



Daniels, Kernan reforms attacked

Sen. Waterman independent bid, attorney general race could change '08 dynamic

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The 2008 Indiana gubernatorial race is on the brink of a significant dynamic change with the pending entry of State Sen. John Waterman as an independent candidate, in part fueled by anger over the Kernan-Shepard reforms. In tandem with former LaPorte County Democratic chairman Shaw Friedman's "open letter" to former Gov. Joe Kernan (see below), the reforms are under assault from wings of both parties. The three-term Republican senator continues to signal to friends and colleagues that he is preparing entry. The critical question is whether he can obtain the 33,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot by June 30.

Cam Savage, communication director for Gov. Mitch Daniels' re-election campaign, was asked if he felt Waterman could get on the ballot. "I honestly don't know," Savage said Wednesday. "It's so hard to say how that whole



Gov. Mitch Daniels visited Hoosier troops in the Iraq war zone earlier this week, but he faced an insurrection led by State Sen. John Waterman (below) at home.



thing will shake out. I don't know how wide that appeal will be."

Waterman said he needs 33,000 signatures to qualify. But unlike a primary candidacy, they don't have to come equally from the nine congressional districts. "They could all come from Indianapolis or down here," Waterman said. Asked if he thought he could gather the signatures in six weeks, Waterman answered, "Yes. We've got people working statewide." He said there are "statewide organizations"

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'Say it ain't so, Joe'

By **SHAW FRIEDMAN**

LaPORTE - Say it ain't so, Joe. Not only are many of your criticisms of local government off base, but it appears this governor is cynically using your help on his Blue Ribbon Commission to aid his own re-election effort.

Don't let him get away with it.

One local Mitch booster here in

LaPorte practically gushes when he talks about it. He can't believe their good fortune that Mitch Daniels has continued his incessant attacks on your record as governor without you ever responding. You know the 60-second ads about how you left the state bankrupt, unable to protect kids or unwilling to create jobs?



"The Surge has succeeded brilliantly. The only way to lose this fight is to quit."

- Vice President Cheney, speaking to Coast Guard graduates on Wednesday while wearing a 10-gallon hat



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Joe, when are you going to stand up and tell Mitch that it's not true? Constitutionally, we can't run a deficit and didn't. Same with adding child protection caseworkers. That started under your administration as a result of your Commission on Abused and Neglected kids. As for job creation, that effort was beefed up under your Department of Commerce. Despite all that, you say nothing in your own defense but instead allow Mitch

to use your good name to bash local government?

Hoosiers wouldn't remember your record because you haven't uttered one word in defense of it in the last four years.

You let Mitch Daniels savage your time in office and practically state there was a climate of corruption on your watch.

Are you listening? He's questioned your integrity and those who served under you. When do you finally get your Irish up?

Joe, you don't understand Mitch is one of those ideological Republicans. He's not a mainstream Republican like Doc Bowen or Bob Orr who believed that there was a role for government and who you could reach across the aisle and work with. Instead, Mitch is like his buddy Grover Norquist, who believes government ought to serve only the rich and powerful and the rest of it -- public services -- should be sold off, privatized or shrunk down so it can be "drowned in a bathtub."

At some point, Joe, it's time to put the gloves on and get back in the ring. Mitch Daniels is trying to divert attention from his far-right agenda of privatization and outsourc-

ing with all these attacks on local government. While so much of what ails this state is due to Mitch's former boss, George W. Bush -- such as tax breaks given to companies to ship jobs overseas, billions in tax dollars dumped into Iraq rather than used for bridges, roads and schools here at home -- you've been recruited for a starring role in Mitch's campaign to blame local government. You're



Former Gov. Joe Kernan (left) with Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard and Gov. Mitch Daniels in the summer of 2007. The two governors are under attack from the left and right over the Kernan-Shepard reforms (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

being used to provide the illusion of "bipartisanship" when these attacks on government at the local level are a ruse, designed to obscure Mitch's real agenda.

While a few of the Blue Ribbon Commission's 27 recommendations, such as those regarding collective purchasing and collaborating on emergency services make sense, many are just outright attacks on a branch of government that is closest to the people and more completely audited and scrutinized than any other branches of government.

For instance, why do away with three-member county commissions when there is no hue and cry for that? The public likes having that accountability rather than one, all-powerful "county executive." Same with



doing away with elected sheriffs, auditors and other county officials. Why do it? Your plan to go after local library systems also makes little sense. A director of one local public library put it simply when she said, "They have declared war on small towns."

Ditto for your recommendation that any school corporation under 2,000 kids should be consolidated. Joe, there are some great small school systems including little Dewey Township in my county that still register pretty darned good test scores and turn out successful graduates. Look at John Glenn Schools over in your county.

Simply consolidating and eliminating local schools and government services isn't the answer. Joe, if you want to serve on a commission to ferret out waste and fraud, how about asking the governor to appoint a commission to go after tax shelters and dodges used by many of his big business buddies? According to the non-partisan Multi-State Tax Commission, Indiana loses \$350 million every

year due to abusive tax shelters and dodges used by the biggest multi-national corporations to evade state taxes. Joe, that's money that could go for full-day kindergarten, free textbooks, or funding other local services.

Joe, we need you to stand up and defend the good work that took place during your years as governor. And please stop letting this governor use you to distract attention from his plan of outsourcing and privatization. Local government efficiencies are welcome, but let's not mislead Hoosiers that it's one of the compelling issues of our day. Hacking away at local schools, libraries and eliminating county commissioners and sheriffs isn't going to improve the quality of life for Hoosiers and you and I both know it.

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Shaw Friedman is a LaPorte attorney who advises various local government entities and who also served as general counsel for the Indiana Democratic Party when Joe Kernan was governor.

Daniels, from page 1

working on the signatures. Asked if one of them is Eric Miller's Advance America, Waterman said, "No. Eric has called me asking what was going on." Pressed further, Waterman said he is working with "taxpayer groups."

If Waterman does gain access, several credible Republican sources have told HPI (and there is agreement here) that Waterman has the potential of taking 4 to 7 percent of the vote. That potential voter would be the type that voted for Ron Paul for president in the recent presidential primary. There is also the potential for appeal among the so-called "Reagan Democrats" in Hoosier coal country. One GOP senator told HPI that out of every five voters Waterman might appeal to, four would come at the cost to Daniels and one to Democratic nominee Jill Long Thompson. Ron Paul received 8 percent in the Indiana primary and another 15 percent of Republicans voted for Mike Huckabee or Mitt Romney instead of presumptive GOP nominee John McCain.

Daniels facing Dem wave

Gov. Daniels' re-election campaign is already facing the prospect of a national Democratic wave, plus the potential that an unknown number of Republicans

who crossed over for Barack Obama in the primary might vote Democratic in the general. There also is the potential for Republican voter suppression such as the party witnessed in the 1974 post-Watergate election (a similar year for the Democrats would have been 1994), and a tenacious Democratic challenger in Thompson, who has run aggressive congressional campaigns, as opposed to a more genteel approach that might have been Jim Schellinger's hallmark. The contrast between Daniels and Thompson will be much more dramatic than if the governor was running against another multi-millionaire businessman in his 50s like Schellinger.

The Obama context could actually help Daniels.

Despite their party differences, both Daniels and Obama are change agents. During the presidential primary, Obama repeatedly said at his rallies that America should invest in jobs and rebuilding the infrastructure, which could be applied to the Major Moves lease of the Indiana Toll Road (following Obama's patron, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and the Chicago Skyway). Earlier this week, Democratic Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell attained a 75-year lease on the Pennsylvania Turnpike at \$2.46 million per mile, compared to the Major Moves deal for \$2.42 million per mile.



Gov. Daniels and Lt. Gov. Skillman are finding themselves under attack from the right and left due to the Kernan-Shepard reforms. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Senator seeking running mate

Waterman, who was elected in the 1994 GOP tsunami year, represents a competitive southwestern Indiana district after two terms as Sullivan County sheriff. He is extremely conservative as well as independent. Several Indiana Senate sources told HPI that President Pro Tempore David Long and others in majority leadership have threatened Waterman with expulsion from the caucus. One source told HPI that Waterman faced a similar threat from then Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst years ago. When Waterman voted against Borst on legislation, Borst leveled a threat and then followed up when several big projects in Waterman's district were eliminated. The source said Waterman shrugged it off, saying, "I do what's right for my district." Waterman defeated Democrat Steve Thais by only 2,066 votes in 2006 and he had another 2,500 reelect against Democrat Rod Hasler in 1998.

Waterman said that "right now, things are exploratory." But he added that he's been in contact with a number of taxpayer groups around the state and said he is even weighing a choice for lieutenant governor. At least one Republican senator has told HPI he was approached by Waterman about the LG slot, but turned it down. "I'm still interviewing candidates" for lieutenant governor, Waterman told HPI Wednesday morning. He said that since HPI broke the story at www.howeypolitics.com on Monday, "the phone has been ringing off the hook."

An 8th CD county Republican chairman painted a picture of the party in near revolt in a phone conversation with HPI last Thursday. The chairman said Daniels could get beat 2 to 1 and 3 to 1 in many southwestern counties. When pressed to identify issues that have created such a fissure with the Republican governor, the chairman couldn't, until he finally said, "It all started with the time issue. People in my district don't like change."

Waterman told HPI, "There's a lot of disgruntled people. I know in this area, people are living paycheck to paycheck. There's no communication with the governor's office. He's got this open door policy that doesn't work. Nobody will call you back. There's a lack of interest in education. The schools are in bad shape and nobody wants to talk about it. Economic development in Southwestern Indiana is zilch."

Daniels confident about southwest

Savage said the Daniels campaign is confident that he will do well in the southwest, where Thompson carried only Warrick, Monroe and Brown counties in her primary win. This is where the entry of Waterman could crimp the governor's re-election. "Southwestern Indiana has benefitted greatly under the governor," Savage said. "I think we'll do very well there. Every governor since the '50s has promised I-69 and this governor delivered. So I would take issue with that analysis." Savage added, "On job creation, the governor has an outstanding record. There are 65,000 job commitments and \$15 billion in investments. It's very clear that nobody has worked harder to bring new jobs than Mitch Daniels."

Asked how many of those jobs would come on line this year, Savage didn't know. But he said that Honda has



Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker speaks at a unity presser at the Statehouse. But Thompson took a pass on locating her campaign at 1 N. Capitol. (Thompson campaign photo)

begun hiring at its Greensburg plant and that those well-paying jobs would begin to be reflected in the job stats later this year.

Savage pointed to education as being a "big part of the campaign and big part of the agenda in coming years. Full-day kindergarten has been promised by every governor and it's finally been delivered."

Kernan-Shepard under assault

Waterman also said that a number of people in local government have expressed interest in a possible campaign. He said many of them are upset by the elimination of most township assessors and coming Kernan-Shepard reforms. With Democrats like LaPorte's Shaw Friedman (see page 1 & 2) lashing out at former Gov. Joe Kernan, the Kernan-Shepard reforms as well as Daniels, who is promising a 2009 legislative package based on the 27 recommendations, are now under assault from the right and left.

Waterman added that the recent increase in the



sales tax is cutting into business that came into Indiana from Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. "People would come in to Terre Haute, Vincennes and Kentland to buy beer and liquor. When we raised the sales tax, we're going to be losing a lot of revenue. Legislators on the east side of the state are seeing the same thing." Waterman also complained about the caps on local government, but not state government. "The state keeps spending," Waterman said. "What's good for the locals is good for the state."

'It's a free country'

Eric Holcomb, Gov. Daniels' campaign manager, reacted by saying, "You have to scratch your head and wonder about this one. It's a free country and anyone can run." Holcomb took on Waterman's claim that economic development in Southwestern Indiana has been "zilch." He noted that the Daniels-Skillman administration saved 5,000 jobs at Crane, there are two \$2 billion power plants coming and the I-69 extension is about to become a reality. "We're extremely excited about Southwestern Indiana's role in the comeback. There's a lot going on," Holcomb said.

The perception, deserved or not, is that Daniels is not conservative enough, even though there has been no landmark abortion legislation during his first term; no Indiana Supreme Court vacancies. Some are disgruntled that he didn't staunchly support the gay marriage amendment. The antagonism with the social conservatives could simply be the fact that he defeated Eric Miller in the 2004 Republican primary.

The danger for Daniels would come if he made concessions to the right to head off Waterman's candidacy because it would have the potential to take him to the right for the general. His re-election effort was already off to a rocky start when hours before his June 2007 campaign kickoff at Hinkle Fieldhouse, he talked of avoiding "ideological wedge issues" which produced a frosty response from pro-life groups. Daniels told HPI that "I believe I have been the most pro-life governor."

Savage took some pokes at the perception. "The governor was endorsed by Right to Life groups in his first campaign and we expect the same this time. I don't think anyone is going to confuse Jill Long Thompson as a conservative. I think there will be one conservative on the ballot this fall."

Chris Sautter, a consultant to the Thompson campaign, could only watch the emerging Republican dilemma in what looks to be a profoundly Democratic year with fascination. He said Waterman's potential candidacy "demonstrates the depth of the dissatisfaction with the governor in parts of the state."

* * *

CAMPAIGN NOTES: Thompson is moving her campaign to an office at 8th and Delaware Streets in India-

napolis, passing on the Indiana Democratic Party headquarters at 1 N. Capitol. Campaign sources said that move wasn't due to any friction with the state party, but more because there wasn't room there to expand. Last week, Thompson appeared with Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker, House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer and Senate Minority Leader Richard Young in a show of unity. As far as a search for lieutenant governor is concerned, the vetting group will be JLT Campaign Manager Travis Lowe, communications director Jeff Harris and Tom New.

The Daniels re-elect is running a TV ad featuring RV1. It will likely be out on the campaign trail even if the governor isn't on board. "It's a symbol," Savage said. "We get requests for it all the time." As for Daniels campaign activity, the governor has been visiting Hoosier troops in Iraq. There is unlikely to be much activity until the June 2 Republican Convention, where the governor is expected to deliver his second self-written acceptance speech. "He'll steal the show," Savage predicted. ❖



Deputy Attorney General Greg Zoeller is pressing his convention campaign to the floor, potentially destabilizing the Indiana GOP.

Republican attorney general race appears too close to call

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The Republican race for attorney general appears to be too close to call less than two weeks before the June 2 convention. The showdown between Deputy Attorney General Greg Zoeller and Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas comes at a time when a feuding GOP could send the party down a precipice that would have immense implications.

Costas is backed by Gov. Mitch Daniels, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Secretary of State Todd Rokita and heavy-weight operatives like Bob Grand and Marion County Republican Chairman Tom John. On Wednesday, conserva-



tives like State Reps. Woody Burton, Eric Turner, Jackie Walorski, Bill Davis and State Sens. Mike Young and Greg Walker all endorsed Costas. "It is important that the citizens of Indiana have a true conservative in the Attorney General's office working for them," Turner said. "Jon has done Christian relief work across the globe and helped found a crisis pregnancy center in Porter County. Jon Costas has a long history of putting his conservative beliefs into action."

But Greg Zoeller has cobbled together a southern Indiana and Fort Wayne area alliance that has brought along party chairs from the 3rd, 8th and 9th CDs, U.S. Reps. Dan Burton and Mark Souder, and Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine. It has also lit up the blogs, which are feeding off the story with red meat fury.

Zoeller supporters complain that the re-election campaign of Gov. Mitch Daniels has thrown down the gauntlet in lining up support, which has been coming. Costas on Tuesday announced the support of 19 Republican mayors, including Carmel's Jim Brainard. But several county chairs complained to HPI that Eric Holcomb and Cam Savage have used phrases like "we're keeping score" when it comes to support. This is not a precedent-setting situation. Dozens of Indiana governors, particularly those seeking re-election, have long played a decisive role in shaping the tickets they run on. Some are subtle, like Gov. Doc Bowen who didn't come out and endorse a constitutional candidate in 1976, but on the night before the election, stood outside that candidate's suite and greeted delegates. The message was utterly clear and that candidate won.

Sources tell HPI that in talks between Zoeller and Gov. Daniels, the deputy attorney general indicated that if he did not have support of the governor, he would not contest the nomination. After Daniels endorsed Costas, Zoeller went ahead and filed first for the nomination, then spent last weekend with retiring Attorney Gen. Steve Carter, going from north to south seeking support.

Meanwhile, the conservative blogs are in full chatter. Hoosier Pundit, for example, had this post: "Unfortunately for Mr. Costas, the AG post is one where experience counts for a lot, and leadership less so. What will Costas lead on? The brave charge to outsource legal work to the Indy law firms (like Barnes & Thornburg, from which he formerly hailed)? The value of experience in such a post is immeasurable. To quote the endorsement, it matters. Greg



Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas was endorsed by Gov. Daniels, Lt. Gov. Skillman and Secretary of State Todd Rokita, but his candidacy has become embroiled in GOP fratricide.

Zoeller, to be blunt, has that experience. He has it in spades and then some. I'd ask for Costas supporters to please dispense with the whole 'Zoeller is dividing the party' talking point. In this entire process, no one has been more divisive or more abrasive or more thugish than the supporters and advocates of Jon Costas (particularly from the governor's campaign, Marion County, and state party). The comments of his supporters at Hoosier Access and elsewhere have not exactly broken new ground in winning friends and influencing people."

Cam Savage, communications director for Gov. Daniels, defended the governor's position. "I would simply say there was a reason that folks weren't excited about a contested race for attorney general. It's important that every part of the state be represented."

Currently the ticket features Daniels from Carmel, Dr. Tony Bennett from Clark County, and Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman from Bedford. Costas was an ardent proponent of Major Moves and coming from Valparaiso, hails from the same city where Jill Long Thompson served on the city council. Thompson ran well

in the Democratic primary in Northern Indiana where she had run in the 2nd and old 4th (now the 3rd) CDs, losing only St. Joseph County.

A number of polls have shown the Daniels-Skillman ticket running poorly in Northern and Southern Indiana.

Democrats, quite understandably, are gleeful at the discord. They view Indianapolis attorney Linda Pence as a credible Pam Carter/Jeff Modisett quality candidate who can win this constitutional office for the first time since 1996.

Pam Carter won the attorney general office in 1992 in part because of GOP discord. In one of the wildest political conventions, Republican nominee Linley Pearson almost bolted his own ticket in a convention floor row over whether Dave Miller would become the attorney general nominee.

The convention, instead, chose Timothy Bookwalter, who campaigned with a cardboard cutout of Pam Carter (who is African-American). Pearson lost in a landslide to Gov. Evan Bayh. Earlier this week at the Perry Township Republican Club, that very same Dave Miller complained to attendees ... that Republican delegates were being strong-armed into voting for Jon Costas by Tom John and the governor's campaign.

If Republicans happen to hear shrieks of laughter, they're probably coming from One North Capitol. ❖



HPI tracks 13 races and finds odds against GOP

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Given the current environment that is likely to include a Democratic wave this fall, HPI's analysis of competitive House races leads us to the conclusion that it is going to be difficult for the GOP to retake control of the Indiana House. At this point, HPI will be tracking 13 races heading into the general election, six occupied by Republicans and seven by Democrats. Vulnerable Republicans include State Reps. Ed Soliday in HD4, Don Lehe in HD15, Jack Lutz in HD35, Tim Harris in HD31, Amos Thomas in HD44 and the seat being vacated by Larry Buell in HD89. Vulnerable Democrats include State Reps. Nancy Dembowski in HD17; appointed Shelli VanDenburgh in HD19; Joe Micon's open seat in HD26; Vern Tincher in HD46; appointed Sandra Blanton in HD62; the Dave Crooks open seat in HD63; and HD86 vacated by David Orentlicher.



We are struck by the fact that there are no Republican candidates to face State Reps. Craig Fry in HD5, Ron Herrell in HD30, freshman Kreg Battles in HD64; freshman Dave Cheatham in HD69, and the HD97 open seat being vacated by Republican Jon Elrod. Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn told HPI this morning that he expects to announce a challenger to Herrell next week. "I have my man," Dunn said. "I am waiting on a final vetting by the HRCC. When they like a guy, the money flows."

The Democrats have a 52-48 majority now, and the fact that Democrat Mary Ann Sullivan is almost a cinch to retake HD97 puts the GOP in a 53-47 hole.

Democrats have an extremely good opportunity in HD31, where State Rep. Tim Harris has squeaked out razor thin victories against Democrats unwilling to play hardball. This time Harris faces 2006 secretary of state nominee Joe Pearson. We project this race to begin as leaning Democrat. In this scenario, we're already looking at a 54-46 Democratic spread.

We see potential Democratic pickups in HD89, where school teacher John Barnes is running for a second time

and enters this race with enhanced name ID and, perhaps, even some party backing this time. He faces Chris Swatts. This district has been steadily trending Democratic and in this environment it will be tough for the GOP to hang on. Another is HD15, where State Rep. Don Lehe will face a second challenge from former Sheriff Myron Sutton, who came within an eyelash of defeating Lehe in 2006. In HD4, State Rep. Ed Soliday will be challenged by Democrat Larry Chubb. Soliday has fallen out of favor with business groups and will have to rely on the GOP House caucus. In HD44, former Greencastle mayor Nancy Michael is expected to present a stiff challenge to State Rep, Amos Thomas. In a Democratic wave year, this is the kind of seat that can change hands, though it is risky to underestimate the Thomas ballot name brand in this district. In HD35, State Rep. Jack Lutz faces a rematch from Democrat Lee Ann Mengelt. Even a single Democratic pickup in this set could put the House out of reach.

The GOP's best shot at a pickup might have been HD26 in Lafayette where Democrat John Polles will face Randy Truitt. But when you overlay the national template in this Purdue University district and the potential strength of the Barack Obama presidential campaign among student voters and African-Americans, that throws a big question mark at Republicans. Cam Savage of Gov. Mitch Daniels' re-election campaign isn't convinced Purdue students will rush to Obama and the Democrats. "There are a lot of engineering and agriculture students there," he said. In HD62, the seat vacated by Democrat Jerry Denbo, Republican Brook Tarr will face appointed State Rep. Sandra Blanton and could be competitive in this Republican leaning district. How an African-American presidential candidate and a female gubernatorial candidate for the Democrats impact this race is a huge question mark.

In HD17, one of the youngest candidates, Mark MacKillop of Knox, faces one of the oldest in State Rep. Nancy Dembowski. Both candidates are from Starke County while the district is centered in Marshall County.

Perhaps the most fascinating race will take place in HD63 vacated by Rep. Crooks. Industrialist Mark Messmer will face DuBois County Commissioner John Burger. On the downside for the GOP, a number of Republican county chairmen are expressing dissatisfaction with Gov. Daniels and that could hurt the ticket. However, Obama leading the ticket might not help the Democrats in this district. Another factor could be Jill Long Thompson's gubernatorial candidacy. Of all the pickup possibilities, this race enthruses Republicans the most.



Former sheriff Myron Sutton will challenge State Rep. Don Lehe for a second time.



The GOP would have to sweep all four of those races in order to get back to 50/50.

In HD46, State Rep, Vern Tincher will face former Indiana State basketball star Bob Heaton, but Tincher is a survivor and will be hard to beat in a Democratic wave year. Another potential GOP pickup might be HD19, the Bob Kuzman seat now held by State Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh. But here the GOP is coming off a divided primary where Andrew Webster eked out a narrow victory while the GOP was still licking its wounds from the divisive Crown Point mayoral election last year.

We'll also keep an eye on HD86, the seat vacated by State Rep. David Orentlicher. Power attorney Ed DeLaney is the Democratic nominee, but there has been some speculation that he might bow out for Orentlicher to return to the House. Whether it's DeLaney or Orentlicher, this will be a tough district for the GOP to pick up since the south part of Washington Township and Center Township have heavy African-American populations who will almost certainly turn out for Barack Obama. DeLaney didn't sound like a candidate looking to drop off the ticket at the Washington Township Democratic Club Wednesday evening. He told club members that he has raised \$40,000 and has \$37,000 cash-on-hand. He also said he had been doing "D2D" and "D4D" (door-to--door; dialing for dollars) on a consistent basis. He also predicted, "The property tax issue is about to blow up again once the reconciliation bills go out."

A key development will be whether Republicans can slate candidates to run against Herrell, Cheatham, Battles, and Fry in districts that have been in play in recent years and, in a normal presidential, would have pickup potential for the GOP.

Horse Race Status: HD4: Rep. Ed Soliday (R) vs. Larry Chubb (D) LEANS R; **HD15:** State Rep. Don Lehe (R) vs. Myron Sutton (D) LEANS R; **HD17:** State Rep. Nancy Dembowski (D) vs. Mark MacKillop (R) LEANS D; **HD19:** State Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh (D) vs. Andrew Webster (R) LEANS D; **HD26:** (Open, Micon) West Lafayette Councilman Randy Truitt (R) vs. John Polles (D) TOSSUP; **HD31:** State Rep. Tim Harris (R) vs. Joe Pearson (D) LEANS D; **HD35:** State Rep. Jack Lutz (R) vs. Lee Ann Mengelt (D) LEANS R; **HD44:** State Rep. Amos Thomas (R) vs. Nancy Michael (D) TOSSUP; **HD46:** State Rep. Vern Tincher (D) vs. Bob Heaton (R) LEANS D; **HD62:** State Rep. Sandra Blanton (D) vs. Brook Tarr (R) LEANS D; **HD63:** (Open) DuBois County Commissioner John Burger vs. Mark Messmer (R) TOSSUP; **HD86:** (Open, Orentlicher) Ed DeLaney (D) vs. Adam Nelson (R) LIKELY D; **HD89** (Open, Buell) John Barnes (D) vs. Chris Swatts (R) LEANS D. ❖

Hoosiers can really change the world

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - I have been in a reflective mood since the epic Clinton-Obama race passed through Indiana. I keep hearing Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young's "Chicago" in the back of my mind ... "We can change the world; re-arrange the world"

And that, Hoosiers did. In the Indiana primary, 39 percent of registered voters went to the polls, up from 21 percent in 2004. There were 173,525 absentee ballots cast, compared to 61,345 in 2006. There were 7.4 percent newly registered voters and in the top nine counties, Barack Obama carried eight of them. A group of Obama volunteers are meeting in Indianapolis with the goal of registering 100,000 more new voters before the November election.

In 90 of 92 counties, there were more Democratic ballots cast than Republicans (Benton and Montgomery were the anomalies). Sixty-four counties went Democratic that voted Republican in 2004. There were 410,517 Republican primary voters, and 1,273,107 Democratic voters or 75.6 percent. In 2004, only 40.2 percent voted in the Democratic primary.

Don't think your vote can change the world? Both Hillary Clinton and Jill Long Thompson won by a mere 1.14 percent. Clinton won by only 14,487 votes and Thompson's plurality was 13,068 votes. But these two Democrats did



Brian Howey's Column



Sen. Hillary Clinton and Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jill Long Thompson won by identical 1.14 percent pluralities in Indiana. (HPI Photo by A. Walker Shaw)



it in very different ways. Clinton carried 83 of 92 counties; Thompson carried 36 counties and only six of those were south of I-70. North of the Indianapolis media market, Thompson carried every county except Jim Schellinger's home of St. Joseph County. Thompson carried the entire 3rd Congressional District (which she used to represent when it was the 4th CD) and all but three counties in the 2nd CD where she unsuccessfully challenged U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola in 2002.

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Indiana Businesses for Responsive Government group notes there are silver linings for both political parties. "For the Democratic Party, (there are) a large number of new and possible swing voters to target; for the Republican Party, a well-defined set of loyal Republicans to target money, yard signs and phone banks."

How do all these statistics factor into the coming fall campaign? The Obama context could actually help Gov. Mitch Daniels in a theoretical sense. Despite their party differences, both Daniels and Obama are change agents. During the presidential primary, Obama repeatedly said at his rallies that America

should invest in jobs and rebuilding the infrastructure, which could be applied to the Major Moves lease of the Indiana Toll Road (following Obama's patron, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley who leased the Chicago Skyway). Earlier this week, Democratic Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell attained a 75-year lease on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

But Obama could also generate huge turnout in Democratic strongholds in Indianapolis and Lake County which could help Thompson, who won more than 80 percent of the African-American vote.

Gov. Daniels was asked about the synergy with Obama. "America ought to be about change, and we ought to debate what kind of change, but it was very interesting to hear the word so often when we are living in an era of lots of new approaches and action in this state," Daniels said at a Friday press conference before traveling to Iraq.

Should Indiana move its presidential primary to earlier in the process? Last winter, Daniels suggested that

Hoosiers should vote on the same day as New Hampshire. A tax on all campaign related spending could be used to finance the extra election (gubernatorial, congressional, legislative and local offices could still be elected on the first Tuesday in May). Daniels responded, "I hope there'd be more now that we've actually seen how much fun it is. I hadn't imagined - and no one did - that we'd actually have such a competitive, meaningful contest here. Now we've seen what it's like. Hoosiers enjoyed it. I wish it were an every-time affair, so I think it's an idea we should still talk about."

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh also likes moving Indiana up. "He's exactly right, we ought to find a way to work to-

gether to make sure our voices are heard more often than every four decades," Bayh said. "These national folks fly over our state and they occasionally stop to pick up some money. They might look out the window and say, 'I wonder who those people are down there?' Now they know."

The six weeks leading up to the Indiana primary was an inspiring time. It was thrilling to watch Hoosiers line up for blocks outside of the Wigwam in

Anderson to rally for Hillary Clinton or, on the final night of the campaign, seeing 21,000 people turn out for an Obama rally on the American Legion Mall in downtown Indianapolis. A light rain fell, but few left.

When I think about our rendezvous with Clinton and Obama, I vividly recall crouching on my knees with my camera at the Kennedy-King Memorial on April 4, the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. There stood Robert F. Kennedy's widow, Ethel, peering up at the outstretched hands of the two American martyrs. Her son, Max, asked her to read a poem.

"Two heroic hearts,
Who for a short time,
Traveled toward the sun.
And singed the vivid air
With their honor."

On May 6, some 1.6 million Hoosiers joined them.



Barack Obama's Election Eve Rally at the American Legion Mall drew 21,000 Hoosiers. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)





Rich James, Post-Tribune: Hillary won Indiana by 15,000 votes, but in reality she came up a loser. She needed a substantial win here to keep her campaign going spiritually. A 51-49 margin doesn't get the job done. It was in Indiana that Hillary started pandering to voters about how she was going to lift the 18-cent federal tax on gasoline. That will save most motorists enough for, well, a shot and beer at Bronko's. The Clintons were especially visible in Lake County, making numerous stops, while Barack Obama himself appeared just twice. Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. was one of those on the front line for Hillary. "She came up here and people got to know her," McDermott said about Hillary's frequent area visits, including her very first stop at the Hammond Civic Center. Even with McDermott leading the cheers, Hillary didn't exactly overwhelm Hammond. She won by a scant 500 votes. Hillary fared even worse in East Chicago, where she had the backing of Mayor George Pabey. So much for what Pabey thinks. Obama carried East Chicago 4,922 to 2,952. The bulk of that mayoral support, of course, was a result of Sen. Evan Bayh, Hillary's biggest Hoosier helper. If Hillary was in Indiana over the last month, chances were good Bayh was at her side. I think he made more appearances in Lake County with Hillary than he has since being elected to the Senate. I can understand the voters not buying into what McDermott and Pabey had to say. But Bayh is another story. He is the most popular Democrat in Indiana. Especially given Bayh's backing, Hillary's victory was pretty hollow. ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette: It would be hard to overestimate the gloominess among Capitol Hill Republicans these days as they look at a treacherous and pessimistic political landscape. It's especially galling for GOP incumbents because the potholes and buckled pavement of their once-smooth path to re-election are largely self-inflicted. They've had to defend what has become an unpopular war, stand by an almost universally reviled president, suffer the public disgust over Foley-Vitter-Craig-Ney-Cunningham-etc. conduct, explain why they not only undid a balanced budget but went on a mad spending spree. In a widely quoted memo, the former head of the National Republican Congressional Committee told his colleagues: "The political atmosphere facing House Republicans is the worst since Watergate and far more toxic than the fall of 2006 when we lost 30 seats (and our majority)." This assessment from Rep. Tom Davis was echoed by the House minority leader, Rep. John Boehner: "We've got to do a better job." They can't do much worse, electorally. GOP candidates got their clocks cleaned in three special elections in a row – most spectacularly Tuesday when Mississippi

voters in a former Republican stronghold chose a Democrat by 8 percentage points. Six months out from the November congressional elections, a number of analysts (and Republicans themselves) are projecting the GOP will lose 10 to 25 House seats and four to seven Senate seats. It's difficult to see the four remaining Hoosier Republican House members in much peril. (Sen. Richard Lugar is not on the ballot this year.) The loss of three GOP incumbents in 2006 removed the weakest Republicans from the state's lineup. But the climate also means that at least two of the three freshmen Democratic incumbents – Reps. Brad Ellsworth and Joe Donnelly – will be in a much stronger position than they might have expected. And the likelihood of Rep. Baron Hill withstanding a repeat challenge from the fellow he has run against three times (and lost to once) – is enhanced. That's one reason Rep. Mark Souder hired a fundraising professional for the first time and has spent time raising money from lobbying groups in a far more aggressive way than in past elections. Part of Souder's fundraising frenzy may be to forestall any NRCC involvement in his campaign this fall. He was none too pleased with the committee's ham-handed activity in the '06 race when it looked like he was in danger of losing the seat. ❖

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune: Indiana was, as portrayed, a must-win state for Clinton. She won, sort of, by a little more than 1 percent in terms of math in the vote totals, and lost. If her win had come back in mid-April, when polls showed Obama pulling ahead in Indiana with a lead of 5 percent or so, a Clinton win would have been hailed as another sign of a comeback, part of momentum shown in her big Pennsylvania victory. But then the Rev. Jeremiah Wright fury hit, helping Clinton to pull ahead in the polls in Indiana -- an average lead of 5 percent in the final samplings. She was clobbered in North Carolina. The loss there negated gains she had made in Pennsylvania. So the national focus turned to Indiana Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning as final results were awaited. Even before all the stalled Lake County totals were released, it was clear that there was to be no big win for Clinton in Indiana. Not the double-digit win she needed to make a serious dent in the Obama lead in delegates and the popular vote. ❖

Mark Bennett, Terre Haute Tribune-Star: Certainly, this heated primary campaign did not evaporate all prejudices and stereotypes in Indiana. Some were clearly intensified by the recurring side issue of controversial comments by Obama's former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright. Obama denounced Wright's remarks, but





Associated Press exit polls indicated significant numbers of voters were influenced by the minister's view. The past two months haven't been a cakewalk into enlightenment, en masse. Maybe in retrospect, perhaps years from now, some who attached Wright's words to Obama will rethink that decision. ❖

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune:

Gov. Mitch Daniels is the Republican with saturation name recognition and sufficient bundles of campaign money to stay on TV with superbly produced ads from now until Election Day on Nov. 4. His opponent, now married and on the ballot this time as Jill Long Thompson, again starts with less name recognition and far less funding. *Déjà vu* all over again? There are many differences between this race and the one in 1986. More than just Jill now on the ballot with two last names. First of all, Long Thompson wasn't just thrown on the ballot by party leaders because nobody else would run. Most party leaders backed Jim Schellinger. And she beat Schellinger in a close primary election contest, despite his advantage in funding. The Long Thompson of '08 is better prepared. She now has the background of having served three terms in Congress and as an undersecretary of agriculture. Long Thompson this time is not being sent forth as a sacrificial lamb. Democrats want to win the governor race, not write it off. She will have party organization support and funding to get on TV -- though not nearly as much as Daniels will have. And Daniels is no Dan Quayle. Not like the Quayle of '86, who was popular then, and unbeatable. Polls show that Daniels is vulnerable. A poll conducted for the Indianapolis Star just before the primary election showed that Long Thompson really lacked name recognition but still was 1 percentage point ahead of Daniels in a test match-up. In other words, a whole lot of voters were saying: "I don't know this Jill What'sHerName, but I'd rather have her than Mitch as my governor." A poll conducted for The Tribune also showed a tie between Long Thompson and Daniels. While a poll for Howey Politics Indiana showed Daniels doing much better in a match-up and in popularity, it also contained danger signs for the governor, with only 47 percent saying they favored re-election of Daniels and with a significant percentage saying Indiana is on the wrong track. Most of the polls indicate that the governor lacks popularity in northern and southern Indiana and has his greatest strength in the Indianapolis media market. Also shown is that the economy is a key issue, with Hoosiers concerned about loss of industry and jobs and low wages. This will not be like the race when last Jill Long Thompson ran statewide. Not insurmountable this time, but definitely uphill. ❖

Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union:

The more I listen to Hillary Clinton, the more she reminds me

of Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf. You may remember him. He was the Minister of Information for Iraq during the invasion. The press lovingly referred to him as "Baghdad Bob." He had a penchant for ignoring the obvious and a patent disregard for facts. After U.S. forces seized control of the Baghdad airport, Bob told reporters, "We butchered the force present at the airport. We have retaken the airport! There are no Americans there!" And, after U.S. forces penetrated Central Baghdad, Bob said, "Nobody came here. Those America losers, I think their repeated frequent lies are bringing them down very rapidly ... Baghdad is secure, is safe." That last statement came on April 5, 2003. On April 8, Bob disappeared - never to be seen again. Perhaps, he could reappear as a campaign adviser for Hillary. Now, I know that underdog politicians always overstate their chances in an election. People like Ralph Nader and Ron Paul always say they have a chance to win when everybody in the world knows they don't. But Hillary's case is a little different. Her continued and dogged determination is interesting. I'm pretty sure she's not delusional, which would be one explanation for her behavior. So if she's not delusional, what is motivating her? What tricks does she have up the sleeve of her pantsuit? ❖

Mark Bennett, Terre Haute Tribune-

Star: Two years ago, Mississippi oil man Mike Blackwell returned to his hometown of Terre Haute and gave a lecture titled "\$2-Plus-a-Gallon Gasoline: What's Next?" Blackwell humbly denied having any crystal-ball powers. After all, with countless forces — from politics to weather — affecting oil costs, predicting gasoline prices is like trying to predict when someone will die. Nonetheless, Blackwell tapped his 35 years of experience and relayed prognostications he'd read or heard inside industry circles. On Feb. 24, 2006, Blackwell told the audience at Indiana State University, his alma mater, some speculators figured crude oil would soon hit \$120 a barrel. Last week, a bit later than Blackwell's oil business source suggested, that happened. Now that gasoline is nearly \$4 per gallon, it seemed appropriate to revisit the subject with Blackwell and ask, "What's next?" "I have no earthly idea," he said by telephone from Jackson, Miss., where Blackwell and his business partners run MOCO — the Mississippi Oil Co. "I don't see [the price of gasoline] going down precipitously," he added. "If it falls below \$3 [a gallon], I'll be surprised." He's seen trade projections of crude oil topping out at between \$175 and \$200 a barrel. Indeed, Goldman Sachs called for prices rising to the \$150 to \$200 range within two years. "That's basically, \$4- to \$5-a-gallon gasoline," Blackwell said. "Until we understand oil is not plentiful, we're going to see gas lines again," he added. "This is going to get worse before it gets better." ❖



Nappanee soldier laid to rest

NAPPANEE - As the mournful sound of taps and lingering smell of gunpowder from a 21-gun salute drifted over Syracuse Cemetery, Staff Sgt. James P. Snyder received final salutes from fellow soldiers and veterans (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Snyder, 48, of Nappanee, was buried Thursday after a graveside service that dozens of family members, friends and community members attended. Formerly of Syracuse, Snyder was living in a private apartment near Fort Benning, Ga., recovering from injuries suffered in January from a roadside bomb explosion in Iraq. He died unexpectedly May 10.



Ballard setting up panhandler boxes

INDIANAPOLIS - Mayor Greg Ballard and advocates for the homeless will announce a plan today to install "donation boxes" at Downtown locations to discourage panhandling (**Indianapolis Star**).

Lugar, Douglas talk weapons

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar met with actor/producer Michael Douglas in his Washington, DC Senate office on Wednesday. Douglas is on the Board of Directors of Ploughshares Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization that awards grants "aimed at preventing the spread and use of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and other weapons of war, and preventing conflicts that could lead to the use of weapons of mass destruction," according to its website. Lugar and



Douglas discussed the need to stop the proliferation of weapons and materials of mass destruction and to advance the START Treaty. In November 1991, Lugar (R-IN) and former Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) authored the Nunn-Lugar Act, which established the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. This program has provided U.S. funding and expertise to help the former Soviet Union safeguard and dismantle its enormous stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related materials, and delivery systems. "The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains the number one national security threat facing the United States and the international community," Lugar said. "The United States lacks even minimal confidence about many foreign weapons programs. In most cases, there is little or no information regarding the number of weapons or amounts of materials a country may have produced, the storage procedures they employ to safeguard their weapons, or plans regarding further production or destruction programs. We must pay much more attention to making certain that all weapons and materials of mass destruction are identified, continuously guarded, and systematically destroyed."

90% of VX gas has been destroyed

NEWPORT - A billion-dollar project to destroy a deadly nerve agent stored in Western Indiana is entering its final stages now that workers have eliminated more than 90 percent of its cache of the Cold

War-era chemical weapon (Associated Press). By late August, Army contractors expect to destroy the last of the 1,269 tons of VX nerve agent that the Newport Chemical Depot once housed, said Jeff Brubaker, the Army's onsite manager.

3 finalists for ISU

TERRE HAUTE - The Indiana State University Board of Trustees has identified three finalists in the search for the university's 11th president (**Terre Haute Tribune-Star**). The three will be brought to the Indiana State campus during the next three weeks with the board expecting to make a decision on the university's presidency at its June 20 meeting, trustees President Mike Alley said. The three are David Belcher, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Daniel Bradley, president of Fairmont State University in Fairmont, W.Va.; and Thomas "Tim" Hynes, vice president for academic affairs at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Ga.

Former Richmond Mayor Klute dies

RICHMOND -The Richmond community today is mourning the passing of the man some say is one of the city's greatest mayors (**Richmond Palladium-Item**). Byron E. Klute, who served as mayor from 1968 to early 1975, died peacefully at home among friends early Wednesday. He was 76. Klute's viewing is scheduled for Friday afternoon. His funeral is 11 a.m. Saturday. Klute, who was elected mayor while teaching history and government at Richmond High School in 1967, led the city through days of exceeding turmoil and, by turns, relative prosperity. Perhaps his greatest legacy was his work to rebuild the city's downtown district after a deadly explosion on April 6, 1968, killed 41 citizens. ❖