



Miller: no plans to run 'at this time'

Advocate won't issue Gen. Sherman statement; sees voter retribution if no property tax repeal vote

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - **HOWEY POLITICS**

INDIANA conducted this phone interview with Advance America's Eric Miller this morning in which Gov. Mitch Daniels' 2004 Republican primary opponent refused to rule out a similar challenge if his property tax repeal plan doesn't get a floor vote in the Indiana House and Senate. Here's the HPI Interview:

HPI: Your name keeps coming up in the context of the 2008 Republican primary, particularly in the wake of the recent Indianapolis Star/WTHR poll that showed Gov. Daniels trailing the two Democrats. Are you considering a run for governor in 2008?

Miller: As I travel the state, we've held 12 property tax repeal rallies around the state. Thousands of people have come and people are really concerned. They're upset, they're scared about the property tax crisis. They are look-



Advance America's Eric Miller (left) during an April 2004 debate with Mitch Daniels. Miller refused to rule out a similar challenge in 2008

ing for hope and they are looking for answers and that's what we're giving them through our efforts to permanently repeal property taxes through a constitutional amendment. At the same time, many citizens are encouraging me to run for governor again. I've told them it is not my intention at this time to run for governor.

HPI: Are you willing to give the Gen. Sherman

See Page 3

Unconventional wisdom

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – I found myself sitting in a Yekaterinburg restaurant in one of the most extraordinary conversations of my political journalism career that now spans 22 years. I had a front row seat to a potential presidential candidate pondering the potential. The conversation was with former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, the Georgia Democrat who now heads the Nuclear Threat Initiative. Only, Nunn wasn't prospecting a jump into the crowded Democratic field of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and the rest of the gang. He had been in contact with Doug Baily and Hamilton



“Indiana is a better place because of Daniels, and it's rare that I find a Republican worthy of such praise.”

- **Rich James, columnist for the Post-Tribune**



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Jordan's Unity 2008 campaign. They are conspiring to run a third party candidate, laying the groundwork for qualifying such a person on all 50 state ballots and hosting a virtual Internet convention in late spring 2008. Nunn is one of several potential candidates, with the most conspicuous these days being New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"I'm going to look very carefully at what both parties are doing," Nunn told me during a flight the next day. "I'm hoping that we'll have some meaningful debate. It doesn't have to be agreement. But it has to be meaningful debate and discussion on the key issues facing America. I'm not sure a third party is the answer, but there are Democrats and Republicans who share that frustration and they really want to see the country pull together; they want to seriously consider some alternative in 2008. That's why I was willing to talk to the Unity 2008 people and ask for the perspective they have."

The nature of what Nunn said during this dinner conversation is confidential. But I can tell you what I told him: 2008 could thoroughly turn conventional wisdom on its ear. The rise of the Internet and its organizational ability to mobilize masses of people and raise money, the pin-point demographic targeting by cable television, the innovations in direct mail all have the ability to pinpoint messages, and the early madness of the two established parties with the potential for chaos in the primary caucus lend new upsidesto a third party candidacy.

There is some evidence that this perspective is valid.

Like the surge of Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor who's spent about \$300,000 in Iowa (compared to Mitt Romney's \$7 million) and is now in a position to win. A Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg Poll shows that Huckabee is not just a Hawkeye State story. Huckabee now trails Rudy Giuliani in the national poll, 23-17 percent. The Internet move-

ment isn't happening so much in the blog-inspired Democratic circles, but among the allegedly disenfranchised religious right who up until this past month were the orphaned constituency. They are now beginning to settle on Mike Huckabee, who now is capturing 28 percent of the self-described religious voters.

Think back six months ago, or even two months ago and you could not find a talking head forecasting a Huckabee surge, let alone any primary or caucus victories.

The idea that unconventional campaigns can catch on could dominate 2008. Barack Obama is poised to become the 21st Century version



Sam Nunn (left) and HPI's Brian Howey (right)

of JFK's New Frontier. Or as David Broder noted in a recent column, he has picked up Sidney Pointier's social mantle (yes, invite him to dinner), upending the New York Times' induced Hillary Clinton inevitability.

Such outside-the-box thinking could settle in Indiana. My political friends think I'm nuts, but if either Mike Sodrel or U.S. Rep. Baron Hill (both with upwards of 90 percent name ID) would swear off any negative advertising, the positive man would win. Or Gov. Mitch Daniels running as the anti-incumbent in a time when people want to throw out the conventional bums. His first term has been the antithesis to politics as usual. Yes, 2008 will likely be the domain of bold innovation. ❖



treatment that "I will not run; I will not serve?"

Miller: What I've tried to share with people is that I will do everything I can to help them protect their home, their family, their farm, their business, their future and work to repeal property taxes. With regards to the governor's race, that it is not my intention to run at this time.

HPI: What have you learned during your 12 hearings around the state?

Miller: What I've learned from listening to thousands of people as they talk about their fear for the future for their family, their jobs, is they want the right to own their own home. The only way to do that is to permanently repeal property taxes. The people understand that they are only renting from the government. The poll we recently released pointed out very clearly that 90 percent understand that if they can't pay their property taxes the government will take their home and sell it. The American dream of owning a home for many, many Hoosiers has become a nightmare. In Indiana with this property tax system, a man's home is not his castle. It's his apartment. Because if you don't pay your apartment rent, they will evict you. And if you don't pay your property taxes, the government will evict you as well. The people are telling me they want the right to own their own home. Secondly, they are saying they want the right to vote to repeal property taxes. They understand that legislators are trying very hard to solve the property tax problem for decades and they haven't been able to do it. The public wants the right to vote on this. The other thing is they want the right to not have history repeat itself. The other plans all talk about raising one tax to reduce another in exchange for only temporarily reducing property taxes. The public is not buying that. They don't want that. They want property taxes permanently gone. The other thing is they want state and local government spending controlled. My plan is the only one that calls for that. The other thing that I'm hearing is the public is tired of politics as usual. They don't want legislative leaders in the House and Senate to use political maneuvering and backroom deals to keep the repeal of property taxes off the floor of the House and Senate. They want a fair and whole and open debate on the constitutional amendment to repeal property taxes and they want a vote on the floor of the House and Senate so they can see where their legislators stand. The other thing

in our poll is 76 percent of the people said they would be less likely to vote to re-elect a legislator who was against the constitutional amendment to repeal property taxes to help block that vote that blocks their right to vote to repeal property taxes. The public wants the opportunity to finally be able to vote to repeal property taxes and they won't look very favorably on legislators who do not give them that right.

HPI: Do you believe if there is no vote this session on the repeal constitutional amendment, there will be severe political repercussions in May and November?

Miller: I think we have to look at some of the things that happened on Nov. 6. For example, mayor-elect Greg Ballard's election came because of his support for the elimination of property taxes. Down in Franklin, an independent candidate defeated an incumbent Republican and one of the issues for him was the elimination of property taxes. And based upon what I'm hearing around the state and based upon our poll results, the public is saying "don't use politics as usual. Don't use political maneuvering. Don't use backroom deals." Whether it's Republicans or Democrats, they want the right to vote to repeal property taxes and if that doesn't receive a fair, full and open debate on the floor of the House and Senate, where I believe it will pass overwhelmingly, I think yes, the public will not look favorably upon legislators who blocked their right to vote to repeal property taxes.



HPI: Ballard appears to have backtracked on the repeal question, saying he supports the governor's plan. Have you talked with him since then?

Miller: I've not spoken with him, but based on what I've seen, I believe mayor-elect Greg Ballard still supports the elimination of property taxes.

HPI: I heard both Republican and Democratic legislators at the Chamber luncheon a couple of weeks ago - with the exception of Sen. Young - say it would be fiscally impossible to repeal property taxes. How would you respond to the statements by Rep. Grubb and Bosma and Senate President Long?

Miller: Those legislators who do not believe we can repeal property taxes have not read our plan, because our plan calls for controls on state and local government spending. Our plan calls for a constitutional amendment which the people would be able to vote on in 2010 and by controlling state and local spending now, then by the time voters vote in 2010 to repeal property taxes the legislature can come in 2011 and enact a 1 percent income tax



increase and a 2 percent sales tax increase and will save \$100 million. It may be as high as \$200 million. The plan will work. Bill Styring says the plan will work. Those legislators that have said yes, we support controlling state and local government spending, we don't want history to repeat itself and we will vote to repeal property taxes, no it can be done and the scare tactics that legislators are using talking about a 13 percent sales tax increase and a 9 percent income tax increase are being disingenuous with the figures because those figures are dealing with replacing property taxes in 2007.

HPI: How would a property tax repeal impact business in this state?

Miller: I think the biggest thing that could happen to the economy in Indiana is to permanently repeal property taxes. Now government gives property tax abatements for 10 years to get a business to come here. I believe we would have tremendous economic development in Indiana as we sold Indiana to the nation and businesses around the world. We could say, "Come to Indiana. We don't have property taxes." We would see a housing boom in the state of Indiana. The real estate market would explode in Indiana because there are no property taxes. Property values would go up because there are no property taxes. By the time we get to 2012, many of our neighbors, their sales tax is already higher than the state of Indiana and they will be even higher. An 8 percent sales tax increase will be below all of our neighbors. By boosting our economy we will be bringing in more sales and income taxes. Under our plan, we can look to start lowering property taxes in Indiana.

HPI: Have you weighed in with the Kernan-Shepard Commission?

Miller: I have communicated with them. We believe our plan will help streamline local government.

HPI: How so? Would township government exist under your plan?

Miller: Under our plan, by not having property taxes in 2012, you wouldn't have anyone doing assessing in the state of Indiana which means you could look at the township and county officials currently doing that and say how could we consolidate some of the duties they are presently doing because they wouldn't be taking place once property taxes are completely repealed.

HPI: Gov. Daniels believes your plan is not feasible. What do you believe will be the political repercussions

for him?

Miller: I would hope that Gov. Daniels would take another look at our plan and decide it's in the best interest of all Hoosiers to permanently repeal property taxes and we would be grateful for his support.

HPI: Have you had any discussions with Democrats Jim Schellinger and Jill Long Thompson on this topic?

Miller: I have not, but I would be more than happy to speak with him or any candidate in the Democratic Party to repeal property taxes.

HPI: Are we likely to see any rallies at the Statehouse this winter?

Miller: Stay tuned. We are looking at planning another major rally at the Statehouse this coming session.

HPI: What other means and methods are you looking at to try and change the political and public policy dynamic?

Miller: We've been contacted by individuals from around the state to come to their part of the state with regard to a rally. We will be speaking around the state during the time the General Assembly is in session. We'll be sending out hundreds of thousands of pieces of mail on the repeal of property taxes. We'll continue to send out thousands and thousands of e-mails as well. We'll continue to do things through the media to let people know that there is another plan and that all the other plans that have been proposed for the property tax situation do not give people the right to own their homes or



Hundreds of supporters of State Rep. Jackie Walorski marched in an Elkhart parade this summer seeking to repeal property taxes.

business. They don't give the people the right to vote on property taxes. They continue to repeat history by raising taxes or creating a new tax that will only temporarily lower property taxes. And we will be challenging people around the state asking them to contact their legislators for fair, full and open debate on the repeal of property taxes on the floor of the House and Senate.

HPI: If such a vote came up in the House and Senate, would you have 51 and 26 votes?

Miller: I believe if there is a vote on the floor of the House and Senate, as there was in 2006 in the House of Representatives that passed 98-0 on a two-year repeal, I believe we would pass a constitutional amendment overwhelmingly in the House and Senate. I believe legislative leaders in the House and Senate realize that and that's why I believe some of them will do whatever they can to stop the fair floor debate in the House and Senate because they know it will pass overwhelmingly. ❖



A second LSA report creates taxing Statehouse anxiety

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The sharks are circling Gov. Mitch Daniels' property tax plan.

Advance America's Eric Miller says it won't prevent future property tax increases. Republican Mishawaka Mayor Jeff Rea says the caps will "drastically impede" cities to provide basic services. Legislative Democrats say the plan will hurt the poor. State Rep. Charlie Brown says he plans to play "hardball." The ISTA says it's the capital funds that are responsible for skyrocketing tax bills, not school operating funds. Township assessors and Senate GOP conservatives are against eliminating the township positions.

All of that is predictable and is part of the process. But on Tuesday, Sen. Luke Kenley spoke and what he said might change the dynamic on the part of the plan that is near and dear to the Governor's heart: the 1-2-3 caps.

"If we're going to have a percentage cap on homeowners, what is a fair number?" Kenley asked. "Is it 1 percent or what other number is it?"

If there was a bombshell during the more than a dozen hours of House and Senate hearings on the property tax reforms earlier this week, it was a revised Legislative Services Agency report that increased the reduction of funds to local governments from \$100 million in 2010 to \$380 million. Muncie would lose \$9 million, St. Joseph County 10 percent, Lake County 27 percent. Areas with industrial bases in atrophy would be hit the hardest.

Kenley was surprised by the revision. It was the second time in less than a year that an LSA report was poised to change the tax reform dynamic. Last April, a week before sine die, an LSA report predicted average property tax increases of 24 percent. It was enough to derail the tax reform package that Kenley unveiled in March. Without Gov. Daniels manning the bully pulpit to help push the plan through, it led to perhaps one of the goofiest pieces of public policy to hit the Statehouse since the legislature tried to redefine pi more than a century ago - the tax rebates.

Not only are Hoosiers stuck with the nutty rebates that squander a one-time \$300 million casino fund windfall, the Chicken Little scenario of late April paved the way for the property tax "crisis" that hit in June and has

put Daniels and the legislature on their heels ever since.

Some believe it is the "crisis" that provides the necessary stick (as opposed to the carrot) that breaks the inertia in the legislature. But the price to Gov. Daniels (now trailing in the polls) and legislative incumbents (former Rep. Bob Kuzman believes there could be as many as 35 new House members after the November 2008 elections) could be a historic political price to pay.

Local elected officials are getting increasingly squeamish. St. Joseph County Commissioner Steve Ross said of the caps and impact on local government, "It's just more of an indication that they don't know what they're doing. If the figures are correct, how do we do business? What does the public want us to cut? Police and fire? The parks?"



A second LSA report has taken State Sen. Luke Kenley by surprise - this one on the impact of caps on local governments. (Howey Politics Indiana photo by Brian A. Howey)

Ross, a Democrat and severe critic of the Daniels administration on issues ranging from the Indiana Toll Road lease to Daylight Saving Time, told the **South Bend Tribune** the state already mandates most justice system costs, which make up about 76 percent of the county budget. "This kind of irresponsible behavior will lead to a lack of services to the citizens," Ross complained. Ross called on state officials to "show good faith and not just make us responsible for the tax mess they've created." "I'm not sure we're the unchecked government monster that some folks think government is," said Mayor Rea (**Louisville Courier-Journal**).

Indianapolis Public Schools Superintendent Eugene White, already possessing a "mulligan" from Gov. Daniels after harshly criticizing him in 2005, told lawmakers that the caps will cost his district

millions of dollars in revenue. He said districts in poor urban areas will be disproportionately harmed. "These circuit breakers are going to widen the gap in Indiana between the haves and the have-nots," White said.

If there is good news for Gov. Daniels in all of this - aside from all the "attaboys" he says he finds on his November bully pulpit tour - it came from Purdue University Prof. Larry DeBoer, who said of the proposed 1 percent sales tax increase that would offset the property tax reductions, it would not likely crimp consumers. "It's hard to see where the impact would be very large," he told Inside Edge. ❖



2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels, La Ron Keith. Democrat: Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Results:** Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644. **2008 Forecast:** We are struck by the fact that the Statehouse is now consumed in the many particulars on the property tax crisis, 38 percent of the incumbent mayors went down to defeat in the past month - many on that issue - and yet we have heard virtually nothing on the subject from Schellinger and Thompson. They've both issued some rather vague generalities on the subject. But there's been nothing concrete. It's as if they are living in a parallel universe. The two have shown great reluctance to provide any specifics as to how they would solve the problem. In contrast, when Democrat John Barnes announced his HD89 campaign on Wednesday, he talked extensively on the topic of property tax solutions.



The two campaigns have sparred via e-mails to supporters that have been picked up in the blogosphere. Thompson said, "Jill can explain to Hoosiers how she'll fix the crisis and she can do it credibly. That contrasts with her primary opponent whose architectural firm regularly lobbies for property tax increases." Schellinger's campaign responded: "Jill Long Thompson should know better than most, architects don't raise taxes. Local school boards make a decision to build. It's certainly disappointing Jill Long Thompson's campaign has willfully attacked a fellow Democrat."

Schellinger and Thompson have been busy "listening," raising money and fighting for union support. They both have leads (within the margin of error) in the recent Indianapolis Star/WTHR poll. That is a reflection of an angry, sullen public looking for someone to lash out at (see Columnists, Page 12).

The problem with Indiana Democrats is that other than the ridiculous property tax rebate scheme, they have been mostly void of original thought. Most campaigns begin with vivid ideas. Schellinger has been acting like a candidate for nine months now, and we have precious little

to go on as to where he'd take this state. There has been no alternative "Roadmap," the vivid vision that Gov. Daniels unveiled in 2004 and has pretty much adhered to.

So the persistent speculation in Democratic circles (among operatives, legislators, former legislators, activists) is that another candidate needs to emerge. We've heard this over and over these past several weeks, particularly in the wake of Mayor Peterson's defeat.

Who would be the alternatives? I ask. John Gregg? Nah, he passed on the golden opportunity six months ago. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel? Not now; probably in 2012. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard, the man who has run state-of-the-art campaigns? He's transfixed in helping Evan Bayh get to the Old Executive Office Building.

Democrats, meanwhile, were on the attack, questioning a contract Daniels campaign communications director Cam Savage had last May with the governor's office prior to joining the campaign. "Something doesn't look right here," Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker said of the relationship. "When he ran for office, Mitch Daniels promised taxpayers that he would use their money efficiently and ethically. Here we have a situation that appears to satisfy neither promise." Parker, in a hand-delivered, written request, asked Inspector General Dave Thomas to look into any overlap between Savage's publicly funded

work in the Governor's Office and his campaign-related duties. "This goes straight to the top, and it's unfortunately the kind of thing we've come to expect from this administration," Parker said. Jane Jankowski, Daniels' press secretary in the governor's office, said Savage worked for the governor from May 1 to May 22, and was paid \$3,888.89 for 16 days of work. She declined to comment on the ethics complaint.

Savage denied any wrongdoing, telling the Indianapolis Star, "I did a lot of stuff. I was at a lot of meetings. I worked on correspondence and communications-type stuff. I was working. I don't know how else to put it." The contract called for Savage to be paid \$5,833 per month from May 1 through Oct. 31 -- about \$35,000. Savage said he took the job not knowing he would soon have the

opportunity to work on the governor's campaign. "I didn't know I'd be offered the campaign job, and I jumped at the chance to take it," he said.

CQPolitics reported that West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III, the incoming chairman of the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) that Democratic prospects to win GOP-held governorships looked strongest in Missouri, where Gov. Matt Blunt faces a stiff challenge from state Attorney General Jay Nixon, and in Indiana. **Democratic Primary Status:** TOSSUP. **General Status:** TOSSUP ❖



Jill Long Thompson, who picked up an endorsement from the Steelworkers this week, took the first shot at Jim Schellinger. (HPI Photo)



2008 Indiana Congressional

Congressional District 7: Republican:

Wayne Harmon, State Rep. Jon Elrod. Democrat: Indianapolis Councilman Andre Carson, Marion County Treasurer Michael Rodman. **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. **2008 Forecast:** The Andre Carson campaign appears to have begun. Drive down College Avenue or other streets deep in the heart of the 7th CD and you see scores of "I (heart) Julia" yard signs. On the GOP side, there is new speculation that Marion County Prosecutor Carl Bizzi, State Sen. Theresa Lubbers and Christamore House director Olgen Williams are taking a look at this seat. **Status:** TOSSUP



2008 Indiana Legislative

House District 15: Republican: State Rep.

Don Lehe. Democrat: Myron Sutton. **2002 Results:** Lehe 9,975, Baranowski (D) 5,641. **2006 Results:** Lehe 8,750, Sutton 8,723. **2008 Forecast:** Lehe told the Times of Northwest Indiana that "I don't agree with getting rid of assessors. I don't think assessing can be done cheaper another way." Lehe also praised Lowell librarians, who have mounted an e-mail campaign against library district consolidation. "My office is swamped with e-mails," he said. "Whatever you're doing is working." **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 36: Republican: Francie

Metzger. Democrat: State Rep. Terri Austin. **2002 Results:** Augstin 8,640, Kincaid (R) 7,918. **2004 Results:** Austin 14,170, Carrell (R) 8,669. **2006 Results:** Austin (D) 10,491, Metzger (R) 6,049. **2008 Forecast:** An 8th Street billboard attacking state Rep. Terri Austin for voting against a gay marriage ban came down Friday after the campaign for U.S. Rep. Mike Pence bought the space (**Anderson Herald-Bulletin**). Pence Chief of Staff Bill Smith said that the campaign bought the billboard - which was affixed to a building on West 8th Street - on Friday, fearing that they would lose a valuable advertisement space. The American Family Association, a conservative family values PAC, put up the billboard Nov. 19, which reads, "Who voted against protecting marriage? Terri Austin." Micah Clark, head of the

Indiana AFA, says that the sign could reappear as soon as today in a different location in Austin's district. It appears to be a sign that Austin will face another well-funded challenge in 2008 after a similar gutter wallowing campaign in 2006. **Status:** LEANS D.

House District 89: Republican: Holly Davis.

Democrat: John F. Barnes. **2004 Results:** Buell 15,391. **2006 Results:** Buell 7,809, Barnes 7,297. **2008 Forecast:** John Barnes announced his candidacy Wednesday at The Bona Thompson Memorial in Historic Irvington. The 2006 race between Barnes and Rep. Buell was the closest race for the district in years. "In the 2006 campaign, we talked about property taxes," Barnes said. "We told the truth. We said that past handling of the property tax issue



BARNES

looked like a 'carnival shell game' where the burden was constantly shifted between residential property owners and businesses. We said that Republican tinkering with the Property Tax Relief Fund to create a state surplus would backfire because property taxes for homeowners would eventually go through the roof. Ladies and gentlemen, we told the truth - and we were right! If we speak the truth, we must admit that too much of the work of the General Assembly in the last few years was not about taking care of the people's business,

but about addressing extraneous political agendas." **Status:** Leans D.

House District 97: Republican: Open.

Democrat: Indianapolis Councilman Dane Mahern, Mary Ann Sullivan. **2006 Results:** Elrod 4,454, State Rep. Ed Mahern, 4,446. **2008 Forecast:** Education advocate Mary Ann Sullivan, a Democrat, has filed to run next year in Indiana House of Representatives District 97. "I want to work hard for this district and begin conversations that will not stop once the votes have been counted," Sullivan said. "I will be a true representative of this district. I will work hard to find the solutions my constituents support, and I will be a tireless advocate for those ideas at the Statehouse." Sullivan plans to focus on the issues that matter most to the families in District 97: finding a sensible solution to the property tax crisis, expanding and improving educational opportunities, promoting greater fiscal responsibility and increasing economic opportunities throughout her district, which includes much of the thriving Downtown business community. **Status:** LEANS D. ❖



Rudy's chair: Fiscal & security credentials will rally voters

By MARK CURRY

WASHINGTON -One of the original architects of Rudy Giuliani's bid for the Republican presidential nomination is in Indianapolis today for a private fundraiser expected to draw 200 people hosted at the home of Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi.

Pat Oxford's official title is campaign chairman, but the Texas lawyer, a veteran of numerous political campaigns, is well known for his ability to link candidate to cash. He's the type of fellow that simply gets the job done. When he telephoned HPI yesterday afternoon and offered to chat, we naturally listened. He's the managing partner of Bracewell Giuliani LLP, an international law firm that focuses on energy, banking and financial institutions, among others, that Rudy joined two years ago. A 1967 graduate of the law school at the University of Texas, Oxford is well known for his deep political connections and was a "Pioneer" contributor to the Bush campaign.

Last summer, Oxford told Susan Beck of **The American Lawyer** that he became fast friends with Bush strategist Karl Rove. "I love Rove, I honestly do," he said. Beck notes that Oxford linked up with Bush in the 1970s and worked on every one of the president's subsequent campaigns, including the 2000 affair. That's when the Texas lawyer found himself as head of the Bush organization in Florida's Broward County chad-central during the electoral standoff that was ultimately decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Beck's article cites one lawyer who "credits Oxford with the idea of bringing famous Republicans, like former senator Robert Dole, into the vote-counting room as 'celebrity observers.'"

"**I ran Broward County,**" Oxford told **The American Lawyer**. "Some people would say the recount came down to what happened in Broward. It was quite a thrilling experience."

Oxford speaks with a drawl that closely resembles the president's, but in a deeper voice tinged by cigars and religion. He possesses a Texas wit that is sure to win respect if not converts. Clearly the man is passionate for his

candidate. HPI began the interview by asking why he chose to be in Indianapolis at a critical time in the campaign.

"I was in this part of the woods," he told HPI. "Of course, former Mayor Goldsmith is very active in the campaign. He may have had something to do with it." Goldsmith is often described as a senior advisor to Giuliani. Oxford said Hoosier support in the general election would be "critical." "They were faithful on the Bushes and we expect it to be the same with Rudy," he said.

HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA noted that Indiana hasn't been all that loyal to the president of late, with W. polling at 28 percent.

"Well, you know, there's a dynamic going on that people really need to understand," he said. "I think anybody running for president this time, from either party, one of their primary tasks will be to start the process for restoring confidence in government.... Because our view is, it's not the president necessarily, it's not the Republican congress that's been thrown out, nor the Democratic congress, we're just kind of worn out on the government right now."

New York's former mayor, who has been slipping in the national polls, currently ranks third in Iowa and a distant second in New Hampshire. South

Carolina is close, though he polls very well in other early states, including Michigan, Nevada and Florida. During a recent speech in Baltimore, news analyst and political commentator Cokie Roberts laid out what she and others see as the hurdles Rudy must overcome if he is to win the nomination. As Susan Ingram of the **Community Times** reported, "Roberts said Rudy Giuliani's popularity is 'all about 9-11,' but that Republicans ultimately won't vote for him because of his more liberal stands on abortion, immigration, gay marriage and gun control."

"I love Cokie but that's total baloney," Oxford told **HPI**. "What we see in the numbers is they know he is the fiscal conservative. We're not running away from 9-11. He rallied a nation about 9-11, that's not to be sneezed at.... This is the first time I mentioned it maybe in three weeks, because you asked me about it." On other issues, Oxford believes Rudy shares common ground with most Republicans.

"Using the old Reagan quote, if you're my 80 percent friend you're not my 20 percent enemy," Oxford said, one of five times he mentioned the Gipper during our 11-minute conversation. "[Most Republicans] realize on most of the things that the mayor is five-by-five with what they want and need."

Oxford said that's particularly true "on guns and gays." Rudy Giuliani "is a strict constructionist on the Constitution.... He's done nothing on gun control except take

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OXFORD

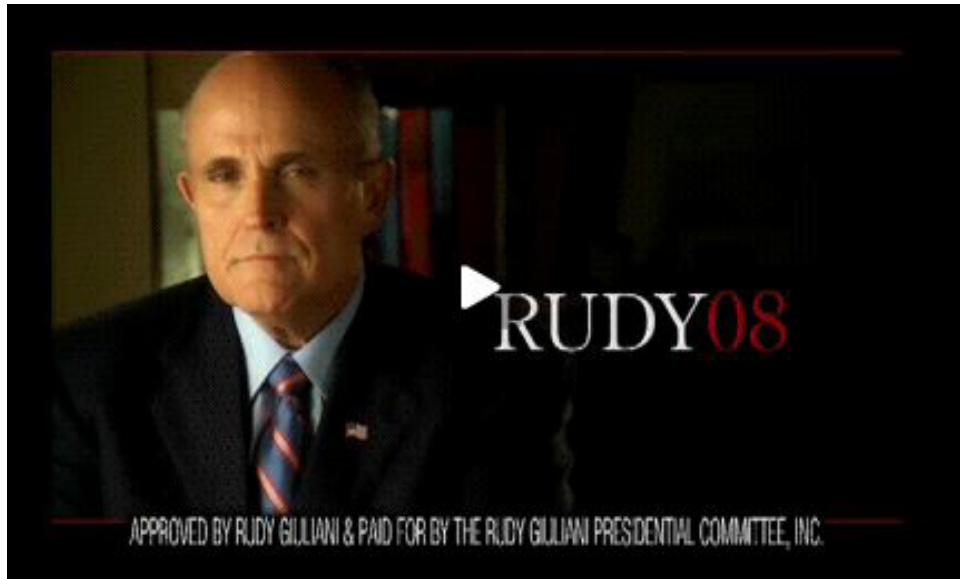


em away from criminals in New York and thereby reduced the crime rate 70 percent. So most people when they see where he is on guns they accept it.

"Likewise with gays," he continued. "Rudy is 100 percent for a man and a woman being the only people who can be married.... Like other candidates, if people want to contract to do whatever they want to do, that's fine, but it's not marriage."

According to news accounts, before helping the candidate form a campaign team, Oxford, who opposes abortion, sought assurances on the issue from Rudy, who is pro-choice. "Rudy wants to reduce abortion and do it by any number of ways, including make it easier to adopt," Oxford told HPI. "A lot of Republicans, a lot of Christian conservatives, don't agree with him but they respect him for being direct as always, and they love what he's doing on 90 percent of the other. So, that's how they see it."

As noted in yesterday's **HPI DAILY WIRE**, one group of Christian conservatives in Iowa doesn't exactly see it that way. According to a report by MSNBC, the president of the Iowa Christian Alliance, Steve Scheffler, said Rudy's election would result in a bloodbath within the Republican



Party. Oxford dismissed the report.

"Know what season this is? Hear jingle bells outside, don't be surprised," Oxford told HPI. "You hear this kind of talk, don't be surprised either. That's just political baloney. People are smarter than that.... If there were going to be a bloodbath in the Republican Party, Rudy wouldn't be drawing 30 percent of the voters. His candidate [Mitt Romney] can't get past 10 percent. I'm sure he's a fine fellow, I don't know him, but I'm afraid he's getting a little panicky. That's panic talk." ❖

2008 State Presidential Polls

Iowa (R)	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
Zogby	Nov. 29-Dec.1	26	12	8	5	25
Des Moines Register	Nov. 25-28	24	13	9	7	29
ARG	Nov. 26-29	28	9	14	9	27
New Hampshire (R)						
Zogby	Dec. 1-3	35	15	3	17	10
ABC/WPost	Nov. 29-Dec 1	37	16	4	20	9
Iowa (D)	Date	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Richardson	Biden
Zogby	Nov. 29-Dec.1	27	21	24	8	5
Des Moines Reg.	Nov. 25-28	25	23	28	9	6
ARG	Nov. 26-29	25	23	27	4	8
N. Hampshire (D)						
Zogby	Dec. 1-3	32	16	21	6	
Rasmussen	Nov. 29	33	15	26	9	
Fox News	Nov. 27-29	30	15	23	12	



Help us compile 2008 50 Most Influential List

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

There's no question about it, we went out on some limbs when the **2007 HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL LIST**.

Some of them, like our "premature adulation" for Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters, who lost in the Fort Wayne mayoral primary, were busts. It happens every year. But others like Long Beach native Chief Justice John Roberts, who has ushered profound changes to the U.S. Supreme Court, and UAW Presidents Ron Gettelfinger and Mo Davidson, who helped rework auto contracts and land the Getrag plant deal at Tipton, were right on the money.

Obviously there were profound changes in the November elections and people like Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson, Greg Ballard and Tom Henry will emerge on the 2008 list. And that's where you come in. Send us your list, whether it be someone you think is deserving, a top 10 or an entire list to: brianhowey@howeypolitics.com. Keep in mind, our list is based on who will impact the events for the coming year. We'll publish the list on Jan. 17, 2008.

2007 HPI 50 Most Influential List

1. U.S. Supreme Court Justice John G. Roberts
2. Gov. Mitch Daniels
3. Speaker B. Patrick Bauer
4. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson
5. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar
6. Koichi Kondo
7. Senate President Pro Tempore David Long
8. UAW Presidents Ron Gettelfinger and Mo Davidson
9. Ways & Means Chairman Bill Crawford
10. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
11. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill
12. Carmel Mayor James Brainard
13. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel
14. Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters
15. Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi
16. Gary Mayor Rudy Clay
17. US. Rep. Pete Visclosky
18. Lee Hamilton
19. IEDC Director Nathan Feltman
20. State Sen. Bob Meeks



21. State Sen. Luke Kenley
22. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky
23. U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth
24. U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly
25. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence
26. Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker
27. Indiana Republican Chairman Murray Clark
28. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer
29. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder
30. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma
31. Farm Bureau President Don Villwock
32. Tim Roemer
33. Marion County Democratic Chairman Michael O'Connor
34. Terre Haute Mayor Kevin Burke
35. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson
36. Republican Executive Director Jennifer Hallowell
37. Chamber President Kevin Brinegar
38. IMA President Pat Kiely
39. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman
40. South Bend Mayor Dennis Luecke
41. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton
42. State Reps. Sheila Klinker and Peggy Welch
43. St. Joseph Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan
44. FSSA Commissioner Mitch Roob
45. IACT President Matt Greller
46. Lugar Chief of Staff Marty Morris
47. State Sen. Vi Simpson
48. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard
48. Senate Minority Leader Richard Young
49. State Reps. Kreg Battles and Jon Elrod
50. John Gregg



Honorable Mention (alphabetical)

Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson; 7th CD Chair Sherlonda Anderson; Warren Township Trustee Jeff Bennett; Betsy Burdick; Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell; Attorney General Steve Carter; Dan Coats; United Methodist Bishop Michael Coyner; Kathy Davis; Michael Davis; Shaw Friedman; State Rep. Craig Fry; Time Goeglein; Earl Goode; Bob Grand; Bill Haan; John Hammond III; Al Hubbard; Madison Mayor Al Huntington; Lacy Johnson; Joe Kernan; Joe Loftus; Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott; Kokomo Mayor Matt McKillip; LaPorte Mayor Leigh Morris; John Okeson; State Rep. Greg Porter; Jim Purucker; Indianapolis Councilman Isaac Randolph; Mishawaka Mayor Jeff Rea; Supt. Suellen Reed; Charles Schalliol; Dan Seitz; Tom Sugar; Hamilton County Republican Chairman Charlie White; Abdul Hakim-Shabazz; Mike Sodrel; Sen. Thomas Weatherwax; Gary Welsh; Robin Winston; Senate Minority Leader Richard Young. ❖



THE BOAR'S NEST

McIntosh pulls up Hoosier stakes

By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

Former congressman and Republican gubernatorial nominee **David McIntosh** appears to be pulling up his Hoosier stakes. His home near downtown Muncie - which he had been leasing - is now for sale. McIntosh is now practicing law in Washington, D.C. and has been an advisor for the Fred Thompson presidential campaign.

Pence back home?

The other news from our Muncie sources is that U.S. Rep. Mike Pence's political allies are beginning to talk about a 2012 gubernatorial bid.

Weber leaves Lugar

Conexus Indiana has named **Nick Weber** as Vice President of Outreach and Communications for the startup organization. Conexus Indiana, launched in June by the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP), promotes the growth of the advanced manufacturing and logistics sectors in Indiana. For the last six years, Weber has worked for U.S. Senator Dick Lugar on both his federal and political staffs, including serving as Indiana Press Secretary and as his 2006 Campaign Manager, when Lugar won a record 6th term. Prior to joining Lugar's staff, Weber worked as an Account Manager for Hetrick Communications and for the City of Indianapolis, serving as then-Mayor Steve Goldsmith's Press Secretary. "Nick brings a wealth of experience to the outreach and communication position at Conexus Indiana," said President & CEO Carol D'Amico. "Nick's public sector service has afforded him a wide variety of experiences that will greatly benefit our organization and prove valuable as Conexus Indiana works to

build partnerships throughout the state." Weber will work to refine the perception many people in Indiana currently have regarding advanced manufacturing and logistics and seek to increase the number of young Hoosiers interested in careers in these sectors "I am excited about the important work Conexus Indiana is undertaking," said Weber. "I am impressed by the dedication of Carol, the staff, the Board of Directors and the CICP. I look forward to continuing to serve Indiana in this new capacity."

Release of DCS records

Marion Juvenile Court Judge **Marilyn Moores** will release 1,500 pages of documentation from the Department of Child Services records at 2:00 p.m. today that will shed light on the department's involvement with 3-year-old **TaJanay Bailey** and her family. Her mother and mother's boyfriend are in custody facing murder and neglect charges after Bailey was found dead last week showing signs of abuse and torture. A new state law allows the juvenile court to release DCS records in cases of child abuse and neglect resulting in death. The Juvenile Court received the DCS records within four days of its request, and in less than a week is making the papers available under public records requests from the media. "DCS did an incredible job and quickly pulled together volumes of papers from many different sources," said Judge Moores.



Former congressman David McIntosh chats with Gov. Mitch Daniels in February 2003 at Lebanon. At the time, McIntosh was seeking his second GOP gubernatorial nomination and Daniels was White House budget director and pondering a return home. (HPI photo by Brian A. Howey)

Howey speaks on Russia

HPI Publisher **Brian A. Howey** will speak on his trip with U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar to Russia, Ukraine and Albania from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday at the University of Indianapolis DeHaan Center. The program is open to the public.

First Lady to speak in Lebanon

First Lady **Cheri Daniels** will read to students and discuss the importance of literacy at Harney Elementary School in Lebanon at 10:30 a.m..





Rich James, Post-Tribune - When you're a Democrat in a state as red as Indiana, even the slightest bit of good news buoys the spirits. So, you can imagine what a recent poll did for the heart and soul of Hoosier Democrats. Yeah, it said Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jill Long Thompson had a 44-43 lead over Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels. That's probably the first time in the history of the state that a Democratic candidate for governor led a poll against a Republican governor seeking re-election. Not surprisingly, Democrats are singing "Happy Days Are Here Again." But their celebration may be a bit premature. In many respects, the 2008 race for governor will play out in the first 2 and a half months of the year in the Statehouse. Lock and load. It'll be "High Noon" in the General Assembly. Daniels has picked up some barnacles because of: -- The lease of the Indiana Toll Road. -- Getting the bulk of Indiana on the same time every day of the year. -- Rising property taxes. -- Earlier talk about privatizing the Hoosier Lottery. Daniels deserves praise for the Toll Road lease that brought a \$3.85 billion check to the state for road construction. Even those Democrats who opposed the lease weren't very passionate in their protests. Indiana is a better place because of Daniels, and it's rare that I find a Republican worthy of such praise. Yet, I'm not surprised by the poll numbers that put Long Thompson a point ahead. Maybe it's because she has more last names than Daniels. Maybe it's because Hoosiers don't take kindly to change, even if they know it's for the best. Probably as much as anything, Long Thompson is capitalizing from the unrest over property taxes and horror stories about what may be coming.

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - If you, dear reader, had been listed in the latest statewide poll as the opponent of Gov. Mitch Daniels, you would have been picked for governor by a very impressive percentage of likely voters. Now, don't get carried away and announce your candidacy. Voters all over the state wouldn't really be agog over your qualifications, charisma and proven leadership. The reason you would attract a significant percentage in a race with the governor is that your name is not Mitch Daniels. Although the poll is indeed good news for Democrats, showing that Daniels is vulnerable, it is only a snapshot now. It can't measure what will happen in a long campaign, with Daniels much better funded. The eventual Democratic nominee will be defined in myriad TV spots in ways the nominee won't welcome. And if that nominee winds up after a divisive Democratic nomination battle with no money remaining for image defense, maybe you, dear reader, will look back and figure you could have done just as well as the un-Mitch choice.



Tom Friedman, New York Times - I met with two groups of M.I.T. students who blew me away. One was the M.I.T. Energy Club, which was founded in 2004 by a few grad students discussing energy over beers at a campus bar. Today it has 600-plus members who have put on scores of events focused on building energy expertise among M.I.T. students and faculty, and "fact-based analysis," including a trip to Saudi Arabia. Then I got together with three engineering undergrads who helped launch the Vehicle Design Summit — a global, open-source, collaborative effort, managed by M.I.T. students, that has 25 college teams around the world, including in India and China, working together to build a plug-in electric hybrid within three years. Each team contributes a different set of parts or designs. These kids are building a hyper-efficient car, which, they hope, "will demonstrate a 95 percent reduction in embodied energy, materials and toxicity from cradle to grave" and provide "200 m.p.g. energy equivalency or better." The Linux of cars! They're not waiting for G.M. Their goal, they explain on their Web site — vds.mit.edu — is "to identify the key characteristics of events like the race to the moon and then transpose this energy, passion, focus and urgency" on catalyzing a global team to build a clean car. I just love their tag line. It's what gives me hope: "We are the people we have been waiting for." ❖

RiShawn Biddle, American Spectator - When U.S. Representative Julia Carson's staffers announced last week that the Indiana congresswoman was suffering from terminal lung cancer, it finally ended a year of speculation among congressional beat reporters, House staffers and colleagues about her health. As she rose to the top of Indiana's black political establishment, a cadre of allies rode on her coattails. They, in turn, became arrogant and corrupt. Last year, a group of them, including the wife of the city-county council president, Monroe Gray, Bill Mays -- who owns the city's leading black newspaper -- and Carson's longtime majordomo, Center Township Trustee Carl Drummer and city airport board chairman Lacy Johnson, opened a bar inside a government building named for her -- located in a neighborhood already infested with alcoholism and liquor stores -- and tore out a playground on the grounds for customer parking, despite widespread neighborhood and media opposition. Carson, known for taking fellow Democrats to task for failing to support gay marriage and other "progressive" issues, said little. Carson's impending demise will likely lead to a battle between her old guard allies and younger leaders within the Democrat party. Sad as her death will be, it is an opportunity to bury a style of political leadership that has done little to serve poor urban communities. ❖



Special prosecutor appointed in Murphy case

INDIANAPOLIS - Marion

Superior Court's presiding judge appointed a special prosecutor Wednesday to look into allegations that state Rep. Mike Murphy was involved in a hit-and-run outside a Downtown Indianapolis bar (**Indianapolis Star**).

A woman told police Murphy's car struck hers early one morning in September while it was parked on Jackson Place, behind Ike and Jonesy's. Murphy, R-Indianapolis, has said he considered the incident an insurance matter. Judge Gerald Zore appointed Scott County Prosecutor Jason Mount, a Democrat.



Senate committee hears assessor retirement plan

INDIANAPOLIS - A Senate

panel Wednesday considered a bill that would pare down Indiana's elected assessing corps from 1,100 to 92 in a move to achieve more uniformity statewide (Kelly, **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). But many members questioned the concept of eliminating township assessors. "What is the advantage of an unknown county person that I can't get to versus someone who cares?" said Sen. Mike Young, R-Indianapolis. "One person sitting up at the top who may not care about what is going on in my township - how is that better?" Senate Bill 16 would transfer the assessing duties of 1,008 township assessors to 92 elected county assessors effective January 2009. But the elected township assessors would be allowed to finish out their terms because constitutionally the legislature can't remove them, said Sen. Connie Lawson, R-Danville, chairwoman of the Senate Local Gov-

ernment Committee and author of the bill. Cheryl Musgrave, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, testified in support of the change, pointing out that the same amount of assessment work would need to be done. "We don't anticipate huge money savings," said Dave Bottorff, of the Association of Indiana Counties. "It's more an accountability issue. Someone needs to be in charge." But Fairfield Township Assessor Jan Payne of Tippecanoe County defended her colleagues, saying it is hard to meet deadlines now that assessors are trending - or adjusting the value of a property - every year. "It's a lot of work to do," she said, noting that if legislators eliminate township assessors they are getting rid of the liaison between taxpayers and the state. Sen. Tim Lanane, D-Anderson, asked whether having all township assessors obtain certifications would solve the problem of inconsistent assessments. Musgrave contended it would not (**Evansville Courier & Press**). "When I left office (as county assessor), ... I could no longer look anyone in the face and say with any certainty that their tax bill was fair," Musgrave said, citing the "fractionalization" of the system among so many elected officials.

GOP accuses Dems of spying during recount

MUNCIE - Accusations of espionage in the mayor's recount tested the tempers of Democrats and Republicans this week in the Delaware County Voter Registration Office (**Muncie Star Press**). Republicans were reviewing voter registration cards Tuesday and Wednesday to compare signatures on those cards with signatures on corresponding absentee ballots. In asking for a recount last week, Republicans said fraud, tampering and misconduct influenced Democrat Jim Mansfield's 11-vote victory over Republican Sharon McShurley in the race for mayor. Republicans have

accused the voter registration employee, Ashley Nichols -- an appointee of the Democratic Party -- of harassing volunteers and spying while on county time. More specifically, according to Republicans, Nichols was photocopying voter registration cards requested by GOP volunteers to give Democratic leaders an inside look into the Republican investigation.

Mayor Burke challenging two entire precincts

TERRE HAUTE - Mayor Kevin Burke's watchers have challenged several precincts in the recount of the election he lost last month to Duke Bennett by 107 votes (**Terre Haute Tribune-Star**). Burke's side had challenged the results of two entire precincts since the recount began Monday and had abandoned the challenge of a third precinct through about 4 p.m. Wednesday. A court-appointed, three-member recount commission had indicated that it would go until 8 p.m. that night, member Bionca Gambill said.

Shelbyville council recount ends in tie

SHELBYVILLE - Tuesday's official recount of the 4th Ward Shelbyville Common Council seat election ballots ended the same way it started - in a dead heat between incumbent Republican Tamara Sullivan and Democratic challenger Val Phares (**Shelbyville News**).

Independent review OKs BP's water discharge plan

INDIANAPOLIS - An independent review commissioned by Gov. Mitch Daniels backs up the state's contention that increases in Lake Michigan water pollution approved this summer for the BP Whiting refinery would not harm aquatic life or drinking water (**Times of Northwest Indiana**).