** Won a resounding second term.

**State Rep. Luke Messer:** Execu-

tive director of the Indiana GOP became the first legislator to endorse the concept of a Constitutional Convention. A potential lieutenant governor candidate.

**Eric Miller:** He's continuing a primary fight that most observers believe has no chance against Daniels. But Advance America will come out of the deal with more assets.

**James Morris:** He heads the United Nations world food program.

**Jim Moseley:** Under-secretary at USDA in the days of Mad Cow.

**Auditor Connie Nass:** A potential LG candidate.

**Dan Parker:** Sen. Bayh's guy on the Democratic State Committee.

**Jay Potesta:** Sheetmetals boss and key labor opinion shaper.

**Jim Purucker:** An influential lobbyist.

**John R. Price:** Will his litigation on behalf of IPALCO employees burned in the sale to AES embarrass Daniels when it comes to trial later this year?

**Mike O'Connor:** The deputy mayor of Indianapolis will be instrumental in forging a Colts deal. He also managed Peterson's re-election.

**State Sen. Vi Simpson:** She'll return for a sixth term in the Senate, where she will continue to champion labor, health, education and reform issues. Simpson would be in the Top 50 if her Senate caucus wasn't in such a minority.

**State Sen. Becky Skillman:** A potential lieutenant governor candidate who would balance the ticket with gender and geography. It would have been more of a cinch for her to make the ticket if Garton and Borst had given her a higher profile in the Senate.

**Cheryl Sullivan:** She's returned to take on the ugly job of reshaping FSSA that has been rocked by scandal.

**Randall Tobias:** The former Lilly CEO now heads up President Bush's worldwide AIDS relief program.

**Kip Tew:** Key Kernan confidante.

**Ken Zeller:** He heads the AFL-CIO. ❖



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## 2003 HPR Most Influential List

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Sen. Richard Lugar                            | 26. Ken Zeller                                      |
| 2. OMB Director Mitch Daniels                    | 27. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard                 |
| 3. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh                           | 28. Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr.              |
| 4. State Sen. Larry Borst                        | 29. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder                           |
| 5. Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton | 30. Lee Hamilton                                    |
| 6. House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer                | 31. State Sen. Murray Clark                         |
| 7. Gov. Frank O'Bannon                           | 32. David McIntosh                                  |
| 8. GOP Chairman Jim Kittle                       | 33. Eric Miller                                     |
| 9. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence                          | 34. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma               |
| 10. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson             | 35. Supt. Suellen Reed                              |
| 11. State Sen. Vi Simpson                        | 36. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill                            |
| 12. Joe Andrew                                   | 37. Secretary of State Todd Rokita                  |
| 13. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer                        | 38. Attorney General Steve Carter                   |
| 14. Ambassador James Morris                      | 39. U.S. Rep. John Hostettler                       |
| 15. Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan                          | 40. Michael Gerson                                  |
| 16. Democratic Chairman Peter Manous             | 41. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky                        |
| 17. Ways and Means Chairman William Crawford     | 42. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola                         |
| 18. Marty Morris                                 | 43. Bob Grand                                       |
| 19. Kevin Brinegar                               | 44. Mike Fichter/Betty Cockrum                      |
| 20. Pat Kiely                                    | 45. Allen County GOP Chairman Steve Shine           |
| 21. Dan Clark                                    | 46. St. Joe County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan |
| 22. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson                       | 47. Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez               |
| 23. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton                         | 48. Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy     |
| 24. Ambassador Dan Coats                         | 49. Tim Goeglein                                    |
| 25. House Majority Leader Russ Stilwell          | 50. Jack Colwell                                    |

## TICKER T A P E

ty of life is a direct, relevant, positive factor for economic growth and economic redevelopment."

**BUSH RAISES \$130 MILLION:** President Bush, with no challenger for the Republican presidential nomination, begins the 2004 election year with a record \$99 million in the bank and an aggressive plan to raise millions more (Associated Press). While the nine hopefuls competing for the Democratic nomination have spent much of the money they've taken in, Bush's cash-on-hand total shows he's spent a fraction of the record \$130.8 million he raised last year.

**WETLANDS BILL VETO OVERRIDE COMING:** Developers and environmentalists expect another mud fight this year over a wetlands regulation bill vetoed last year by the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon. One of six vetoed bills eligible for an override during the legislative session that begins this week, the wetlands bill pits developers against those who want to preserve isolated tracts of wetland that provide flood control, natural water filtration and wildlife habitat (Times of Northwest Indiana). Legislators today could call for override votes, which require only a majority, or they could ignore the bills and let the vetoes stand. Wetlands covered 25 percent of the state 200 years ago, but draining and filling have reduced that amount to less than 4 percent.

