



### Change agents, anti-incumbency shape HPR's 50 Most Influential List

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis and MARK SCHOEFF JR. in Washington, D.C.

There's a potential property tax rebellion brewing. Folks are hurting with record gasoline and natural gas bills and the pre-hurricane season price or barrel forecasts go up to 25 percent more than 2005 levels. There's an unpopular war in Iraq, with the latest vulgar twists declining oil production and an assassination spree against native medical doctors.

Throw in the story HPR broke on Wednesday ... an unfunded liability to the tune of what some believe millions of dollars for cushy lifetime legislator health benefits (when 14 percent of Hoosiers go without), the daylight-saving change in April just



Gov. Mitch Daniels and Commerce Secretary Mickey Mauer (right) know what voters will really want to see by 2008 ... jobs. Also pictured are Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and BMW Commissioner Joel Silverman. (HPR Photo)

before a number of competitive legislator primary races, the Jack Abramoff scandal brewing in Washington, and the sixth year of an unpopular Bush-Cheney presidency and you have more than enough material to create an anti-incumbency wave. Perhaps even the type of tsunami we witnessed in 1974, 1980 and 1994.

Of course, it's far too early to accurately forecast such a political event. That won't begin to come into focus until May or June, a period when many citizens

solidify in their minds how they will vote. If a wave develops, you'll begin to see it reflected in polls starting in mid-summer. Between now and then, any number of things can happen to change the course of history, be it another domestic terror attack, the capture or killings of Zargawi or Osama bin Laden, rig-bashing hurricanes, or the classic over-reach by political parties who either misread or present no realistic alternatives.

**The other huge development on the horizon** is the notion of change and government reform. As *Linton Daily Citizen* Managing Editor Chris Pruett observed on Wednesday, "Change. It's a simple word, though some are quick to refer to it as a four-letter word instead of something positive. Change can be painful at times, but change can also mean an avenue to a better life. Without change, we can oftentimes become mired in quicksand and never move forward."

Change is certainly in the air and it is being led by Gov. Mitch Daniels, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson and U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky. There have been real victories snatched from defeat on this front, ranging from the Lake County Good Government Initiative that Visclosky has successfully pushed, to Peterson's Indianapolis police merger, to the reforms and privatization agenda sweeping through



**"We are a nation of laws, even in laws we disagree with. This is a law we must obey. With God's grace, we will not faint from this task."**

— House Speaker Brian C. Bosma

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the Daniels administration.

So the 2006 HPR 50 Most Influential List is shaped by these elements. We'll have up to three Congressional House seats (2nd, 8th and 9th) that could be in play and could determine which party controls Congress. We haven't featured many challengers in past lists, but Baron Hill and Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth will command a great deal of attention over the next 10 months. Our two U.S. senators will play significant roles in war and security issues, with one preparing to launch a presidential campaign.

And there will be the showdowns at the Statehouse between the "stasists" (defenders of the status quo) and the "futurists" who seek to prepare Indiana for the 21st Century. These are the elements that forge this year's list.

**1. Gov. Mitch Daniels:** He is the most provocative agent of change on the Hoosier landscape. After pushing reforms at BMV, Department of Child Services and FSSA, helping to forge the Northwest Regional Development Authority, placing a moratorium on school construction projects and approval, and creating the Department of Agriculture and inspector general, Daniels will not rest in 2006. He is seeking to reshape transportation priorities with his Major Moves program that includes toll road leasing and creation (on I-69), shift more dollars from administration to the classroom, and seek to create an atmosphere of government reform at the local level. He calls Major Moves possibly "the last chance" to build I-69 to Evansville. He is building on successes. The legislature quickly embraced his reforms of Commerce and the IEDC. His tax amnesty program brought in an extra \$255 million. The school construction moratorium saved, he said, \$87 million. "And those are the ones they know about," Daniels said of data from the Department of Local Government. "These are the ones that were slimmed down. As of today, no proposal has been rejected. What we



Sen. Dick Lugar (right) and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence (left).

know, but we don't know the number for, was that many more pencils were sharpened before the proposals came," Daniels said. "That's exactly what I hoped would happen. We're still home rule people around here. We're not interested in telling people what the right dollar amount or what the right school size is. But if you're above the national average, then think twice. Up to this point it is having an effect. It didn't slow anybody down. Nobody was smacked down."

What lessons did we learn after the first year of his governorship? We must pay close attention to what he says and how he says it. Last April, he seemed to be drawing a line in the sand on the budget, but he left himself enough verbal wiggle room to accept the ultimate deal ... without a special session. He used an extraordinary amount of political capital to sell the Colts' stadium plan to taxpayers in the Indianapolis suburban counties, as well as Daylight-saving time. The recent

SurveyUSA tracking numbers have his fav/unfavs at 42/51 percent. It's way too early to think those numbers will stay constant. What we learn from the Ronald Reagan presidency's first term is that change brings initial pain, with the payoff coming three and four years down the line. For Daniels, the critical goals will be jobs, increasing personal income, and setting a stable foundation for Indiana to become a transportation/logistics hub.

Are Hoosiers ready for the type of change he is bringing? "In the aggregate, it seems much too fast for some folks," Daniels told HPR in late December. "That's no surprise. Of course, it's my view that Indiana doesn't have the luxury to go slow. We're making up for lost time, so we have to push the envelope. But it is my impression, and there is objective data to support this, that there is a majority in this state, at least in a general way, to support what we're doing. The single most common statement I hear on almost every trip I make is somebody comes up and says, 'Hang in there.' I don't take that as an endorsement. It's just a general sense that we have to get after some of our problems."

**2. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar:** As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Lugar has his own bully pulpit to shape the discourse on Iraq. He's doing it by launching a campaign to educate his colleagues, and the American



people, on the complexity of rebuilding the country. It will be just like Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld described the war on terror -- a long, hard slog. President Bush's approval ratings have inched up as he has done what Lugar suggested -- reach out to Congress on Iraq and level with the American people. Look for Lugar to use the foreign relations platform to talk about economic issues, too. For instance, he advocates that the United States must increase the skills of its workforce to remain competitive in the global economy. Oh, by the way, he won't have to break a sweat in his re-election campaign.

**3. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh:** He's out of the gate quickly in fundraising for his presidential campaign, but off to a slow start in the polls. It doesn't really matter right now what his

standing is vis-a-vis Hillary Clinton -- only the *Indianapolis Star* is obsessing about that.

The important thing is that he's out in the field early. But he must develop a common touch and a narrative to explain why he wants to be chief executive of the United States. Look for him to concentrate on national security, an area where his Senate experience is an advantage and adds a dimension to his background that he didn't get in his gubernatorial years. But if Americans' attitudes toward Iraq remain skeptical, his vote

in favor of the Iraq war will cause more and more difficulty. Rather than arguing about whether Congress had sound information for its vote on the Iraq war resolution, he might want to concentrate his criticism on poor postwar planning, which has led to the loss of thousands of lives and billions of dollars. Bayh is also firmly in control of the Indiana Democratic Party apparatus, where former loyal aides such as Dan Parker and Mike Edmondson are running the ship. He raised \$600,000 in the state for his presidential campaign, making some Democrats squirm, given the challenges of retaking the Indiana House and finding statewide candidates.

**4. Commerce Secretary/IEDC Chairman Mickey Mauer:** Other than the governor, there is no more crucial post in state government than this one. Mauer has to produce jobs, good-paying jobs. With former Commerce Secretary

Patricia Miller going back to Fort Wayne, Mauer is the linchpin on what will certainly be a critical component in Gov. Daniels' 2008 re-election campaign. And, having agreed to serve two years for \$2, this could be the critical year to establish his governmental legacy.

**5. House Speaker Brian Bosma:** The speaker appears to be maturing in his position and is beginning to signal an understanding that the status quo can no longer be defended and that House Republicans need to embrace some of the changes. This has been difficult because parts of his caucus feel as if they've been thrown under the bus on the biennial budget and daylight-saving time. There is also the lifetime health care unfunded liability that Bosma didn't create, but is now seeking to either scale back or repeal. This is tricky stuff, given the various Statehouse power centers all have competing agendas. Bosma has wisely rejected the caucus fringe that wanted to pursue things such as "intelligent design" and openly defy federal Judge David Hamilton's ruling on prayer in the House, instead choosing economic development and property tax reform as key issues. Bosma has opened up the House processes. Wednesday's opening session was video streamed on the Internet, along with the audio. This brings the process into tens of thousands of Hoosier homes and businesses and is a wonderful achievement.

**6. Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi:** The one-term prosecutor raised more than \$1 million in 2005 in his re-election campaign that will center on fending off Democratic challenger Melina Kennedy, a former deputy mayor. Marion County is trending Democratic, so this is no sure thing. But Brizzi appears to be well positioned and has everyone from Gov. Daniels to Chairman Kittle calling this race a top priority this election cycle. Should he win, Brizzi becomes an immediate potential challenger to Mayor Peterson, who can be expected to throw his hat in the ring.

**7. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson:** The mayor had a wild 2005, helping cue up the Colts stadium and convention center package, only to have it wrestled away by Harry Gonso and Chuck Schalliol in the waning days of the legislative session. Then there was the stinging defeat of his police merger proposal in November with the help of Democratic Councilor Sherron Franklin, and it looked as if the mayor was bloodied and weakened going into 2006. So much so that he pondered not offering the "Son of Indy Works" package in the legislature where Republicans were voting it down. But in December, the revived police merger and a non-discrimination ordinance passed, and this newly regained momentum is bringing Peterson back to the legislature in an effort to get approval for township and fire department consolidations. If successful, this would give the reform atmosphere a real charge and it could spread to places such as Fort



U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh



Wayne and Evansville. Peterson and Daniels appear to be working off a similar script and, perhaps, are beginning to realize they have more in common by supporting, however tacitly, the reform efforts that are going on at their different levels. Peterson has also taking a leading role in the development of the IACT tax reform proposals. While many Democrats would love to see a "Peterson-Simpson" dream ticket in 2008, and it hasn't been ruled out, our expectation at this point is that Peterson will seek a third term in 2007 and that would probably preclude a gubernatorial race a year later.

### 8. U.S. Rep. Pete

**Visclosky:** Once having the reputation as the quiet liberal from the Northwest, Visclosky was the federal topping to an often corrupt Democratic Party legacy. He was the voice of steel, but known for little else. Visclosky began 2005 on a troubled note. His support of Lake County Democratic Chairman Stephen Stiglich, who twice failed to muster a quorum for re-election, was embarrassing. But since then, Visclosky has played a fascinating role in state and local politics. He was instrumental



U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky

in helping Gov. Daniels forge the RDA. The two now talk often on the phone, beginning right after Daniels was elected. And Visclosky has pushed the Good Government Initiative, now embraced by a number of Lake County officials, including Prosecutor Bernard Carter and Sheriff Roy Dominguez. Daniels is now talking about bringing a similar analysis to other parts of state and local government. "My job is to convince Northwest Indiana it needs to thrive and grow," Daniels

said of a conversation he had with Visclosky. "Your job is to clean this place up so that either tax dollars and business dollars can be invested here with confidence. So I've been cheering Pete on from the get-go. I think his Good Government Initiative is terrific."

### 9. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence:

As a leader of House conservatives, Pence achieved a breakthrough when the chamber voted in favor of a \$40 billion deficit reduction package. The Senate balked at some of the cuts to health programs and student financial aid. Meanwhile, a tax cut package that Pence also backed restored most of the red ink that the budget-cutting bill staunch. Nonetheless, he

## 2005 HPR Most Influential List

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Gov. Elect Mitch Daniels                                      | 19. Marty Morris                         | 36. State Rep. Luke Messer                      |
| 2. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson                              | 20. Tom Sugar                            | 37. CIB President Fred Glass                    |
| 3. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar                                       | 21. State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer          | 38. Prosecutor Carl Brizzi                      |
| 4. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh   | 22. State Sen. Vi Simpson                | 39. Gary Mayor Scott King                       |
| 5. Senate President Robert D. Garton                             | 23. 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer         | 40. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson                      |
| 6. House Speaker Brian Bosma                                     | 24. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel | 41. State Sen. David Long                       |
| 7. Ways & Means Chairman Jeff Espich                             | 25. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard      | 42. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky                    |
| 8. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence  | 26. John Hammond III                     | 43. Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy |
| 9. Budget Director Charles Schalliol                             | 27. Pat Kiely                            | 44. Jim Purucker                                |
| 10. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman                                      | 28. Lou Gerig                            | 45. East Chicago Mayor George Pabey             |
| 11. Chief of Staff Harry Gonso                                   | 29. Bob Grand                            | 46. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton                        |
| 12. State Sen. Luke Kenley                                       | 30. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer                | 47. 9/11 Commissioner Lee Hamilton              |
| 13. State Sen. Robert Meeks                                      | 31. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder                | 48. U.S. Rep. John Hostettler                   |
| 14./15. Power Couple: State Sen. Teresa Lubbers and Mark Lubbers | 32. U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel                | 49. John Gregg                                  |
| 16. Ellen Whitt  | 33. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola              | 50. Kevin Brinegar                              |
| 17. FSSA Director Mitch Roob                                     | 34. Democratic Chairman Dan Parker       | 51. Farm Bureau President Don Villwock          |
| 18. Commerce Secretary Pat Miller                                | 35. Republican Chairman Jim Kittle       |   |



was able to get House Republican leaders to concentrate on cutting spending during a time when Hurricane Katrina relief funding dominated the agenda. He's walking a fine line between prodding House leadership to be more fiscally conservative while not offending those who have been instrumental in helping him to rise up the House GOP ranks. He's also shied away from offering himself as a candidate to replace

former House Leader Tom DeLay. By showing such deference, he might be putting himself in line for speaker one day. He certainly has more media savvy than any of the other current high-ranking House Republicans. And he's able to be fiercely conservative without being scary -- no mean feat in Washington.

**10. U.S. Rep.**

**Mike Sodrel:** Winning by only 1,400 votes in a strong Republican year means that he is perhaps the most vulnerable Republican incumbent in the House. But he has \$500,000 cash on hand and has put in place an extensive system of local offices that cover the sprawling district. The folksy Sodrel built his own bus and trucking company and now serves on the House Transportation Committee. When he brings home road funding, he can announce it with references to his family's district roots and history in the transportation business -- not a bad twofer at a time Americans increasingly believe that Congress is out of touch. Look for Sodrel, who maintains that the 9th CD is inherently conservative, to emphasize the same moral values issues that helped him last time.



U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel in Iraq last November.

**11. U.S. Rep. John Hostettler:**

His vote against Katrina relief funding doesn't seem to be hurting him because the Katrina debate now centers on fiscal restraint, thanks to the efforts of Pence and other conservatives. Even though Hostettler asked for federal funds for tornado recovery in southwest Indiana in early November and sent mixed signals about visiting the damaged area, it remains to be seen whether he will be hurt by his reactions to Katrina and the tornado. If his strident opposition to guest worker programs gains support in the district, it will signal the immigration issue has traction even in an area far removed from an international border. As usual, his campaign is woefully underfunded by

conventional standards and he is sometimes ham-handed in promoting his conservative agenda. But his grass-roots supporters continue to embrace him, which is all he has needed to win ... so far.

**12. State Rep. Rep. B. Patrick Bauer:** The South Bend Democrat can just taste regaining the Indiana House majority in 10 months. But will he just be blocking the governor's agenda, or can he

and Democrats forge a visionary plan in their role as loyal opposition? Last session Bauer clearly got under the governor's skin, earning the nickname "carbomber" when a Democratic walk-out threatened to gut dozens of bills. He is now opposing the Major Moves initiative, though he and Republicans appear to be closer on issues such as shifting welfare costs from counties to the state.

**13. Senate**

**President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton:**

The savior of the Hope, Ind., BMV boxed the new governor in on the biennial budget in the 2005 session and he is a force to be reckoned with. Garton is signalling his intent to seek reelection to the seat he's occupied since 1970. But the Senate is gradually changing around him. One open challenger, former State Sen. Murray Clark, is now gone. While there are freshmen senators such as Jeff Drozda, Mike Young and now Mike Delph eagerly awaiting in the wings to move up, Garton doesn't have that one leading figure who could muster enough support to oust him from leadership. But he and his team of Sens. David Long and James Merrit are counting votes just to make sure. And Garton will likely find himself in the crosshairs of the "legislator insurance for life" program, which he is expected to defend to the end. That stance could create problems.

**14. Ways & Means Chairman Jeff Espich:** He will play a leading role in determining whether any type of property tax reform can leave the House. It is a perilous position to be in, because if legislators do nothing, there will be a number of freshmen vulnerable on the issue. But the trade-off of tax shifting creates an entire other set of insecurities. Espich will be fascinating to watch this session.

**15. FSSA Director Mitch Roob:** A dozen years ago,



it was Goldsmith, Daniels and Roob leading the change on the Indianapolis SELTIC endeavor. Now the three of them are seeking to privatize key state components. Roob's station at FSSA, which has been an unwieldy and corrupt agency, and overseeing the closure and privatization at places such as the Fort Wayne Developmental Center place him in a key position. The Medicaid funding of 5 percent in the biennial budget (compared to the 10 percent forecast) puts him on the hot seat.

**16. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman:** She leads a critical component of the administration's "Comeback," overseeing the new Department of Agriculture and its aggressive Commissioner Andy Miller. Daniels-Skillman will seek to double pork production and add bio-fuels. Both have obvious huge economic payoffs, but also controversies, as Miller's involvement in the Blackford County CAFO situation brought about last year. Skillman also helped deliver on saving the Crane Naval Station facility and thousands of jobs.

**17. Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson:** The sheriff joins Mayor Peterson in the vanguard of government reform. Whereas Peterson was given unprecedented power to shape charter schools in the state capital, Anderson will be charged with making the police consolidation work ... and save taxpayer money. Widely respected in both parties, he has a chance to become a truly legendary figure as people such as Lugar, Bulen, Hudnut and Goldsmith did before him.

**18. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola:** He has more than twice as much money on hand at this point in the cycle -- \$753,937 -- than he did in the 2004 campaign. His perch on the House Ways and Means Committee puts him in a position to address tax and other issues that are important to big donors. Even though he represents what's supposed to be a swing district, he exudes confidence. He hasn't backed down from his support of Social Security reform, although the topic has faded nationally. Republican ethics scandals haven't tarnished him so far, despite his opponents' call for him to return donations from former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

**19. State Sen. Luke Kenley:** His voice on property tax reform is key. Kenley wants to become an innovator. He is Harvard educated and potential gubernatorial timber and now enters the primetime of his legislative life.

**20. John R. Hammond III:** A key confidante of Gov. Daniels, Hammond has become the uber lobbyist at the Statehouse.

**21. Bob Grand:** The managing partner at Barnes & Thornberg is now a key figure in the state bonding game and plays a critical role in GOP financing from the White House to the Statehouse.

**22. State Rep. Randy Borrer:** The Fort Wayne Republican is carrying Gov. Daniels' "Major Moves" transportation plan in the House. We see Borrer is a key up-and-coming House Republican who, should he stick with it long enough, should make it to leadership.

**23. Secretary of State Todd Rokita:** He is up for re-election this year and he'll have to do it with many elements he put in place ... new voting systems, lists, and the controversial voter ID law that he promoted. He is now talking about reforming Indiana business regulation. If he's done all this well, he should find a relatively easy re-elect. If something screws up, it could make him vulnerable.

**24. Lee Hamilton:** The longtime 9th CD representative and former chairman of the 9/11 Commission remains a force in homeland security policy. In addition, he is president of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, which keeps him in the circles of the Democratic foreign policy elite. He gets more national network face time than just about any other Democrat.

**25. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard:** He can play a compelling role in a number of issues, whether it is making his city a wireless beacon, making sure the Aboite annexation goes smoothly, as well as the talk regarding consolidation between the state's second largest city and Allen County. Richard will probably signal this year whether he will seek a third term, possibly with former mayor Paul Helmke



Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman (left) and Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard (above).

posing a challenge.

**26. Alan B. Hubbard:** The former Indiana GOP chairman is now a key economic adviser to his former college buddy, President Bush.

**27. Marty Morris:** Lugar's chief of staff is the "hammer" that always allows the senator to be the nice guy. With his boss seeking a record sixth term, Morris will be prowling the shadows making sure all is running smoothly in Lugar World.

**28. Tom Sugar:** Sen. Bayh's chief of staff will play a critical gatekeeper role as his boss gears up for a 2008 presidential run.



**29. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer:** He has courted controversy as chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, drawing the ire of Vets groups that say he is cutting funding at a time when soldiers returning from Iraq need help the most. Buyer, who rarely backs down from a fight, says that more spending is not the answer. The Department of Veterans Affairs must focus on veterans whose needs are the most urgent. Even if most vets in the country, and every one in Indiana, rose up against him, he wouldn't lose his seat. His district is one of the most Republican-leaning that you'll find anywhere on the map.

**30. GOP Executive Director Jennifer Hallowell:** She is in a crucial slot this year. Hallowell will become the executive director of the Indiana Republican Party and she will manage Carl Brizzi's re-election campaign for prosecutor.

**31. Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker:** He is Bayh's guy running the state party, and he has his challenges, from filling out the state ticket, to finding someone to replace Angela Belden in running the House races.

**32. Indiana Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr.:** He's continuing his service as state chairman at the behest of Gov. Daniels, but he'd really rather be ambassador to Cuba.

**33. State Sen. Vi Simpson:** In addition to her high-profile role on the state budget committee, she is ginning up a very aggressive 2006 Senate caucus campaign effort. The senator has also done her part to help re-build the Democratic Party, traveling the state rallying Democrats, recruiting candidates, headlining fundraisers and speaking at more than half of the state's Jefferson-Jackson dinners. Sen. Simpson has forged strong relationships with officials and party activists (including Bren Simon) and in 2006 plans several major announcements that may shake up Indiana politics as we know it. She is a potential 2008 gubernatorial or lieutenant governor nominee.

**34. Farm Bureau President Don Villwock:** The past year was one of notable success for Indiana agriculture and Villwock played a critical role. The list of legislative accomplishments includes the creation of an Indiana State Department of Agriculture, the enactment of one of the most comprehensive right-to-farm laws in the country; a two-year statutory reduction in the assessed value of farmland; and legislation enabling the state to aggressively pursue the production, distribution and use of alternative energy derived from Indiana agriculture. The continuing commitment to agriculture on the part of the Daniels administration is due in no

small part to Villwock's personal relationship with Gov. Daniels and Farm Bureau's support of the administration's ag initiatives. At the national level, Villwock serves on the board of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF); the AFBF Trade Advisory Committee which advises both Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and US Trade Representative Rob Portman on international trade issues affecting American agriculture; the board of the Farm Foundation (a publicly supported nonprofit organization working to improve the economic health and social well-being of U.S. agriculture); and the steering committee of 25 by 25, an industry sponsored initiative to realize the vision of American agriculture satisfying 25 percent of the country's energy needs by the year 2025.

**35. Chamber President Kevin Brinegar:** He has been a key player in what is becoming a new "pro-business" era in Indiana politics on everything from daylight-saving time



State Sen. Vi Simpson

to government reform.

**36. IMA President Pat Kiely:** The Indiana Manufacturers Association president specializes in areas of taxes, budget, economy, education and manufacturing. He will be a valuable resource if the House GOP and the administration gets very far into property tax reform.

**37. UAW President Terry Thurman:** With Delphi Corp. in bankruptcy and GM teetering, along with a new wave of Toyota workers coming to the state at Lafayette, Thurman has become the voice of auto workers who are facing dramatic wage and benefit cuts.

**38. Mike O'Connor:** His consulting firm is working several crucial races: the Marion County prosecutor challenger Melina Kennedy and Congressional challengers Baron Hill and Brad Ellsworth. All three could impact the balance of power both in the state and nationally.

**39. Mike Gentry:** He's heading up the House GOP's campaign. His decisions to use gay marriage as an issue



were controversial and critical to the Republicans successful recapturing of the Indiana House. He will be in the crosshairs again.

**40. Hamilton County Republican Chairman Charlie White:** It is fair and accurate to consider him the most powerful county chairman in the state. His victory in March and his influence in the State Sen. Mike Delph win at least suggest, if not prove, that Charlie is the best strategist in Indiana politics when it comes to precinct level political organization. Add the facts that he was the force behind the Daniels organization's get-out-the-vote efforts in the HC in 2004, yielding a 49,117-vote margin, and that the HC GOP will end 2005 with significantly more money in the bank than in any year in memory, and the force he has become in Indiana politics is undeniable. The factors facing White in 2006 will be whether he can build on his fundraising successes and whether he, Mike Murphy, and Mike Gentry can unite behind one candidate (Kathryn Densborn?) in the HD 86 race and either produce victory or force enough Democrat resources into Orentlicher's re-elect to help the GOP hold the majority.

**41. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder:** His anti-meth bill is the first comprehensive legislation addressing the addiction of choice in small towns and rural areas. He also is pushing for workplace religious freedom and continues to shape federal drug control legislation. He takes particular pride in the series of hearings he's held this year on the national parks system. As a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, he has a platform for advocating that federal funds be sent to places such as Ft. Wayne as the Department of Homeland Security indicates that it is going to rely more on risk assessment and send dollars to places such as New York and Los Angeles. Souder doesn't need help to win re-election, but the base closure commission actually added jobs to the Ft. Wayne area.

**42. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson:** Commanding one of the state's most effective political organizations, she will be called to help Melina Kennedy defeat Carl Brizzi in the prosecutor's race. Her dressing down of Indianapolis City-County Council members over the initial failure of the non-discrimination ordinance is another example of a federal player keeping a vibrant hand in local issues. The non-discrimination ordinance passed in December.



Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth (left) and State Rep. Phil Hinkle. (HPR Photos)

**43. Baron Hill:** The former 9th CD Democrat intends to wrest his seat back from incumbent GOP Rep. Mike Sodrel. He's off to a torrid fundraising start with \$427,000 on hand. He's sure to be targeted by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and is putting together what he says will be a formidable grass-roots network in the district. This time, he intends to blunt moral-values attacks by independent groups by not shying away from talking about his personal faith. Hill is also accusing the Bush administration of deliberately misleading he and other Democrats on the war.

**44. Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth:** He is raising money, got some favorable national press after the tornadoes that killed 24 people swept through his county. Ellsworth stands to give U.S. Rep. John Hostettler perhaps his greatest challenge since 1994. He is good looking, articulate, pro-life and legally carries his gun to work.

**45. OMB Director Chuck Schalliol:** He drops on this year's list because it's a non-budget year. But so many elements of what the governor does has to pass muster through OMB and his clout is undeniable.



**46. Stadium Authority Chairman David Frick:** This guy is no small beans. The new Colts stadium is due to come on line in September 2008, a mere two months before Gov. Daniels is expected to face voters for re-election. Cost overruns and a delay for the new digs will spell political trouble for The Blade. So that puts Frick on the hot seat for the next couple of years and he'll be

doing more than shelling beans.

**47. State Sen. Mike Young and State Rep. Phil Hinkle:** Here are the stasist poster boys. Both are pledging to thwart Mayor Peterson on his Indy Works 2006 package. They have become the defenders of the townships, where they find their foot soldiers. Young was able to win the Senate Bill 1 designation for his counter bill to the Indy Works proposal. Hinkle may find himself with a general election opponent, courtesy of the Peterson organization.

**48. Tim Roemer:** His bid to win the chairmanship of the Democratic Party failed and he backed off a challenge to Sen. Richard Lugar. But he remains an important voice on homeland security policy through the vestiges of the 9/11 Commission. Being president of a Washington policy group may not fill all of his intellectual and political agenda. He'll look for other ways to stay in the policy spotlight.

**49. Dan Coats:** The former senator is now helping lead Judge Samuel A. Alito Jr. through the Supreme Court confirmation process. He also was the sherpa for the failed nomination of Harriet Miers. He helped deliver on the Crane





Naval Station during the base closing sequence. He's certainly been a good soldier for the White House. If this doesn't result in some kind of high Defense Department or other administration appointment, at least it is likely to boost the number of lobbying clients for Coats.

**50. IACT Executive Director Matt Greller:** The IACT leader has elevated the property tax shift debate and local flexibility. Both Gov. Daniels and Sen. Kenley like many things about the IACT plan. It will get an good airing this session, but 2007 may be the key.

## Honorable Mentions:

(in alphabetical order)

**Jason Barclay:** Daniels' campaign senior policy director and white collar crime lawyer at Barnes & Thornburg, soon to be special counsel to the governor.

**Carmel Mayor James Brainard:** He's becoming Indiana's most conspicuous suburban mayor

**Betsy Burdick:** The director of cabinet and agency affairs in the governor's office has significant influence.

**U.S. Rep. Dan Burton:** He holds the record for congressional ballot box votes in Indiana history after his 2004 re-elect in one of the nation's safest GOP districts. He was key in helping State Sen. Mike Delph win his seat.

**State Rep. Larry Buehle:** He is one of the more vulnerable Republican incumbents in the House, facing a potential challenge from Councilor Mary Moriarty-Adams.

**Cameron Carter:** TechPoint's president was a critical component on the daylight-saving time battle.

**Dan Clark:** The top ISTA lobbyist who will be weighing in on the governor's educational funding shift policies.

**Ed Charbonneau:** He's playing a critical role on the ground in the Lake County Good Government Initiative.

**Lake County Democratic Chairman Rudy Clay:** Watching Lake County Commissioner and new Democratic Chairman Clay walk the tight rope between the plentiful factions in the post-Pastrick/Stiglich era has been fascinating ... and entertaining!

**State Rep. Dave Crooks:** He is a target of Gov. Daniels in the November election. That might actually help him.

**Lake County Republican Chairman John Curley:** He is remaking the party serving the state's third largest con-

centration of Republican voters after helping boot Dems infiltrators. The RDA may give those efforts wings.

**Kathy Davis:** We were originally told that former Lt. Gov. Davis had no further political ambition. We're hearing differently on that, so she is worth keeping an eye on.

**Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez:** He will face a tough, bitter re-election fight this year.

**Joe Donnelly:** This Democrat will make a second challenge to U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola.

**Mike Edmondson:** Executive director of Indiana Democrats is acting as its primary spokesman.

**Nate Feltman:** Counsel for IEDC has increasing influence in economic development circles.

**Shaw Friedman:** Former counsel to the Indiana Democratic Party and LaPorte County Chairman who will play a key role in helping to redefine his party. He is also playing a major role in the consumer/utility wars in NIPSCOland.

**Chief of Staff Harry Gonso:** The governor's chief of staff had an interesting year on the political learning curve.

**Lou Gerig:** A confidante of the governor, he will help manage the public perception of the new Colts stadium and Indiana Convention Center.

**Fred Glass:** The Capital Improvement Board president set the table for the Colts stadium, then gracefully gave up the lead role while realizing the new political realities at the Statehouse.

**Paul Helmke:** The former Fort Wayne mayor and 1998 U.S. Senate nominee is itching to get back in the game. He's polling with an eye

on returning to City Hall in 2007. Helmke was also an early advocate for the many government reforms that are now beginning to take place.

**Cara Hodges:** She is keeping the light on in the governor's re-election campaign.

**Melina Kennedy:** Prosecutor Bizzi's Democratic challenger has raised \$260,000 in eight weeks of fundraising. She is the former deputy mayor of Indianapolis.

**Ryan Kitchell:** Former Lilly executive and Daniels campaign senior policy adviser is state director of public finance.

**Clerk of Courts David Lewis:** Another potential successor to Rep. Carson.

**State Sen. David Long:** Garton's heir apparent who may still be years away from having the gavel.

**State Sen. Teresa Lubbers and Mark Lubbers:** The power couple falls off the main list because Mark Lubbers is leaving the day-to-day operations in the governor's office.



Gov. Daniels with Paul Helmke



**South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke:** Commands the South Bend-Mishawaka media market.

**Lacy Johnson:** A top partner at IceMiller, his Statehouse clout suffered a bit, but he heads the Airport Authority and is a key confidante of Rep. Carson.

**State Rep. Carolene Mays:** We see the two-term rep and *Indianapolis Recorder* publisher as a potential heir apparent to the Carson legacy.

**Hammond Mayor Jim McDermott:** Some Democrats see him as ticket material in 2008.

**Mark Massa:** The governor's chief counsel just moved over to the Statehouse from the US Attorney's Office.

**LaPorte Mayor Leigh Morris:** A favorite of Gov. Daniels who helped write the IACT government reform proposal.

**St. Joseph County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan:** One of the key chairs in the state, he sits on the Indiana Election Commission.

**Eric Miller:** Manning the front lines in his war against "homosexuals," Miller continues to find issues he can't win as time passes him by, but it's always great for fundraising.

**Bill Moreau:** A key confidant of Sen. Bayh and a Democratic go-to guy.

**Bill Oesterle:** The governor's campaign manager is in his kitchen cabinet. He got a little bruised in the Mike Delph election.

**East Chicago Mayor George Pabey:** It will be interesting to see what the second year of his administration will be like.

**Commissioner James Payne:** Heads the new Department of Child Services.

**Jim Purucker:** A power lobbyist at the Statehouse.

**Supt. Suellen Reed:** The governor takes the lead role on education issues now.

**David Rozmanich:** He is Sen. Bayh's new state director who has built an effective network of local staff for the senator, giving him good constituent casework and response times.

**Ed Simcox:** Now head of the Indiana Energy Association, he wields a great deal of clout behind the scenes.

**Steve Shine:** The Allen County Republican chairman will be gearing up this year to recapture city hall in 2007.

**Inspector General David Thomas:** Has brought more than 30 cases of government corruption to light.

**Mark St. John:** Emerging as a force in the human services community.

**Abdul Hakim Shabazz:** This guy has become the key broadcaster covering the Indiana political scene. Give him more watts.

**BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman:** He weathered some of the biggest uproars in 2005. We can't wait for the encore.

**INDOT Commissioner Tom Sharp:** This is the administration's key point man (along with Gov. Daniels) on the Major Moves transportation plan.



St. Joseph County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan. (HPR Photo)

**Indianapolis Council President Steve Talley:** He is the third part of the new executive committee (along with Mayor Peterson and Sheriff Anderson) who will seek to make the police merger work. Initially bruised over unsuccessful police merger and non-discrimination votes, Talley figured it out and forged two impressive wins last December.

**Jennifer Wagner:** She's blogging for state Democrats, writing some of the most searing, funny and nasty commentary aimed at Mitch World. But ... will she go too far?

**Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel:** The mayor appears to be vacillating on the Evansville/Vanderburgh unification effort, which tells us he's missing the boat that other government executives are embracing.

**State Rep. Troy Woodruff:** The deciding vote on daylight-saving time, Woodruff is seen as perhaps the most vulnerable freshman Republican. On Wednesday, he filed a bill to make abortion illegal.

**Robin Winston:** The former Democratic chairman still carries clout around the state and both he and Pat Terrell continue to play a role helping other D candidates, often without compensation or any obvious payback. ❖



## Burton to give Abramoff money to charity

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Dan Burton, R-5th, said Wednesday he will give \$7,059 to charity that his campaign received from a Washington lobbyist who has admitted bribing members of Congress (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Burton said he is also giving \$12,000 to charity because it came from Indian tribes that were the clients of lobbyist Jack Abramoff. "I can ensure my Hoosier constituents that neither myself nor any member of my staff participated in any illegal, immoral or unethical dealings with Mr. Abramoff or his tribal clients," Burton said through a statement. He is the only member of the Indiana delegation who reported receiving campaign contributions from Abramoff and his wife. Burton received \$7,000 from the Abramoffs since 1996, according to routine reports he and his political action committee filed with the Federal Election Commission.



## Bosma discusses prayer in House

INDIANAPOLIS - Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma ended the tradition of opening the legislative session with an official prayer Wednesday – instead opting for a small, informal gathering of lawmakers praying beforehand in the back of the chamber (Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). The change comes after a federal court ruling in November limiting the prayer that can be offered to nonsectarian invocations that don't proselytize or mention Jesus' name. "The 189-year history of free speech and open prayer in the House is

temporarily void for a time," Bosma said. "Hopefully soon our freedom to have unfettered, unrestricted, uncensored, unapproved prayer in this House will return." Moments before, two members offered prayer in a huddle of lawmakers, staffers and TV cameras – Rep. Peggy Welch, D-Bloomington and Rep. Eric Turner, R-Gas City. Welch used the words "Lord" and "God" several times, while Turner specifically asked to "help us be Christ-like in all that we do." He ended the prayer "in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." A chorus of "amens" followed and clapping erupted from the gallery, which was filled with prayer advocates who had rallied in the Statehouse earlier in the day. Then Bosma gavelled in the session with a lengthy speech about his decision on the prayer. Afterward he said it was not a "slick way" to get around the judge's ruling and was "well within the confines" of the law. He noted it was an informal prayer at the back of the chamber instead of from the speaker's podium. People were free to participate or choose not to, and it was not shown on the Internet. "We will continue to fight this order by every constitutional means available," Bosma said, including an appeal to the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago.

## Woodruff bill would make abortion illegal

INDIANAPOLIS - Rep. Troy Woodruff said Wednesday he filed a bill to make abortion illegal in Indiana and hopes it will at least get a committee hearing (*Evansville Courier & Press*). House Bill 1096 would alter Indiana's feticide law to make it a Class C felony, punishable with a two- to eight-year prison sentence, to perform an abortion. The only exception would be when carrying a pregnancy to term would pose a "substantial permanent impairment of the life or physical health of the pregnant woman." Woodruff said he filed the

bill in part because there will be a new U.S. Supreme Court and a state must pass a law and then appeal it to the highest court to see if the *Roe v. Wade* ruling will stand. "Also the people have never had an opportunity (through their representatives) to vote on the matter," Woodruff said.

## Sweeping telecom bill filed

INDIANAPOLIS - A sweeping telecommunications bill that would deregulate basic residential telephone service by 2009 came under fire Wednesday from consumer groups and cable operators (*Associated Press*). Senate Bill 245 -- authored by Sen. Brandt Hershman, R-Wheatfield -- could have a major impact on what consumers pay for telephone, cable and Internet services. And it will get quickly get a hearing, set for next Tuesday. "It's time to modify our laws so that the free market can drive down prices for consumers," Hershman said during a Wednesday press conference. While the bill would deregulate basic phone service when providers reach 50-percent broadband penetration, it also creates a franchise authority for video programming of all technologies.

## Chocola to return to Iraq

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, R-Ind., plans a return trip to Iraq, where he first visited in 2003 (*Associated Press*). Chocola would not disclose the exact timetable for the trip other than to say it will be soon. He said he hopes to meet with some of the newly elected Iraqi officials and citizens to get their views of the future. "The Iraqis are embracing the opportunity for democracy pretty vigorously," he told the *South Bend Tribune*.

