



# HOWEY

## *Political Report*

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## Major Moves Passes Senate

*Sen. Howard first Dem vote; Daniels confident of success*

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

Major Moves has moved from the Senate, passing 29-20 earlier today in an elevated debate. State Sen. Bob Meeks emotionally urged Republicans to stand up and "be statesmen." State Sen. Genn Howard became the first Democrat to support Major Moves.

There was the implicit threat of a special session after the May primary, though the governor sees that as only a last-ditch option. There was confidence in the Governor's office that the controversial highway construction plan would become law.

And Gov. Daniels' political stewards were predicting ballot box retribution if the program stalls, particularly for those in the I-69 corridor.

Major Moves is now the kaleidoscope at the Statehouse, the situation shifting almost by the hour. State Rep. Chet Dobis promised over the weekend that House Democrats remained united

against the bill. Several influential Democratic leaders told HPR that House Democrats fear the waves of jobs that will follow, a "slush fund" for Daniels political allies, as well as an enhanced gubernatorial fundraising prowess from contractors. The 51 jobs they covet for themselves after the November elections are more important than the new jobs for Teamsters, carpenters, pavers and electricians, all of whom gathered at the Statehouse's South Atrium on Tuesday for a rally.

The composition of the rally was fascinating. Introducing Gov. Daniels was Tommy O'Donnell of the IBEW, the same guy the 2004 Daniels campaign blamed for the IPALCO ads. "This is about jobs, construction jobs," O'Donnell said. "Jobs for our brothers and sisters." There was State Sen. Glenn Howard, the only legislative Democrat to support Major Moves, explaining, "I'm sick and tired of sending young



Gov. Daniels with Sens. Meeks (left) and Kenley, who have put their stamp on Major Moves, possibly ensuring a rocky revisit to the House. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



**"As a fellow Democrat, I am disheartened by your support for this Republican initiative. One might even call you a 'traitor' for supporting such a short-sighted plan."**

— State Rep. Craig

Fry, to Logansport Mayor Mike Fincher, *Indianapolis Star*

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men and young women to jail without jobs. Aren't we tired of paying for prisons? Get the men and women jobs and we won't have that problem."

The Howard support was critical. Over the weekend and early in the work week, State Sens. Karen Talian and Timothy Lanane hinted at an "extended caucus" by Senate Democrats. But with Howard supporting Major Moves, that would have given a 33 plus 1 quorum. Talian claimed she was misquoted in a newspaper account on Sunday. By Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Richard Young said there would be no walk-out. "I've had more calls on this than I did on daylight-saving time," Young said.

State Sen. Vi Simpson told the *Indianapolis Star*, "We are 48 hours away from locking Indiana into a 75-year contract. My message to the governor is: I hope you know what you're doing."

Sen. Vaneta Becker, R-Evansville, who told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that she was going to vote against the bill because I-69 had been stricken in today's editions, ended up voting for the measure, saying that I-69 would be addressed in the conference committee. On Tuesday, hundreds of people from Evansville came to rally for the cause.

"It's going to be difficult," she said. But State Rep. Randy Borrer said, "If we have to put in 24 hours a day to make it work, that's what we'll do."

Meanwhile, there was plenty of speculation that the Major Moves tinkering by Sens. Meeks and Luke Kenley was making a second vote in the House unpalatable. Kenley seemed to be predicting a special session. He told the *Post-Tribune* that compromise in the conference committee would be tough. "Today, that's how I feel," Kenley said.

Meeks spent much of Wednesday afternoon trying to placate Senate Democrats such as Earlene Rogers over cuts



State Sen. Glenn Howard endorses Major Moves and may have prevented a Senate walkout. (HPR Photo)

(I-69 through Perry Township) and those in the toll road corridor such as Timothy Neese, Jackie Walorski, David Wolkins and Marlin Stutzman might bolt. Neese and Walorski sit in 60-percent Republican districts. Stutzman won a narrow victory

over State Rep. Dale Sturtz in 2002 in what is considered a competitive district. "I decided Mr. Stutzman was not going to get a free pass on this Toll Road vote," said LaGrange County Democratic Chairman Dennis Rorick. "Somebody was going to hold his feet to the fire."

But Bill Oesterle predicted the House GOP will hold. "We have the strong sense that we're exactly where we need to be in the House. We are in constant communication."



Gov. Mitch Daniels chats with his labor supporters. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

There is no way the Senate will change hands and only one or two incumbent Republicans will face a serious challenge. It's a vastly different scenario in the House, with Bauer feeling so emboldened that he was telling associates 58 seats in November would not be an outrageous estimate.

Yet there were wrinkles. On the very day Daniels exulted in his labor support, State Rep. Cindy Noe offered right-to-work legislation and Speaker Brian Bosma let it come to a vote. Both moves had people shaking their heads.

Daniels fended off UAW hecklers at the Statehouse rally. "This is the test. This is the time. There is no other way," Daniels said after his face had reddened during the UAW heckling. "You're either for this bill, or you're against our future. I appreciate you bringing your lungs, but I ask you to speak from your hearts."

Democrats such as State Rep. Jerry Denbo observed, "I've never seen an issue poll 90-10. I think it's a lot of upfront money to win elections." The Democrats believe that while they might not be right on the issue, they are on the politics.

Through all of this -- the rumors, the changes, the threats -- the Daniels camp seemed almost sanguine.

Oesterle told HPR on Wednesday that the governor is confident. "The polling they are looking at asks questions like, 'Do you favor selling the toll road to foreigners?' There's been no messaging into their districts. The southern Indiana legislators will get hung out to dry when we come back and say, 'The governor delivered I-69, or the Ohio River bridges, and your guy voted against it. They are grossly misreading the situation.'" ❖



## Bayh plan seen as sensible step to reduce oil dependence

By MARK CURRY

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Over the years, Republican Richard Lugar has wielded significant influence over development of the nation's energy policy, but these days it's a plan proposed by Democrat Evan Bayh that is seen by many in Congress and industry as a sensible step in the effort to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

The list of senators who have signed on as co-sponsors of S.2025, known as the Vehicle and Fuel Choices for American Security Act, includes the likes of Lugar, Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Obama Barack (D-IL) and Sam Brownback (R-KS). The two most recent co-sponsors, Republicans Lincoln Chafee (RI) and Johnny Isakson (GA), bring the total number of senators onboard to 11.

Pressure is building for Washington to act on the issue before a natural or manmade crisis causes crude oil to spike to \$100 a barrel or worse. Economists, CEOs and risk analysts say the danger of runaway energy prices is the top threat to national and global economic security. A lack of spare output capacity and growing worries over geopolitics are making matters worse (Wall Street Journal).

On Tuesday, both Indiana senators took part in a closed-door discussion, attended by military and business leaders and a bipartisan coalition of senators, that was organized by Securing America's Future Energy, an organization committed to reducing dependence on oil. Afterward, Bayh's office issued a press release indicating that his energy plan was among items discussed.

**According to Bayh's office**, the legislation introduced in November would reduce the amount of oil Americans use by 2.5 million barrels per day in 10 years, the same amount the country currently purchases from the Middle East. Ultimately, Bayh's plan would reduce American oil consumption by 7 million barrels a day. The proposal would:

- Push for the development and mass marketing of hybrid technologies, including hybrids that give drivers the option to plug them in at night;
- Encourage the construction of more alternative fuel pumps at gas stations;
- Include, for the first time, fuel-efficiency standards for semi trucks;
- Offer standards to ensure fuel efficient replacement tires are offered for cars and trucks; and,

- Provide tax credits for manufacturers to retool facilities for advanced technology and alternative fuel cars and trucks.

**While the plan has received** support from a wide range of interests, some say any government meddling will only make the problem worse. When President Bush's State of the Union address called for federal support of research and development, for example, Ben Lieberman of the Heritage Foundation responded, "Rather than expand government interference in energy markets and pick winners and losers from among emerging technologies, Washington should get out of the way and let market forces work." Lieberman advocates reducing or eliminating regulations impacting refineries, exploration and drilling.

Any mention of alternative fuels, particularly ethanol, often incites considerable opposition as well. "In a capital city that is full of shameless political scams, ethanol is perhaps the most egregious," wrote Kevin A. Hassett of the American Enterprise Institute, also in response to the President's speech. Hassett asserts an oft-repeated litany: ethanol is a costly and less efficient fuel that contributes to air pollution.

Recent studies indicate Hassett and like-minded critics may be wrong. New technologies are improving production efficiency and creating a better fuel. An analysis by the Argonne National Laboratory in May found that ethanol can help reduce use of fossil fuels in transportation, and concluded that some types of ethanol achieve much greater energy and greenhouse gas benefits. The Sacramento Bee reported that biomass energy firms say big-time investors are starting to take note, including Bill Gates, who put \$84 million into Pacific Ethanol, a company headed by former California Secretary of State Bill Jones.

The nation's energy needs were on the minds of a dozen senators, including Bayh and Lugar, when they met with President Bush in the residence of the White House Feb. 15. Bayh said he urged the President to support his bill, which is currently before the finance committee.

**"The energy plan I offered** this fall provides real steps that will reduce our oil consumption by the same amount we currently purchase from the Middle East," Bayh later said in a statement. "It's supported by Republicans and Democrats alike, and during our meeting, I urged the President to support my plan. If he does, my bill could become law in a matter of weeks." ♦

*Mark Curry, based in Washington, D.C., is covering the Bayh presidential campaign for HPR. Watch for his weekly reports*







## Questions about the voter lists

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

The buzz in Hoosier election circles is that the new voter ID program isn't doing what it's supposed to be doing.

WISH-TV's I-Team reported in a two-part series last week that the new system is not picking up duplicate registrations. "The new database won't ensure that if you registered at the BMV you'll show up in the poll book," WISH's Rick Dawson reported.

"Are we going to eliminate every instance of that? I don't know. I mean, we have to step into this new world and find out," said Bill McCully of Quest Information Systems, which built the new database.

"Finally," WISH reported, "the new database won't always place you in the right precinct."

"What I think we could see come May is a realization that we haven't fixed the problems that we have," said Joel Miller of the Marion County Election Board.

I-Team 8 asked for a demonstration of how the system, called First Tuesday, manages the list.

"The first thing we do is a voter search to see if that person's currently registered in our county or anywhere else in the state," said Susan Allen, a Hendricks County voter registration office clerk.

**Voter Mary Wilson is added** to the system again, even though she's already there. Looking for a duplicate within a single county, the system failed the test. "Well, that didn't work the way it was supposed to work," said Allen, laughing. "It was supposed to give me a duplicate match, but it didn't."

First Tuesday also is supposed to check for duplicates in other Indiana counties. "This new system does not eliminate duplicate registrations," said Miller. He learned that first-hand when I-Team 8 asked to see his Marion County registration. "I believe I'm a duplicate registration. I hadn't noticed

that," he said. Miller was still registered in Vigo County even though he last voted there eight years ago.

The system failed the test: It did not eliminate duplicates in multiple counties.

"I hope that I'm wrong. I hope that I'm wrong in that this system will take care of those problems," Miller said. "But the fact is, we just don't know."

Miller told HPR that there are currently 619,000 voters registered in Marion County. "That means every eligible person is registered to vote," Miller said. "It was supposed to recognize those who moved, died or have multiple residences."

Miller also said that the state hasn't created a protocol for a list maintenance program. "A list maintenance program must be conducted statewide," Miller said. "Instead, it's county-by-county."

Miller charged that the state has no disaster recovery plan for the server based in Texas.

But Paul Okeson, deputy chief of staff to Secretary of State Todd Rokita, said they feel confident the system will be ready by the May primary. "We're working out the kinks," Okeson said. "There are the normal IT challenges."

He pointed to the statewide voter registration system (SVRS) fact sheet on the Election Division website that reveals update key statistics: 290,522 potential duplicates identified by SVRS; 28,845 potential matches of deceased voters identified by SVRS; 4,329,643 current Indiana voters on SVRS, of which 3,872,087 of these records are for active voters while 457,556 have been flagged as inactive (voters failing to vote in at least the last two general elections).

He said the counties are better able to get "real world feedback" as opposed to a statewide system.

Okeson downplayed the "doomsday scenarios" and said that 70 counties will be taking part in a mock election this month. "This will give us feedback," Okeson said. ❖

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## SB 1 moves without Democratic amendment

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana House on Wednesday voted against giving Mayor Bart Peterson control over a merger of the Indianapolis Fire Department with Marion County's eight township departments (*Indianapolis Star*).

But the idea that Indy Works is even alive in the Republican dominated Statehouse is a story in and of itself.

While Mayor Bart Peterson doesn't have the House and the Senate, he does have one thing: the support of the business community and some of those 56 CEOs who endorsed the plan have been on the phone, some saying they won't be funding Republican House campaigns if the legislation dies.

As written, Senate Bill 1 would allow a fire merger in Marion County but would give control of that transition to township trustees, not Peterson.

Rep. Ed Mahern, D-Indianapolis, tried to amend the bill Wednesday to give the mayor more oversight over the merger's four-year transition period (*Indianapolis Star*). The House voted 50-47 against Mahern's amendment. SB 1 currently calls for a 12-member fire commission to oversee the merger. That board would consist of nine township trustees, Peterson and two City-County Council members. Mahern's amendment would not have eliminated the commission but would have removed significant power from the panel.



## Transforming a county's political allegiance

MERRILLVILLE - HPR's Brian A. Howey gave his first Republican Lincoln Day address ... in Lake County last Saturday night.

This became a hot topic in the Hoosier blogosphere. For the record, Howey has addressed a number of Democratic organizations, including the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association, 9th Congressional District Democrats, and the Marion County Democratic Chairman's Breakfast, to mention a few.

Howey explained to more than 400 Republicans gathered at the St. Elijah Serbian-American Hall, "My role as a political journalist is not to side with the Republicans or Democrats. It's one dedicated to creating a competitive two-party system in as many places in Indiana as possible. This is a goal you should all take seriously ... and personally."



And then came the rhetorical question: Can it be done?

**Here's the answer:** It's tough, but yes, it can. America and Indiana have witnessed political transformations from the ancestral stations that formed just prior to the American Civil War and were cemented thereafter. Between the Biblical governance of President Lincoln, to The New Deal, Indiana was a true bellwether swing state. Nixon's "Southern Strategy" was another that played out over three decades but now finds your southern brethren united in a political colossus that is electing Republican presidents, governors, senators and congressmen.

Following World War I, there was "The Bolt" in Fort Wayne, when the German Lutherans there, stung by President Woodrow Wilson, left the Democratic party in droves in the early 1920 and shifted to the GOP.

We are witnessing some of these transformations now in Indiana. In the southeastern Ohio River counties, the area that voted conservatively for president and Democratically for state and local offices fore decades; they have gradually changed, particularly in the suburban areas around Cincinnati where there has been an influx of Republicans of the German/Lutheran heritage who are mixing

with the traditional Butternut Hoosiers. In 1999 and 2003 there were steady gains in city halls and courthouses with more and more Republican mayors, commissioners and councilmen elected on the bluffs above the Ohio. In 2004, Mike Sodrel became the first Republican elected to Congress in almost 50 years. Within the next few cycles, many of these aging Democratic legislators will probably find Republican successors.

**In Indianapolis,** the shift is going the other way, with Republicans bleeding into the doughnut counties while the Democratic baseline is now approaching 10,000 in the city core.

How can you take the demographic shift and create for yourselves, your businesses and your children, a competitive two-party situation here in Lake County?

First, strong leadership. We are witnessing the strongest governor since I've been writing about politics and that started in 1985. In his mind, good public policy will result in good politics. The pundits and pollsters can talk about Gov. Daniels' low poll numbers. Change is an odyssey, and a fitful one at that. The governor's poll numbers are probably where President Reagan's were in the dark autumnal days of 1982 when we were coming out of a severe recession that forever changed the steel industry. Two years later, Reagan won 49 states.

Lake County Republicans should embrace the Compact with Voters, and the Good Government Initiative, and brand it like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval.

Second, unity. The Democrats are the party of Stig vs. Pastrick. Clay vs. Pabey. Dominguez vs. Dominguez and Rodrigues vs. Rodriguez. It is a factionalized party. I'll be blunt and I didn't come here to take sides, but unity will serve you well as the other guys fight among themselves. A united party will allow you to develop strong candidates. Strong campaigns lead to a greater public discourse. If you believe in your ideas and vision, and the other side is factionalized, you have a chance to make inroads. If the results are good, rewards will follow.

**Third, develop your youth.** Clark County Republican Chairman Glenn Murphy said the real reason for the pickup of city and county offices is that young candidates "who didn't buy into the culture of losing, who didn't know any better, began waging campaigns ... and winning. Unlike older candidates, they didn't worry about the impact on their businesses. They just went out, worked and won."

Conclusion: It's tough work. It takes a long time. It takes vision and candor. ❖



**William F. Buckley**, *National Journal* - I can tell you the main reason behind all our woes — it is America." The New York Times reporter is quoting the complaint of a clothing merchant in a Sunni stronghold in Iraq. "Everything that is going on between Sunni and Shiites, the troublemaker in the middle is America." One can't doubt that the American objective in Iraq has failed. The same edition of the paper quotes a fellow of the American Enterprise Institute. Mr. Reuel Marc Gerech backed the American intervention. He now speaks of the bombing of the especially sacred Shiite mosque in Samara and what that has precipitated in the way of revenge. He concludes that "The bombing has completely demolished" what was being attempted — to bring Sunnis into the defense and interior ministries. Our mission has failed because Iraqi animosities have proved uncontainable by an invading army of 130,000 Americans. The great human reserves that call for civil life haven't proved strong enough. No doubt they are latently there, but they have not been able to contend against the ice men who move about in the shadows with bombs and grenades and pistols. A problem for American policymakers — for President Bush, ultimately — is to cope with the postulates and decide how to proceed. One of these postulates, from the beginning, was that the Iraqi people, whatever their tribal differences, would suspend internal divisions in order to get on with life in a political structure that guaranteed them religious freedom. The accompanying postulate was that the invading American army would succeed in training Iraqi soldiers and policymakers to cope with insurgents bent on violence. This last did not happen. And the administration has, now, to cope with failure. ❖

**Matthew Tully**, *Indianapolis Star* - Logansport Mayor Michael Fincher recently found out just how fiercely Statehouse Democrats oppose Gov. Mitch Daniels' Toll Road leasing plan. The Democratic mayor received his lesson after sending a letter to every state legislator, asking them to support the governor's initiative. Fincher said he wasn't thinking about partisan or Statehouse politics when he sent the letter. Instead, he said, he sent it because Daniels' controversial roads plan would provide cash to finish the Hoosier Heartland Highway. In his letter, Fincher said the long-delayed highway is key to Logansport's economic future. Some Democrats, however, did not welcome the message. At all. Rep. Craig Fry, D-Mishawaka, responded to Fincher with a letter of his own. "As a fellow Democrat, I am disheartened by your support for this Republican initiative," Fry wrote. "One might even call you a 'traitor' for supporting such a shortsighted plan." Fry was not alone. Fincher said he has heard from a few other Democrats -- including House Democratic Leader B. Patrick Bauer -- who are mad at him for supporting the governor. But

no one else has been as direct as Fry, he said. I mentioned that I was struck by the tone of Fry's letter. "I was struck by it, too," Fincher said. "And if I could have gotten hold of him, he would have been struck." Fincher, who said he has never met Fry, runs a city of about 20,000. Logansport is 70 miles south of Mishawaka. And that, Fry said when we talked by phone Thursday, is the point. The Toll Road is driven by many in the Northern Indiana district Fry represents, and his constituents are overwhelmingly opposed to leasing it out to a private consortium. Fry, who has served nine terms, said he has never seen such universal opposition to a legislative proposal. "To have some clown from Logansport writing me, telling me he knows better than I do what's good for my district, I don't have tolerance for that," Fry said, explaining his letter. "For him to tell me what I should do about the Toll Road is just asinine." Fry said Fincher should write his local legislators, rather than bothering those from other areas. "I don't need people interjecting themselves into an argument they have no business in," Fry said, seemingly forgetting that lawmakers serve the entire state, not just their own districts. Fincher, a first-termer who answered the phone in his Logansport office Thursday, argues that the Toll Road bill affects people throughout Indiana -- not just those in Northern Indiana Fry's letter, he said, "showed a lack of vision for the whole state." ❖

**David Rutter**, *Post-Tribune* - Many thousands of Hoosier Rumpelstiltskins have awakened recently from a long, refreshing snooze to discover there are foreigners lurking hereabouts. Nefarious, skulking, possibly swarthy foreigners. They have money, too. Just who told foreigners they were allowed to have their own money? Didn't we just fight World War II to stop that sort of thing? These foreigners want to buy things. Hoosier things. Like a lease on the Indiana Toll Road, which apparently has become a beloved Hoosier keepsake. Foreigners with Money — or FO-WI-MOs — are naturally making Hoosiers nervous because of all those Spaniards and Australians involved in the 9/11 terrorist attack. Oops. Sorry. Wrong foreigners. ❖

**Gary Gerard**, *Warsaw Times-Union* - It's tough for me to understand what in the world the W administration was thinking when it cut a deal with the United Arab Emirates company to manage six U.S. ports. I guess the main question I have is, "Are you nuts?" That's because so many aspects of this thing seem really bizarre to me. First of all, the fact that W himself didn't know about it until after the fact is just crazy. Apparently, the White House acknowledged W was unaware of the pending sale until the deal had been already approved by his administration. But now that it has come to light, W is facing a huge political rebellion in Washington. ❖





## Bush-Cheney poll numbers tanking

**TRENDLINE NO. 1:** House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer is telling friends he thinks Democrats can pick up as many as 58 seats in November, an increase of 10.

**TRENDLINE NO. 2:** The latest CBS News poll finds President Bush's approval rating has fallen to an all-time low of 34 percent, while pessimism about the Iraq war has risen to a new high. Americans are also overwhelmingly opposed to the Bush-backed deal giving a Dubai-owned company operational control over six major U.S. ports. Seven in 10 Americans, including 58 percent of Republicans, say they're opposed to the agreement.

**TRENDLINE NO. 3:** Vice President Dick Cheney is expected to retire within a year (*Insight Magazine*). Senior GOP sources envision the retirement of Mr. Cheney in 2007, months after the congressional elections. The sources said Mr. Cheney would be persuaded to step down as he becomes an increasing political liability to President Bush. "Nothing will happen until after the congressional elections," a GOP source said. "After that, there will be significant changes in the administration and Cheney will probably be part of that." Already, senators expect Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald to investigate whether Cheney authorized Libby to divulge classified material. Libby has told a grand jury that unnamed "superiors" directed him to relay the content of a National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq in July 2003. "The Libby case is far more lethal than the hunting accident," another GOP source said.



## 2006 Congressional Races

**U.S. Senate: Republican:** U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. Democrat: Open. **1988 results:** Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes (D) 668,778. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Results:** Lugar 1,425,150, Johnson(D) 680,046, Hager (L) 33,896. **2006 Forecast:** Lugar has no opponent. We are hearing from more and more Democrats that this is a colossal mistake, along with the fact that there are no apparent candidates for secretary of state. CW at 1 North Capitol is that with Lugar having no opponent, that places him on the sidelines. Duoh! We'd expect to see Lugar with no opponent actively working to shore up the three congressional seats and the dozen or so Indiana House races in play. **Status:** *SAFE LUGAR.*

**Congressional District 2: Republican:** U.S. Rep.

Chris Chocola, Tony Zirkle. Democrat: Steve Frances, Joe Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties.

**Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** Chocola raised \$600,000 from President Bush visit. **Status:** *Leans Chocola*

**Congressional District 7:** Republican: Ron Franklin, Eric Dickerson. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Bob Hidalgo, Kris Kiser, Joseph "Hippie Joe" Stockett.

**Geography:** Indianapolis. Media Market: Indianapolis. **People:** Urban 99.7%; median income \$36,522; poverty 13.5%; race white 63, black 29.4%, Hispanic 4.4%, Asian 1.3%; blue/white collar 26/58%; **2000 Presidential:** Gore 55%, Bush 43%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** D+6. **2002 Results:** Carson 77,478 (53%), McVey 64,379 (44%). 2004 Results: Carson 121,303, Horning (R) 97,491, Campbell (L) 4,381. **2006 Forecast:** Indianapolis' largest GLBT news publication, The Word, has turned its back on incumbent Rep. Julia Carson (D) and endorsed her openly gay Democratic primary opponent, Kris Kiser. Citing Kiser's age and vitality in comparison to Carson's personal health and long-time service, *The Word* believes the Democratic GLBT community should abandon Carson and support newcomer Kiser. In endorsing Kiser in its March edition, *The Word* said: "While this newspaper would be remiss were we not to thank (Carson) for all her support and attendance at our events over the years, we feel the time has arrived for a new face, a new spirit and a young congressman who is both alert to the issues, and has the health and vitality to actually be present for votes—not to mention being out in our community .." **Primary Status:** *LIKELY CARSON.*

**Congressional District 8:** Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth, J. Bernard Peter. **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:** Ellsworth, seeking to accent contrasts between himself and the man he hopes to unseat, promised Tuesday to oppose attempts to "privatize" Social Security (Rohrig, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Surrounded by senior citizens including members of the West Side American Association of Retired Persons chapter, the Vanderburgh County sheriff signed a retirement-fund pledge, printed on a poster-sized Social Security card, during a morning news conference. In it, Ellsworth pledged to "strengthen retirement security" and to oppose plans that would cut guaranteed benefits or increase federal spending to pay for establishing private retirement accounts. Ellsworth said establishing private accounts would raise the federal deficit by \$1 trillion. "Privatization removes the guarantee and reduces the benefits," Ellsworth said. **General Status:** TOSS-UP

## 2006 State Races

**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. **Senate District 25:** Republican: Madison County Councilman Dan Dykes. Democrat: State Rep. Tim Lanane. **2002 Results:** Lanane 19,662, Jackson (R) 16,418. **2006 Forecast:** Thais, speaking at a Third House meeting Saturday in Vincennes, said facts about the Major Moves agreement are "dribbling out in bits and pieces" and that it's hard even for legislators to know what's included, let alone the public (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). **Status:** LEANS WATERMAN.

**Senate District 41:** Republican: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** Garton, R-Columbus, called Sen. Luke Kenly's property tax bill the most significant property tax reform he has seen in 20 to 30 years (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "Every local government has different needs and if you are really serious about property tax reduction you've got to allow those local governments some alternative source," he said. Garton expressed frustration at opposition to the legislation during Monday's Third House (Evensen, *Columbus Republic*). "Roads aren't partisan," he said, before adding, "I drive the roads just as everyone else does. The congestion is tremendous." State projects

could be hamstrung without the \$3.8 billion that Indiana would receive if the consortium leased the road, Garton said. "All this could eliminate the bonding and the increased fuel tax," he added, of alternate plans proposed by opponents. Walker did not return e-mails seeking the status of his race. We're hearing through the grapevine that he has Right to Work direct mail lists. We're also hearing that the Indianapolis Star is intending to offer daily coverage of this race, a sharp contrast when it ignored the Borst/Waltz primary showdown. The *Star* also took another dig at Garton on today's editorial page. This is a critical development. If the *Star*, indeed, ramps up coverage, you can expect more in the *Columbus Republic* and the Johnson County Daily Journal. **Primary Status:** LIKELY GARTON. **General Status:** LEANS GARTON.

**House District 5:** Republican: Jeremy Hiler.

Democrat: State Rep. Craig Fry. **2002 Results:** Fry 8,618 Crawford (R) 5,705. **2004 Results:** Fry 10,947, Reddy, 10,507. **2006 Forecast:** Hiler, he 23-year-old Republican hopes to unseat the nine-term Mishawaka Democrat in the November election. "Mr. Fry and I have a difference of opinions," he said (Tapinsh, *Elkhart Truth*). It looks as though the 75-year lease on the Indiana Toll Road for \$3.85 billion is a done deal, Hiler said. While a lot can be said for not leasing the road, now it's time to focus efforts on how much money District 5 would get as a result of the lease, he said. "Who will get the money?" he asked. "Will it be a divisive Democrat or a Republican who will work with local governments to get as much money for his district as possible?" Hiler said. Hiler said he would support legislation to allow the name of Jesus Christ to be used in prayers before House sessions, referring to a court ruling which said use of the name in an opening prayer before a session is unconstitutional. Hiler is a cousin of former U.S. Rep. John Hiler, who served from 1980 to 1990. Fry told the *Truth*, "My goal is to serve people that live in my district," said Fry, D-Mishawaka, "helping young people with education, helping seniors with health-care concerns and keeping property taxes low." Fry has been controversial this past week in his rebuke of Logansport Mayor Mike Fincher (See columnists) and in a letter to a constituent where he told here, "Don't write me again." **Status:** LEANS FRY.

**House District 52:** Republican: State Rep. Marlin Stutzman. Democrat: LaGrange County Democratic Chairman Dennis Rorick. **2002 Results:** Stutzman (R) 6,950, Sturtz (D) 6,701. **2004 Results:** Stutzman (R) 12,872, DeLucenay (D) 6,496. **2006 Forecast:** It turns out that Stutzman, R-Howe, has a general election opponent after all (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Attorney Dennis Rorick from Wolcottville filed his candidacy to challenge Stutzman, but the secretary of state misplaced the paperwork in the shuffle and didn't add his name to the Web site listing of candidates until last week. As LaGrange County Democratic Party chairman, Rorick had





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hoped one or two candidates might file against Stutzman, but they didn't at the last minute. "And I decided Mr. Stutzman was not going to get a free pass on this Toll Road vote," he said. "Somebody was going to hold his feet to the fire." We think Stutzman could be in trouble, with the toll road deal overlaying what is shaping up to be a dismal year for Republicans. And look at the 2002 mid-term, when Stutzman won by just 250 votes. **Status:** TOSSUP.

**House District 57:** Republican: Shelbyville Councilman Rob Nolley, Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart, Edward Dundas, Karen Frazier, Marvin Pavlov. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004. **2006 Forecast:** Karen Frazier questioned Senate President Bob Garton's decision last week to kill a bill that would have allowed wineries to ship directly to Indiana customers with certain restrictions (Columbus Republic). "Is that always best to wait for lawsuits to clear up?" she asked. "Could this become a tactic in the future?" **Primary Status:** TOSSUP

**House District 63:** Republican: Washington School Trustee Ron Arnold. Democrat: State Rep. Dave Crooks. **2004 Results:** Crooks (D) 12,246, McFeators (R) 11,687. **2006 Forecast:** Crooks considered offering amendments that would have allowed a statewide vote on what time zone should include Indiana and whether statewide observance of daylight-saving time -- which was narrowly approved last session -- should be repealed. But Crooks noted that Daniels and House Speaker Brian Bosma were against reviving the issue. Crooks said that even if he succeeded in attaching a referendum provision to a Senate bill now before the House, Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton told him yesterday that it would be killed when the legislation returned to the Senate. "It seems pretty futile at this point if I can't get the big three to go along with it," Crooks said. Gov. Daniels political shakers were openly talking of going after Crooks and a Major Moves vote they will portay as being against I-69 (See HD64 for more analysis). **Status:** Leans Crooks.

**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 and Crooks sparred

at a Third House meeting last Saturday over Major Moves and whether a foreign-based firm should manage a state-owned asset (Robbins, Vincennes Sun-Commercial). Woodruff, who co-sponsored the original House bill, disputed the notion that having an Australian-Spanish consortium manage the Indiana Toll Road for 75 years was bad, mainly because, in return, the company would pay the state \$3.85 billion up front. That's enough, Woodruff said, to completely fund all the state's road-construction plans for the next 10 years, including the proposed extension of Interstate 69 between Indianapolis and Evansville. Crooks found it difficult to believe there weren't enough "sharp minds" in Indiana who could find a way to fund the plan without involving a foreign company. He said there had to be a better way than Major Moves. Woodruff said Democrats, during their long control of state government, hadn't been able to come up with a "better way" to pay for the needed road-building and bridge-repair projects, let alone pay to build I69. Now, he explained, a way had been found, and that while it could be considered unorthodox, in the future such public/private partnerships would become the norm. Crooks said the bigger issue was foreign involvement, likening what the governor and Woodruff want to do to the Bush administration's controversial plan to have Dubai-owned DP World run certain U.S. ports. He said while he supported building I-69, and wanted to see it built as soon as possible, he preferred delaying the project if the only way to pay for it was using the money from the lease. Battles, a Lincoln High School teacher and Democrat running against Woodruff in the fall, is concerned about provisions in the legislation which, he says, would tip the balance of power in state government in favor of the executive branch (Vincennes Sun-Commercial). He said the bill would give the governor the authority to turn I69 into a toll road without first getting legislative approval. Battles called for more extensive debate of the proposal. **Status:** LEANS D

**House District 89:** Republican: State Rep. Larry Buell, Michael A. Batz. Democrat: John F. Barnes. **2004 Results:** Buell 15,391. **2006 Forecast:** Democrats are signalling that a demise in Indy Works could mean stepped up pressure on Buell. **Status:** LIKELY BUELL. ❖



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## Daniels predicts benefits with new telecom law

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana consumers can expect to see new investments in broadband technology soon, followed by lower prices for cable and other services, Gov. Mitch Daniels and other supporters of a telecommunications deregulation bill said Wednesday (*Associated Press*). The General Assembly on Tuesday approved the bill, which frees telephone companies from state regulations and changes the way the cable industry works. Daniels said he will sign the bill into law. "It's not simply an improvement, it's the best such bill in the nation," Daniels said Wednesday. "You're going to see, I predict, great benefits to consumers both in phone services and especially in entertainment services." Grant Smith, executive director of the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, said the bill might help large telecommunications companies but harms consumers. "People are going to see rate increases when it comes to basic telephone service," Smith said Wednesday. "There's nothing in it for consumers."



## Governor offered Tincher, Bischoff jobs

INDIANAPOLIS - Two Democratic state representatives were offered jobs recently by the chief of staff to Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels, at the same time the governor's office is working hard to win votes on major initiatives (*Indianapolis Star*). Harry Gonso, Daniels' chief of staff, confirmed he offered Rep. Robert Bischoff, D-Greendale, a \$60,000 position on the state's Workers Compensation Board and offered Rep. Vern Tincher, D-Riley,

a \$55,000 position on the Indiana Parole Board. Gonso said his focus was finding qualified people for the jobs, which remain unfilled and which, by law, must be filled by Democrats to preserve political balance. "Governor Daniels thinks highly of both of these representatives," Gonso said. "It's nothing more than that." House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, said the offers "certainly raise a lot of questions." "I'd hope (the job offers came) because they're highly qualified and they're outstanding citizens," he said. "But obviously the timing, at the very least, is interesting."

## Court denies prayer appeal

INDIANAPOLIS - Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma received what he considered disappointing news Wednesday when a split panel of the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals refused to temporarily set aside a decision regulating prayer from the House podium (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "Of course we're disappointed, ... but we aren't shocked by it," Bosma said. "I still firmly believe our ultimate relief will be at the United States Supreme Court level." U.S. District Court Judge David F. Hamilton ruled last year that prayers offered by clergy to begin House sessions were overtly Christian and ordered Bosma to ensure future prayers were non-sectarian and did not use Christ's name or any other denominational appeal. "I'm surprised the court issued such a lengthy decision, but I'm not surprised that (setting aside Hamilton's decision) was denied," said Ken Falk, who argued the case on behalf of the ACLU of Indiana. "I'm reluctant to look into it too much. Obviously we are happy the stay has been denied, but ... we won't know what will happen until we get there to argue the case."

## Kenley property tax bill passes Senate

INDIANAPOLIS - Hoosiers could see higher income taxes – but lower property taxes – under a bill passed 37-12 by the Senate on Wednesday night (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). The legislation is a bipartisan attempt to reduce Indiana's reliance on the property tax – something that could bring permanent relief to homeowners and businesses in the coming years. All of northeast Indiana's senators voted for the bill. "We have waited too long and the next property tax crisis is already upon us," said Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville. "We must act now. Calls for short-term fixes and emergency relief measures will not do." He called the most significant part of the bill its "crown jewel" – a proposal that creates an incremental income tax that would be used to cover any normal levy growth that is usually financed through additional property taxes.

## Neese to give two speeches in Elkhart

ELKHART - State Representative Tim Neese (R-Elkhart) will give two speeches meetings in Elkhart, both on Friday, March 3. The first speech will be at the Matterhorn at 12 p.m. for the local Kiwanis. Rep. Neese will then give a speech at Woodland Elementary school at 1 p.m. The speeches will cover the 2006 Legislative Session.

## House passes execution bill

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana House approved a bill 82-12 yesterday that would let relatives of murder victims witness the executions of the killers. Under current Indiana law, only the condemned person gets to pick the witnesses (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). ❖