



Dems seek to reconnect to independents

Daniels' pluralities driven by doughnut; inroads come in southern river counties

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

Here's the story in the numbers. Mitch Daniels carried the "doughnut" counties around Marion County with a 119,047-vote plurality. Hamilton County's 49,117 vote plurality for Daniels almost offset Gov. Joe Kernan's 53,272 Lake County plurality all by itself.

In the river country, Daniels lost Vanderburg by only 700 votes, won Jefferson by 400 votes, won Frank O'Bannon's home county of Harrison by 1,433, Dearborn County by 5,000, and Floyd County by 300.

"The "collar" counties around each metropolitan area are becoming increasingly Republican," explained State Rep. Luke Messer, executive director of the Indiana Republica Party. "However, around Louisville and Cincinnati this trend is allowing us to be competitive in areas where we were historically not competitive. In the Southeastern portion of the country -- states such as Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida -- conservative Southern Democrats have shifted to the Republican party because they don't believe their values are well represented in the national Democratic party. That trend may now be starting in Indiana as well."

Incoming Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker sees the 2004 election as more of a high-water mark for Republicans than the solidification of trends. "President Bush carried Indiana by 232,000 more votes than he did in 2000," Parker observed. "And that comes with John Kerry getting 66,000 more votes than Al Gore. Still, Kerry only got 38 percent of the vote. That hurts."

Parker said that in Lake County, Gov. Kernan's 53,000-vote plurality was in line with the 56,000 plurality O'Bannon won there in 1996. "I don't think the property tax thing had any impact at all. The efforts of Congressman Visclosky and Chairman



"We need to be a party that stands for more than the sum of our resentments."

— U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh

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Stiglich made a difference up there. This wasn't lost because of Lake County."

Kernan won Marion County, but by only 18,000 votes. Messer explained, "In my mind, Marion County is still a swing county, but there is no question it is becoming increasingly Democratic. Chairman Mike Murphy did a nice job bringing resources to the county party in a short time this year, and they ran a nice campaign. But the 2006 elections will be a real test for our party in Marion County. If we are swept in those elections (and I don't think we will be), it will be hard to claim the county is still a swing county."

Parker said, "That surprised me a little" of the governor's 18,000-vote plurality in Marion County. "But look underneath that. Evan Bayh won Marion County by 105,000 votes. The Democratic ticket won without spending much money.

"We've just go to do a better job of reaching out to the moderate swing voters. Joe Kernan did not lose the independents. The exit polls showed he won them by 20 percent. The problem was that so many of the independents identified themselves as Republicans this time. We've got to get back and connect with the independents. If we can do that, we can persuade them to vote Democratic in the future."

The independent bleeding for the Democrats occurred with females making more than \$30,000 a year. This is a voter who is busy with career and family, and tunes in late. That's why the Daniels campaign extensively aired the ad of Daniels talking into the camera with RV1 parked on a gently rising hill and under the glow of yellow maple trees.

Said one GOP source, "That type of voter tunes in during the last week of the campaign and they see nothing but mud. That was what that RV1 ad was all about."

Parker, out-going Chairman Kip Tew and other Democrats believe that Gov. Kernan did just about everything he could in the compacted year he had after he re-entered

the race. He raised \$15 million, "but he didn't have enough opportunity to govern," Parker said. "He deserves a lot of credit for what he put together in one year. What would you do differently?"

The answer would be to have gone out and attempted to define Mitch Daniels, perhaps using surrogates. Daniels campaign manager Bill Oesterle told HPR earlier this month that had the Kernan-Davis campaign done that, "They would have buried us."

With the IPALCO assault ads, sources tell HPR that by last September the gap had closed to 1 point. But as our earlier analysis suggested, IPALCO brought Kernan-Davis to the door but it couldn't deliver the victory. It had a backlash, particularly with that female voter. What the Kernan campaign wasn't able to do was build up the governor's positives enough to allow him to deliver a credible negative message. As one Republican explained, "You don't go out and go negative until you've raised your own stature enough to say it."

Republicans also benefitted from a huge turnout. Remember when it was reported that Bush-Cheney had sought church congregation rolls last summer? In that process, particularly in places like Ohio and Florida, they isolated congregational leaders in emphasized rural areas, and it was those people who helped stoke up the vote, sometimes from the pulpit, other times just outside the churches in the parking lots. There were also big literature drops in countless church parking lots on the last week of the campaign.

Parker doesn't discount the idea that gay marriage stoked up the social conservatives, but he added, "The bin Laden video in the last weekend of the campaign had an impact. Normally the undecideds break against the incumbent, but after the bin Laden video surfaced, they overwhelmingly broke for the president." ❖

House Republicans froze ISTA, spent big and late to regain control

Here's how the Republicans took the House for the first time since 1996.

They kept their powder dry until the 11th hour, then pounded Democratic State Reps. Ron Herrell, Ron Liggett, Alan Chowning, John Frenz and Markt Lytle relentlessly during the final week of the campaign. They used the gay marriage and health benefits for life issues that were resonating with social conservatives who were beseeched from the pulpit to go to the polls. They essentially froze the ISTA until it was too late to make a response. And they drew the Democrats out in HD77, the Evansville seat being vacated by Brian Hasler, seeding a story that the seat was vulnerable. Hoy ended up winning by 1,500 votes.

Republican polling showed Liggett trailing Bill Davis in

HD33 by double figures, but Democrats poured more money into that race instead of trying to shore up Frenz, Herrell and Larry Hile in the open HD31 in the final two weeks of the campaign. There were also concerns that Rep. Craig Fry would lose in HD5.

Nobody on the Democratic side appeared to expect Rep. Markt Lytle's 600-vote loss in HD69. That ship never left Pearl Harbor. "We were always about a half step behind," said State Rep. Winfield Moses, himself a near casualty in 2002. That included the issues, the money and the end-game strategy. What was particularly fascinating about the Battle for the House is that Democrats picked up an open seat in Lafayette (Joe Micon) and the Republican seat held by State Rep. Brooks LaPlante, but still lost control. As one Democrat said, "We thought if we picked up the Scholer and LaPlante seats and held on to Phil Pflum, there would be no way we could lose the House." ❖



The Governor's Race *In Photos*



www.howeypolitics.com
Photo Gallery

HPR's Brian A. Howey took a little Kodak DX3700 just about everywhere he went on the campaign trail. Over the last two years, 11 candidacies, four debates, the funerals of two governors, he took hundreds of photos. In the HPR Online Photo Gallery, you will find a comprehensive 86-photo and written record of the most compelling political chapter in Hoosier history ... the 2004 Governor's Race.



HOWEY *Political Report Online*



Mr. Sodrel Goes to Washington *Hill Must Overcome More than 1400-Vote Deficit*

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- Even as a decision was being made to recount the vote that would send him to Washington, Republican Mike Sodrel, 9th CD congressman-elect, was on Capitol Hill preparing to take office in January and expressing confidence that his orientation trip would not be in vain.

The Indiana Recount Commission voted Tuesday to proceed with a retallying of the ballots in the 20-county district beginning Nov. 29. The state Democratic Party requested the recount last week because of concerns about voting machines used in three counties. Sodrel beat three-term Democratic incumbent Rep. Baron Hill by 1,485 votes out of about 283,000 cast, according to preliminary results.

"This wasn't a 50-vote or 20-vote win," Sodrel said in an HPR phone interview Tuesday during a break between meetings in Washington. "The margin wasn't substantial, but it wasn't inconsequential either. The election was certified by both Republican and Democratic clerks in each county."

In their petition for a recount, Democrats cited a commissioner race in Franklin County that was overturned when it was determined that straight-ticket votes for Democrats were erroneously recorded for Libertarians. Franklin is not in the 9th CD, but the company that manufactures the optical scan equipment used there, Fidlar Election Co., also supplied machines for Scott, Switzerland and Ripley counties in the 9th CD. In a cross petition, the Sodrel campaign claimed that fraudulent ballots were cast in Monroe County.

Calling a New Election

That assertion raised eyebrows on the Hill recount team. "They are questioning the validity of the election," said Chris Sautter, a former Bloomington attorney who began his political career working on the 1984 recount in the 8th CD between Democrat Frank McCloskey and Republican Rick McIntyre. McCloskey won that race by 84 votes. "The remedy for an election poisoned by fraudulent ballots is a new election. It's interesting that the Republicans have so little confi-

dence in this election that they are challenging the election."

The Sodrel campaign said that a decision to contest would not be made until the recount is concluded. "At any point in the process we can choose to pursue (cross petition) or drop it," said Kevin Boehnlein, Sodrel's campaign manager. "There's ample time for any findings."

The recount will begin with controversial counties--Dubois, Monroe, Scott, Ripley and Switzerland. Boehnlein said that if Hill doesn't make any gains in these areas, it is a bad sign for him. "The hypothesis would be that they decide

not to continue the recount...to save expenses for the state of Indiana," said Boehnlein. "But that decision is at their discretion. They do have a right to do this. We'll follow it through to its natural conclusion."

A spokeswoman for Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita said that the Franklin County glitch might have been an anomaly not repeated in other counties. "We don't have reason to believe it (occurred in) others, after talking to the vendor," said Rokita spokeswoman Kate Shepherd. The machines were used in three counties where the

Libertarian candidate tallied 309 total votes.

Long Way to Go Counting One at a Time

Hill will need several failures of the Franklin County type to catch Sodrel. "It's a long way to go, counting them one at a time," said Sautter, who helped lead the Democratic side of the Florida presidential recount in 2000. "That being said, things happen. In every single recount I've been involved in, there have been changes. The question is whether they'll be large enough to make a difference."

The Hill campaign said that regardless of the outcome, the final tally has to be double checked. "It's clear that some legitimate questions have been raised about these voting machines," said Hill spokesman Stefan Bailey. "It's in the best interests of the voters of the 9th District to ensure that these votes are counted correctly."

In the high-profile and contentious race, each candidate spent more than \$1 million and House campaign organizations sank more than \$2.5 million into advertising. Both campaigns accused the other of going negative. Sodrel benefited from strong support in the district for President Bush and Republican gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels.



Rep. Baron Hill (right) talks with Rep. Pete Visclosky and John Walda in October. Visclosky won his 10th term; Hill lost seeking his fourth. (HPR Photo).



Acclimating to Washington

In the meantime, Sodrel is being exposed to life in Washington. He attended seminars, participated in an office lottery and met fellow freshmen. The owner of a 500-employee Jeffersonville bus and trucking company, Sodrel has been to Washington many times for trade association meetings. But this week was different.

For instance, the bus he and the other freshmen took around town was checked for explosives. "No one has ever swept the bus before when I came here as a private citizen," he said. "I've always been kind of expendable. It's unusual to have someone concerned about you."

Sodrel said that many of his 2004 classmates have practiced law but few were from the business world. He met

one freshman from Texas who also owns a small business. "It's a caucus of two," Sodrel chuckled.

His business background puts Sodrel in a good position to address what he thinks will be a top agenda item for the new Congress—overhauling the tax code. "Tax simplification will go a long way toward keeping the economy on an upward swing," he said.

Running a trucking company, and advocating local road projects, has given Sodrel an itch to be on the House Transportation Committee. His great-grandfather ran a flat boat business in Perry County. "My family's been in transportation for 145 years—sometimes by ground, sometimes by water," he said. "We have a long history of moving either goods or people." ❖

Wanted: An 8th CD Democrat (with a base)

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- Republican Rep. John Hostettler has survived another close race in the 8th CD thanks to his strong grass-roots network of conservative Christians, who once again answered their calling and delivered the winning margin, 53-47, over Democratic challenger Jon Jennings. But Hostettler's victory doesn't mean he's locked up the seat he's held for 10 years.

Democrats are taking heart that Hostettler again failed to break the 55 percent barrier, where an incumbent is considered "safe," even though he benefited from a strong tailwind provided by President Bush and Republican gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels. Hostettler has never garnered more than 53 percent of the vote in any of his races.

The Democrats should run a different type of candidate in 2006 to increase their chances of capturing the seat, according to one longtime observer. Since 1994, the Democrats have nominated people who either were running for office for the first time or had to develop a grass-roots network from scratch.

"One way they haven't tried it is running a candidate with an existing base," said Chris Sautter, a Washington political consultant with more than 20 years of experience in Indiana politics. Sautter worked on the campaign of Hostettler's 1998 challenger, Gail

Riecken. "Each time, it's been a new face trying to create a base. We're reinventing the wheel in each cycle."

The Democratic candidates have run well despite having to overcome fundraising, name identification, and organizational challenges. "The Democrats have been putting up second-tier candidates," said Sautter. "Not that they don't have potential, and in the right year could win, but that year hasn't come."

'Helluva lot more Republican Votes'

That year certainly didn't arrive for Democrats in 2004. Bush won the state with about 60 percent of the vote; Daniels garnered 55 percent in his race against incumbent Democratic Gov. Joseph Kernan. Those numbers were put together in part by strong showings in southern Indiana.

"This was the most Republican election statewide since 1988," said Fred Yang, a Washington pollster who worked for Jennings, Kernan, and 9th CD Democratic Rep. Baron Hill, who apparently lost his race to Republican challenger Mike Sodrel.

Yang, and other Democrats, credited Jennings with running a good campaign. They cite his raising more than \$1 million and establishing a robust field organization. He drew 21,000 more votes than Paul Perry did in his challenge against Hostettler in 2000. "The problem was a

helluva lot more people voted Republican," said Yang. "Only in our worst nightmares did anyone on our side imagine it could have been that bad."



Former House Speaker John Gregg under portrait of Vincennes hero President William Henry Harrison. (Vincennes Univ.)



District Requires Conservative Democrat

Jennings tried to inoculate himself by opposing abortion and same-sex marriage and supporting gun rights. "Jon had the profile of a candidate who could run well down there," said Yang. But like other Hostettler opponents who have tried to appeal to the district's conservative mores, Jennings' credentials on social issues were questioned. Conservative groups were more fervent than ever in their support for Hostettler this year. "I'm hearing that people aren't buying Jon Jennings' claim that he's right-to-life," said Mike Fichter, chairman of the Indiana Right to Life Political Action Committee.

John Gregg May Fit the Bill

Democrats are waiting to see if former Indiana House Speaker John Gregg will consider the race. Gregg is not ready to pull the trigger. "Let me make it clear, I've made absolutely no calls," said Gregg, who is recuperating from prostate cancer. "I've been besieged by mayors, county officials, legislators and party activists."

"The district was drawn for him," said Sautter, referring to 8th CD boundaries that were moved after the 2000 census. The district was extended north to include Terre Haute, among other Democratic-leaning areas.

Gregg would not be vulnerable to the carpet-bagger attack that was launched by national Republicans against Jennings, who came to the district in 2003. Jennings lived and worked in Boston and Washington before moving to

Newburgh, where his wife's family is located. Jennings grew up in Richmond and attended Indiana University, where he was a manager for the basketball team.

The Republican House campaign organization supported Hostettler with hundreds of thousands of dollars of television advertising. Its Democratic counterpart didn't weigh in on Jennings' behalf because polls indicated Jennings wasn't gaining traction, in part because he didn't start with a base. "There has been dampening enthusiasm each cycle in Washington when the same kind of candidate emerges," said Sautter.

Dangers Loom for Hostettler in 2006

Both parties acknowledge that Hostettler has a remarkable ground organization, which delivered 16 of 18 counties. Entire families, even those members too young to vote, work hard to bring his supporters to the polls. He also assiduously courts funding for the Crane military facility and other local projects. But he may be vulnerable again in 2006. Typically in an off-year election, the party that controls the White House suffers setbacks in the House and Senate. Hostettler came to office in 1994 as one of 73 House Republicans who rode a wave of popular discontent with President Clinton to take over the chamber for the first time in 40 years. "Hostettler is inherently vulnerable because of his politics," said Sautter. "He does have a strong base. That base is deep but not wide. He's never been challenged by someone with the political skill of John Gregg." ❖

2004 Election Results

INDIANA

PRESIDENT	100%	
Bush, R	1,474,475	60%
Kerry, D	969,011	39%
Badnarik, L	18,058	1%
GOVERNOR	100%	
Daniels, R	1,302,907	53%
Kernan, D	1,113,879	46%
Gividen, L	31,694	1%
ATTNY GEN.	100%	
Carter, R	1,316,670	
Hogsett, D	954,000	
Milewski, L	45,833	



SUPT.	100%	
Reed, R	1,316,694	
Williams, D	961,328	
Hauptmann, L	68,039	
CONGRESSIONAL		
U.S. Senate	100%	
Bayh, D	1,488,782	62%
Scott, R	903,913	37%
Barger, L	27,344	1%

1ST CD	100%		Carr, D	82,637	26%
Visclosky, D	178,406	68%	Hodgin, L	7,008	2%
Leyva, R	82,858	32%			
2ND CD	100%		6TH CD	100%	
Chocola, R	140,496	54%	Pence, R	182,499	67%
Donnelly, D	115,513	45%	Fox, D	85,123	31%
Barnes, L	3,346	1%	Roots, L	4,381	2%
3RD CD	100%		7TH CD	100%	
Souder, R	171,389	69%	Carson, D	121,303	54%
Parra, D	76,232	31%	Horning, R	97,491	44%
			Campbell, L	4,381	2%
4TH CD	100%		8TH CD	100%	
Buyer, R	190,247	70%	Hostettler, R	145,576	53%
Sanders, D	77,574	28%	Jennings, D	121,522	45%
Fleming, L	6,117	1%	Garvin, L	5,680	2%
5TH CD	100%				
Burton, R	228,349	72%			



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9TH CD 100%
 Sodrel, R 142,197 49%
 Hill, D 140,772 49%
 Cox, L 4,541 2%

INDIANA SENATE

2ND DISTRICT
 S. Smith, D 29,393
 Parisi, L 2,506

3RD DISTRICT
 Rogers, D 36,754

5TH DISTRICT
 Heinold, R 24,753
 Dembowski, D 24,398

7TH DISTRICT
 Hershman, R 38,047

8TH DISTRICT
 Bowser, D 26,165
 Stevens, R 19,420
 Gillon, L 1,759

9TH DISTRICT
 Mishler, R 37,831

10TH DISTRICT
 Broden, D 30,042

12TH DISTRICT
 Riegsecker, R 29,591
 Mumaw, D 8,962

13TH DISTRICT
 Meeks, R 32,125

16TH DISTRICT
 Long, R 33,908

18TH DISTRICT
 W'eatherwax, R 35,022

20TH DISTRICT
 Kenley, R 43,797
 Threlkeld, D 13,477
 24TH DISTRICT
 Lawson, R 44,783

28TH DISTRICT
 Gard, R 48,405
 Glaze, L 5,922

30TH DISTRICT
 Lubbers, R 41,413
 Farrell, D 5,085

32ND DISTRICT
 Miller, R 36,207
 Kern, D 16,923

33RD DISTRICT
 Howard, D 34,265
 Coleman, L 2,714

34TH DISTRICT
 Breaux, D 30,893

35TH DISTRICT
 M. Young, R 23,007
 Knox, D 13,217
 Wheeler, L 1,035



36TH DISTRICT
 Waltz, R 26,113
 Rice, D 16,182

37TH DISTRICT
 Bray, R 32,901
 Szczerbik, D 12,104

40TH DISTRICT
 Simpson, D 31,745
 Cassidy, R 17,526

42ND DISTRICT
 Jackman, R 31,551
 Welsh, D 13,558

44TH DISTRICT
 Steele, R 36,581

50TH DISTRICT
 Server, R 45,751
 Tindle, D 4,660

INDIANA HOUSE
 1ST DISTRICT
 L. Lawson, D 11,924
 Baffa, R 7,818

2ND DISTRICT
 Harris, D 16,851

3RD DISTRICT
 C. Brown, D 17,901
 W. Brown, R 5,279
 Ballenger, I 2,686

4TH DISTRICT
 Ayres, R 19,026
 Slegers, D 8,581

5TH DISTRICT
 Fry, D 10,947
 Reddy, R 10,507

6TH DISTRICT
 Bauer, D 14,074

7TH DISTRICT
 Kromkowski, D 13,653
 Blacketor, R 9,269

8TH DISTRICT
 Dvorak, D 19,457

9TH DISTRICT
 Pelath, D 17,110
 Kelder, R 2,176

10TH DISTRICT
 Cheney, D 17,479

11TH DISTRICT
 Stevenson, D 12,837
 Ryfa, R 9,070

12TH DISTRICT
 Aguilera, D 11,470
 Fagen, R 9,739
 Brickman, L 527

13TH DISTRICT
 Dobis, D 14,994
 Hero, R 9,516

14TH DISTRICT
 V. Smith, D 16,803
 Campbell, R 2,736

15TH DISTRICT
 Lehe, R 16,602
 Childress, D 8,135
 Bell, L 564

16TH DISTRICT
 Gutwein, R 18,729

17TH DISTRICT
 Heim, R 14,100
 McLiver, D 8,321
 Foley, I 854

18TH DISTRICT
 Wolkins, R 17,435

19TH DISTRICT
 Kuzman, D 14,660
 Cooper, R 9,745
 Cuffia, I 1,077

20TH DISTRICT
 Budak, R 12,944
 Spevak, D 10,013
 Schadowsky, L 1,038

21ST DISTRICT
 Walorski, R 13,753
 Kaser, D 7,737

22ND DISTRICT
 Ruppel, R 18,221

23RD DISTRICT
 Friend, R 16,591



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24TH DISTRICT

McClain, R 14,825
Southern, D 7,089

25TH DISTRICT

Bardon, D 8,320
Foreman, R 4,242

26TH DISTRICT

Micon, D 10,077
Basham, R 9,471

27TH DISTRICT

Klinker, D 12,462
Crites, R 6,324

28TH DISTRICT

Thompson, R 21,510

29TH DISTRICT

Richardson, R 29,859

30TH DISTRICT

J. Smith, R 12,398
Herrell, D 11,279

31ST DISTRICT

T. Harris, R 10,480
Hile, D 10,330

32ND DISTRICT

Turner, R 18,278
Wolfe, D 7,479

33RD DISTRICT

B. Davis, R 13,330
Liggett, D 10,924

34TH DISTRICT

Adams, D 14,744
Dixon, L 2,678

35TH DISTRICT

J. Lutz, R 17,779
Saunders, D 11,786

36TH DISTRICT

Austin, D 14,170
Carrell, R 8,669

37TH DISTRICT

Reske, D 15,533
Edge, R 9,205

38TH DISTRICT

Buck, R 21,037

39TH DISTRICT

Torr, R 24,685
Skoog, D 7,217

40TH DISTRICT

Whetstone, R 24,824
Nowoseilski, D 2,330

41ST DISTRICT

T. Brown, R 15,263
Kirtley, D 10,034

42ND DISTRICT

Grubb, D 15,844
P. Smith, R 9,300

43RD DISTRICT

Kersey (D) 16,462

44TH DISTRICT

A. Thomas, R 15,126
E. Wolfe, D 7,285

45TH DISTRICT

Borders, R 13,878
Chowning, D 10,643

46TH DISTRICT

Tincher, D 11,533
LaPlante, R 10,799

47TH DISTRICT

Foley, R 19,209

48TH DISTRICT

Neese, R 18,241

49TH DISTRICT

Ulmer, R 17,592

50TH DISTRICT

Leonard, R 17,622
Wilson, D 6,766

51ST DISTRICT

Dodge, R 14,541
Mason, D 8,339

52ND DISTRICT

Stutsman, R 12,872
DeLucenay, D 6,496

53RD DISTRICT

Cherry, R 22,836
Brand, L 3,326

54TH DISTRICT

Saunders, R 18,202
Surber, D 7,318
Bond, L 1,194
Cramer, I 577

55TH DISTRICT

Hoffman, R 17,410
McGlothen, D 6,626
Marcum, L 1,038

56TH DISTRICT

Pflum, D 10,645
Yanos, R 9,382
Bell, L 661

57TH DISTRICT

Messer, R 16,004

58TH DISTRICT

Burton, R 18,766
Turley, D 7,420

59TH DISTRICT

Yount, R 17,423

60TH DISTRICT

Welch, D 17,999
Hager, R 9,698

61ST DISTRICT

Pierce, D 14,639
Blesch, L 1,905

62ND DISTRICT

Denbo, D 13,753
Chenault, R 10,523

63RD DISTRICT

Crooks, D 12,246
McFeaters, R 11,686

64TH DISTRICT

Woodruff, R 12,698
Frenz, D 12,507

65TH DISTRICT

Koch, R 19,207
Van Cleave, L 2,152

66TH DISTRICT

Goodin, D 14,317
Gillespie, R 9,376

67TH DISTRICT

Duncan, R 18,257
Holland, D 7,346

68TH DISTRICT

Bischoff, D 18,316
Goodpaster, L 3,045

69TH DISTRICT

Bright, R 12,639
Lytle, D 11,018

70TH DISTRICT

Robertson, D 16,000
B. Thomas, R 14,216

71ST DISTRICT

Bottoff, D 17,949

72ND DISTRICT'

Cochran, D 15,240
Bergman, R 12,261



73RD DISTRICT

Oxley, D 17,346

74TH DISTRICT

Stilwell, D 19,879

Findley, L 1,831

75TH DISTRICT

Avery, D 17,864

76TH DISTRICT

VanHaften, D 13,112

Tomes, R 10,933

77TH DISTRICT

Hoy, D 11,308

Hennig, R 9,804

Garrett, I 1,285

78TH DISTRICT

V. Becker, R 28,259

79TH DISTRICT

Ripley, R 19,694

80TH DISTRICT

GiaQuinta, D 9,710

Howell, R 5,361

81ST DISTRICT

Moses, D 11,840

82ND DISTRICT

Espich, R 22,802

83RD DISTRICT

Alderman, R 19,002

84TH DISTRICT

Borror, R 19,529

85TH DISTRICT

Pond, R 22,778

86TH DISTRICT

Orentlicher, D 15,178

Large, R 13,261

Goldstein, L 585

87TH DISTRICT

Noe, R 27,149

88TH DISTRICT

Bosma, R 23,289

Gordon, L 2,132

89TH DISTRICT

Buell, R 15,391

90TH DISTRICT

Murphy, R 21,389

Brenton, L 1,779

91ST DISTRICT

Behning, R 15,959

92ND DISTRICT

Hinkle, R 16,158

Swinford, D 9,488

93RD DISTRICT

Frizzell (R) 24,290

94TH DISTRICT

Mays, D 14,827

Brinkman, R 5,629

Wheeler, L 381

95TH DISTRICT

Dickinson, D 14,875

Black, R 5,555

Barnes, L 474

96TH DISTRICT

Porter, D 15,774

Jessen, R 7,009

97TH DISTRICT

Mahern, D 7,705

Butler, R 6,646

98TH DISTRICT

Crawford, D 15,143

99TH DISTRICT

Summers, D 14,909

Davies, R 6,383

100TH DISTRICT

Day, D 8,749

Haynes, Gr 5



Vigo County Got it Right (Again)

By JEFF LEWIS

CARMEL - There are over 3,000 counties in the U.S. Going into the 2004 election, only six counties had voted for the presidential winner since 1960, thus earning the distinction as a "bellwether county." The counties are Ferry, Washington; Eddy, New Mexico; Van Buren and Logan in Arkansas; Lincoln, Missouri, and Vigo here in Indiana. Vigo County has the longest tenure among the bellwethers, as they have voted with every presidential winner since 1920.

In early summer of this year, with the assistance of my brother, Dr. Michael Lewis-Beck, chair of the political science department at the University of Iowa, and Dr. Ray Scheele of the Ball State University political science faculty, we designed a research project to track voter opinion among the bellwethers. Three of the counties have populations that are so small we could not attain statistical significance and we were unable to adequately sample Hispanic opinion in Eddy County, NM, so they were dropped from the study. That left us with Lincoln and Vigo counties.

The project called for baseline surveys to be conducted

before the Democratic National Convention in July, then wait one week and conduct polls in each county to track any movement of opinion. The third survey in the project was conducted one week after the Republican National Convention in September. We conducted a fourth survey in Vigo County the weekend before the election. Complete breakouts of these polls can be reviewed at www.telere-searchcorp.com. Our last poll in Lincoln County showed Bush leading Kerry 54-41 percent and Bush won by 15 percent, 57-42. In Vigo County our last poll showed Bush leading Kerry 50-43 percent and Bush carried Vigo by 52.73 to 46.29 over Kerry. Bush carried the other four bellwethers, as well.

What does all of this mean? Who needs to spend millions and millions of dollars on the Zogbys, Rassmussens, Gallups, Pews, et al, in the all-important "Battleground States" when all we have to do is keep our eyes on the voters in the tried and true bellwethers?

One additional update on election day. TeleResearch forecast winners in the 11 races polled just before the election, bringing our aggregate total over the last six election cycles to 52-1. ❖



Rich James, *Post-Tribune* - Republicans won virtually everything in Indiana on Election Day, but Lake County Democrats had the last laugh. The Republicans whacked the county Democrats on a host of fronts, and after the last vote had been counted, the GOP limped down Interstate 65 back to Indianapolis. It was a marvelous assault on a beleaguered party that seemingly had more holes than the president's policy in Iraq. Like a vulture circling over road kill, the Republicans pounced, hoping to neuter the traditionally large Democratic vote and turn the tables for Mitch Daniels. The GOP also hoped to pick up seats in the county but left empty-handed. Over the last 18 months, the Lake County Democrats resembled Bonnie and Clyde being riddled by gunfire from a host of federal agents. Bonnie and Clyde died. The Democrats lived to fire back. Consider what the Republicans had going for them in Lake County: The feds had indicted the Sidewalk Six for their alleged roles in the East Chicago sidewalk scandal, thus ripping into one of the soundest Democratic strongholds in Indiana. But there was more trouble on the way for East Chicago. The May 2003 mayoral primary resulted in a recount as evidence of widespread absentee voter fraud was uncovered. That publicity alone was fodder for Republicans, but things got sweeter when the Supreme Court ordered a new East Chicago mayoral primary. Not only did the Supreme Court seem to be siding with Republicans, but Special Judge Steven King chimed in and refused to allow the special election to be held the same day as the general election. King set it for a week prior to the general, and the GOP was sure the E.C. Democrats would be so confused that they'd forget to return a week later to cast a vote for Gov. Joe Kernan. Surprise. Virtually the same number of East Chicagoans, many of whom place politics behind only food and shelter as life's essentials, voted in the general election as did in the special primary. That was just the groundwork for the GOP assault. Attorney General Steve Carter filed a civil suit against Mayor Robert Pastrick and just about anyone else who had ever been in City Hall. While Carter fired the heavy ammo, Secretary of State Todd Rokita bobbed and weaved, sniping away like an Iraqi insurgent. It got better for the GOP when Schererville town Judge Deborah Riga was indicted and former state Democratic Chairman Peter Manous — in what must have been the GOP's favorite turn of events — pleaded guilty to his role in the rape of the carpenter's union. And the GOP iced the cake with Pastrick's son pleading to the same scandal. If that wasn't enough corruption to turn an electorate, the GOP also had the benefit of federal agents scooping up public records from every nook in the county. Those not in the know must have felt the party was rotten to the core. And then came the

money, buckets of money from Indianapolis to pay for a host of newspaper ads for Daniels. Meanwhile, state Democrats were acting as if Lake County didn't exist. No way, the GOP figured, could the Democrats turn out a huge plurality for Kernan. Wrong again. When it comes to turning out a vote, Lake Democrats make the effort of the moral majority seem sinful. Lake gave Kernan a 53,000-vote plurality. In Indianapolis, a Democratic stronghold where no one even whispers the word corruption, Kernan had a paltry 18,000-vote margin. Go figure. The Lake County Democratic Party may be bent, but it's far from broken. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Who next for the Democrats? As soon as it was clear that Ohio in 2004 would be no Florida of 2000, with no legal battles and recount still possible to breathe life into John Kerry's campaign, speculation began about the next Democrat to run for president. Who next for 2008? One prospect on virtually every list in speculation by the news media and by Democratic leaders is Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana. As usual, Indiana was one of the first states declared on election night to be colored red, the color now used on the maps to designate that a state has gone Republican. Heck, Indiana could have been declared for President Bush long before the first ballots were marked. In fact, both Kerry and Bush strategists long ago knew that Indiana would landslide for the president. Neither side bothered to bring their campaign to the state. Yet, while Hoosiers voted overwhelmingly for Bush, they voted even more overwhelmingly for Bayh in his re-election to the Senate. That will take on great importance, perhaps more than deserved, as party leaders search for a presidential nominee to appeal to a broader range of the electorate than did a senator from Massachusetts so easily labeled by Republicans with the L-word, liberal. Would Democrats carry Indiana in 2008 if Bayh was the presidential nominee? Yes, is the forecast today. Bayh in 2008 wouldn't be running against an incumbent president. But we don't know who the Republican nominee will be any more than we know who will go for the Democrats. Hillary Clinton? I'm in the minority in the speculation. I don't think she will seek the Democratic nomination. Why? I agree with national commentator and columnist Margaret Carlson, who said in her University of Notre Dame lecture last week that Sen. Clinton could get the nomination if she wants it but then would be trounced in a monumental defeat. Clinton knows this. Bayh likely will seek the nomination. He has a chance. But he is no front-runner. There isn't any now and won't be for some time as the party searches for a winner and a winning formula. ❖



Daniels to start by tackling DST

INDIANAPOLIS - Incoming Gov. Mitch Daniels plans to start his term by doing battle with Indiana's quirkiest hot-button issue: daylight-saving time (*Post-Tribune*). Even before deciding how to close the state's \$830 million budget deficit, Daniels has announced he wants to clear up the state's longstanding resistance to daylight-saving time during this session of the General Assembly. "He believes that people understand this could mean more jobs for them and their neighbors. We can make a compelling case," said Ellen Whitt, spokeswoman for the Daniels campaign. Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, who has been in charge of the chamber since 1980, said he received more mail about daylight-saving time than any budget issue. Most of that mail has traditionally been against making any change to the current system. State Rep. Chet Dobis said he will have to see a copy of the Republican bill before he can decide whether to support the move. He did not think lawmakers would go so far as to move Lake County to Eastern time, but he still believes the area would be hurt if the state government opened and closed an hour early for Northwest Indiana — all year around. "Anybody



who has to do business with Indianapolis will be out of whack 365 days a year. Why can't we be in sync 365 days a year?" he asked.

5 South Bend firms got tax breaks; cut jobs

SOUTH BEND - Five companies that pledged to create new jobs in exchange for millions of dollars in property tax breaks have instead cut workers in recent years, according to annual reports they have filed with the city (*South Bend Tribune*). Together, the firms, Honeywell International, Bowne of South Bend Inc., JRS Enterprises, Eaton Corp. and Lock Joint Tube Inc., pledged to create 208 to 267 new jobs through new buildings and equipment. Instead, they have eliminated a combined 347 jobs. The companies were called Monday before the Common Council's Community and Economic Development Committee to explain why they have not complied with agreements that granted them property tax abatements. Of the 22 companies that have abatements, which phase in taxes on real and personal property over a number of years, they are the only five that filed reports indicating noncompliance, said Sharon Kendall, executive director of economic and community development for the city.

Vanderburgh Republicans ask commissioners to refrain

EVANSVILLE - The soon-to-be all-Republican Vanderburgh County

Commissioners wants "maximum flexibility" when it takes office Jan. 1, and has asked the current Democratic-controlled commission to cooperate by not making any significant decisions on pay, benefits, appointments, contracts or ordinances. But according to the Democrats' written response, the Republicans would be wise not to count on it. Democratic Commissioner Catherine Fanello, soon to finish her second and final term, said to do so would be to violate "the public's trust." The request could affect the Democrats' push for an outside audit of the county's new touch-screen voting machines, and their efforts to reorganize the county's information-technology systems. The issue arose Monday, when Fanello and her fellow Democrat on the commission, David Mosby, received a letter from Suzanne Crouch, Bill Nix and Cheryl Musgrave. Crouch is the sole Republican on the commission; Nix and Musgrave are Republicans who were elected to sit on the commission after Mosby and Fanello's terms expire Dec. 31. The letter asks the commissioners to refrain from making significant decisions in six areas: personnel changes, especially the hiring or firing of people in policy-making positions; entering into contracts with outside consultants, contractors, vendors or suppliers; bond-financing or other financial arrangements; appointments to any boards or commissions; involvement in the selection of staff for county-related boards or commissions; and enacting or amending any county ordinances. ❖

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