



# 7th CD special could be wild ride

*Turnout is the unknown key on March 11*

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS -

INDIANAPOLIS - The next two weeks could be a wild ride into the unknown for Democrat Andre Carson and Republican Jon Elrod, who are heading into the March 11 special election. Ask a campaign staffer on either side what the turnout will likely be and the answer is mostly a blank. "It's a special election," said Kyra Jennings of the DCCC on the ground for Carson. "It's hard to judge." Kyle Kasting of the Elrod campaign answers, "Who knows?"

Democratic sources tell Howey Politics Indiana that there were 55,000 Democrats and 52,000 Republicans who



voted in the 2004 and 2006 primaries, representing about 20 percent of total registered voters. That's the universe both campaigns will attempt to turnout a week from next Tuesday. In the 2007 primary, however, turnout was about 12 percent. It comes as Elrod will report in an FEC filing today that he has raised only \$67,000 and has \$46,000 cash on hand, though the campaign notes "98 percent of this money comes from in-state." The Indiana Republican Party is hosting a big dollar reception for Elrod on March 4. The Carson

campaign is expected to report seven or eight times that amount and the Advance Indiana blog reported that the campaign made filings of \$20,000 from unions in Maryland, Virginia, Michigan and New York.

## 21st Century Whigs

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - "If the Republicans aren't careful, they are going to become the Whigs of the 21st Century." I am quoting myself, but seated at the South Bend Chocolate Company table with me last week was U.S. Rep. Mike Pence and the topic was immigration. What was striking about my audacious quote was that Pence could only chuckle a bit and wince. It wasn't a notion he could contest. And then he told me about the various town hall events he had done since he and U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison had tried to forge a national compromise in 2006. They advocated illegal immigrants returning to their



Brian Howey's Column



"You didn't just part the Red Sea, you rolled it back, dried it up, and left for all the world to see the naked desert of statism."

- President Reagan in a tribute to William F. Buckley in 1985