

Political Report

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House Battle: Vision vs. Anger

HPR will monitor 27 House seats in play as parties fight for power

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

In a week that saw the Daniels administration buffeted by nagging scandals and controversies, as well as the extraordinary promise of a mega construction binge and a huge jobs payoff, HPR has set its sights on a record 27 Indiana House seats that will set the tone for the second half of the governor's term.

Distilled into a sound bite, the battle for the House appears to be set on Vision vs. Anger. House

Bulletin: State Sen. Tom Weatherwax is officially entering the Pro Tem race, joining Sens. Brent Steele and David Long. See story on page 3

Democrats appear to be falling into a mode that U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh warned about after the 2004 elections when he said his party needed to be more than the "sum of our resentments."

Since HPR has been handicapping legislative seats, we have never had this many seats cued up. Currently, we believe that 35 Republican and 38 Democratic seats are locks to stay in their party's controls.



House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer (above) on Dyngus Day in a *South Bend Tribune* photo. At right, State Rep. Billy Bright (HPR Photo)

We have one House seat, HD64 occupied by State Rep. Troy Woodruff, as likely to change hands. Below that, seven Republican seats are currently in "Tossup" status.

Another 19 seats, nine Republican and 10 Democratic, are in the "leans" category to the

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A warning from the other highway gov

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

BRAZIL, Ind. — This past week was a bumpy, bipolar road for RV1 and the Highway Governor, Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.

His FSSA Commissioner and fellow privateer Mitch Roob had to pull a sweetheart deal for the agency controller, set to make \$180,000 a year as a consultant, opposed to the \$100,000 a year he was making as a state employee. That one had a strange stench to it.

Then there's the mess at the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute where the director is to be fired after another sweetheart deal for a family friend (who was making \$95,000 a year at a not-for-profit agency with one employee).



“QUOTE
of the Week”

“We’re going to have a road system second to none. It’s a new day in Indiana.”

— Gov. Mitch Daniels speaking at Clarksville on Tuesday

And Indiana Democrats are nagging the governor about public records requests it has made (and have been ignored thus far), seeking e-mails from INDOT Commissioner Tom Sharp. Last week, the Indiana Public Access Counselor issued an opinion chiding Gov. Daniels over lengthy response times.

"It's been a week since the Public Access Counselor issued her opinion, and we've heard nothing," said Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker. "It's getting to the point where we're left no alternative but to ask, 'What are they hiding?'"

Sharp hosted what Parker calls a "high dollar" reception for GOP donors last August.

Which gets me to the heart of this week's topic: Indiana's other "highway governor."

If you've ever driven the Indiana Toll Road near Elkhart, you've probably seen the "George N. Craig" rest plaza beyond the white line and the asphalt berm. They were the inventions of Republican Gov. Craig, who served from 1953 to 1957 at a time when President Dwight Eisenhower unveiled the interstate system.

Eisenhower put Gov. Craig on the safety committee for the interstate system and he was confronted with weighty questions, such as should the berm be sod or cement?

"The state engineers said the berms should be sod," Craig told me back in 1986. "I said I thought it should be a hard surface."

The engineers feared that the hard berms would create a confusing "three-lane highway."

"I said, 'Why don't you draw a white line between the hard surface and the berm?'" Craig recalled. The engineers originally told him that people "wouldn't pay attention to it." Two years later, the National Safety Council adopted Craig's suggestion and the first white lines were drawn on U.S. 40 between Brazil and Indianapolis.

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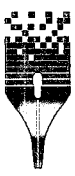
Gov. George N. Craig

Craig was the father of the Indiana Toll Road. "I had it built," Craig said. "There were three roads - 6, 20 and 30-- and those three roads carried all the traffic from Chicago to the East Coast. You had terrible traffic conditions around the steel areas."

Gov. Craig's administration was known for more than building the toll road and expanding the highway system, and this is where we get back to Commissioner Sharp and others in the Indiana highway industry. This past week, they announced record construction projects, thanks to the Major Moves windfall. Gov. Craig's INDOT Commissioner, Virgil Smith, was indicted and imprisoned for rigging specifications. Craig called it a "blunt mark" on his legacy.

Little wonder that at the 92nd Annual Purdue University Road School last March, Gov. Daniels told his administration and 1,600 transportation officials gathered, saying of Major Moves, "Those folks who had concerns about this measure have the right to ask, 'Will you bungie it?'"

There is a huge difference between Govs. Craig and Daniels. Major Moves passed the legislature with just two Democratic votes, as the opposition



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stoked fears of foreigners invading Indiana.

Gov. Craig found himself battling the isolationists in his own party, including U.S. Sen. William Jenner, described by Craig as "medieval," a term yet to be applied to House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer. The two battled for the heart and soul of the GOP.

When it came time to pass his programs in the legislature, Gov. Craig found an ally in State Sen. Matt Welsh, a future Democratic governor. "I owe much to him," Craig said of Welsh. "The Democrats helped me out."

Gov. Daniels couldn't find a Democratic legislator of gubernatorial timber to reach out to.

So beyond the headlines hinting of scandal, impropriety and stonewalling from the Daniels administration, we saw other headlines: \$826 million in highway construction in the fiscal year that starts July 1, reaching a 10-year total of

\$11.88 billion through 2015. A fast-tracked U.S. 31 freeway (thank you, Rep. Jackie Walorski); Fort-to-Port; two new Ohio River bridges at Louisville; another at Madison (thank you, Rep. Billy Bright).

Along with all the new highway concrete came the promise of yet another "foreign invasion," this time Honda, which may build a sprawling auto assembly plant along I-74 (no coincidence) near Greensburg that could employ thousands.

In one week, we've seen all the promise of the Daniels administration, and some of the dark shadows.

There are many of us who have put our reputations on the line with the promise of Major Moves. So here's a warning to INDOT and beyond: There will be little tolerance for screwing this up. ♦

Battle for House, from page 1

party currently holding those districts.

The news might have been worse for Republicans had not we taken into account the events of Tuesday. That's when Gov. Mitch Daniels began fanning out across the state announcing a record highway construction plan, included a new bridge spanning the Ohio River at Madison, the northern footings located on the doorstep of HD69 held by State Rep. Billy Bright.

While it's dangerous to compare primary totals, the HD69 primary jumped out at us, as Bright polled 3,249 votes against his gay GOP opponent, while Democrat Dave Cheatham, a former legislator, garnered 5,338 votes. Bright might have been in the same dead man walking category (i.e. likely takeover, See Page 4) as Rep. Woodruff, had Gov. Mitch Daniels not appeared to announce the new Ohio River bridge.

And therein lies the trump card for Republicans and the most poignant fears of House Democrats: that the Major Moves motherlode will inspire a political cornucopia of investment, construction, jobs and infrastructure that will lift House Republicans into their majority confines.

The critical question is will this happen in 2006, or 2008 when the graders and bulldozers are chugging from Lakeville, to Kokomo, to the Fort-to-Port, to I-69 and the three spans proposed for the Ohio River from Clarksville to Madison.

Daniels launched on Tuesday what Democrats were motivated to fear: the Major Moves motherlode. He said construction projects will hit \$826 million in the fiscal year that starts July 1, and reach a 10-year total of \$11.88 billion through 2015.

Weatherwax entering pro tem race

LOGANSPORT - State Sen. Tom Weatherwax will announce in the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* today that he will enter the race for Senate Pro Tem, a development first reported in the *HPR Daily Wire* last week.



Weatherwax

Weatherwax's entry makes this a three-way derby between conservative Sen. Brent Steele and current Majority Caucus Leader David Long. That leads to some fascinating three-way scenarios where many long-time, moderate senators can be expected to support Weatherwax.

Watch for further analysis in the *HPR Daily Wire*.

Only the Build Indiana Fund from the Hoosier Lottery even comes close to this many dollars flowing into various districts. In the cast of the Build Indiana Fund, the original intent to fund big capital projects like fire stations and sewers, gave way to what became a slush fund, with BIF money going into halls of fame for quilters, parochial school computers and American Legion uniforms.

"At last, after decades of political promises and hopes and dreams we will have a high-speed, limited-access artery from South Bend ... to the center of the state," Daniels was quoted in Martin DeAgostino's *South Bend Tribune* article. That's good news for State Rep. Jackie Walorski, who watched tracking polls showing Democrat Bob Kovach coming within the statistical margin of error right after the legislative session, only to see a lead reappear several weeks later.

In today's editions, *South Bend Tribune* report Jim

Wensits wrote: Standing near the juncture of Indiana 23 and Capital Avenue, an exuberant Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels trumpeted the advantages of his Major Moves transportation plan here on Wednesday. "All over Indiana projects that never would have happened will now be real," the governor said. "This is the biggest roads and jobs plan in the state's history, and we'll do it all without increasing the gas tax." St. Joseph County Commissioner Mark Dobson said the Indiana 23 project wasn't previously scheduled to start until 2008 and had been only partially financed.

The press reports from around the state were on a similar keel. "A record will be set this year and next year and every year for 10 years," the governor told reporters at an Indianapolis event, the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* reported.

Today's front page *Post-Tribune* headline blared: "Daniels: Road work will spur boom times." In the *Times of Northwest Indiana*, the headline read: "Crown Point to get I-65 interchange jewel." Crown Point Mayor Dan Klein said, "It will be an economic generator for Crown Point."

The *Louisville Courier-Journal* centered its coverage on the two new bridges to Louisville (which just announced a 4,900 job expansion at its UPS hub). "We're going to have a road system second to none," he said in Clarksville. "It's a new day in Indiana."

This morning, the *Evansville Courier & Press* reported: Daniels swept through Evansville on Wednesday as part of a two-day statewide tour to announce further details of the plan and hammer home the "immensity" of its implications. The governor spoke at 9 a.m. before about 75 people outside the Indiana Department of Transportation's Evansville Subdistrict building on U.S. 41. The governor said he embarked on this tour of Indiana primarily to stress the epic scale of the state's projected investment of nearly \$12 billion over 10 years on hundreds of new road projects. "It's just the immensity of it, and second, it has local and regional benefits in every part of the state," he said. "The third reason is, I just wanted to kind of remind everybody yet again that we are in this together as a state. ... We all have to move forward together. What's good for Southwestern Indiana is good for the rest of the state, and vice versa." Wearing his trademark Interstate 69 lapel pin, the governor repeated his oft-expressed assertion that I-69 from Evansville to Indianapolis will be dramatically accelerated to begin construction in 2008 and complete it in 2013.

State Rep. Tim Neese, R-Elkhart, said he is "encouraged by the momentum and aggressiveness" of Major Moves statewide (*South Bend Tribune*).

Gloom Democrats could only complain. "It's the same old, same old," said Rep. Win Moses Jr. "It's new because he wants credit for making it happen." Moses noted that very little of the construction money goes to Allen County and surrounding communities other than Fort to Port. "And Fort to Port was always in the plan and at the top of the plan,"

Moses said. "They are crafty souls — getting publicity today with no new details." State Rep. Bob Kuzman told the *Times*, "Indiana does not yet have the money in the bank, but our chief executive already has overpromised the expenditure of those funds for road projects."

State Sen. Karen Tallian, D-Portage, called the move "short sighted," explaining that while it's great to have cash now, it's not a good idea to lease the tollroad (Smith, *Associated Press*). "It doesn't leave any money for the future," she said, failing to understand that the next decade of heavy infrastructure construction sets the economic table for decades of high growth in transportation, logistics, life sciences and advanced manufacturing, a rise in personal income and corporate taxation.

One only needs to look at the new Toyota facility along I-65 at Lafayette or the possible Honda plant (with up to 3,000 jobs) coming to Greerensburg along I-74 to understand that interstates are to Indiana what rivers were in the 19th century.

There never will be a B. Patrick Bauer Institute for Public Policy Development. On Tuesday, the House Minority Leader called the huge INDOT construction "show pieces" and added that the projects "don't change the fact that it's a bad deal and the people know it."

Therein lies the dilemma for Democrats. What is their vision?

There is nothing offered of comparable scale to Daniels and his Major Moves initiative. There is not a counter plan to offer voters.

The Republicans are offering a vision; the Democrats are left with fear. But it could work. Hossiers are in a cantankerous mood with the war and gasoline prices.

Of the eight "takeover" or "trussup" races, five of them involving Republican Reps. Don Lehe, Jackie Walorski, Marlin Stutzman, Steve Heim and Dick Dodge figure to have Major Moves as a dominant issue. And then there's the open LaPorte County seat where Republican Tom Dermody faces LaPorte Councilwoman Andrea Renner. Yet, in the primary, Lehe and State Rep. Tim Neese easily dispatched primary opponents who used Major Moves as the predominant issue.

While the overall environment shaping up appears hostile to Republicans, there were other factors to consider when HPR compiled its list.

One, Indiana Republicans probably have a 5-to-1 advantage in staff and field resources. The Democratic Party's staffing is well below 10 full-time employees.

Republicans are expected to have a significant money advantage.

And there will likely be more days like Tuesday, when Gov. Daniels and Lt. Gov. Skillman will be out and about, dispersing big road contracts in places like Kokomo, Culver, Lakeville, Madison and Vincennes. ♦



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HPR's Battle for the House Scorecard

R 35



D 38



Woodruff (Battles)

Likely Takeover (1-R)

Tossups (7-R)



Dermody

- Buell (Barnes)
- Borders (Bledsoe)
- Heim (Dembowski)
- Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)
- Walorski (Kovach)
- J. Smith (Herrell)
- Bright (Cheatham)

Leans (9-R; 10-D)

- Lehe (Sutton)
- Harris (Hile)
- Davis (Liggett)
- J. Lutz (Mengelt)
- Dodge (Rauen)
- Stutzman (Rorick)
- Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning)
- Open (Messer: Eberhart vs. Lux)
- Hinkle (Olds)

- Orentlicher (Densborn)
- Hoy (A. Smith)
- Fry (Hiler)
- Micon (Basham)
- Austin (Metzger)
- Tincher (Dallas)
- Denbo (Patton)
- Crooks (Arnold)
- Open (Bottorff: Stemler vs. Theobald)
- Bischoff (Ullrich)



Crooks

Safe (35-R; 38-D)

Ayres, Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Thomas, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Bosma, Noe, Pond, Borrer, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Saunders, Cherry, Leonard, Ullmer, Neese

Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgoski, Dvorak, Pelath, Cheney, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Klinker, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Pflum, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, Open (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaften, Day, Summers, Crawford, Mahern, Porter

Public perceptions, one moment at a time

By JENNIFER WAGNER

Everyone these past few weeks has been focusing on the scandals and mismanagement that have publicly plagued Gov. Mitch Daniels and his "new crew."

To recap: An agency head signed off on a \$540,000 contract to outsource his chief financial officer so the guy can pay his way to and from Fort Wayne each week. The Public Access Counselor smacked down the governor's office and INDOT for failing to timely provide records to the Indiana Democratic Party. And the governor had to publicly terminate one of his hand-picked appointees and a deputy director for misusing federal and state funds.

When you promise perfection and repeatedly slam past administrations for their scandals, you fall that much harder when the same things start happening to you.

Daniels didn't exactly crash and burn, but he certainly crashed. Someone, call a tow truck. This administration might just be stuck in a ditch.

As a member of the loyal opposition, it's politically rewarding to watch the governor getting a taste of his own bitter medicine, but I want to use this space to look at the evolution of a crisis, its management and why the Governor failed to immediately stem the recent bleeding.

I've covered government. I've worked with government. I've worked in government. Bad stories happen. It's how you deal with them that can make all the difference in the world.

I like to look at the unfurling of a potentially negative media story as a series of moments.

The First Moment is when you find out the bad news. What do we do? Who knows what? How awful is this going to look? This moment is pure fear. Your stomach does flips, and you seriously consider flinging yourself out the window.

The Second Moment comes after someone thwacks you upside the head and brings you back to your senses. You've had some time to talk things through with others who are involved, and you've reached a plan of action. This moment is fear mitigated by logic and order. You no longer actively want to fling yourself out the window, but you wonder if you could collect worker's compensation if, for example, someone pushed you.

The Third Moment is the moment of truth. It is the confrontation, the enactment of the plan. The fear is still there, but it has been shoved into the corner by *Unfounded Confidence* and *At Least There's A Cold Beer Waiting For Me Somewhere Once This Is Over*. You've forgotten about the window. You just want to face the music and vamoose.

The Final Moment is when it's all over. You've watched your scandal play out on television or in the morning paper. With any luck, you've softened the blow by taking action to fix the mess. And there is nothing more you can do.

I should note that these are the moments those who deal with scandals must endure. For those who actually are in the wrong or who look like they are in the wrong, there is one more moment. To me, it's the most interesting one.

Most people who have done wrong realize on some level that they have done wrong. Their first instinct is defensive. They will research the laws or rules they may have broken. They will parse details. They will yell and scream. They will call those above and around them liars. But then, something happens. The hubris gives way to the realization that no matter what happens in a court of law, the person in question might well be sunk in the court of public opinion.

This is the Reflective Moment, and it is practically tangible. In the blink of an eye, people can go from cocky to deeply apologetic once they realize they're no longer part of the crew. In their mind's eye, they see the headlines, the teasers, the mug shots and the fallout. It is pain and panic and survival all wrapped into one heart-wrenching moment.

As people involved in managing the media and mitigating bad news, it's unfortunate that the Daniels administra-

"In the blink of an eye, people can go from cocky to deeply apologetic once they realize they're no longer part of the crew. In their mind's eye, they see the headlines, the teasers, the mug shots and the fallout."

tion doesn't realize that these moments all need to happen very quickly. When negative news rears its head, you have to act swiftly and with conviction. (Which ordinarily is not something the governor has trouble doing, much to the detriment of Hoosiers who wish he'd take a second look at some of the decisions he's made.)

A good example of the dearth of swiftness is the recent FSSA contract flap. The story made its way into the media the day of the primary election. Maybe they thought it would just disappear, but they should have known better. A



story like that – with money, secrets contracts and special treatment – has nimble legs.

Instead of coming out the next day and announcing that the contract was going to be canceled (Moment Three, for anyone who's playing along at home), the governor and FSSA Secretary Mitch Roob stood by it for almost a week straight. Through editorials. Through follow-up stories. Through public outrage.

Finally, they canceled it at the contractor's request, but they never, ever admitted they did anything wrong. They grudgingly told people the deal was axed because it might have raised some issues of public perception.

When you're dealing with public relations, it's best not to forget how the public will view things. The good news is

that the media cycle has grown ever shorter in the past couple decades, and people don't pay terribly close attention to things that happen in one day and subsequently dissipate. But if you let an issue drag on and on and on, people take note, and they start to think you're out-of-touch and not listening.

It takes me no longer than a moment to surmise that that's not how this administration wants to be perceived. ♦

Wagner is communications director for the Indiana Democratic Party. She contributes a column to The Howey Political Report website at www.howeypolitics.com

The GOP's winning tax policy

By JOSHUA CLAYBOURN

Last week the Treasury Department announced the second highest April tax revenue in history. Revenue for the month totaled \$315.1 billion as total receipts climbed by 13.4 percent from April 2005.

If this comes as a surprise to you, it could be because none of the major networks chose to report it. Indeed, all three major networks - NBC, CBS, and ABC - ran lengthy and extensive pieces on proposed extensions of tax cuts and their alleged favoritism to the rich in their evening news programs. But none of the stories bothered to mention the record revenue receipts which the tax cuts may have caused.

In fact, many reporters attempted to paint the opposite picture. ABC's Kate Snow mocked the cuts by holding up a \$20 bill in the faces of "normal" Americans to get their response about the tax cut they would be receiving under a Republican plan. She added that an extension of the tax cuts "would cost the federal government \$70 billion." Of course this assumes that tax cuts "cost" the government money because it's the government's money to lose.



Snow failed to note the Laffer Curve hypothesis which stipulates that in many situations tax cuts actually boost revenues. That may very well be what happened in 2006, and a recent *Wall Street Journal* editorial seems to agree. On May 12 the paper read, "By boosting the after-tax return on capital and increasing incentives to invest, the tax cuts provided an immediate lift to stock-market valuations and improved business balance sheets. Almost at the very time the tax cuts looked like they would pass, business investment began to pick up, and it has kept rising since."

Corporate income collections are expected to have a 30 percent increase in the current fiscal year. While Bush deserves criticism for skyrocketing spending, the increased revenues appear to be closing the deficit gap. According to the Congressional Budget Office the budget is now predicted to be as low as \$300 billion in fiscal year 2006.

That is still far too high, but it's \$50 billion less than previously estimated.

In the words of Presidential advisor Karl Rove, Republicans are in a "sour time."

But if there's a silver lining to the GOP's tenure in Congress it's a winning tax policy. That's something they can, and should, take to the bank this November. ♦

Claybourn is a recent graduate of the Indiana University School of Law and a native of Evansville. He is a frequent contributor to The Howey Political Report website at www.howeypolitics.com



Where the votes are ... Bayh courts the center

By MARK CURRY

The Howey Political Report

INDIANAPOLIS - It's the sort of scenario that must be driving democrats crazy these days: A group of Cub Scout parents are waiting for a den meeting to end at a Catholic church in a firmly Democratic enclave of suburban Maryland.

"So, you still happy you voted for President Bush?" one asks with a tinge of "I told you so" in his voice.

Over the next 10 minutes the five moms and dads nod in agreement as each cites reasons behind a growing discontent with both the administration and the Republican Party. Cracking down on illegals will hurt the construction business and tank the economy, says the head of a multi-million dollar design/build firm. Energy prices are killing the family budget, explains the mom who home schools her two boys. Another is worried the war on terror might lead to an irreversible loss of civil liberties, and all signal their fears about prospects in Iraq.

Voters dissatisfied

The general sense points to a group of moderate voters representing both parties who are convinced little if any progress is being made on serious challenges facing the country. These same voters also make it a point to accuse the democrats of failing to muster a unified, much less viable, opposition. Each voices a familiar litany of criticisms - the party is too fractured, the fringe is too noisy, Hillary doesn't have a chance, they don't have any good ideas, and so on.

"There are plenty of good Democrats with good ideas who aren't Hillary Clinton," interjects one dad. "Mark Warner and Evan Bayh are two you just don't seem to hear much about."

But - and this is the maddening part - it quickly becomes clear the others aren't interested in learning the substance of those "good ideas" as the conversation moves to a discussion of plans for this summer's family campout.

Quite the opposite is true of voters on either side of

center. Leaders on the left and right have no trouble identifying solutions that motivate their bases around the sort of issues you can number using a few fingers. Just yesterday Indiana Rep. Mike Pence told a group of conservative bloggers that if Republicans are to have a chance in the midterms they need focus on a mere three issues: Limited government, fiscal discipline and rule of law (Human Events). A quick visit to the Daily Kos website reveals the gist of the far left's agenda: Roll the world of one George W. Bush.

A near impossible task

Politicians who court the center - like Sen. Evan Bayh

- face the near impossible task of crafting a message that appeals to a wide range of moderates, a group that by definition represents a multitude of views concerning any number of issues. As noted on Wikipedia, "Some political moderates are 'bipolar' in the sense that they side with right-wingers on certain classes of issues, but with left-wingers on others, rather than consistently staking out intermediate positions across the board."

If it's difficult to get the attention of a moderate, it's even harder to get them to listen. Fiscal conservatives are naturally attracted to Rep. Pence's fiscal and constitutional conservatism, while politicians like Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) or Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) rally left-wing liberals by voicing opposition to the Iraq war. But it's not so easy to rally moderate voters who often are influenced by multiple and sometimes competing messages and issues before solidly, if

ever, identifying with a candidate.

So why should a politician expend considerable amounts of time and money to establish a broad-based reputation among moderates, when it would be easier and initially less expensive to claim the high ground on just one or two issues among voters more closely aligned with an ideology? (Because that is where the votes are. In the 2004 presidential election, network exit polls indicated voters most often considered themselves to be moderates (45%) before conservatives (34%) and liberals (21%) (CNN). As Sen. Bayh reportedly has said, "Do the math.")

Sen. Evan Bayh told Camp Bayh participants at IUPUI that "I think it's going to have to start here at the grassroots level, if we're going to take our state and our country ultimately where they need to go." This photo was taken in Washington earlier this year. (HPR Photo by Mark Curry)



Overcoming the challenges

It appears Sen. Bayh employs a multi-prong strategy to overcome the challenges he faces in the struggle to be considered a leading presidential contender: Create name recognition; articulate for the record substantial positions on key issues; introduce hallmark legislation and work for its passage; woo Democratic donors; build relationships with influential party members and candidates; and, reach out to a range of Democratic, independent and Republican voters who might by election day be persuaded to align themselves with a Bayh presidential ticket.

As noted time and again by HPR, he has laid considerable groundwork for the cause. No other candidate to date has spent as much time speaking at state Jefferson-Jackson dinners, meeting with potential donors, fund raising for Democrats in Iowa and New Hampshire, and influencing the national party agenda, all while tirelessly working to further solidify his credentials as a lawmaker. As evidence consider his schedule over the next several days. Tomorrow he flies to Iowa where he is slated to speak at the Polk County Spring Fundraiser in Des Moines and on Saturday at a fund raiser for local candidates in Osceola, Council Bluffs and Sioux City. On Sunday he returns to Indiana to offer the commencement address at DePauw University in Greencastle, which will be aired at a later date on CSPAN. On Monday morning Bayh visits the Rahal Letterman Racing Team Ethanol garages at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway "to promote ethanol use as a key provision in [his] energy plan."

Seeding the field

Last weekend he was in town to speak at the Indiana J-J and to address the 100-plus participants in Camp Bayh, a three-day event at IUPUI to train present and future political professionals and candidates in "the nuts and bolts of organizing campaigns." As a participant, this reporter found the camp to be highly informative on the basics of campaigning and was most impressed with his plan to seed a select group

of 50 graduates among key state and congressional races throughout the country.

These efforts have been recognized by many and disregarded by some both in and out of the party. Analyst Charlie Cook of the *Cook Political Report* wrote last week that Bayh has "a great shot" if "Democrats are feeling pragmatic." On the other hand is John W. Mashek of U.S. News & World Report who, while stipulating the difficulty of winnowing the Democratic field, leaves Sen. Bayh out of the list of contenders.

So far it looks like the 2008 presidential race will be unlike any other in recent memory. Perhaps Evan Bayh's dedication and work ethic and his innovative strategy and targeted tactics will succeed in securing him a place on the ballot. Only time will tell.

GORE RAISING PROFILE: The AP (5/17, Fournier) reported that ex-Vice President Al Gore (D) is running to California, New York, Utah, Washington, France and points in between to promote "An Inconvenient Truth," a film chronicling his elaborate slide shows to educate people about global warming. But is Gore running for president again? The answer, he says, is no. Some Democrats are not so sure. "I'm a recovering politician on about Step 9," Gore told The Associated Press. "But I'm on a different kind of campaign now — to persuade people to take action to solve the climate crisis, and it's always easier when you're focused on one thing." The AP noted that on the issue of global warming, Gore "is the leading voice on an issue that Republicans and Democrats alike say is gaining prominence among voters. ... 'If he's the guy we see today, I think he'd be formidable,'" said Joe Trippi, a key consultant on Howard Dean's 2004 presidential campaign team. The AP added, "Privately, senior Democrats put long odds on Gore running and winning the Democratic nomination. They raised the same old questions about Gore: Can he connect with the average American voter and not let former President Bill Clinton "get in his way? ❖

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Hostettler intends to make immigration campaign issue

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - In a race as close as the 8th CD is likely to be, each candidate will try to press any advantage he can find. Incumbent GOP Rep. John Hostettler believes the issue that will help him is immigration.

As chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, he has a platform to express his view that existing laws have not been properly enforced and that undocumented workers are a threat to the U.S. economy. Recently, he called on the U.S. customs enforcement agency to look into the hiring practices of companies like McDonald's that had to shutdown during immigration rallies on May 1, arguing that the closures indicate that they rely on illegal employees.

At a Capitol Hill event on Wednesday, Hostettler asserted that the topic is the primary concern of his constituents. Recent townhall meetings in the district have been "completely dominated by immigration," he said. "We're seeing a response, at least in my district, to a problem that is growing in Indiana."

Hostettler may face a challenge in separating himself from his opponent, Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth, who is the Democratic nominee. Both Hostettler and Ellsworth support the immigration bill approved by the House in December that focuses solely on border security. The Senate is working on a bill that likely will include guest worker provisions and a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Hostettler, who trails Ellsworth substantially in fundraising, is cagey about how he will frame the immigration issue so that he can use it against Ellsworth. He declined to respond to an HPR question on Wednesday, saying that he didn't want to reveal campaign strategy. "This is will be something that evolves over time," he said. "You'll see that more in September."

In an interview with the Evansville Courier and Press, Hostettler hinted that Ellsworth had flip-flopped on his immigration stance. But he provided no evidence and Ellsworth denied the charge.

Ellsworth Cites Illegal Immigration Ills

Like Hostettler, Ellsworth stresses the drawbacks of illegal immigration. "It's...not right when an Indiana employer

passes over an American for a job only because an illegal worker is cheaper," Ellsworth says in a statement on his campaign Web site. "We need to tighten our borders, enforce the laws we have, and punish employers who break them. This is as much about economic security as it is national security."

Ellsworth may try to turn Hostettler's committee position against him. "John Hostettler has been in Congress for 12 years now and the number of illegal immigrants in the country has doubled during his time in office," said Jay Howser, Ellsworth's campaign manager.

Another tack Ellsworth might take is drawing from his experience as sheriff to criticize the ineffectiveness of current immigration policy—and implicitly place blame on Hostettler.

"We face a national crisis when it comes to illegal immigration," Ellsworth says on his Web site. "The honest truth is that part of it is our own making.

When we capture illegals here in Vanderburgh County, my deputies call INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) and INS tells them there's not a place to put them. That's not right."

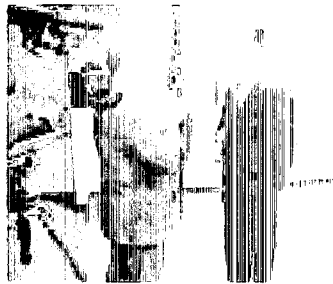
Hostettler to Link Ellsworth to Unpopular Dems

How immigration will play out in the 8th CD depends on how voters view each party's approach on the issue, according to Amy Walter, House editor of the Cook Political Report. If they perceive the Republicans or Democrats as being tougher than the other, it will benefit that party's candidate.

Hostettler may try to undermine Ellsworth through guilt by association. "What we know he's going to do is try to align Ellsworth with any national Democrat who is supporting him," said Walter. "If (Hostettler) can't go after Ellsworth on the actual issue, it's a matter of attaching him to members of the Democratic Party who are unpopular in the 8th District."

Although both Hostettler and Ellsworth assert that illegal immigration affects daily life in the 8th CD, the Latino presence in the area is limited. Only four southern Indiana counties—Bartholomew, Jackson, Daviess and Dubois—have an Hispanic population between 2 and 3 percent, according to the 2000 census. By comparison, the Latino population in Marion County is between 4 and 6 percent.

Despite the numbers, immigration pops up on the radar in southern Indiana. It is "right underneath the surface as an issue in the district," said Cam Savage, chief of staff to 9th CD Rep. Mike Sodrel. "It's never number one or number two, but it's always there." For Hostettler, it will continue to be number one, as he hopes to ride anti-immigration sentiment to another tight victory. ♦





Political Report

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Did they venture forth to win one for the Flogger? Or were they just out to administer an election flogging to the long-time leader of the Indiana Senate? In the biggest upset and arguably the most significant result of the May 2 primary election, voters in the Columbus area ended the legislative career of Senate President Pro-Tem Robert D. Garton. Garton has been a powerful legislator who could make governors back down and often did. When a young Democratic governor named Evan Bayh took office, Garton let him know who would be boss during the legislative session: Garton, not Bayh. Nor did he cower before a governor of his own party. The most recent example is when he forced Gov. Mitch Daniels to surrender on administration plans to close a Bureau of Motor Vehicles license branch in Garton's district. In endorsing Garton, the Columbus Republic, the major newspaper in his district, cited what Garton had done and still could do for his constituents and warned of turning instead to an opponent "in favor of public flogging of criminals." Greg Walker, a political newcomer with little name recognition when he filed against Garton, had gone public once before, writing a letter to the editor in the Republic in 2003 in support of restoring flogging as a criminal penalty. When the votes were counted, the Flogger won. To conclude, however, that Republicans in the Columbus area were voting for flogging would be as valid as claiming that 30 per cent of the voters in the 2nd Congressional District Republican primary were voting for use of the guillotine. In Chocola's case, it was neither personal nor fatal. In Garton's case, it was both. In Chocola's case, it was 30 percent, not a majority, and it involved protest more over actions of President Bush and Gov. Daniels than any personal animosity toward the congressman. In Garton's case, it was a majority, defeating him, and it involved animosity toward the senator over such matters as his refusal to kill a controversial "health care for life" plan for senators and his lack of push for an anti-abortion bill. Walker had a lot of help, with campaign finances and strategy. He was endorsed by Indiana Right to Life and was helped as well by backers of conservative causes who regarded Garton, with his reputation for bringing compromise on tough issues, as too moderate to fight all-out for their goals. Brian Howey of the *Howey Political Report*, who began reporting on the Garton race back when most of the news media had not focused on what was happening, says that a six-piece mail blitz in the final weeks of the campaign was the key in diminishing a significant poll lead held by the long-popular Garton and ultimately bringing his defeat. Garton made mistakes. The most serious was in defending rather than dropping (as the Indiana House dropped) that plan for legislators dubbed "health care for life." The plan made voters mad. They didn't have a plan like that. Some had no health care plan at all. Their anger was accentuated and directed at Garton through the mailings. Also,

Garton, though an able legislative leader, was leading at a time when many voters didn't like where they were being led, saying in polls that the state and the nation were headed in the wrong direction. Walker played up a "time for a change" theme by driving around in a 1970 model car — reminding voters of the year Garton was first elected. The Flogger faces a challenge in the fall, but he's likely to win. ❖

Matthew Tully, Indianapolis Star (Feb. 24, 2006) -

House Democratic leader Pat Bauer, the tipsters said, has told his rank and file he plans to resurrect the notorious lifetime health plan for ex-legislators if he is elected speaker after the November elections. With all the trouble Republicans are having lately, it's very likely Democrats will take control of the House later this year, and that Bauer will be reinstated as House speaker. So this was a tip worth checking out. But would Bauer really revive the health benefit, which covers retired lawmakers, their kids and even ex-spouses? After House Speaker Brian Bosma won such praise for spiking the program, would Bauer dare to bring it back? I stepped into Bauer's office this week to ask those questions. I expected him to say something like, "That's a bunch of baloney." He didn't. "They cannot fight on the real issues of the day," the longtime South Bend politician said. "They're trying to distract." But are they right? I asked. "Bosma, what he's done will probably get a court test," Bauer said, dodging. Court test? From whom? "It will have to be someone that served and retires," Bauer said, pointing to House members who, unless they retire in 2006, won't have access to the lifetime health-care subsidy. Is someone planning to sue? "I've heard grumblings," Bauer said cryptically. I still didn't have a straight answer to my main question. Still, I kept trying, asking in different ways whether Bauer wanted to bring back the too-generous health plan. He didn't answer. He did say the original version of the health benefit "had to have changes." But then he went all law school on me, saying, "You have to address the legal and constitutional questions" of the perk. Huh? Bauer pointed to Article 1, Section 23 of the state constitution, which says laws must treat everybody equally. His point was that the Senate has largely kept the health plan in place, while the House has not. Now we were getting somewhere. Bauer has already started crafting an argument for bringing the lifetime health benefit back — at least in some form. So, I asked again, would he? "It's a little more complicated than that," he said. "Because you want to also address affordability and the other problem of children not having health care." Finally, I asked my question another way. Did Bauer, as many in the Statehouse halls say, talk some House Democrats out of retiring by vowing to restore their lifetime health benefits? "It's much more complicated than that," he said, frustratingly. ❖

ISTA endorses Lugar for first time

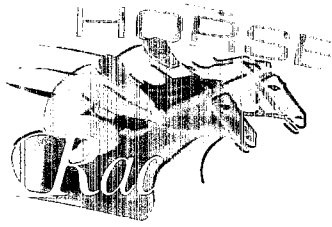
TRENDLINE NO. 1: U.S. Rep. John Murtha wrote this on Wednesday in the Huffingtonpost: "Today marks 6 months since I introduced my resolution calling for the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq. Over these past 6 months things have gotten worse, not better. Those who disagree with me argue "we can't just leave," but they have no plan to make things better. The fact is the success of Iraq is up to the Iraqis. The Iraqis must settle their differences and we must set a timetable for the Iraqis to take complete control of their country. Instead of showing progress, oil production remains below prewar levels, electricity in Baghdad measured only 2.9 hours per day last week, and more than half of all Iraqis are unemployed. Every month we are spending over \$8 billion in Iraq."

TRENDLINE NO. 2: For the first time, the ISTA has endorsed U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar for re-election.

TRENDLINE NO. 3: Four years after opting to not pursue a run for state auditor, Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin is expected to announce his candidacy for state treasurer (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Griffin declined on Wednesday to affirm his candidacy is a sure thing, but said he has been looking into it and waiting on responses from potential members of his campaign committee. On the Republican side, 9th CD Chairman Larry Shickles said he will challenge Richard Mourdock for the nomination at the June GOP convention (*HPR*).

2006 Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** 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:** Almost 30 percent of GOP primary voters voted for oddball Tony Zirkle. That's a wakeup call for Rep. Chocola. **Status:**



TOSSUP

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Gosport, Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%. **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+17. **2002 results:** Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%). **2004 Results:** Souder, Parra 2004 Results: Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** Souder lost 30 percent of the vote in the primary to William Larsen. While we don't believe that Souder is in any danger, that could change if a huge Democratic wave develops, which is possible. That's how he got into office 12 years ago. **Status:** LIKELY SOUDER

Congressional District 7: Republican: Eric Dickerson. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **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 77,473 (53%), McVey 64,379 (44%). **2004 Results:** Carson 121,303, Horning (R) 97,431, Campbell (L) 4,381. **2006 Forecast:** Carson is undefeated, but she's never faced an opponent like Dickerson, the African-American Buick dealer, a former soldier who ran an energetic campaign against the slated GOP opponent. At the same time, Carson appeared very old and tired. She was criticized for her Election Day stunt in which she did not produce a valid voter ID. It will be interesting to see how she plays the "race card" against an African-American challenger. Conventional wisdom says that Carson easily wins re-election. But there's something different about Dickerson and if he taps into the anti-incumbent strain that is clanking around the public conscience just below the anti-Republican sentiment, this could be a race. **Status:** LIKELY CARSON

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; pover-



Political Report

ty 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:** This race is a pure tossup. Watch for Hostettler to use his fear cards in stoking up his base on immigration and anti-gay issues. Ellsworth looks to be his strongest challenger in a decade and he will have the best environment of any Democrat to oust Hostettler. We always believed that Hostettler would lose in a wave, and that wave looks very real at this point. **Status:** TOSS-UP

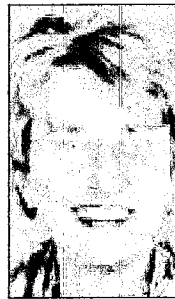
Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill, Gretchen Clearwater, Lendall Terry, John "Cosmo" Hockersmith. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; 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 is complaining that Rep. Sodrel will not debate about gasoline prices. That issue and the war will make this a fascinating rematch. Hill has polling that shows him with a 10 percent lead. That's not surprising, given the national environment. We'll leave this in the tossup zone for now as it will be one of the most spectacular races on the Indiana scene and could help flip control of

Congress to the Democrats. **Status:** TOSSUP.

2006 State Races

Senate District 4: Republican: Paul Childress. Democrat: State Sen. Karen Talian. **2002 Results:** Antich (D) 16,011, Shane (R) 12,583. **2006 Primary:** Talian 5,743, Chubb 2,796; Childress 2,247, Vojstlavak 2,078. **2006 Forecast:** This will be Talian's first general election and she will face Paul Childress. **Status:** LEANS TALIAN.

Senate District 11: Republican: State Sen. Joe Zakas. Democrat: Pat McQuade. **2002 Results:** Zakas 24,716. **2006 Forecast:** Angry, disgruntled, and disappointed in the current state leadership, Pat McQuade hopes to change it. (*Elkhart Truth*). Come November, the South Bend Democrat hopes to unseat a 25-year veteran, state Sen. Joe Zakas, R-Granger. This is her first bid for public office. "It's time for a change," she said. "I'm a new face; I have experience." A nurse and a former teacher, McQuade said she has been in touch with people from all social and class backgrounds. People's representatives in the Legislature should represent the people who elected them, she said. It's something she says didn't happen during the discussion on the toll road lease or switching the state to



McQuade

daylight-saving time. "I realize I'm not going to please everybody, but I would certainly make an opportunity for people to be heard." McQuade contributed money to a lawsuit challenging constitutionality of the lease of the Indiana Toll Road. "I'm not against the privatization," she said, but called the privatization of the toll road "hasty" and "backward." Fluent in Spanish, McQuade has a bachelor's degree in Spanish and

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Latin American history from Indiana University. In 1997, she earned a master's degree from Valparaiso University. She is vice chair of resources for Enriching Adult Living Services Advisory Council, which provides in-home services to older adults, people with disabilities and low-income residents in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph counties. She is a volunteer nurse for the Michiana Parkinson Support Group. She has served on the board of directors for the Older Adult Safe House in Saint Joseph County and the Memorial Nurses Alumni Association. Zakas polled 4,790 votes unopposed in the May primary, while McQuade polled 4,153. **Status: LIKELY ZAKAS**

Senate District 23: Republican: Phil Boots. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Harrison (R) 21,175 Shelby (D) 11,436. **2002 Results:** Harrison 23,811. **2006 Forecast:** After an impressive primary win, Boots is almost assured to be a freshman senator in November. **Status: SAFE BOOTS**

Senate District 26: Republican: Andrew Phipps. Democrat: Sue Errington. **1998 Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,824, Wenger (R) 13,414. **2002 Democratic Primary Results:** Craycraft 9,653. Dixon 2,288. **2002 General Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,939, Phipps (R) 16,330. **2006 Forecast:** Ed. **Status: LEANS ERRINGTON.**

Senate District 49: Republican: Posey County Councilman George Postlethweight. Democrat: Posey County Councilman Bob Deig, Paul Swanson, Kevin Winterheimer. **2002 Results:** Lutz (D) 21,891, Alvey (Socialist write-in) 590. **2006 Forecast:** Deig has the money advantage. **Status: LEANS DEIG.**

Senate District 41: Republican: Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** B. **Status: TOSSUP**

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. **Status: LEANS FRY.**

House District 12: Republican: Open. Democrat: Mara Candelaria Reardon. **2004 Results:** Aguilera 11,485, Fagen (R) 9,749, Brickman (L) 527. **2004 Democratic Primary Results:** Aguilera 2,920, Lopez-Rodriguez 2,784. **2006 Forecast:** Reardon will join the House in November after he impressive win over Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez. **Status: SAFE REARDON.**

House District 15: Republican: State Rep. Don Lehe. Democrat: Newton County Sheriff Myron Sutton, John Anthony Malan. **2002 Results:** Lehe 9,975, Baranowski (D) 5,641. **2004 Results:** Lehe 16,623, Childress (D) 8,153, Bell (L) 565. **2006 Forecast:** De. **Status: LEANS LEHE**

House District 17: Republican: State Rep. Steve Heim. Democrat: Nancy Dembowski. **2004 Results:** Heim

14,101, McLiver (D) 8,321, Foley (I) 854. **SD5 Results:** Heindl (R) 24,753, Dembowski (D) 24,198. **2006 Forecast:** Heim has joined the chorus of legislators decrying the closing of BMW branches, in this case Walkerton. **Status: TOSSUP**

House District 20: Republican: LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: LaPorte City Councilman Andrea Renner. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. **2004 Results:** Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schabrowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** Dermody easily defeated State Rep. Mary Kay Budak with 70 percent of the vote. Renner had a close race against perennial candidate Howard Smith. This is expected to be a Toll Road showdown. Republican incumbents survived the issue in the primary, but that was without a coordinated Democratic info blitz on the issue. Until this race starts to sort out, we think it's a ... **Status: TOSSUP**

House District 21: Republican: State Rep. Jackie Walorski. Democrat: Bob Kovach. **2002 Results:** Mangus 10,722. **2004 Results:** Walorski 13,753, Kaser (D) 7,737. **2006 Forecast:** Tracking showed this race within the margin of error right after the legislative session. Walorski has a bit of a margin, our sources say and it's a 60 percent GOP district. But the Democrats haven't fully engaged the issue, so this one is definitely on the radar. **Status: TOSSUP**

House District 26: Republican: Tippecanoe County Councilwoman Connie Basham. Democrat: Joe Micon. (Geography: Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **2002 Results:** Scholer 5,630, Micon 4,731. **2004 Results:** Micon (D) 10,077, Basham (R) 9,471. **2006 Forecast:** This is a rematch of a race that go real ugly in 2004. Basham says she won't allow the HRCC to go negative this time. We think the general environment at this point favors the Democrats, though Basham will use Major Moves in the context of the Toyota plant coming to Lafayette as a way of putting Micon on the defensive for his vote against the plan. **Status: LEANS MICON.**

House District 30: Republican: State Rep. John Smith. Democrat: Ron Herrell. **2002 Results:** Herrell (D) 9,017, Rudolph (R) 6,966, Fridholm (L) 379. **2004 Results:** Smith 12,398, Herrell (D) 11,279. **2006 Forecast:** We'd see this as more of a certain pickup if Democrats had been able to recruit someone other than Herrell. Having said that, workers in Kokomo find an extremely uncertain future. Delphi is teetering. Chrysler could send its transmission operations out of the country. They see Gov. Daniels statement on lower Delphi pay as red meat for this UAW's rong district. But the UAW is weakened and its opposition to Major Moves could give Rep. Smith some projects (and jobs) to crow about. Smith and Gov. Daniels will obviously tout the U.S. 31 free-way project. **Status: TOSSUP.**

House District 31: Republican: State Rep. Tim



Political Report

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Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

Thursday, May 18, 2006

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:** This is a rematch. We give Rep. Harris a slight, slight edge at this point, but this could easily end up in the tossup zone. **Status:** *LEANS HARRIS.*

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 is a favorite of the Daniels new crew and they will put resources behind him, as they did when the new BMW phone center went to Winchester. **Status:** *LEANS DAVIS.*

House District 45: Republican: Bruce Borders. Democrat: Mike Bledsoe. **2002 Results:** Chowning 9,627, Borders 9,337. **2004 Forecast:** Bledsoe ran strong in the primary, with 4,961 votes to 3,63 for Borders. This is the seat of former House Speaker John Gregg. Democrats will be gunning for "Elvis" in this favorable environment. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 46: Republican: Reid Dallas. Democrat: State Rep. Vern Tincher. **2002 Results:** LaPlante (R) 8,079, Tincher (D) 7,275. **2004 Results:** Tincher 11,533, LaPlante 10,799. **2006 Forecast:** What would the November elections be like without HD46 in play? Tincher will have to defend the health care for life program. Reid Dallas says it's "time for a change to active leadership" in Indiana's House District 46 as his campaign heads toward the November election (Greninger, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). Tincher, 69, has served as state representative in District 46 from 1982-1994, losing to former Republican Rep. David Lohr; then 1996 to 2002, losing to former Republican Rep. Brooks LaPlante; and from 2004 to present. Dallas, 30, said during a stopover in Terre Haute on Monday that if elected, he could "work with the majority and with the governor's office to get things done." "I think we need more young people to get involved. I am very passionate. You can't put every issue in a box. If you look at where we are as a society, I think we need more legislators that are willing to safeguard our freedoms and liberties," Dallas said. "I think we need to look not necessarily at what a bill does tomorrow when it becomes law, but what it sets up five years down the road and what we, as citizens, may have to forgo as our freedoms and liberties. It is important that legislators pass good laws and work with their peers and colleagues, and I will do that if elected, but at the same time I think is the job of the legislator to stop bad legislation." he said. One recent example, Dallas said, is House Act 1010, which the General Assembly passed this year. That law places restrictions on eminent domain, such as not permitting the use of eminent domain to transfer ownership or control to another private person for economic development, and limits

its use to certain types of property. Eminent domain also cannot be done to simply increase the tax base of a governmental entity, according to House Act 1010. "When you look at the Constitution, I am pretty much a strict constructionist," Dallas said. Dallas is a 1999 graduate of Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in public affairs and is a sales representative for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. He is a member of the National Rifle Association, Sons of the American Legion, The Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Farm Bureau. "With Major Moves, adjoining counties will have 34 percent of the local transportation budget that will be allotted to those counties. That is a huge opportunity. We are setting ourselves up for Indiana to be on the forefront," Dallas said. **Status:** *LEANS TINCHER.*

House District 51: Republican: State Rep. Dick Dodge. Democrat: Joe Rauen. **2002 Results:** Kruse (R) 10,157, Smith(L) 2,672. **2004 Results:** Dodge (R) 14,547, Mason (D) 8,343. **2006 Forecast:** This is another toll road race. Rauen is a toll road worker and intends to make this a referendum on that issue. But Dodge represents a very Republican district and will be hard to take out, even in a very Democratic year. **Status:** *LEANS DODGE.*

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:** Rep. Stutzman voted for Major Moves and Rorick entered this race on that subject alone. So this will be one of the bellwether seats on that issue. Bad environment for the GOP doesn't help Stutzman. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 57: Republican: Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart. 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:** Councilman Eberhart comfortably won a multiple candidate primary. He faces Lux, a former assistant attorney general and a candidate in 1996. Given the Republican nature of this district, we give Eberhart a slight edge, but this could easily change. **Status:** *LEANS EBERHART*

House District 62: Republican: Donald Patton. Democrat: State Rep. Jerry Denbo. **2002 Results:** Denbo 10,009, Patton (R) 6,339. **2004 Forecast:** Patton won his primary by a comfortable margin. Republicans believe they can knock off Denbo, even after he helped land the French Lick casino. But in this environment, it's his race to lose. Watch for Major Moves and the I-69 issue to play into this race. **Status:** *LEANS DENBO.*

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:** The Daniels administration will be gunning

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for Crooks. They want to turn Major Moves back on Crooks. one of the most vociferous critics of the administration. They will help Arnold, key economic development official, make the case that I-69 will be the best thing to ever happen to this county. The time issue could also cut either way, with counties now thinking about opting for Eastern time. The general environment favors Crooks, but **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:** This will be one of the most fascinating races of the fall sequence. Democrats are already writing Woodruff's obit after his crucial vote on behalf of DST. Knox County is now roiled in whether to shift to Eastern time, and that confusion could continue to cost Woodruff, who for most of 2005 seemed to be apologizing for his vote. It will be tough to overcome his vow to vote against DST. Democrats remember the health care for life issue that Woodruff used to knock off Rep. Frenz and note that Woodruff subsequently signed up for the program. Then his wife went on the INDOT payroll, another issue that put the freshman Republican on an embarrassing defensive. The ISTA will certainly put many resources behind Battles, a Lincoln HS teacher. Republicans will try to make Major Moves an issue, though the new terrain I-69 route is also controversial in this U.S. 41 community. Woodruff is in big trouble and this is one of the lowest hanging fruit on the Democratic Christmas tree. **Status: LIKELY BATTLES**

House District 77: Republican: Andrew G. Smith. Democrat: State Rep. Phil Hoy. **2004 Results:** Hoy (D) 11,308, Hennig (R) 9,804, Garrett (I) 1,285. **2006 Forecast:** Smith will attempt to make this a toll road race, arguing that Hoy turned his back on Southwestern Indiana, particularly after Mayor Weinzapfel called for Major Moves passage. Smith hasn't been afraid to use his sense of humor. **Status: LEANS HOY**

House District 74: Republican: Joe Theobald. Democrat: Steven Stemler. **2002 Results:** Bottorff (D) 9,385, Singleton (R) 5,388. **2004 Results:** Bottorff (D) 17,949. **2006 Forecast:** Stemler upset State Rep. Carlene Bottorff, which could take Major Moves off the front burner. She had been a vocal critic of Major Moves, and then lost. Now Gov. Daniels will be touting the two Ohio River bridges now on the fast track. **Status: LEANS STEMLER**

House District 78: Republican: State Rep. Suzanne Crouch. Democrat: Open. **2004 General Results:** Becker (R) 28,261. **2005 Primary Results:** Becker 3,429, Jonathan A.(Jon) Fulton 1,708. **2006 Forecast:** Crouch survived a

tough primary challenge and doesn't have an opponent thus far for the fall. **Status: SAFE CROUCH.**

House District 80: Republican: Kevin Howell. Democrat: Phil GiaQuinta. **2004 Results:** Ben GiaQuinta (D) 9,767, Howell (R) 5,397. **2006 Forecast:** Phil GiaQuinta is in a great position to win the seat represented by his father. Rep. for more than a decade. Howell has been an unsuccessful challenger before. **Status: LIKELY PHIL GIAQUINTA** *

House District 86: Republican: Kathryn Densborn. Democrat: State Rep. David Orentlicher. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. **2004 Results:** Orentlicher 15,178, Large (R) 13,261, Goldstein (L) 585. **2006 Forecast:** Densborn is an attractive candidate and will work hard. But Orentlicher will be hard to upset in this Democratic-leaning environment. **Status: LEANS ORENTLICHER.**

House District 88: Republican: House Speaker Brian Bosma. Democrat: Susan Fuldauer. **2004 Results:** Bosma 23,289, Gordon (L) 2,132. **2006 Forecast:** Fuldauer has raised more than \$50,000 and will attempt to wage an energetic campaign against the Speaker. **Status: SAFE BOSMA.**

House District 89: Republican: State Rep. Larry Buell. Democrat: John F. Barnes. **2004 Results:** Buell 15,301. **2006 Forecast:** Buell easily survived a primary challenge and dodged a bullet when Councilwoman Mary Moriarty Adams decided not to enter the race. But this is a demographically changing district and a Democratic wave could dislodge him. The party is expected to put resources into the Barnes campaign. **Status: TOSSUP.**

House District 92: Republican: State Rep. Phil Hinkle. Democrat: Robin Olds. **2002 Results:** Hinkle (R) 10,915, Kirkpatrick (L) 888. **2004 Results:** Hinkle (R) 16,118, Swinford (D) 9,488. **2006 Forecast:** Watch the organization of Mayor Peterson getting behind the Olds candidacy, in an attempt to remove an Indy Works obstacle. The district, which includes part of Pike Township, is trending Democratic and this is the kind of year that could wash Hinkle out. **Status: LEANS HINKLE** *



Daniels aware of possible labor shortage

CROWN POINT - Gov. Mitch Daniels said he is aware of the potential labor shortage but he said the stability of \$3.8 billion from the lease will be an incentive for companies to buy equipment and hire new employees (Walsh, *Post-Tribune*). "I didn't go through all of this so people from other states could get these jobs," Daniels said. The governor met earlier in the week in Indianapolis with Sen. Earline Rogers, D-Gary, and Gary Mayor Rudy Clay. Daniels said they were told Department of Workforce Development Director Rod Stiver has initiated new programs to train construction workers, with an emphasis on training minorities. Operating Engineers filled several rows of the Assembly of God church. The highway construction union came out early for the Daniels' plan to lease the toll road. David Fagan, financial secretary for Local 150, said the union could absorb the work. Roughly 200 of the 3,500 members of District 7, serving Northwest Indiana, are still available.



Honda meets with Decatur County officials

GREENSBURG - Officials in Decatur County met with attorneys for Honda Motor Corp. yesterday but said there have been no discussions yet about local incentives as part of an effort to lure the company to the area (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Decatur County Commissioner Jerome Beuning said no Honda executives were at any of the three meetings held at the offices of the Economic Development Corporation of Greensburg/Decatur

County. He said the attorneys provided no new information about the prospects of the company locating an assembly plant there. "I think they are going to wait to talk about incentives until they've made a decision as to their site," Beuning said. "But as far as I'm concerned, Decatur County will work very hard to do what we can to help Honda come here."

Mayor Richard opposes BMV branch move

FORT WAYNE - Mayor Graham Richard expressed his displeasure Wednesday at the state's "unilateral" decision to move the Southgate license branch to Waynedale (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Richard sent a letter to State Sen. Tom Wyss, R-Fort Wayne, dated May 15 that outlined Richard's efforts to work with Joel Silverman, Bureau of Motor Vehicles commissioner, to find a good location for a new license branch. Richard wrote that he met with Silverman in September and offered several ways to improve BMV service. "I am disappointed that no follow-up took place, nor were locations like the newly revitalized Southtown Centre seriously considered," Richard wrote in the letter that was released Wednesday.

Health of Hoosiers declines in past year

INDIANAPOLIS - Long considered among the nation's most unfit citizens, Indiana residents are apparently losing ground in the battle against obesity, smoking and other unhealthy behavior, according to a new survey (Associated Press). The telephone survey of more than 5,600 Hoosiers found that the percentage of Indiana's 6.2 million residents considered obese grew from 25.5 percent in 2004 to 27.2 percent last year. A similar trend was seen in smoking rates, which rose from 24.8 percent in 2004 to 27.3 percent last

year, putting Indiana second in the nation, behind Kentucky, in the percentage of current smokers. That's up from its seventh-place ranking in 2004.

New ad blast Sodrel, Hostettler over SS

WASHINGTON - Creating private accounts out of Social Security, dead now for a year in Washington, D.C., is back on the airwaves in a new commercial airing in Southern Indiana (Lee, *Evansville Courier & Press*). A committee working to elect Democrats to the House of Representatives spent \$40,000 for radio ads in Indiana criticizing Republican Representatives Mike Sodrel and John Hostettler for supporting President Bush's plan last year to "privatize Social Security." The ads started Wednesday and will run for a week on WKDQ, -99.5FM in Evansville, WAMW-107.9FM in Washington, Ind., and on a Terre Haute, Ind., station. The ad reminds listeners the proposal would add to the debt, because current workers pay for current recipients, and those recipients would still have to be covered with less money coming in. "President Bush wants to borrow \$2 trillion dollars - driving up our debt even further to privatize Social Security," the announcer says.

Another official arrested at Claypool Court

INDIANAPOLIS - A Vanderburgh County township assessor was arrested on misdemeanor charges of public indecency and indecent exposure by an undercover officer inside a public restroom, police said. John Gerard, who is the elected Center Township assessor, was arrested around 5 p.m. Tuesday after police responded to complaints of indecent acts in a public restroom in Claypool Court, a retail and hotel center near the Circle Centre mall, Sgt. Matthew Mount said (*Evansville Courier & Press*).