



With Major Moves, Daniels resetting the equation

Major Moves propels the Daniels' juggernaut

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

Lake County Surveyor George Van Til is a Democrat. Toiling in an aging Democratic machine under the shadows of mayors with the names of Daley and Pastrick, he knows a political powerhouse when he sees one.

On Wednesday morning, Van Til was part of an Association of Indiana Counties audience listening to Gov. Mitch Daniels, who gave a short speech, thanking the many county officials gathered for their input and support on Major Moves.

Van Til asked the governor a question, and the governor acknowledged the

surveyor's different political stripes and possible hostility, but gave a lengthy answer all the same.

After the session, Van Til grabbed me. "What an awesome politician," he said.



Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Reps. Mary Kay Budak and Larry Buell, union leader Dave Tharp and Gov. Mitch Daniels at the Major Moves rally. (HPR Photo)

It was a moment that impacted me like the last phone conversation I had with L. Keith Bulen back in 1998 when I asked him what he thought of President Bill Clinton. "Best politician I've ever seen, heard or dreamed of," Bulen responded.

Van Til continued to marvel at the Republican governor. "He is so seductive. Just look at what he did with my question."

Across the Hoosier prairies these days, the xenophobic Democrats respond



"For those of you who think this is going to be an easy vote, it's going to cost you seats in this legislature. If you vote for it and you live in the toll road counties, you're going to pay the price." — State Rep. Craig Fry, D-Mishawaka, to House Republicans

The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink Inc. It was founded in 1994.

Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington Writer
Jack E. Howey, Editor

Subscriptions:
\$350 annually HPR via e-mail;
\$550 annually HPR & HPR Daily Wire.
Call 317-254-0535.

The Howey Political Report
PO Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265.

www.howeypolitics.com
BrianHowey@howeypolitics.com

Indianapolis Office: 317-506-0883.
Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.
Washington, DC Office: 202-256-5822.
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

©2006, The Howey Political Report. All rights reserved. Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or part, is a violation of federal law and is **strictly prohibited** without consent of the publisher.



Howey: Fear on the toll road	p. 4
HPR Interview: Mayor Richard	p. 5
Columnists: Colwell, James	p. 7
House Retirement Watch List	p. 8
Horse Race: Garton's primary foe	p. 9
Ticker: Reed, Gov split on ISTEP	p. 13



to journalists who write of the Daniels' juggernaut by describing them as "shills" and senders of valentines.

In the 48 hours before Van Til's question, the Governor of Indiana convinced the entire Indiana House Republican delegation to back his Major Moves transportation initiative. He joined Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago and Scott King of Gary (now an independent) via phone and they endorsed his plan. Less than an hour later, with union leaders such as Ben Ramsey and Jay Potesta milling around the South Atrium, the governor -- whose first official act was to end the state collective bargaining agreement -- directed a largely union crowd in blue jeans and baseball hats to head up to the Third Floor. He wanted them to button hole legislators fearful of "fer-ners" from taking over the Indiana Toll Road and flying Red Chinese flags at Mile Posts 0 and 157.

"You have got to help me get this done," Gov. Daniels told the millwrights, operating engineers, welders and riveters.

Six months ago, this governor was successfully selling tax increases in the deep red Republican counties of the Indianapolis doughnut to build a new Colts stadium.

Now the Indiana Speaker of the House was calling his plan a "staggering opportunity," and Senate President Robert Garton had gone from calling it a "very imaginative proposal" to terming its terms of passage in the Upper Chamber "good."

Indiana Democrats responded with a radio ad in South Bend, Valparaiso and LaPorte that used the word "foreigner" four times. Former congressman Baron Hill accused the governor of "blackmailing" legislators. Former House Speaker John Gregg called him an "idiot" on WIBC-AM.

Democrats, feeding off Workforce Development numbers detailing job losses, were now faced with a co-opting of their most ardent union backers. They faced waves of new jobs (House Majority Floor Leader Bill Friend said each billion dollars will result in 47,000 jobs) and drew on an old Hoosier redoubt, the xenophobic isolation practiced a half century ago by X-Ray publisher Court Asher and U.S. Sen. Bill Jenner, a Cold War isolationist who battled the Marshall Plan. They were red-baiters who were suspicious of outsiders.

In John Bartlow Martin's "Indiana: An Interpretation," he viewed pre-World War I Hoosiers as those fully participating in the American Manifest Destiny. But after the war, as the Red paranoia helped bring about a patriot organization called the Ku Klux Klan, Indiana "sustained for 40 years ... breeders of hate and intolerance, capitalists and bankers who thwarted industrial growth, wealth that resisted change and wanted

nothing for the community but lower taxes, unions that resisted change and wanted nothing but shorter hours and more money and more union dues," Martin wrote in 1947.

"Conflicts sharpened, battle lines drawn tighter. Depression and war raised issues and built fences higher. Outsiders became suspect."

In January 2006, we now have House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer asking of the new toll road leasers, "Are they going to fly Spanish flags or Australian flags on this toll road, or is Red China going to buy these companies out?"

George Van Til's question

The Lake County surveyor stood and asked the governor, "I'm curious when we're going to see toll roads in the South and Middle of the state? Obviously this is the cash cow. We're wondering when we're going to see these cash cows in the rest of the state giving milk up north?"

Gov. Daniels responded, "Well, read the bill. The only way, as I've said for a couple or three years to build I-69, I believe, is a toll road.

"Now, I'll just tell you the full story," Daniels added.

"I really don't think, and I'm sure you agree, that it's acceptable public service to make commitments or promises or pledge yourself to positions of no prospect for delivery. That's what we had with transportation in this state. It's no secret. We've had a two to three billion dollar gap between any potential resources and the plans that were out there. That's just a practical problem."

Daniels said that on his first several trips to Southwestern Indiana, he found community leaders "passionate about being linked to the rest of the state. I took a long time to say that I agreed with them," the governor said. "But then I asked, 'how do we pay for this?'"

Daniels said he frustrated highway advocates for many months. He finally said, "I think I see a way. Look what's going on in the rest of the world. I think it's going to be a coming trend and a toll road is going to be part of it."

The governor reminded Van Til, "Despite what people think up there, there are a lot of people from the rest of Indiana who occasionally use that toll road." The audience reacted with applause.

He said that 34 cents of every toll dollar collected comes from people in the seven counties. "The other two-thirds are paid by people from out of state. So it seemed fair to give seven counties out of 92 every penny attributed to any Indiana toll payer," Daniels said. "Now, that is so much money, nobody can figure out what to do with it all. \$1.3 bil-



House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer (HPR Photo)



lion for seven counties.”

Daniels spoke to the other county officials. “Show of hands ... if I make you that offer, that you and six other counties....”

The room exploded in laughter.

The governor continued. “We fund every project on the books in this state. Otherwise, half of those do not happen.” Looking at Van Til, he said, “There’s \$100 million to your RDA we helped to create and for purposes you will decide.

“That leaves \$400 to \$500 million and nobody has any idea what to spend it on. All of this money will be earning interest, by the way.”

He said it didn’t take long for the “alleged alternative” to evaporate. “There’s \$4 billion you’re earning interest on opposed to \$1.6 billion you’re paying interest on. That wasn’t a very long argument. There’s no alternative. No one has come up with one in 20 years and nobody’s going to come up with one.”

Daniels said Northern Indiana commuters will not face toll increases for at least the next 10 years after House Republican amendments on Tuesday. There has not been a toll increase for the past 20 years, he added. “Thirty years at the same level.”

He turned to Van Til. “You know that 15-cent toll booth? Everybody’s been afraid to change it for 20 years. I said, ‘What’s it cost to collect that toll?’”

The room, again, broke into laughter.

“This is government,” Daniels answered. “No one knew.”

Daniels got his answer a couple of weeks later. “We think it’s about 34 cents,” he explained. “I said, ‘34 cents to collect 15 cents? I’ve got a better idea. The honor system!’”

The room again filled with laughter.

“Put a cigar box out. If half the people throw in the 15 cents we’re dollars ahead.

“Without first class infrastructure, I don’t believe we can turn around the economy of this state. And I know this is going to be the best thing that ever happens to Lake County, Porter County, LaPorte, St. Joseph, Elkhart, Steuben ... LaGrange. You just watch.”

A block away, a surreal scene....

It was a surreal scene at the South Atrium of the Indiana Statehouse Tuesday. Jay Potesta and Kevin Brinegar milled around the dais. Embattled State Rep. Mary Kay Budak stood next to Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman. Labor leaders were positioned by Gov. Mitch Daniels to rally for Major Moves.

Potesta of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 20 explained, “We’re excited about I-69. I’ve got a lot of unemployed workers along the I-69 corridor.”

“Look at my tie,” Potesta said. It was his Wizard of Oz

Tinman tie. Potesta explained, “Oh, I’ve never given nothin’ to the Tinman ... that he didn’t already have.”

Ben Ramsey, executive director of Indiana State Building Trades Council was also there, though he said his organization was officially neutral on Major Moves. “The craftsmen are pushing this bill,” he said. “Some of them will endorse the bill. That’s their call.”

Two other unions flexed their muscles for Major Moves: Operating Engineers Local 150 and the Indiana/Kentucky Regional Council of Carpenters. Dave Tharp of the Indiana and Kentucky Regional Council of Millwrights explained, “There’s nothing Republican or Democrat about a good paying job. This should not be a political issue. Be bold. Do the right thing.”

Dave Fagen of the Operating Engineers said, “It’s about jobs. We need you to support a vote for jobs. Vote for jobs! Vote for jobs!” Gov. Daniels said he hears many rallies from his statehouse office.

“Today is very different,” Daniels observed. “People are here from every walk of like. They disagree about a lot of other things.” He said Major Moves brought them together. “It’s not a good deal. It’s a great deal.” Daniels said it is no coincidence that Toyota is located near I-64 and looking at making Camrys along I-65 at Lafayette, and GM is on I-69. He said Major Moves would employ “welders and riveters, graders, crane operators and backhoes, signmakers, architects, engineers, insurers” and even lawyers. “You have got to help me get this done.”

JFK’s Prologue

Before the Association of Indiana Counties, Gov. Daniels told the story of a young staffer who was reading John F. Kennedy’s book, “Profiles in Courage.”

President Kennedy says in the prologue of that book, “It is not of service to one’s constituent to simply reflect their views. It’s a disservice and it underestimates them because it overlooks the fact that grownups in a society can and do modify their thinking over time, and they will respond to leadership. In fact that’s what they expect of us when they temporarily place us in a position of trust.”

He told the county officials, “If you really want to thank me, approach your jobs the same way. Don’t be afraid to tell the people in this state the truth.

“This is the right thing to do. This will pay dividends in this state for as long as we are alive. So we should do it. And if things don’t change in time, if I should ever run for this job again, that’s all right with me. It will change, eventually, and that’s reward enough. We will see and touch and drive on the fruits of this endeavor and your children will work in businesses that wouldn’t have been there if we just let this sit there billions of dollars short.” ❖



Fear on the toll road

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - What are the Democrats afraid of? Republicans will tell you that it is a burst of jobs that will accompany what will likely be the biggest jobs project in the state's history.

Last Dec. 16 the Democrats put out this press release: *Indiana led the nation in job loss last month with a decrease of 2,800 jobs, according to preliminary data released today by the*

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Our state is suffering from massive job loss, yet our Governor continues to outsource contracts to non-Indiana companies and to consider a plan that would sell off one of the state's largest assets to foreign investors," said Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker.



Major Moves will almost certainly change that dynamic. It has put the Democratic Party at odds with a good part of its own constituency, as evidenced by the three busloads of union workers who traveled to Indianapolis from Lake County on Wednesday to push for Major Moves.

To Gov. Daniels, it is the "jobs bill of a generation" and his "Louisiana Purchase."

After the House passed the legislation 52-47 on Wednesday, Gov. Daniels said, "The workers and future generations of this state just won a tremendous victory. It's just an enormous step for jobs and more economic hope in this state. This is such a huge thing to do for the betterment of our state. You know there's nobody I admire more, frankly, than an officeholder who is willing to do what is right even if it's not clear that it is popular at the moment. Now this, in the fullness of time, is going to be a very popular decision, it will be seen as one of the wisest things any state ever did. It already is, in other places, where people are scrambling to imitate it."

In attacking the governor, Democrats have gotten personal. Former House Speaker John Gregg called Daniels an "idiot" on WIBC a few weeks ago. The party's radio ads used the word "foreigner" four times.

Democrats have complained that the insults have been mutual, from the subtle digs at former Gov. Joe Kernan in the State of the State address and other speeches, to his calling House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer a "car bomber" when the Democrats walked out in March 2005.

On Wednesday, Parker reacted, "It should be perfectly clear to Hoosiers where the rubber-stamp meets the road.

Today's vote shows that the Governor couldn't shore up any bipartisan support for a plan that's been met with more questions than he has answers. I just hope members of the Indiana Senate have the sense to slow this process down so everyone can take a good look at the initiative before they sign away one of Indiana's largest assets for 75 years. This isn't one of those situations where we can decide in a few years that we made the wrong decision, which means it's not one of those situations where we should jump to conclusions without all the facts."

The problem is, nothing is ever "perfectly clear" and getting all the "facts" is impossible. As State Sen. Brent Waltz explained, "I can make a pretty accurate economic forecast for the next six months. Beyond a year, it's as reliable as a weather forecast."

If the governor is wrong ...

If the Governor is wrong, history might settle on Wednesday's exchange between bill sponsor Randy Borrer and State Rep. Winfield Moses Jr., which was captured by reporter Niki Kelly for the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*:

A particularly tense exchange occurred between Borrer and Moses, who asked Borrer pointed questions on details in the agreement that would govern the contract between the state and the new operator. For instance, Moses pointed out that the amount of \$4.4 billion in promised improvements to the Toll Road is not specifically in the agreement and asked what remedy an average citizen has when the operator fails to comply with standards such as removing snow or dead animals from the road.

When Borrer said they could contact the state or the operator, Moses pressed until Borrer said the state can fall back on basic contract law to enforce it. But Moses then read a section in the contract that specifically says all disagreements would be handled through mediation and arbitration and that punitive fines are not allowed. In fact, the only remedy the state has is what Moses called the "economic death sentence" – to take the road back.

Borrer had trouble answering some of the questions during the debate and at one point had to concede he hadn't read the entire operator's contract.

"As you can see the provisions of this concessionaire agreement are pretty iffy," Moses said. "I urge all of you to get it in writing. It's clear their numbers are fuzzy. Their numbers are wobbly."

Even Daniels had to acknowledge later that afternoon that the operator is not legally bound to the \$4.4 billion number, but instead is bound to keep the road at a certain level of standards. The estimate to do so – contained in the bid but not the contract – is \$4.4 billion over 75 years.

History will have to find the devil in the details. ❖



Fort Wayne Mayor Richard surveys telecom dereg, reform and 2008

INDIANAPOLIS - Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard spent some time with HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey in January talking about his city's wi-fi efforts and the challenges facing cities and towns across the state in this, the year of deregulation.

Mayor Richard explained, "If you're going to be wired and inspired, you can't just be one dimensional. This is a private vendor we have an arrangement with who is providing us internet access through the Indiana Data Center. Four years ago we started with a community based organization called Invent Tomorrow. We started working together with IPFW. We asked, what if we could connect all of our K-12 schools everywhere in the city and county? We got a universal service fund. In the end, we have a not-for-profit coalition. It's controlled by all these educational institutions. There are 87 schools, over 3,000 teachers, and 54,000 students. This is high speed bandwidth. Let's say you wanted to have a Chinese class in Fort Wayne, we can do that with students in 87 schools. In the end, we have a not-for-profit coalition. Comcast won this bid to build it, not to own it, so its actually controlled by all these educational institutions.

Richard said the city had 85,000 water and sewer customers and a federal mandate to clean up its combined sewers. "I was sitting here saying, it's really critical we have the best fiber optic broadband. Tyler, Texas is doing their broadband project in 2005. I didn't want to wait until 2009. We lobbied Verizon." Richard said that the fiber optics have been laid in conduits along utility right of ways. "We will be the first to have fiber going to all schools, a wireless system already up and going and now we're the first to have fiber into homes," he said.

"Why is this so important?" Richard asked. "Incredibly new services are going to be offered and they can't be offered any other way. You have to have the bandwidth.

HPR: If you had this network five years ago would Lincoln National still be headquartered in Fort Wayne?

Richard: I think those decisions get made on many levels. At that time broadband was important but not com-

pellent. Most of it was about change in what they did, from being a life insurance company to being a financial services company. Each of these decisions get made differently, but I will say this. It's real important for college students wanting to start a business and that's a very important segment. If your city has an out-migration of young brain power and talent, you've got a problem. You better start reversing that. To get household income up, you're going to have to have people like (Bill) Cook who 40 years ago began working on medical projects in a lab. And you literally have to have hundreds and hundreds of those going.

HPR: If you're average Joe Hoosier, what's your advice on how they should perceive this deregulation bill?

Richard: I believe that getting broadband is so important that what we need to do whatever it takes. Fort Wayne is the second largest city to do this and we had to come up with \$200 million to \$350 million, maybe \$400 million, just for our sewer infrastructure. Who's going to pay that? The 85,000 customers. It's important to create the most level playing field so that cable and telephone guys can make that investment in your city. It's like being left off the Interstate highway system multiplied by a hundredfold.

HPR: 120 years ago it was Wabash that got electricity first and it probably took another decade or so before other cities had it. Is that a relevant historical perspective?

Richard: If a municipality is 10 years behind, you will find that businesses are not locating, not growing there, and kids ... young people, not coming back. To me, you can't wait that long. You have to work on every part, your airport, your streets. And you'll have business owners who will come and say, "I'm not going there. Your tax structure is bad. Or I don't think you have a very good public safety system." Fiber optics is the very best way to leverage jobs. With fiber optics you can have a fire engine on a run and getting nothing be green lights. There are all sorts of practical uses. You're going to run your city better, faster.

HPR: Fort Wayne had some assets here. What about the Blufftons and Decatur of our world who might not have those types of assets?

Richard: Bluffton has a municipal electric utility. If (Mayor Ted) Ellis can't get the existing cable company, eventually you're going to have Verizon and SBC competing with each other. This is all changing. It's not going to be like it was before. The telephone, the television and the computer are all merging. The key for a city is to have the very best infrastruc-





ture. This policy issue is one of the most important policy issues. The current bill by Sen Hershman doesn't prohibit municipalities from offer broadband. But you have to go through so many hurdles that you could probably never raise the municipal bonds to do it. It's my understanding the bill in the House doesn't touch that issue. The compromise is to create statewide franchising.

HPR: We really have some profound decisions to make in the next couple months.

Richard: Are we going to be a backwater broadband state or are we going to be wired and connected? You're sitting here at the hub of Abilene, the Internet2. If your local university isn't connected by high speed bandwidth to Abilene, the research funding will dry up.

HPR: Is that what the late deal between Purdue and Notre Dame is all about?

Richard: That's why it's so important to have Notre Dame connected to Purdue to Argon, so now they're connected land to rail with Abilene. So now the question we have is how do we get connected with Notre Dame and Purdue. This is not whether you can get a better price on your cable package. I believe by having this dereg franchising, you'll get the SBCs and Verizons in here investing quicker and more. That will have a positive impact on the vast majority of consumers. In addition to that, it becomes the way, ultimately, you deliver your services.

HPR: We're going to be spending a billion dollars on concrete with I-69. Might a better use of that money be made by extending broadband to every Indiana community?

Richard: I'd like to see, at the very least, that they're laying conduit underneath. You put fiber conduit and you could fish the fiber through it very easily, and you bid that off...

HPR: Have you talked to the Governor about that?

Richard: No. He hasn't called me. I will say this. I've talked to Tom Sharp about it. What's the difference between selling off the toll road and selling off fiber conduit?

HPR: Are you looking at a re-elect in 2007?

Richard: Too early to tell. Probably make a decision by September. Still raising funds.

HPR: How's your health?

Richard: Good. The '03 campaign was no fun.

HPR: Have you talked with Paul Helmke.

Richard: Only casually. My guess is if I don't run, he'll definitely be in and if I do run he may be in as well. There was a lot of fanfare about his survey, but he's not telling anybody what he found out. I can tell you that Win Moses polled his district and we look very good.

HPR: Well, I remember Win Moses telling me, "What in the world was I thinking when I ran for that third term. We've had similar conversations about whether Bart Peterson

will run again.

Richard: I think Bart's running again.

HPR: A third term for a mayor often times can be a disaster. The problems and the chips stack up.

Richard: Well, we all learned from the Goldsmith mistakes. If Bart really wants to run for governor, it's really hard to run from a big city like this. Plus he's going to be president of the National League of Cities and running for re-election. Then he'd have to raise \$25 million in six months to run for governor. Running cities has always been a challenge but it's much more difficult today because of the financial crunch, 911. People are really expecting mayors to be prepared. I've heard some rumors about the governor's race. Want one?

HPR: Sure!

Richard: Gov. Jischke.

HPR: This is not the first time I've heard that.

Richard: It would be very interesting.

HPR: How about you?

Richard: No. It's either another term as mayor or go help Evan (Bayh) run for president.

HPR: Would you like to see President Jischke run?

Richard: I think he would be a very attractive candidate.

HPR: I watch the House Democrats and they've been opposed to Major Moves, the inspector general. I've been asking, well what is it that you guys are for? I see the innovation in the Indiana Democratic Party coming from the mayors.

Richard: I strongly support enabling legislation that would allow more consolidation. Quietly and behind the scenes, my whole approach has been to take program by program and work for merger and collaboration. Consolidation with business practices. If you look at Louisville, they brought in some really talented people who have business background to help them manage the way you fold together the city and county operations. That is the way you drive change and rethink your practices. After annexation, we went from 850 to 1,200 miles of streets and roads and the number of non-public safety employees has gone down by almost 30 percent. That's how you keep the costs of government down.

HPR: I was amazed to see the Fort Wayne City Council and the Allen County Councils vote 15-0 to pass consolidation.

Richard: The problem in Indiana is the county commissioners. Every county is different. What are you going to do in Mishawaka and South Bend? What are you going to do in Lake County? There is an opportunity for innovation in the local government structure. Why is it that we can't have, as 60 percent of the cities in the country our size have, non-partisan elections? Why shouldn't that be a local decision? It might make a fundamental difference what happens in Lake County or our county. ❖



Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Questions abound after Gov. Mitch Daniels' call to lease the Toll Road to a Spanish-Australian consortium for three-quarters of a century for \$3.85 billion. **Q.** Wow. Sounds like a lot of money. Is it as "fantastic" as the governor says? **A.** Who knows? There was no advance information on the value of selling the Toll Road operation for 75 years. Some legislators, such as state Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Lakeville, were disappointed the bid wasn't something like twice that. **Q.** But could the legislature really say "no" to \$3.85 billion? **A.** Sure, if it appeared that the amount, though providing a one-time fix for fixing roads, wasn't worth long-term loss of all the tolls from the Toll Road for 75 years. **Q.** Is there anything to compare? **A.** Well, the same Spanish-Australian investors paid \$1.83 billion to lease the Chicago Skyway, which long had been regarded as a white elephant, for 99 years. The Toll Road, always profitable and soon to provide a bonanza with tolls doubled or more, is 157 miles long and offers more commercial venture opportunities along its route than does the 7.8-mile Skyway. This is a comparison that deserves careful analysis. **Q.** How would this deal, if completed, look in 20 years, 40 years, 50 years, 75 years? **A.** If we could foretell the value of money, the value of the road, the performance of the operators and the profits the consortium would amass by those times, we would know. We can only guess. The deal could be hailed as good for Indiana or make Indiana look like the Indians in that story about the "fantastic" beads they got for selling Manhattan Island. **Q.** Why is opposition strongest in northern Indiana, while many legislators from other areas tend to agree more with the governor's view that the lease could be the best innovation since sliced bread? **A.** Simple. Other areas of the state never receive any money from the Toll Road. Now, they would, getting up-front money from the lease for Ohio River bridges, Marion County projects and roads across other parts of the state. And since folks in other parts don't often drive on the Toll Road, they couldn't care less if tolls were doubled, quadrupled and then hiked even more year after year. **Q.** But the governor says no area would gain more than St. Joseph County and Elkhart County. Should residents of those counties believe this would be a good deal for them? **A.** Depends on whether they also believe in the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny and the ability of the Groundhog next Thursday to predict precisely the weather. **Q.** Hey, wait. Isn't there a promise to improve U.S. 31 from South Bend to Indianapolis with the up-front money? Wouldn't that be great for South Bend and Elkhart? **A.** It would be great if the improvement was to be financed as part of the deal. The only promise thus far is that some digging on an improvement of the highway between South Bend and Plymouth might be moved up from 2011 to 2008. Doing something about the Kokomo bypass and the

congestion at Carmel is much farther off in scheduling, beyond the present term and possible second term of the governor. ❖

Rich James, Post-Tribune - Lake County government is so fraught with problems that one has to wonder if the Good Government Initiative and the Compact with Voters will make much of a difference. There is a train of thought that only a change of sitting officials in certain offices will result in effective government. Could be, but it isn't likely to happen overnight. What's wrong with county government is that there's no one in charge. Oh, there are three county commissioners who have responsibility for the administrative end of things. And there are seven county councilmen who adopt a budget and add and subtract jobs for their friends and enemies without fear of public reprisal. That's why there is no employment office or human resources department in Lake County government. The most connected generally beat out the most qualified for a job. It is an archaic form of government based on the survival of those who are most politically fit. ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - The internal shake-up among House Republicans has the potential for realigning power slots, reputations and influence. It definitely will enhance the standing of a handful of pols, and Rep. Mike Pence might have been among them. But Pence erred in his timing. It was a misstep that surely will call into question his political sense and wisdom. After promising to withhold his endorsement of internal House candidates for the Republicans' No.2 spot until the day or so before the election on Feb.2, Pence last week announced he would back Rep. John Shadegg to be majority leader. Shadegg preceded Pence as chairman of the Republican Study Committee, a group of the 100 or so (the full membership is secret) most conservative House members. So it is no surprise that Pence would favor a like-minded guy for the post. What is surprising is not that Pence broke his no-endorsement pledge but that he didn't do it immediately after Shadegg became a dark-horse candidate. That was the point Pence could have and should have said: "The endorsement of my political soul mate, John Shadegg, is a no-brainer. He embodies all the qualities I said the Republican Study Committee wants in a majority leader." Had he done so, it would have been suggested that the support Shadegg eventually gathered was due in part to Pence's early endorsement (whether Pence had anything to do with it or not). Instead, Pence waited six days before opening his mouth, and this creates the impression that his support of Shadegg lacks enthusiasm. ❖



Brizzi-Kennedy race commences

INDIANAPOLIS - In what promises to be a bruising race with statewide implications played out under the changing political demographics of Indianapolis, Democrat Melina Kennedy announced her challenge to Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi on Wednesday.

Kennedy wrapped her candidacy in motherhood, noting the 109 murders in the county in 2005. "There are 109 mothers who lost a child," said Kennedy, a recent mother of twins, flanked by former boss Mayor Bart Peterson and Sheriff Frank Anderson. "I vow to attack rising crime. She said she would address the "unholy trinity" of "gangs, guns and drugs" and match up prosecutors with neighborhood police patrols.

The Kennedy campaign announced the endorsements from former Indiana Attorney General Jeff Modisett, former Supreme Court Justice Myra Selby. "Melina is smart and tough," Modisett said. "And we think her plan for attacking rising crime is what sets her apart. I've been on the front lines of crime in Marion County, and it's a brutal place. We need someone with Melina's tenacity and intelligence putting the bad guys behind bars."

The Brizzi campaign, with other \$1 million raised, countered by announcing the endorsements of former prosecutors Scott Newman and Stephen Goldsmith. ❖

Contested Legislative Primaries

Democratic

- HD 1:** State Rep. Linda Lawson vs. Lake County Councilman Ron Tabacynski.
- HD 2:** State Rep. Earl Harris vs. Drake Morris.
- HD 71:** State Rep. Carlene Botorff vs. Steven Stemler.

Republican

- HD 20:** State Rep. Mary Kay Budak vs. LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody.
- HD24:** State Rep. Rich McClain vs. Cass County Commissioner Rick Eller.
- HD40:** State Rep. Matt Whetstone vs. Jon Marquess.
- HD55:** Union County Councilman Tom Knollman vs. T. Scott Bevington.
- HD57:** Shelbyville Councilman Rob Nolley vs. Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart, Karen Frazier, Marvin Pavlov.
- HD58:** State Rep. Woody Burton vs. Johnson County Council President Ron West.
- HD69:** State Rep. Billy Bright vs. Brent Mullikin.
- HD89:** State Rep. Larry Buell vs. Michael Batz
- SD27:** State Sen. Allen Paul vs. Richmond City Council President Bruce Wissel.
- SD41:** Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton vs. Greg Walker.

General Election Races with local elected officials

- HD 31:** State Rep. Tim Harris (R) vs. Blackford County Commissioner Larry Hile (D)
- HD63:** State Rep. Dave Crooks (D) vs. Washington School Trustee Ron Arnold (R).
- SD39:** State Sen. John Waterman (R) vs. Vincennes Councilman Steve Thais (D).

Incumbent House members who have filed

Republican

- HD13 Don Lehe**, HD16 Eric Gutwein; HD20 Mary Kay Budak; **HD22 Bill Ruppel**;
- HD23 Bill Friend**; HD24 Rich McClain; HD28 Jeffrey Thompson; HD29 Kathy Kreig Richardson; HD31 Tim Harris; **HD33 Bill Davis**; HD 32 Eric Turner; **HD38 Jim Buck**;
- HD39 Gerald Torr; HD40 Matthew Whetstone; HD44 Andrew Thomas; HD45 Bruce Borders; HD47 Ralph Foley; HD49 John Ulmer; **HD50 Dan Leonard**; HD51 Dick Dodge;
- HD52 Marlin Stutzman**; **HD53 Bob Cherry**; HD58 Woody Burton; **HD65 Eric Koch**;
- HD67 Cleon Duncan**; HD78 Suzanne Crouch; HD85 Phyllis Pond; HD89 Larry Buell;
- HD90 Mike Murphy**, HD92 Phil Hinkle; HD93 Dave Frizzell

Democrats

- HD1 Linda Lawson; **HD3 Charlie Brown**, HD5 Craig Fry; HD6 B. Patrick Bauer, HD7 Tom Kromkowski; **HD9 Scott Pelath**, HD13 Chet Dobis; HD19 Bob Kuzman; HD25 Jeb Bardon; HD34 Dennis Tyler; **HD37 Scott Reske**, HD43 Clyde Kersey; **HD56 Phil Pflum**;
- HD63 Dave Crooks**, **HD66 Terry Goodin**, **HD71 Carlene Botorff**; HD70 Paul Robertson;
- HD73 Dennie Oxley; HD74 Russ Stilwell; **HD76 Trent VanHaften**, HD77 Phil Hoy; HD81 Winfield Moses Jr.; HD94 Carolene Mays; HD95 Mae Dickinson; HD96 Gregory Porter;
- HD99 Vanessa Summers (*new filers this past week in boldface*)

Retirement Watch List (Unfiled House incumbents)

- Aguilera, Avery, Ayres, Bischoff, Cheney, Cochran, Crawford, Day, Denbo, Espich, GiaQuinta, Grubb, Jack Lutz, Klinker, Mahern, Ripley, Saunders, Stevenson, V. Smith, Tincher, Welch, Wolkins, Yount (*as of Feb. 1*). ❖



Record profits for Exxon Mobil; Bush sees 'oil addiction'

TRENDLINE No. 1: Exxon Mobil Corp. posted record profits for any U.S. company on Monday — \$10.71 billion for the fourth quarter and \$36.13 billion for the year.

TRENDLINE NO. 2:

The day after Exxon Mobil's big, big news, President Bush in the State of the Union address acknowledged what the rest of us have known for a long, long, loooooong time: America has an "oil addiction."

It was a fascinating admission from the head of what we've called the "oil presidency." Bush explained, "America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world." Duoh! He pledged to help develop the hydrogen car and reduce Middle Eastern oil imports by 75 percent. We recall President Nixon calling for an end to this oil addiction more than 30 years ago.

TRENDLINE NO. 3: With the exception of Gov. Frank O'Bannon in June 2000, when he suspended the Indiana gasoline tax which helped him ward off the David McIntosh insurgency, we've yet to see a Democrat politically exploit the oil issue with any ballot box dividend. All this news comes to light as an *NBC/Wall Street Journal* poll puts President Bush's favorable rating at 39 percent and news out of Iraq - home to the second largest oil reserves in the world - that it is now pumping less oil than before the latest war. Will Democrats figure out how to connect the dots?



2006 Congressional Races

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep.

John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle;

Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media**

Market: Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette.

People: Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%;

blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004**

Results: Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** What political analysts call one of the most competitive congressional elections in the

country kicked off Monday with Ellsworth's announcement that he will challenge Hostettler. The 47-year-old Ellsworth did not mention Hostettler by name but repeatedly hammered home the message that lobbyists and special interests have co-opted Congress and that he will fight them if elected (Langhorne, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Ellsworth's message comes as political analysts weigh whether voters will turn against Republicans in this year's midterm elections because of the GOP's ties to lobbyist Jack Abramoff. "The Washington politicians have clearly decided some rules were made to be broken," Ellsworth told almost 400 supporters at the Executive Inn. "We can pass all the new laws we want, but until we replace the people committed to breaking them, we'll never have real reform."

Brian A. Howey, publisher of *The Howey Political Report*, a weekly briefing on Indiana politics, said the Hostettler operation should not be underestimated (Langhorne, *Evansville Courier & Press*).

"It is perhaps the most dynamic, loyal and top-per-

forming political organization at the congressional level in the state, if not in the Midwest." Howey said.

Howey said Hostettler's coalition of home-schooling advocates, pro-gun rights and anti-abortion activists and other conservatives is highly motivated and likely to respond to an all-out challenge with equal energy and enthusiasm. "Hostettler always confounds the purveyors of conventional wisdom in Washington because he doesn't raise (political action committee) money and he just never raises a lot of money, but he wins," Howey said. Howey said Ellsworth may be Hostettler's strongest opponent yet because he is a proven vote-getter who has been elected sheriff twice in the 8th District's most populous county. Ellsworth also has enough money -- about \$370,000 as of Monday -- to threaten Hostettler, the analyst said.

Howey says Hostettler, who has not been linked to Abramoff, may have the only kind of political organization that can withstand a Democratic tide -- issues-oriented true believers who will work tirelessly for their candidate and who will mount a sophisticated get-out-the-vote campaign. "A Democratic wave is probably Ellsworth's best chance, because there's going to have to be some other force at work to defeat Hostettler." Howey said. "But then Ellsworth is as well-positioned as any of his past challengers to do it. "It is going to be an absolutely fascinating race." A representative for Hostettler declined



Rep. Hostettler conducts a TV interview.



comment on Ellsworth's announcement (*Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). "It has been since 1994, that until the voters of District 8 determine in the May primary who the Democrat candidate will be, Congressman Hostettler has no comment regarding a potential opponent," said Karen Hammonds, office manager for Friends of John Hostettler.

Status: TOSS-UP

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill, Gretchen Clearwater, Lendall Terry, John "Cosmo" Hockersmith. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004**

Presidential: Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Results:** Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Hill accused Gov. Mitch Daniels of blackmailing legislators and local officials to get his road-leasing bill passed (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Daniels said earlier this month that state funding for the bridges project and other road initiatives "would be in jeopardy" if he's not given authority by the Indiana General Assembly to lease the state toll road to a private operator. "He shouldn't be blackmailing legislators and mayors down here if they don't support him," Hill said at a Saturday press conference on the Jeffersonville riverfront. Five Democratic state legislators and Democratic Mayors Mike Hall of Charlestown, James Garner of New Albany and Rob Waiz of Jeffersonville accompanied Hill at the press conference. The lawmakers included Reps. Carlene Bottorff, D-Jeffersonville; Bill Cochran, D-New Albany; Dennie Oxley, D-English and Paul Robertson, D-Depauw along with Sen. Connie Sipes, D-New Albany. Hall, Garner, Cochran and Bottorff all said they felt Daniels is blackmailing them by threatening to withhold funding for the bridges project if they don't support privatizing the toll road. Gov. Daniels responded to the criticism, calling Hill is "a compulsive, lifelong politician who hasn't held a real job and apparently dreads the thought of ever holding one," because he's running this year to try to reclaim his former seat. "He comes from the empty-promises crowd that told Indiana that somehow they were for bridges at the Ohio River and other projects and had absolutely no way to pay for it right up to the day he left" office, Daniels said. "He ought to go back to what he does best -- running for office, any office, and leave solving Indiana's transportation problem to people

who are serious and businesslike." Hill said yesterday that the governor's comments are "just politics. You can't take anything in this business too personally," Hill said. "It was the governor responding in an unprofessional manner, which I don't think is right. But that's politics." **Status:** Toss-up.

2006 State Races

Senate District 22: Republican: State Sen. Ron Alting. Democrat: David C. Vorbeck. **2002 Results:** Alting 15,902, Sanders (D) 8,087. **2006 Forecast:** Vorbeck announced his campaign on a platform that includes fully funding education and developing a strategic economic development plan that will improve the quality of life for Hoosiers in his district and across the state. "As an Indiana business owner, I believe I can provide insight at the state level about what local businesses need," Vorbeck said. "And as a father of three, I want to make sure our state is putting 110 percent toward preparing the next generation of Hoosiers." Vorbeck is managing director of Bison Financial Group, which he founded in 1999 with offices in Lafayette and Indianapolis. In 2004, he was named the Small Business Person of the Year by the Lafayette-West Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. The group also named Bison its 2004 Small Business of the Year. "The Indiana Senate and Gov. Mitch Daniels have failed to adequately address and plan for our state's economic development obstacles," Vorbeck said. "We need to focus on creating high-paying jobs and training our existing workforce for new industries." In addition to economic development, Vorbeck also will focus on education issues. During the last legislative session, the Senate passed a budget that flat-lined education funding, resulting in teacher layoffs and spending cuts in schools across the state. "If we don't invest in our kids, we can't say we're truly investing in Indiana's future," Vorbeck said. Alting will back Major Moves, telling the *Lafayette Journal & Courier*, "We're not selling it to them, we're leasing it. We've got a 250-page document of guidelines that they have to follow, and if they don't we'll take back the road and keep the money and use their money to finish our projects and improve Tippecanoe County. I like the idea of taking money from another country. Also, that road has taken a lot of lives and statistics tell us there will be more. Speeding up (the completion) by almost five years is very important. That's a coffin, that stretch of highway between here and Delphi." **Status:** LEANS ALTING.

Senate District 41: Republican: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, Greg Walker. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** Greg Walker, a Columbus accountant with ties to Right to Life and the home



schooling movement, filed on Friday to challenge Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton in the May Republican primary (Howey, HPR). "My decision to run for public office is based on my conviction that the voters in District 41 need a choice when they go to the polls on primary day," Walker said in a statement Friday night. "I respect the commitment Sen. Garton has made to serving in the capitol building for these past 36 years. However, the senator has not been opposed in a primary election bid in 12 years. I offer myself as an alternative in the Republican primary." The Walker candidacy comes in the weeks following the legislator health care for life controversy. Garton is about ready to announce reforms in the program, sources tell HPR, but probably won't go as far as those taken by House Speaker Brian Bosma. Garton also went on record against redistricting reform, telling the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that there are already competitive races in the Indiana House. Walker said that his family background makes him a viable candidate. "My wife and myself home educate our four children, teaching them character, virtue, and faith are more important than personal fame, wealth, or power," Walker explained. "The manner in which one manages his household reflects leadership abilities more than do public accolades and awards. My faith in God governs my convictions. I am pro-life, because our Creator has given humans their worth as living souls. I support the 2nd Amendment, and I support the right to choose education options for one's family without oppressive regulation." Does Garton have much to worry about with this challenge? While the health care for life issue could be politically lethal, Walker is starting extremely late in the process. He will have help from former State Rep. Jon Padfield and some national Right to Life resources, but an upset here is a real long shot. Waiting in the wings, however, may be a credible Democratic opponent in the fall. If Walker is able to soften Garton up and a Democratic wave emerges, that could be troublesome. But the parallels to this race and the one State Sen. Brent Waltz ran against Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst (with more than a year's planning and ample financial resources) are starkly different. **Status: LIKELY GARTON.**

Senate District 31: Republican: State Sen. James Merritt. Democrat: Russell Brown. **2002 Results:** Merritt (R) 17,154, Sloan (L) 1,387. **2006 Forecast:** Merritt announced he intends to seek re-election to the Indiana Senate. "I very much value representing the residents of my district and will continue to work hard to make Indiana a better place to live and raise our families," Merritt said. **Status: LEANS MERRITT**

House District 56: Republican: Open. Democrat: Rep. Phil Pflum. **2002 Results:** Pflum 6,511, Hamm (R) 6,096. **2004 Results:** Pflum 10,645, Yanos 9,382, Bell (L)

661. **2006 Forecast:** Pflum, who battled cancer earlier this term, has filed for re-election. **Status: Likely D. General Status: LEANS MERRITT**

Senate District 39: Republican: Sen. John Waterman. Democrat: Vincennes City Councilman Steve Thais. **2002 General Results:** Waterman 20,948, Croft (D) 11,922. **2006 Forecast:** Vincennes City Councilman Steve Thais has filed. **Status: TOSSUP.**

House District 1: Republican: Open. Democrat: State Rep. Linda Lawson, Lake County Councilman Ron Tabacynski. **2002 Results:** Lawson 5,867, Myra Rosenbloom (R) 3,012. **2004 Democratic Primary:** Lawson 2,963, Pucaliki 2,684. **2004 Results:** Lawson, 11,926, Baffa (R) 7,820. **2006 Forecast:** Tabacynski has yet to file for the primary. **Status: Leans D.**

House District 20: Republican: State Rep. Mary Kay Budak, LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. **2004 Results:** Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** Budak emerged as a key player in the Major Moves excursion through the House. Last week, she openly wavered. Over the weekend, her stand softened. On Tuesday she told *The Times*, "The biggest thing in my district is jobs, jobs, jobs," said Budak. "LaPorte is just dying on the vine. And there are so many uncertain things with this bill. Until I get them answered, I'm not sure how I will vote." That afternoon, she was one of four House Republicans to offer amendments that created the eastern RDA and kept tolls at their current levels for the next decade. An amendment authored by Budak assuring the state won't take responsibility for debt incurred by the company interested in leasing the highway, however, passed during Tuesday's legislative session. "It really made this a better bill," Budak said (*Michigan City News-Dispatch*). By Wednesday afternoon, she was on the dais at the union rally for Major Moves, flanked by Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and Gov. Mitch Daniels. A third of the lease proceeds, or \$1.35 billion, is earmarked for Lake, Porter and the five remaining counties that surround the Toll Road (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). There were rumors that Budak's support for the bill might end the Dermody candidacy as part of a deal. However, a spokesman for the Dermody campaign said that he was an early support of Major Moves "before it was cool," has visited more than 600 homes going door-to-door, and was committed to the race. **Primary Status: LEANS DERMODY**

House District 31: Republican: State Rep. Tim Harris. Democrat: Blackford County Commissioner Larry Hile. **2002 Results:** Rep. Dean Young 9,046, Raju (D) 3,909. **2004 Results:** Harris 10,480, Hile 10,330. **2006 Forecast:** The House passed a bill yesterday that requires abortion clinics to



meet detailed standards for their buildings — provisions that Planned Parenthood of Indiana has said will put clinics out of business. The House also voted to require that women be told in writing — at least 18 hours before an abortion — that life begins when her egg is fertilized with a sperm cell and that abortions come with life-threatening risks. Doctors also would have to tell women that the fetus might feel pain. Rep. Tim Harris, R-Marion, said these notifications simply expand the state's current informed-consent law, which requires that women be told the age of their fetus and other information about it. "That in no way imposes upon a woman's right to an abortion," Harris said. Both bills were controversial. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 33: Republican: State Rep. Bill Davis. Democrat: Ron Liggett. **2002 Results:** Liggett (D) 9,143, Thornburg (R) 6,895. **2004 Results:** Davis 13,330, Liggett 10,924. **2006 Forecast:** Davis traveled with Gov. Daniels to Winchester, where the BMV announced a new mail processing center. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 48: Republican: State Rep. Timothy Neese. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Neese (R) 10,251, Carter (D) 5,248. **2004 Results:** Neese (R) 18,241. **2006 Forecast:** Neese threw his support behind Major Moves, one of four wavering Republicans who offered amendments on Tuesday. "Major Moves will have an enormous positive impact on not only northern Indiana, but the entire state," Neese said after passage on Wednesday. "This is the best solution to solving Indiana's \$2.8 billion road funding deficit.

Not only do we eliminate that deficit, we will create upwards of 100,000 jobs for Hoosiers. As the owner of the lease, Indiana will receive billions of dollars in taxes over the next 75 years." Elkhart County Council President John Letherman, who once considered challenging Neese in the May GOP primary, wants to see the bonds repaid with money above the 34 percent set aside for

the toll road counties. "I will turn my back on him if he does -- everyone will," Letherman said Monday, reacting to the governor's proposal. At first a skeptic, Letherman now believes the lease money will mean much more than just building roads and bridges. "It means that Indiana will now have money to jump-start the development of an economic transition -- the transition from a largely manufacturing economy to an economy with manufacturing and warehousing and distribution at its

base," he wrote in a letter to the *Elkhart Truth*. "This means lots and lots of jobs for Hoosiers." Major Moves will create jobs and boost Indiana economy faster than a bond against future tolls, he said. "Pretty soon, people who are against it are going to have their hands out," Letherman said during a presentation to the Elkhart Rotary Club Monday. **Status:** *SAFE R.*

House District 57: Republican: Shelbyville Councilman Rob Nolley, Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart, Karen Frazier, Marvin Pavlov. Democrat: . **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004. **2006 Forecast:** Karen Frazier and Marvin Pavlov join the field. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 58: Republican: State Rep. Woody Burton, Johnson County Council President Ron West. **2002 Results:** Burton 9,917, Montgomery (D) 3,453, Miller (L) 437. **2004 Results:** Burton 18,766, Turley (D) 7,420. **2006 Forecast:** "Passing Major Moves is one of the House's greatest achievements," said Rep. Burton. "It's a three for one benefit in our favor. We get more jobs for Hoosiers, better roads, and we get to do it all without creating a deficit in our currently balanced budget. How can we call ourselves the Crossroads of America when our roads are filled with potholes and inefficient? Major Moves gives us the opportunity to create an infrastructure we can truly be proud of." West apparently did not take a public position on Major Moves. **Status:** *Leans Burton.*

House District 64: Republican: State Rep. Troy Woodruff. Democrat: Kreg Battles. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Results:** Woodruff 12,698, Frenz 12,507. **2006 Forecast:** Woodruff defended the Major Moves package on the House floor Wednesday. Woodruff said the plan would mean I-69 could be built quickly (*Evansville Courier & Press*). "Now there's a plan to take that from a broken promise to reality," he said. Woodruff also said he could have looked up quotes from other Southwestern Indiana lawmakers where they said they wanted I-69 built quickly to use against

them in this debate, but that wouldn't have been productive. "Nothing good can come from that right now," Woodruff said. Democrats countered that Republicans can say they will use this vote against them in the future, but Democrats will be safe because they are following their constituents' wishes.

Status: *LEANS D* ❖



Reps. Neese and Walorski line up on Major Moves. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Daniels, Reed split on Spring ISTEP

INDIANAPOLIS - Republican Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed took a strong stand Wednesday against legislation that would shift the ISTEP+ exam to the spring – a bill being pushed by GOP Gov. Mitch Daniels (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). The disagreement intensified later in the day when Daniels questioned her fiscal estimates for the change. House Bill 1240 – which is awaiting a final vote in the House – would move the ISTEP+ exam from the fall to spring. Daniels and Reed have always disagreed on the move, but Reed has not publicly fought the attempt in such a vocal way. That changed Wednesday when she criticized spending \$45 million over the next four years to move the test. “Should we invest another \$45 million to fix something that isn’t broken?” Reed said. She said if there is money available to spend on education, there should be an analysis to see whether simply moving a test from one part of the year to another is the best investment of dollars. “I was elected to make this kind of recommendation ... let me do my job,” she said. Daniels told reporters later that the cost of the ISTEP+ change continues to be a source of confusion. “Factually, we know there is not going to be any increased cost,” he said.



Vanderburgh sheriff candidate defies party snub

EVANSVILLE - Running for sheriff as a Republican against an opponent endorsed by the Vanderburgh County GOP hierarchy, Sgt. Robert Goedde’s insurgent campaign nevertheless turned out 200 supporters for his

announcement Wednesday (Langhorne, Evansville Courier & Press). Goedde, 41, a 14-year veteran of the Sheriff’s Department, filed his candidacy at noon outside the Election Office. He was surrounded by supporters wearing red, white and blue sweat shirts and carrying balloons. Several uniformed sheriff’s officers also were present. County Elections Office employees said the turnout for Goedde’s announcement is the largest for a local filing since the process began Jan. 18. In May, the four-member county Republican Central Committee endorsed former Evansville Police Chief David Gullledge in his primary with fellow Republican Goedde. At the time, GOP Chairman Brent Grafton said the endorsement meant Goedde was “basically running as an independent in the Republican primary.”

Uzelac daughter arrested

MERRILLVILLE - The 18-year-old daughter of Town Councilman David Uzelac was being held in the Porter County Jail Wednesday afternoon in connection with an outstanding warrant (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). The minor in a tavern warrant, which was re-issued Nov. 17 against Kimberly Uzelac, of Merrillville, was noted by Dyer police who stopped her for speeding at 4:20 a.m. Wednesday in the 400 block of Joliet Street, a Dyer police spokeswoman said.

Monster to help Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana’s Department of Workforce Development will spend \$2.8 million over the next four years to create a statewide online job board to match employers with job candidates (Associated Press). Officials hope the Web site, run by Monster Government Solutions, will become a central repository for job postings and replace the state’s current recruitment system.

Valpo Mayor heads to Africa

VALPARAISO - While many Americans will be stuffed on Sunday enjoying the Super Bowl, Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas will be working among the poor and orphaned in East Africa’s Christian ministries. Costas is leaving Friday and will return Feb. 15.

Former cop, attorney busted in Phoenix

PHOENIX, Az - A former Elkhart police officer and Indianapolis attorney was arrested in northern Phoenix Tuesday night in a stolen car and later identified as a federal bank robbery fugitive. Bruce Davidson Jr., 41, was taken into custody without incident, according to the FBI in Phoenix (*Elkhart Truth*). The former Elkhart police officer was fired from the department in 1995. He moved to Indianapolis and became an attorney, practicing law in the Indianapolis area. In 2002, he won a defamation lawsuit against former Elkhart Mayor James Perron. The Indiana Supreme Court took away Davidson’s attorney’s license in 2004 after finding him guilty of six counts of misconduct, specifically taking clients’ money for lawsuits in which he did little or no work. He was first formally charged with the June 16, 2005, robbery of a bank in Moline, Ill. He later was formally charged with bank robberies March 9, 2004, in Union, Ky.; Aug. 31, 2004, in Fenton, Mo.; Sept. 10, 2004, in Jackson, Tenn.; Sept. 22, 2004, in St. Louis; Nov. 12, 2004, in Annapolis, Md.; April 13, 2005, in Georgetown, Ky.; and April 29, 2005, in Lexington, Ky.

Lewis resigns as clerk

INDIANAPOLIS - Clerk of the Indiana Supreme Court David Lewis announced his resignation effective Feb. 10. He has accepted a position with JPMorgan Chase Bank. ❖