



# Debate lift for Ellsworth doubtful

Coats played it safe and with little viewership, not likely to save Democrat

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Did Brad Ellsworth do what he needed to do to get back into the U.S. Senate race he has been trailing by double digits for months?

That was the question for the Evansville Democrat shortly after Monday's first debate with Republican Dan Coats and Libertarian Rebecca Sink-Burris. "I don't know," said Ellsworth, who acknowledged he'd been out-gunned 5-to-1 in the TV ad wars. "I just went out there and answered questions and told my side of the story."

In his first statewide debate, Ellsworth delivered an animated performance, whereas the veteran Coats rambled at times and then was put on the defensive by the question on term limits. Coats said he left the Senate in 1998 following a personal pledge to serve no more than two terms in the Senate.

Ellsworth immediately went on the offense with



Democrat U.S. Senate candidate Brad Ellsworth checks his mic just prior to the first debate at IUPUI Monday night. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

remarks that he and his surrogates have been talking about for months, saying that Coats didn't come back home to Indiana after leaving the Senate, but instead went to work as a high paid Washington lobbyist. He quoted Coats in a

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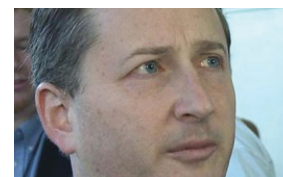
# Can Vop pull it off?

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - Ever since Otis Cox won election to the office of state auditor in 1982 without any discernible campaign, the question as to what is required for a Democrat to win a down-ballot contest in Indiana has been a matter of curiosity and amusement. Most observers concluded that Cox won for no other reason than he shared a first name with the former popular governor, Otis Bowen.



The unfortunate truth is Democrats generally do not win down-ballot races in Indiana ex-



**"I feel I am the best person to lead the secretary of state office and this poll shows that voters have confidence I am the right leader."**

**- Charlie White, on WISH poll showing him leading 39-29%**



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cept by fluke, discounting those rare instances in which the party's powers-that-be decide it is actually important enough to mount a serious campaign. Only three Democrats have won the office of Secretary of State, for example, since John Bottorff in 1964.

**Evan Bayh beat** Bowen's son—Rob "Baby Doc" Bowen—for Secretary of State in 1986 setting up his run for governor in 1988. Then Bayh helped Joe Hogsett defeat Bill Hudnut in 1990 so Hudnut would not challenge him for re-election two years later. Larry Conrad, Birch Bayh's campaign manager in 1962 and chief counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary committee on constitutional amendments where he helped the elder Bayh write the 25th Amendment, was elected Secretary of State in 1970 and again in 1974 as a stepping-stone to his unsuccessful runs for governor in 1972 and 1976.

Two former staffers to Governor Bayh, Pam Carter and Jeff Modisett, were elected state attorney general in 1992 and 1996 respectively, in part because Bayh recognized his policies would receive more favorable

legal treatment from an attorney general of the same party. The inscrutable and eventually disgraced Dwayne Brown won the Clerk of the Court race in 1990 for reasons still unexplained satisfactorily.

Otherwise, you have to go back to the era of 2-year terms and Treasurer Jack New and Auditor Mary Currie to find Democrats who were winners in down-ballot races. Over the past 40 years, the Indiana Democratic Party has declined to make any down-ballot race a priority—unless the candidate had a special connection to the Bayh family.

**This year, political** newcomer Vop Osili easily won the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State over a former Governor Joe Kernan protégé. Osili is a good candidate in a bad year for Democrats. Worse, he bears striking similarities to Barack Obama at a time when Obama's favorability ratings in Indiana are in the low 40s. Vop Osili was headed toward certain defeat when lightning struck the last week of September.

The Republican nominee, Charles White, handed Osili and the



Democrats a gift when it was revealed he had been voting illegally on both the Fishers Town Council and at the polls. Compounding White's imbroglio is the fact that the office he seeks happens to be Indiana's chief elections officer.

**Charlie White is a typical** Indiana Republican down-ballot candidate, who by virtue of his party affiliation alone has every expectation of winning. Put him in campaign ads with Mitch Daniels and he has it made.

That sense of entitlement, no doubt, helps explain White's arrogance and hubris in believing he could get away with registering to vote at his ex-wife's address and continuing to hold a council seat in a district in which he no longer lives.

White's bland campaign web page proudly proclaims him to be a "true conservative," though it displays little that would qualify him to be Secretary of State. But, White's Facebook page gets right to the point of his candidacy:

"As Secretary of State, Whitewill continue to protect and defend Indiana's voter ID law to ensure fair and accurate elections."

**"Fair and accurate"** excepting those elections in which he himself voted illegally. That opening pledge to White's social network begs the question of whether he also falsified his residence on his driver's license. Indiana has the most stringent voter ID law in the country, the subject of famously unsuccessful challenges. In fact, the law is so tough an election official tried to prevent the late Julia Carson—at the time one of the most recognizable people in Indianapolis—from voting at her neighborhood polling place when she presented her congressional ID instead of the

required state-issued ID card.

Indiana's Democratic Chair Dan Parker is correct to trumpet the irony in White's predicament. After years of demagoguing the issue, Indiana Republicans are now stuck with the kind of poster boy who becomes a standard late night TV comedy punching bag.

As a result, party bosses have sent White into hiding, mandating that he skip press interviews and cancel fundraisers. The hope is that White can hold on three more weeks so the party rather than the voters can replace him in the event he is indicted for voter fraud.

The tragedy is that as flawed a candidate as Charlie White is and as good a Secretary of State as Vop Osili would be, the odds are still in White's favor. A WISH-TV 8 poll last week shows White up by 10%, 39% to 29%, though almost a third of voters are still undecided.

**Osili has put** his case against White in a television spot filled with headlines of the scandal, including an editorial from the Post-Tribune calling for White to end his candidacy. Though the ad is crudely produced, it contains a line that might stick with voters as they enter the polling booth. After a review of White's transgressions and the claim that now White wants to be Indiana's top elections law official, the narrator exclaims "Sorry Charlie!"

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Vop Osili has almost everything going against him—a Republican wave year, an unenergetic Indiana Democratic Party, and a mostly lackluster press corps. But if Osili can muster the resources to explain White's despicable and disqualifying actions, he just might pull off Indiana's political upset of the year. ❖



Vop Osili and wife croon at the Mary Lou Conrad Sing-A-Long in French Lick last August. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

## Senate, from page 1

1992 debate with Democrat Joe Hogsett, saying that after leaving Congress "you go home and work in the private sector."

"Instead," Ellsworth said, Coats became a lobbyist. "He hasn't paid taxes in Indiana, hasn't voted here in 10 years. He has houses in Virginia and North Carolina."

At one point, Coats looked toward Mizell Stewart and said, "Mr. Moderator, is it possible to respond?"

No, Stewart said. On to the next question: jobs.

"I really feel I need to address these negative accusations," Coats said. He went off on an odd tangent, ex-

plaining that two former Senate majority leaders - Republican Bob Dole and Democrat George Mitchell - had asked him to come into the lobbying world. "After you leave the Senate, we'd like to talk to you," Coats explained, adding that before starting those conversations, "I took a month off."

You could imagine every Tea Partier cringing.

This was the element of the debate that made it into a second news cycle with Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker accusing Coats of a "bald-face lie."

Ellsworth accused Coats of negotiating his deal to join the law and lobbying firm Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand in 1998, when he was still a senator. Coats replied that former Senate Majority Leader George



Mitchell and former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole at the firm both contacted him and said they wanted to talk to him when he left the Senate. "A number of people said that," Coats went on to say. "I said, 'Under the laws, I'm not able to negotiate anything, nor do I want to negotiate anything. In fact I took a month off after I left because I didn't even want to think about what was next. It was then that they approached me to join them as special counsel. It was a privilege to be asked to join two former majority leaders, one a Democrat and one a Republican, at a very respected law firm.'"

The Associated Press reported that Coats was still in the Senate when his office announced in December 1998 that he planned on joining the firm after he left the Senate in January 1999. "Are Hoosiers going to allow him to lie his way out of this?" Parker asked at a Tuesday afternoon press conference.

Kevin S. Kellems, an adviser to Coats' campaign, brushed off the episode, saying Democrats are just trying to distract attention from Ellsworth's campaign fund, which is buoyed by special interest dollars (Indianapolis Star). "Hoosiers don't require slickness of their politicians, and in the heat of a live debate, Indiana voters understand when something isn't communicated as clearly as it could have been," Kellems said.

## **Attack during jobs question**

Ellsworth used the jobs question to attack Coats once again. He began by calling for job creation and cutting the red tape, then turned to the Coats resume: Cerberus Capital Management. On Sept. 20, Ellsworth had gone to Wabash. "This factory behind me, GDX, is on Mr. Coats' resume," said Ellsworth. "When you are a direct lobbyist and direct consultant for the company that did this to 800 employees in this town," said Ellsworth, "I think Hoosiers have the right to know that."

On Monday, Ellsworth said that GDX had been bought and sold by Ceberus, which "moved the jobs out of the country." He circled back to Coats' Senate career that included a vote for NAFTA. "That cost us 50,000 jobs in the state," Ellsworth said. "I don't think he's going to cast a vote in the Senate without a conflict of interest."

On the debate's second question - on President Obama's health reforms - Coats carried out the theme of his campaign: that Ellsworth is a tool of Obama and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, voting with them "90 percent of the

time." Coats cited a Washington Post story on the statistic. The Ellsworth campaign after the debate cited an April 27 Congressional Quarterly story saying that Ellsworth sided with his party 78 percent of the time on votes that pitted most Democrats against most Republicans -- a 'party unity' score that was the 15th lowest among Democrats. He opposes abortion and voted against a party-backed 'Cap-and-Trade' climate change bill.



**Republican Dan Coats gives a thumbs up to supporters following Monday's Senate debate. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)**

Ellsworth said that when he first ran for Congress in 2006, he heard from hundreds of constituents about the escalating health care costs. "When I first started running for Congress, people said, 'Please do something about the rising cost of healthcare in this country. I am proud that we took it on,'" the Evansville Democrat said. "Is it perfect? No. It was a good first step."

But Coats characterized it as a behemoth that will cost "a trillion dollars" and not contain costs. "Forcing through a 2,000-page document, rather than getting Americans back to work. This was a pent-up, 25-year liberal wish dream," Coats said, adding that it will cost Hoosier taxpayers \$3.16 billion over the next decade. He noted that "Hoosiers 2 to 1 were

against the health care" reforms. He said the "massive tax and spending" must end.

Coats said that Ellsworth has received more campaign funds from "special interests" than any other Democrat.

That left the perfect opening for Sink-Burris, who said, to great laughter, "I am not beholden to special interests."

All three candidates agreed that the Bush tax cuts need to be extended, even though they will add anywhere from \$2 trillion to \$4 trillion to federal budget deficits over the next decade. "This is no time to raise taxes," Coats stated. Ellsworth added, "They should be extended" and called for "reform of the entire tax code," then launched into Coats' lobbying career once again.

On Social Security, Coats called for a review and restructuring of all entitlements, with an "adult conversation" on the matter, while raising the retirement age to "67 or 67 and a half."

Ellsworth charged that Coats backs U.S. Sen. Paul Ryan's plans to privatize Social Security and said he was against raising the retirement age.

Ellsworth and Coats both said they were ardently pro life, but Ellsworth said at a post debate press conference that Coats had received money from Planned Parenthood. Coats aide Kevin Kellems said after the debate that



Ellsworth announced he would vote for the health reforms before U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak worked out a deal with Obama on prohibiting federal abortion funding.

### Post debate

In the post debate press conference, Ellsworth noted that Coats "never mentioned his 18 years in Congress" and stressed that "our resumes are important" and that Coats had opted to "go through the revolving door. He never came home."

As for the charges on Coats' lobbying career, Ellsworth said he could back up all of the "facts," adding, "I don't make this stuff up."

Coats opened his post-debate presser by lamenting the attacks in a rambling statement. "I was doing my best to focus on the issues," he said. "I regret that campaigns have to be turned into personal accusations. I think the issues that face Hoosiers are serious enough that we ought to be debating those issues."

When HPI asked Coats if there were factual issues with Ellsworth, he responded, "Do you have an hour? Everything is a public record. You have access. Check it out." Coats added that there were 850 attorneys at King & Spaulding and Ellsworth was tying him to them all.

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker said he believes that Ellsworth scored big on the lobbying and job out-sourcing issues. Coats strategist Kellems said that Coats scored points on "jobs and corrected the false stories on out-sourcing jobs. He spoke with passion and conviction."

Indianapolis Star columnist Matt Tully wrote, "It wasn't pretty. But for Ellsworth, the strategy made sense. Few candidates come equipped with the baggage Coats carried with him into this campaign. He symbolizes the revolving door between legislative bodies and lobbyist firms that many of us complain about. Convincing Hoosier voters that Coats' post-Senate career represents a fatal flaw in a Senate candidate is likely the only chance Ellsworth has to pull out an election that appears to be slipping away. And although Coats has the lead, he doesn't have a good response to the attacks. That's probably because there isn't one. He served in Congress for 18 years and then cashed in. It's a tough reality for a candidate to address. So he labeled Ellsworth's complaints 'a tired Washington game' that is played 'when you don't want to talk about what you've

done.' And then he tried to change the subject."

WXNT's Abdul Hakim-Shabazz noted, "Ellsworth went on the attack early and because he got to speak first and Coats third, Coats spent most of his early time responding to Ellsworth's charges and not really able to answer the question that was brought up. As the debate went on, I thought Coats finally got the measure of his opponent and did a better job responding to the attacks. If I had to call a winner, I would say Coats, only because while Ellsworth got some good punches in, he didn't move the needle enough."

### HPI's take

First, just about everyone we've talked to expects this race to tighten over the final three weeks. We will likely see a Rasmussen Reports poll and one more survey out

of WISH-TV and WSBT-TV before Election Day. Rasmussen published an Oct. 11 survey in Wisconsin the next day, so future surveys in Indiana will likely come after this debate.

This first debate and possibly the final debate on Oct. 25 at Vincennes could have an impact on the race. The next one - a Friday, Oct. 22, debate in Fort Wayne - takes place on the absolute worst news day of the

week and will likely have minimal impact.

Ellsworth probably scored some points on Monday, but it is doubtful many saw it. Coats didn't screw up, and that's always the goal when you've got a 20 percent lead. Eric Holcomb, who managed Gov. Daniels' 2008 reelection campaign, said that viewership and listening audience during the first Indiana Debate Commission series "was very low."

So Monday night, the universe of persuadable voters was likely low. And without Coats making the kind of gaffe that took place with President Ford in 1976 on freedom in Eastern Europe, or the 1988 Lloyd Bentsen moment with Dan Quayle, there's just probably not enough fodder to move Ellsworth into a more competitive stance in the final three weeks.

### Biden fundraiser for Ellsworth

The White house is jumping in trying to help Ellsworth. Vice President Joe Biden is expected to attend a fundraiser in Washington Thursday for Ellsworth. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Coats ❖



Brad Ellsworth at the post-debate press conference at IUPUI as Chairman Parker looks on. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



## 90 seconds not enough

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Ninety seconds are not enough.

That was the bipartisan message that Dan Coats and Brad Ellsworth could agree on following Monday's U.S. Senate debate at IUPUI.

Coats noted at the post-debate press conference that "there wasn't a single question on foreign policy." He suggested debates based on subject, such as foreign affairs, domestic policy and "a catch all" debate.

Ellsworth said there was no way any issue could be dealt with properly in the 90-second format. "A minute and a half does not do justice to any of those items," he said.

Neither candidate specifically criticized the Indiana Debate Commission, which orchestrated a finely tuned debate with the exception that the feed blipped on and off in the media room down the hall from the IUPUI auditorium. The format brought questions from people across the state. Some were delivered in person and others were asked by Mizell Stewart III, the publisher of the Evansville Courier & Press. Stewart had the latitude to break format and ask the candidate questions or draw them out if they didn't respond to a question. At one point, he gave both candidates 45 seconds to talk about themselves.

One option the Debate Commission should consider is a format Rev. Rick Warren used at the Saddleback Civil Forum on Presidency in August 2008. It was the first time Democratic nominee Barack Obama and Republican nominee John McCain appeared at the same venue, though they appeared on stage together only briefly. Warren then conducted separate interviews of the two, or, essentially, he had conversations with both candidates which allowed them to talk extensively about an issue, as opposed to dealing with a complex topic in just 90 seconds.

Warren explained in 2008 to the Seattle Times, "America has a choice. It's not between a stud and a dud this year. Both of these men care about America. My job is to let them share their views."

John Krull, host of the WFYI-FM public affairs show "No Limits," has invited the Senate candidates to participate in a similar format later this month. Ellsworth has accepted the invitation.

The Indiana Debate Commission's first debate at-

tracted 30 broadcast outlets from around the state and at least a dozen newspapers and wire services ranging from the Indianapolis Star - whose reporters tweeted vigorously from the event - to a student newspaper from Plainfield High School.



Kyle Neiderpruem of the Debate Commission told HPI it would be impossible to track what the viewership and listening audience of Monday's debate was. But Eric Holcomb, who managed Gov. Mitch Daniels 2008 re-election campaign - the first race to participate with the Indiana Debate Commission - described the measured viewership of the three debates that year as very low.

Two more debates are scheduled, for Oct. 22 at Fort Wayne's IPFW and Oct. 25 at Vincennes University in Vincennes. ❖

## Secretary of Hack

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - I haven't met Charlie White, the Republican nominee for Indiana secretary of state, so in a personal and professional vein, I was neutral about the guy. I mean, why would Charlie want to meet a writer whose column reaches 250,000 readers a week, as this one will?

He's the Hamilton County Republican chairman - one of the most influential GOP posts in the state - and was able to parlay that position into becoming the only party candidate, and subsequently nominee, to succeed the term-limited Todd Rokita. To put that into context, the last time the office was open, in 2002, Rokita had to win a convention floor dogfight against three tough candidates. They were eventual state Treasurer Richard Mourdock, future State Sen. Mike Delph and Dr. John McGoff, who gave U.S. Rep. Dan Burton the challenge of his life over the past two cycles.

Charlie White worked the party circles to get the nomination and then figured he could ride the Republican wave into this stepping stone office. He figured he didn't even have to deal with the jackal press.





The secretary of state's office has had a pretty good pedigree in modern times. Evan Bayh used it to jump into the governor's office. His buddy Joe Hogsett succeeded him, defeated Indianapolis Mayor Bill Hudnut for his own term, and went on to unsuccessfully run for Congress and attorney general before landing the Southern Indiana district attorney job a few weeks ago. Republican Sue Anne Gilroy tried to make the leap to mayor of Indianapolis. And there's Rokita, who is heavily favored to win the 4th Congressional District next month.

**Rokita is an astute and strong** secretary of state, steering Indiana's 92 counties through the fallout from the Bush vs. Gore 2000 debacle in Florida, which prompted Indiana to upgrade all of its voting equipment. He modernized the state's voter files and eliminated tens of thousands of old names, which put a crimp in the cemetery vote in Lake County. Rokita ushered in the pioneering voter identification law, which has survived a U.S. Supreme Court challenge. He is an advocate for new redistricting method. Rokita also made it utterly simple to change your voter registration online in just minutes!

Rokita will be a tough act to follow.

And that's where Charlie White has a big problem in his race against Democrat Vop Osili.

When you run for public office, you've got to have your act together. You're up to date on your child support payments. Your nanny is not an illegal alien. If you've had a DUI, you recognize it, call it a learning experience and make sure it doesn't happen again. You don't owe back taxes or misuse your homestead exemption. You don't assault your mate at a Jimmy Buffet concert wearing a parrot head shirt. You don't send racy or bigoted emails to friends. You don't screw your business partners. You follow campaign finance laws.

And, you make sure your voting credentials are in order, particularly when you want to be Indiana secretary of state, who not only guards the state seal, but presides over the Indiana Election Division.

**White's problem was that** he moved out of a his Fishers City Council seat after a divorce and then new marriage, but kept serving on the council even though he lived five miles away. He kept voting in his old precinct using what is called a "fail safe" provision. But even on that count, White wasn't consistent. He voted on a fail safe provision in 2009 but didn't in 2010. Duoh!

White saying he "forgot" to register, and then resigned his seat once Democrats were ready to pounce. It reminded me of an old Saturday Night Live skit when comedian Steve Martin did not pay his taxes: "I forgot."

Yikes.



Now White is in big political trouble. The Hamilton County prosecutor has appointed not one, but two special prosecutors, including Democrat Dan Sigler, who handled the Matt Kelly fiasco in Fort Wayne a couple years ago. Sigler's credentials are impeccable. Rokita is conducting his own investigation and will forward his findings to the special prosecutor. In what was to be a slam dunk campaign, a recent WISH-TV poll found White leading Osili by a 39-29 percent margin, with some 30 percent undecided. That's a huge pool of question marks this late in the game.

The political press barely heard from the White campaign until he put out a release late last week lambasting WISH reporter Jim Shella for "ignoring our statement" on the poll.

Now, how smart is that?

"Voters have shown in this poll, and will show on election day that they need a leader who will put their concerns first and find innovative solutions to help Hoosiers get back to work," White said. "Concerned Hoosiers have shown they want a leader to help continue to move Indiana forward as other states are taking steps in the wrong direction. I feel I am the best person to lead the Secretary of State office, and this poll shows that voters have confidence that I am the right leader."

Well, at least 39 percent of them do.

Osili observed, "If he is unable to police himself by the rules he would be sworn to uphold if elected, how can he, without creating cynicism on the part of the electorate, enforce the election laws on the other millions of voters in this state?" That's a question that White should fully address. Republicans have countered that Osili has failed to fully account for "in-kind" donations to his campaign.

Osili has a TV ad that says: "Career politician Charlie White wants to be Indiana's next secretary of state. What Charlie doesn't want you to know is that he was forced to step down from his town council seat and a grand jury and a special prosecutor are being commissioned to investigate him for felony vote fraud. And he wants us to elect him as Indiana's next chief elections officer? Sorry Charlie."

**Can Charlie White** pull this one out?

Possibly. There appears to be a Republican wave brewing that could sweep White into office, whether he's prepared or not. Rokita himself came within 2 percent of being upset by Democrat Joe Pearson in 2006 in what was a nominal Democratic wave year. So this can be a competitive race. It's unclear whether Osili, a mostly unknown Indianapolis architect, will have the resources to press the point on TV. If he does, all bets are off.

Charlie needs to remember he's running for Secretary of State, not Secretary of Hack. ❖



## Dramatic changes back home in Indiana over the past two years

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRANKLIN - If 2010 is the "antithesis" election after the Democratic wave years of 2006 and 2008, perhaps history should be our guide.

New York Times national correspondent Jeff Zeleny noted that 48 Democrats in the U.S. House occupy seats in districts carried by Republican John McCain two years ago. This factoid presents a potential roadmap to the fates of the three vulnerable Hoosier Democrats.

In the 8th CD, McCain defeated Barack Obama 51-47 percent. This year, the DCCC has all but pulled the plug on the Democratic campaign of State Rep. Trent Van Haaften, one of the "Bayh dominoes" who is projected to get swept out on Nov. 1. HPI has this race "Likely" Republican Larry Buchson after several polls have shown him with wide leads.

In the 2nd CD, Obama defeated McCain 54-45 percent. Here, recent polling shows U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly with a 9 percent lead over Republican State Rep. Jackie Walorski. HPI has this race as "Leans" Donnelly.

And in our lone "Tossup" race, McCain barely defeated Obama 50-49 percent in the 9th CD, where U.S. Rep. Baron Hill is trying to stave off a challenge from Republican Todd Young. Two internal polls have shown Hill with 7 and 2 percent leads over Young, but he has been well under that crucial 50 percent mark that incumbents want to reach before the homestretch.

**In a speech at Franklin College** Tuesday evening Zeleny said of the 48 Democrats sitting in McCain seats, "They're holding on to seats they shouldn't. Democrats hold 55 seats they won in 2006 and 2008 when voters rejected the policies of President George W. Bush and the Iraq War."

"Will there be a wave with all 55 seats gone in a year?" Zeleny asked.

Politico's Mike Allen projects the Republican pickup between 40 and 45 seats. So does Zeleny. Analyst Stuart

Rothenberg puts it in the "37 to 45" range, with this caveat: "There is at least a one in three chance of a Republican tsunami that would result in Democratic losses well above the 1994 level of 52 seats."

And Dr. Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia's Center on Politics projects a 47 seat GOP pickup in his "Crystal Ball." His Indiana projections are identical to HPI's.

Zeleny traveled extensively with the Obama campaign in 2008 and was struck by the stark change in the Indiana political landscape. "So much has changed in the last two years," he said. Obama was on a roll in the state through autumn 2008, becoming the first Democrat to carry Indiana in 44 years. "It carried through the inaugural," Zeleny said, adding, "Week by week it changed a little bit."

Hoosiers had a front-row seat through the erosion of Obama's support. He made his first trip outside of Washington to Elkhart in early February 2009, pushing the stimulus package that is now under fire in the state. He vowed that he wouldn't "forget" people in Elkhart and Kokomo, where jobless rates approached 20 percent. Not only did his stimulus give Indiana voters a tax cut (representing a third of the package), but the stimulus infusion of money propped up the state budget on education and Medicaid and saved thousands of teaching and public safety jobs.

Other stimulus money showered on Indiana electric car and industrial upstarts such as EnerDel, Bright Automotive and Caterpillar.

In the following months, Obama forced General Motors and Chrysler into pre-packaged bankruptcy that not only saved 140,000 auto-related jobs in the state, but brought new jobs into GM plants at Marion, Fort Wayne and Bedford.

In a development few could have predicted, Republicans have railed at the stimulus package. In the 3rd CD - home of a

huge GM plant in Fort Wayne - Republican Marlin Stutzman has said he would not have supported the auto bailout. Republican Senate nominee Dan Coats has castigated the stimulus package even while appearing at some of the companies (Caterpillar and EnerDel) that benefitted from funding. State Treasurer Richard Mourdock unsuccessfully challenged the Chrysler-Fiat merger, saying it perverted centuries of U.S. bankruptcy law. Had he won that lawsuit in the U.S. Supreme Court, more than 5,000 Chrysler-related jobs in places like Kokomo and Columbus (home of



**New York Times reporter Jeff Zeleny noticed the stark contrast in Indiana between 2008 and 2010 in a Tuesday speech at Franklin College. (Franklin College Photo by Renee Kean)**





Cummins Engines) would have been liquidated. Gov. Mitch Daniels rallied to Mourdock's viewpoint and was hostile to the government auto bailouts. Daniels' official detail drives a Toyota, but one assembled in Princeton.

"Fortunes have changed," Zeleny said. "Attention spans are minimal."

To date, Indiana Democrats have not framed what could be a buttress for their embattled candidates.

**"This could be the most** consequential election since 1994," Zeleny said. He traces the animosity Democrats are now feeling not only to the health care reforms President Obama signed into law last March, but also to Obama and Vice President Biden heralding "the recovery summer" that ended with jobless rates at 9.6 percent nationwide and 10.2 percent here in Indiana.

The Tea Party and Republicans have reacted loudly and angrily about the deficits and spending, though the former has receded into the ether as Republicans push for extending all the Bush tax cuts. On Tuesday in Evansville, with Gov. Daniels watching, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donahue summed up what should be an exploitable stance: "Taxing the rich guy is, without a question, a losing policy," he said. On the same day, it was reported that the very Wall Street firms U.S. taxpayers bailed out with TARP funds were doling out \$144 billion in employee compensation and bonuses.

That's \$144 billion. A new world record!

That snippet of news is reminiscent of the Well-Point rate hikes last February that revived the health reforms from life support. Will Democrats exploit that? The once shrewd Obama campaign has become a tone deaf White House and the party appears to be headed over a cliff.

The Tea Party and birthers have questioned Obama's faith and his origins. "I'm struck by how suddenly the questions of his faith occurred," Zeleny said.

Will a Republican House result in change? Don't count on it, even though Obama and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence have signaled a willingness to work together.

**"I'm not sure that in January** the problems will be solved," Zeleny said. "At the end of all this, we're probably looking at a couple of years of stalemate. I'm not too optimistic about the changes. I hope politics can take a breather and solve some problems. I don't expect that."

That dynamic settles on Sen. Bayh and Tea Party losses by Republicans like Sens. Robert Bennett and Murkowski. "A lot of senators have lost their primaries. So there really isn't a center anymore," Zeleny said. "Not many people would be moderates" in the next Congress.

On Nov. 3 - and HPI predicts the Republicans will retake the House with either 44 or 45 seats, including two from Indiana - the battle over whether we'll see the 45th president on Jan. 20, 2013, commences. ❖

## Rokita warns candidates on ISTA campaign funds

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRANKLIN - Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita sent a letter to candidates, warning them that ISTA and IPace PAC funds used for campaign donations could be subject to recovery for restitution.

The Oct. 1 letter to ISTA recipient candidates explains, "Because you are a candidate for state office in the 2010 General Election or a state political party organization, I am writing to you regarding an important matter involving the Securities Division of the Indiana Secretary of State's office and the Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA). In December 2009, the Securities Division filed a lawsuit against ISTA for securities fraud. This suit was filed in order to recover approximately \$23 million ISTA owes Indiana school districts as a result of an ISTA-offered health insurance program for teachers and school employees. The Securities Division complaint alleges ISTA and its affiliated

entities sold unregistered securities associated with a health insurance program, made untrue statements and failed to disclose information about the financial soundness of the program."

Rokita continued, "The purpose of my letter

is to alert you, as a candidate or political party organization and therefore a possible recipient of ISTA-related political contributions through IPace or affiliated organizations, that if the Securities Division is successful in proving the securities fraud case against ISTA, the Securities Division will make every effort to investigate and pursue recovery of related and commingled funds originally from ISTA by all lawful means available. As we have proceeded through the discovery process in this case, my office has recently determined that any political contributions could become relevant to any judgment or settlement of the case."

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker has told HPI that IPace funds are made to the political PAC via teacher paychecks and have not been commingled with ISTA organizational funds.

Rokita suggested campaigns are "completely responsible" for the contributions and suggested two courses of action:

1. Return all contributions from ISTA, IPace or related political entities to the source from which it came and request that it be placed into escrow while the current





lawsuit is pending and provide my office with an accounting of such funds received to date; or

2. Set aside all contributions from ISTA, IPACE or related political entities into a separate account that the campaign or party committee maintains while the current lawsuit is pending and provide my office with an accounting of such funds received to date.

### Outside money spills into CDs

Independent expenditures have topped the \$1 million mark in the 9th CD and an overwhelming amount of money is spilling into the four "competitive" Congressional races, the Blue Indiana blog reported.

Money is also pouring into the race between Rep. Baron Hill, D-9th, and Republican Todd Young in the southeastern corner of the state. Groups trying to defeat Hill have spent \$447,863; a union defending him has spent \$161,921.

The biggest spender in the 9th has been the National Republican Congressional Committee, pumping in more than \$437,000 to oppose Baron Hill. But the New Prosperity Foundation just followed their \$50,000 ad buy last week with another \$80,000 in TV advertising opposing Hill. That Chicago-based group has purchased more airtime in the past week than the Young campaign has spent on TV & radio advertising since the start of his campaign (\$117,578).

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee have spent just over \$311,000, most of it in a \$207,000 media buy to oppose GOP "Young Gun" candidate, Todd Young.

The most expensive race in the state, though, is up north in Indiana's 2nd District. Incumbent Blue Dog Democrat Joe Donnelly has been caught in a pricey campaign with state Representative Jackie Walorski.

The NRCC has spent more than \$400,000 opposing Joe Donnelly, a total nearly matched by the 60 Plus Association's \$393,000. The 60 Plus Association, a group I

omitted from my post yesterday, is a conservative organization funded by the nation's largest pharmaceutical firms. In addition, the New Prosperity Foundation has kicked in \$130,000, and the anti-abortion group Susan B. Anthony List has spent another \$134,500 to try and unseat Donnelly.

On the other side, Donnelly has gotten a boost from more than \$300,000 - most spent in the last week - by the National Association of Realtors. The DCCC has spent just over \$254,000 in the 2nd District this cycle, most of which was represented by a \$156,000 ad buy Tuesday. Donnelly's numbers are somewhat inflated by a union ad buy in support of him last November.

### 2nd CD: Anthony list targets Donnelly

The Susan B. Anthony List, CitizenLink, the Pennsylvania Family Council and Indiana Family Action announced the launch of a \$240,000 television advertising campaign consisting of two \$120,000 campaigns that will air in Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper (PA-03) and Rep. Joe Donnelly's (IN-02) districts, highlighting their votes in favor of the pro-abortion health care bill (Howey Politics Indiana). The 30-second ads will began airing Tuesday and the average viewer in their respective districts will see them eight or nine times over the course of their ten-day broadcast. SBA List President Marjorie Dannenfelser explained,

"Kathy Dahlkemper, Joe Donnelly and the self-proclaimed pro-life Democrats had all the power over whether it passed containing real protection for the unborn. But, sadly, Donnelly and Dahlkemper traded those protections for a worthless executive order from the most pro-abortion president in our nation's history. This campaign will remind voters that Kathy Dahlkemper and Joe Donnelly had the chance to protect their constituents from funding abortion, but caved to Speaker Pelosi and

Supporting Donnelly	\$ 390,048.33	22.80%
Opposing Donnelly	\$ 928,478.56	54.28%
Electioneering (vs Donnelly)	\$ 134,500.00	7.86%
Supporting Walorski	\$ 3,164.67	0.19%
Opposing Walorski	\$ 254,426.94	14.87%
Totals	\$ 1,710,618.50	100.00%

Supporting Van Haaften	\$ -	0.00%
Opposing Van Haaften	\$ 536,206.78	97.12%
Supporting Bucshon	\$ 15,907.31	2.88%
Opposing Bucshon	\$ -	0.00%
Totals	\$ 552,114.09	100.00%

Supporting Hill	\$161,921.00	12.15%
Opposing Hill	\$857,434.33	64.33%
Supporting Young	\$2,501.50	0.19%
Opposing Young	\$311,101.41	23.34%
Totals	\$1,332,958.24	100.00%



President Obama, ushering in the biggest expansion of abortion since Roe v. Wade. Curt Smith of the Indiana Family Action group, said, "It's essential that voters understand the health care bill subsidizes abortion with tax dollars, and that they learn this fact before Nov. 2." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Donnelly

### 8th CD: DCCC pulls out

The DCCC has pulled out all TV ads on behalf of State Rep. Trent Van Haaften, which appears to seal a victory for Republican Larry Buchson. The National Rifle Association endorsed Van Haaften.

Republicans have released two new ads in Indiana as part of the party's effort to pickup three seats there and regain control of the House of Representatives in the upcoming election, a party spokesman said Monday (Times of Northwest Indiana). The ads run by the National Republican Congressional Committee target U.S. Rep. Baron Hill and Van Haaften. "These are a continuation of our efforts to win as many seats as possible in Indiana,"

said Tom Erickson, National Republican Congressional Committee spokesman. The NRCC also has targeted incumbent Rep. Joe Donnelly, who is running against Republican state Rep. Jackie Walorski and Libertarian candidate Mark Vogel in 2nd District around South Bend in north central Indiana. Donnelly was the first candidate the NRCC ran an attack ad against. Erickson wouldn't say when the next one would be released. "I think it's safe to say that Indiana residents will be seeing a lot of ads from the NRCC against all three of those Democrats between now and Election Day," Erickson said. "Those are our top targets in Indiana." **Horse Race Status:** Likely Bucshon

### 9th CD: Hill talks fear, Young health care

U.S. Rep. Baron Hill fought to remind voters of 2008's sudden financial collapse — and the widespread fear and tumult that followed — during an occasionally heated 9th District candidates forum Wednesday in Jasper (Fyall, Bloomington Herald-Times). Something had to be done, he said at the Jasper Arts Center. Hill's opponents, Republican Todd Young and Libertarian Greg Knott, used some of those actions, and other Democratic policies, to batter him.

Efforts like the federal stimulus efforts package and health care reform have taken "fiscal irresponsibility to a whole new level," Young said. The candidates also wrestled over differing energy, education and Social Security policies, as well as their increasingly biting television advertisements.

The clear focus of the debate, however, was the Congress' recent track record. Despite its unpopularity now, the stimulus was necessary, Hill said. "(The economists) warned us that if Congress did not act, there would be a recession in the United States like there was in the 1930s. That is how it was," said Hill, who hailed a nascent economic recovery.

Money from the federal government has created about 1.4 million jobs, he said, the stock market has nearly

doubled, and companies in southern Indiana are beginning to invest in expansion.

Young criticized the stimulus as something that is creating renewable energy jobs in China, while unemployment in Indiana has soared from about 5 percent to above 10 percent. Young's loudest criticisms, however, targeted health care. He called it "horrible," "tragic" and "a monstrosity" and

said he would fight to repeal it. He said health care premiums could jump 110 percent, which would cut into family incomes and reduce the competitiveness of U.S. industry. The bill did nothing to control health care costs.

Hill accused Young of being in favor of abolishing the U.S. Department of Education and the National Park Service. Young denied the charge, but said the U.S. Constitution does not give power to run those departments to the federal government. However, he said he would not support efforts to eliminate the departments. "There is a federal role for education. I want that federal role to continue," Young said during the debate. "But, I think the primary educational responsibilities lay at home with the parents and at the state level."

The two candidates also fought over cap-and-trade, a bill passed by the U.S. House last summer that stalled in the U.S. Senate. The bill's death protected Indiana energy consumers, he said. If it passed, it could kill 43,000 jobs in Indiana alone and increase gas prices by more than 20 percent, he said. Climate change might not even be real, Young said. "The simplistic notion that the science is settled, either way, is something I am uncom-



Republican Todd Young (Center) and U.S. Rep. Baron Hill debated in Jasper on Wednesday night. (AP Photo)



fortable with," he said after the debate. Hill called that "wrong." **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

### HD46: Gambill opposes caps

Democratic Trustee Bionca Gambill said she opposes the property cap referendum and the Kernan-Shepard reforms that would abolish townships. Gamble is advertising on Terre Haute broadcast TV. She faces Republican Bob Heaton. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Heaton

### HD51: Dodge vulnerable?

The high stakes in this year's Indiana House races are evident in the race between incumbent State Rep. Dick Dodge and his Democratic challenger, Codie Ross (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Ross has waged an exceptionally strong campaign for a first-time candidate, particularly one in a traditionally Republican area. The potential strength of Ross' candidacy is reflected in the tough response from the Dodge camp. Ross started hammering at Dodge for the incumbent's support of the Indiana Toll Road lease, an issue that

still resonates in Toll Road counties. Dodge, 79, responded by criticizing Ross, 33, for not "figuring out what he wants to be when he grows up," referring to the fact that Ross was once a teacher and is now a lawyer - a trial lawyer to boot. Dodge's campaign ad repeatedly attacks Ross in a cartoonish voice and style without mentioning Dodge's name. For a three-term incumbent to launch an attack ad against a previously unknown challenger is a sure sign that Republicans are worried about the seat. Both candidates are getting help from state parties. A Ross mailer was paid for by the party; Dodge acknowledged the party put together his TV ad, saying the House Republican Committee has a staffer working on his campaign full time. Exactly how much help each candidate is getting won't be known until Oct. 15, the deadline for the next campaign finance report. Republicans need capture only three seats now held by Democrats to win control of the Indiana House - two if Republican Charlie White wins the secretary of state's race.

The last thing the party wants to do is lose a seat it already controls. But the Dodge strategy could well backfire. The "when he grows up" attack will draw attention to the candidates' ages, and that does not necessarily benefit Dodge. For many adults - read "voters" younger than 50, changing careers is the norm, not the oddity. Teacher and lawyer by 33 is something many will admire rather than disdain. It doesn't help that Dodge slams Ross' website, while Dodge's campaign website - dickdodge.com - was last updated April 30, a date displayed prominently. Dodge's attack-dog strategy may work in Indianapolis - where it is likely being orchestrated - but may well turn off voters in the 51st District (all of Steuben County and most of DeKalb). It's a sign of desperation by a campaign that should be conveying

confidence. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Dodge

### HD62: Blanton mailer on coal miner

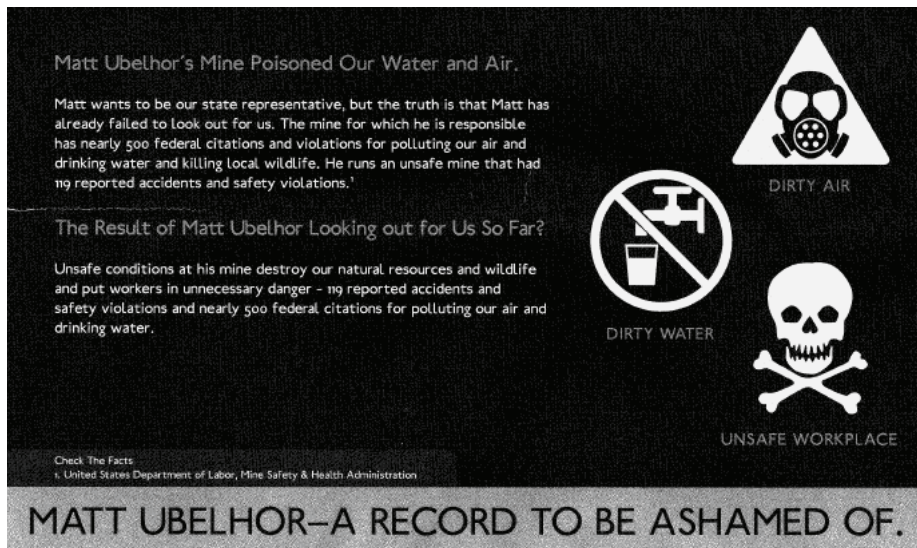
State Rep. Sandra Blanton has sent a mailer out saying that Republican Matt Ubelhoer is "poisoning" the environment (see graphic). Ubelhoer is a coal miner. This is interesting because south-western Indiana

is coal country, and the United Mine Workers have long supported Democratic candidates. It also comes as people across the planet are celebrating the rescue of the 33 Chilean miners on Wednesday. So this mailer seems to indicate some desperation on the part of the Democratic incumbent.

**Horse Race Status:** Tossup

### HD68: Dems mail on McMillin controversy

As HPI reported last week, Indiana Democrats sent a mailer out Republican Jud McMillin and his alleged controversies when he was a prosecutor in Dayton. A Dayton Daily News story HPI republished last week said McMillin attempted to have a relationship with a domestic abuse victim. The mailer received little local media coverage while State Rep. Bob Bischoff went up on Cincinnati TV. HRCC sources tell HPI that recent polling has the race too close to call. HRCC's Mike Gentry noted that Bischoff is facing "the perfect storm" in the Cincinnati media market, which is





running ads on behalf of Kentucky Senate candidate Rand Paul, Ohio Senate candidate Rob Portman and Ohio gubernatorial candidate John Kasich. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Bischoff

### HD70: Robertson trailing

HRCC polling shows State Rep. Paul Robertson trailing Rhonda Rhoads "in the single digits," Gentry said. "We're not putting that one in the win column yet." Robertson is advertising in the Louisville TV market. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

### HD75: Open seat featured

The race to succeed longtime state Rep. Dennis Avery pits a small-business owner against a longtime school-teacher and coach (Evansville Courier & Press). Republican Ron Bacon, 63, a respiratory therapist who runs Freedom Medical, which provides medical equipment for home care, and who is the Warrick County coroner, launched his campaign a year ago in hopes of defeating Avery. Democrat Mike Goebel, 58, who coaches football at Mater Dei High School and is a Vanderburgh County Council member, signed onto the ballot after Avery announced his plans to retire. Bacon said he was drawn to the race because Avery voted for a budget he called irresponsible, and he sought to offer fiscally conservative representation. "I just feel that I can do a better job because I'm a businessman and I understand economics," he said. "We've gone through times ... when we didn't have money, but we had to tighten our belts and get by without it. I can remember days when I went without a paycheck just to make sure that my staff did." **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

### HD77: Riecken calls for utility rate freeze

State Rep. Gail Riecken called for a freeze of utility rates for investor owned utilities, such as Vectren, in rate cases currently under review or set to be reviewed in the near future until an independent investigation is completed of all possible conflicts of interest and possible criminal violations at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). "There needs to be a special investigation of the obvious problem with these cozy relationships between

state appointed regulators and the industry executives they regulate," Riecken said. "The investigation should be conducted by someone outside the Governor Daniels' office, such as the United States Attorney or a special prosecutor."

Meanwhile, Republican Cheryl Musgrave told HPI that internal polling shows the race a "dead heat." HRCC's Gentry told HPI, "She is out-performing the generic ballot." **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

### HD92: Dems raise pay vote

House Democrats dropped another interesting mailer against State Rep. Phil Hinkle on behalf of Democrat Bett Voorhees (left). It assails Hinkle for giving himself a pay raise. The real story here is that this was a bipartisan deal that included support from many Democrats, who also benefitted from the pay raises. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Hinkle

The state legislature hasn't done much for us lately, but Rep. Phil Hinkle gave himself a taxpayer-funded raise anyway.

#### JOBS LOST

Rep. Phil Hinkle voted against creating the Hoosier Workers First program to help attract and retain jobs and get Hoosiers off unemployment and back to work.<sup>1</sup>

Rep. Phil Hinkle voted to block the House from considering stiff penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.<sup>2</sup>

#### SCHOOL CUTS

Rep. Phil Hinkle voted to cut \$21 million from our local schools while supporting millions for an annual taxpayer bailout of Lucas Oil Stadium and Conseco Fieldhouse.<sup>3</sup>

Rep. Phil Hinkle voted against funding full-day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs that would give our students the start they deserve.<sup>4</sup>

#### TAX HIKES

Rep. Phil Hinkle voted against \$550 million in property tax relief for homeowners.<sup>5</sup>

Rep. Phil Hinkle voted to raise property taxes twice in two months, forcing Marion County homeowners to pay hundreds of dollars more in property taxes each year.<sup>6</sup>

#### PAY RAISE?!

While we face record job losses and school cuts, Phil Hinkle gave himself a \$9,000 per

### Treasurer: Buttigieg 'desperate'

Democrat Pete Buttigieg has criticized incumbent Republican Richard Mourdock for his fight last year against Chrysler bankruptcy proceedings that he took all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court (Associated Press). He also said Mourdock shouldn't have appeared at an event featuring conservative talk show host Glenn Beck because of Beck's advertisements for a gold dealer. Buttigieg said the appearance "sends the message that it's OK to steer people into deceptive investment schemes." Buttigieg said

the treasurer's office should be one of caretaker and steward - not a way to push an "extremist" political agenda. "This is supposed to be a pretty boring office," Buttigieg said. "These kind of distractions, I think, polarize people. I certainly don't think they're helpful." Mourdock said the state treasurer is prohibited from buying gold, and that he admires Tea Party voters for "not sitting on their hands" during this year's elections. He said he's proud that he stood up for Indiana's pension funds affected by the Chrysler bankruptcy and said Buttigieg is just grasping at straws. "He's just desperate, grabbing, trying to get attention," Mourdock said. "When most people talk about this office, their eyes quickly glaze over. It's not about politics as he's trying to make it. It's about fiscal responsibility and honoring the law." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Mourdock



## Democrats Republicans

52 48

### Republican Pickup

HD46: (Open, Tincher) Bionca Gambill (D) vs. Bob Heaton (R)  
HD73: (Open, Oxley) Ryan Bowers (D) vs. Steve Davisson (R)

### Tossup

HD17: Rep. Nancy Dembowski (D) vs. Frances Elert  
HD30: Rep. Ron Herrell (D) vs. Mike Karickhoff (R)  
HD37: Rep. Scott Reske (D) vs. Kyle Hupfer (R)  
**HD62: Rep. Sandra Blanton (D) v. Matt Ubelhoer**  
**HD75: (Open, Avery) Mike Goebel (D) vs. R. Bacon**  
HD77: Rep. Gail Riecken (D) vs. Cheryl Musgrave(R)  
HD19: Dan Klein (R) v. Rep. Shelli VanDenBurgh  
HD31: Rep. Joe Pearson (D) vs. Kevin MahanR)  
HD44: Rep. Nancy Michael (D) vs. Jim Baird  
HD70: Rep. Paul Robertson (D) vs. RhondaRhoads  
HD76: Sen. Bob Deig (D) vs. Wendy McNamara (R)  
HD89: Rep. John Barnes (D) vs. Cindy Kirchhofer (R)

### Leans D

HD36: State Rep. Terri Austin (D) vs. Kim Builta (R)  
HD66: Rep. Terry Goodin (D) vs. Jim Lucas (R)  
HD74: Rep. Russ Stilwell (D) vs. Susan Ellspermann  
**HD42: Rep. Dale Grubb (D) vs. Sharon Negele**  
HD68: Rep. Bob Bischoff (D) vs. Jud McMillin (R)

### Leans R

HD15: Timothy Downs (D) vs. Rep. Don Lehe (R)  
**HD72: Shane Gibson (D) vs. Rep. Ed Clere (R)**  
HD51: Cody Ross (D) vs. Rep. Dick Dodge (R)  
HD92: Brett Voorhies (D) vs. Rep. Phil Hinkle (R)

### Likely D

HD27: Rep. Sheila Klinker (D) vs. Don Brown (R)  
HD86: Rep. Ed DeLaney (D) vs. Kurt Webber  
HD43: Rep. Clyde Kersey (D) vs. Al Morrison  
HD97: Rep. Mary Ann Sullivan (D) vs. Wes Robinson

### Likely R

HD4: Thomas Webber vs. State Rep. Ed Soliday  
HD21: (Open, Walorski) Dwight Fish vs. Tim Wesco  
**HD26: Paul Roales (D) vs. Rep. Randy Truitt (R)**  
HD24: State Rep. Rich McClain vs. Tim Banter (D)

### Safe

**Democrats:** Fry, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Cheatham, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Stevenson, Reardon, Dobis, V. Smith, Bardon, Tyler, Moseley, Pflum, Pierce, Welch, Battles, Stemler, GiaQuinta, Moses, Pryor, Bartlett, Porter, Crawford, Summers, Day.

**Republicans:** Open-Borrer (Morris), Open-Bell (Heuer), Open-Ruppel (Kubacki), Open-Clements (Van Natter), Open-Duncan (Frye), Open-Murphy (Speedy), Yarde, Dermody, Messmer, Neese, Gutwein, Wolkins, Friend, J. Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Davis, Lutz, Torr, Steuerwald, T. Brown, Borders, Foley, Culver, Leonard, Cherry, Saunders, Knollman, Eberhart, Burton, M.Smith, Koch, Crouch, Lehman, Espich, Pond, Noe, Bosma, Behning, Frizzell. ❖

\* Status Changes are bold faced



## Poorly conceived rankings should be ignored

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Frequently, Forbes or some other self-promoting organization will present a list of the best and worst: the best places to live, to retire, or to have a hangnail. We've seen dozens of these lists: the best colleges for students with severe acne, churches for chronic sinners, companies for sociopaths.

These imaginative lists are often featured as 'news' on the home pages of popular internet providers. Let me warn you. These listings are for entertainment purposes only. They can be manipulated to make Churubusco the best place to start a new business or the worst place to have a torrid affair.



Morton Marcus  
Column

Even if not manipulated to get desired results, such listings may be short on facts or involve judgments very different from yours. Too frequently these listings are composites of blunders by list makers with plenty of data but little understanding.

"Best & Worst Run States," appeared on Comcast.net (October 9, 2010). This doozy was produced by 24/7 Wall St. which promises "insightful analysis and commentary for U.S. and global equity investors". I hope they know more about stocks and bonds than they seem to know about their own "research".

24/7 Wall St. asks the question, "How well run are America's fifty states?" To answer this complex question, "we chose what we considered to be the 10 most important ranking [sic] of financial and overall government management."

**This study claims "states can control** their own destinies." A state government cannot control the destiny of its people or businesses. Government is the product of decisions made by businesses and households within and outside the state. Government does have a marginal influence on the private sector through tax, spending, and regulatory acts.

The idea that government is the dominant force in the economy, strangely, is a denial by business of its own importance. That position would be true in a socialist economy, but this is still a capitalist nation, despite what the hysterics say.

Next 24/7 Wall St. says "Well-run states have a great deal in common with well-run corporations. Books are kept balanced. Investment is prudent. Debt is sustainable. Innovation is prized. Workers are well-chosen and well-trained. Executives are picked based on merit and not 'politics'".

**Yes, we can pause to laugh now.** The repeatedly erroneous comparison of government with private business would not be accepted in a sophomore college class. The selection of executives "based on merit and not 'politics'" would be charmingly naive in an elementary school assembly.

The fundamental flaw in the 24/7 Wall St. is the selection of factors or indicators that do not reflect how well governments function. Indiana ranks 29th among the 50 states in the 24/7 Wall St. Is this a statement about functioning today or in the past 30 years?

The percent of the population over age 25 who have completed high school is one of the factors considered. How can the current administration be held accountable for high school graduation rates of people who were out of high school when it took office? Most of the factors in this study, such as the income of Hoosiers, represent the cumulative successes and failures of businesses and households.

**Low public debt per capita, where** Indiana ranks 25th, is interpreted by 24/7 Wall St. as something positive. It might represent, however, long-term failure to invest in the state's infrastructure. None of the indicators includes any reference to taxes, revenues, expenditures or the performance of government functions. Often truly inappropriate metrics are use. How can state governments be held accountable for the decline in housing prices?

Americans love rankings, but poorly conceived rankings can do much harm. I cannot believe that Wyoming has the nation's best state government. ❖

**Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.**



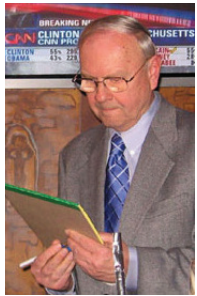
## Candidates, translations

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - What do they really mean when they say what they say? Well, it's time to update my translation of candidate lingo, with particular attention to those friendly campaign TV ads.

**Candidate:** "I'm (Candidate Name) and I approve this message."

**Translation:** "I know it's unfair. Like my opponent's stuff about me. I don't like being negative. But it works. The consultants said I had to approve it if I want to win."



**Candidate:** "My opponent was the first to go negative."

**Translation:** "Darn. Beat me to the punch."

**Candidate:** "I will create jobs, cut spending, slash taxes, balance the budget, reduce the deficit and improve education."

**Translation:** "How am I gonna do all that by myself? Only He who rested on the seventh day could do that. But maybe the stupid voters will believe I can perform miracles."

**Candidate:** "I will take Hoosier values to Washington."

**Translation:** "No, not like Mark Souder did."

**Candidate:** "I will bring change to Indianapolis."

**Translation:** "I'll bring quarters and dimes and big bucks, too, for those legislative poker games."

**Candidate:** "My opponent follows the liberal agenda of Nancy Pelosi and Barack Obama."

**Translation:** "That's how the consultants tell us Republicans to run this year, even if my Democratic opponent is a moderate."

**Candidate:** "I do not march to the orders of Nancy Pelosi and Barack Obama."

**Translation:** "That's how the consultants tell us Democrats to run this year, even if I gotta pretend I'm not really a Democrat."

**Candidate:** "I am not a witch."

**Translation:** "I'm that whacko in Delaware. So, gotta waste TV time just defending against the broomstick issue."

**Candidate:** "I'll never use earmarks."

**Translation:** "Right. I'll never mark my ears. But I'll sneak in appropriations for lobbyists who support me."

**Candidate:** "The newspapers don't tell the truth about me."

**Translation:** "Good thing. If they ever find the truth, I'm ruined."

**Candidate:** "I'll bring a businesslike approach to government."

**Translation:** "I'll bring government business to my contributors."

**Candidate:** "That comment was taken out of context."

**Translation:** "If I knew they were taping me, I never would have said it."

**Candidate:** "I will promote the type of Hoosier values advanced by Evan Bayh, our great Democratic senator."

**Translation:** "His Hoosier values sure didn't include helping Hoosier Democrats. Bailing out like he did is costing us a Senate seat and a House seat."

**Candidate:** "I will promote the type of Hoosier values advanced by, Mitch Daniels, our great Republican governor."

**Translation:** "His Hoosier values in denouncing federal stimulus money sure didn't keep him from accepting stimulus money and balancing the budget with it."

**Candidate:** "If Barack Hussein Obama says he was born in this country, isn't a Muslim extremist and doesn't have a socialist agenda to destroy our freedom, I will take him at his word."

**Translation:** "If I keep mentioning that stuff, some voters will believe it."

**Candidate:** "My opponent now claims not to support eliminating Social Security, Medicare, the minimum wage, unemployment compensation and help for students, veterans and retirees. If it's true, I welcome the change."

**Translation:** "If I keep mentioning that stuff, some voters will believe it."

**Candidate:** "I call on my opponent to agree to a series of televised debates throughout the state. Voters in every region should hear us discuss the issues. It's important for democracy."

**Translation:** "I'm trailing. So, it's important for me to have as many chances as possible to nail that slob."

**Candidate:** "We will have a televised debate and both of us have hundreds of opportunities at other events to present our views. There's no need for repetitious debates all over the state."

**Translation:** "I'm ahead. So, not gonna give that slob chances to throw bombs in a whole bunch of debates."

**Candidate:** "It has come to my attention that there are a few mistakes in my campaign literature, involving listing of my college degrees, military service, awards won and positions held. I was unaware of these mistakes. I don't know how they occurred. But I won't let some typo or staff carelessness divert attention from the vital issues of this campaign."

**Translation:** "They caught me."







**Mark Halperin, TIME:** Barack Obama is being politically crushed in a vise. From above, by elite opinion about his competence. From below, by mass anger and anxiety over unemployment. And it is too late for him to do anything about this predicament until after November's elections. With the exception of core Obama Administration loyalists, most politically engaged elites have reached the same conclusions: the White House is in over its head, isolated, insular, arrogant and clueless about how to get along with or persuade members of Congress, the media, the business community or working-class voters. This view is held by Fox News pundits, executives and anchors at the major old-media outlets, reporters who cover the White House, Democratic and Republican congressional leaders and governors, many Democratic business people and lawyers who raised big money for Obama in 2008, and even some members of the Administration just beyond the inner circle. On Friday, after the release of the latest bleak unemployment data - the last major jobs figures before the midterms - Obama said, "Putting the American people back to work, expanding opportunity, rebuilding the economic security of the middle class is the moral and national challenge of our time." But elites feel the President has failed to meet that challenge and are convinced he will be unable to do so in the remainder of his term. Moreover, there is a growing perception that Obama's decisions are causing harm - that businesses are being hurt by the Administration's legislation and that economic recovery is stalling because of the uncertainty surrounding energy policy, health care, deficits, housing, immigration and spending. And that sentiment is spreading. ❖

**Michael Barone, Real Clear Politics:** It's an ornate office in Indiana's beautifully maintained mid-19th century Capitol, but the 49th governor of Indiana, Mitch Daniels, is not dressed to match the setting. He's just returned from spending the night in Princeton, Ind., staying at a constituent's house -- as he often does around the state -- and he's dressed in a work shirt and jeans. I've known Daniels since he was a staffer for Sen. Richard Lugar in the 1980s, and for years he struck me as one of the least likely candidates for public office. He's got strong, mostly conservative convictions; he doesn't suffer fools (and elected politicians) gladly; he doesn't care if others don't like him. All those characteristics were on display when he ran the Office of Management and Budget for George W. Bush between January 2001 and June 2003. But when he returned to Indiana from Washington, he started running for governor and was elected with 53 percent of the vote in 2004. After four sometimes controversial years as governor -- he sold off the North Indiana Toll Road and

persuaded the legislature to smooth out the state's time zone boundaries -- he was re-elected 58 percent to 40 percent in 2008 even as Barack Obama was carrying the state. As much as any American politician of his generation, he's proved that cutting spending and gaining a reputation as a skinflint is good politics. Now Daniels is being mentioned as a presidential candidate, and he doesn't deny that he's thinking about it. He's been holding dinners with national policy experts in Indianapolis, much as George W. Bush did in Austin, Texas, a dozen years ago. And he says that, if he runs, he'll be a different kind of candidate. As for "the federal fiscal picture -- and why don't we have the philosophic debate tomorrow -- as for today, can we agree that the arithmetic doesn't work? We're going to have higher and higher levels of debt." He goes on. "This is a survival-level issue for the country. We won't be a leader without major change in the federal fiscal picture. We're going to have to do fundamental things you say are impossible." He believes that "Democrats are better positioned to do this, but they're not going to lead. This will probably be a Republican responsibility." To do what exactly? To propose "fundamental changes in entitlements and in the size and scope of the federal government." Because "the machine is going TILT." As OMB director, Daniels was on the National Security Council, and as governor he's visited Indiana troops around the world. He says, "It's important to support the commander in chief" on Afghanistan. But he's open to cuts in defense spending beyond those Secretary Robert Gates has imposed. "No question that the system is rigged to overspend," he says, "like health care. No question that defense dollars could be spent better." "But back to not becoming Greece," he says. "Can we continue with every mission we've assigned the military indefinitely? Is every one essential to the safety of Americans?" ❖

**Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana:** Cue the "Jaws" music. There will be some big changes soon on the political scene, and that means blood in the water. I've been taking the pulse of the electorate, and it has quickened. The voters have developed a taste for incumbent blood, if what I've been seeing is true. They're circling, making the incumbents nervous. Howey Politics Indiana is calling the House District 19 race "a tossup." Republican Dan Klein, a former Crown Point mayor, is running against incumbent state Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh, a Democrat. In the 2nd Congressional District, incumbent Democrat Joe Donnelly is only 9 points ahead of Republican Jackie Walorski in the polls. Walorski's campaign is reportedly thrilled that she's within striking distance. The power of incumbency, especially in congressional and state legislative races, is traditionally very strong. But this year seems different. ❖





## \$100M price tag on jobless fund

INDIANAPOLIS - State officials will have to find up to \$100 million next year to pay the federal government interest on its \$1.8 billion unemployment loan, and businesses will start to pay a penalty in January as a result of Indiana's insolvent fund (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Lawmakers and other members of the Unemployment Insurance Oversight Committee heard the news Wednesday during a presentation by the Department of Workforce Development. A national expert on unemployment issues also weighed in. He said it will be a challenge to get the federal government to forgive the interest or give a reprieve on expected federal unemployment tax increases. "It's difficult to make the case for relief because it costs money to the federal government and there is a heightened sensitivity to the size of federal debt," said Douglas Holmes, president of the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation. But Gov. Mitch Daniels holds out hope that a new Congress elected in November will act at the beginning of the year. "I don't know if they will or won't, but by now we are one of more than two-thirds of the states in significant arrears," he said. "To me, it's not likely that the feds simply insist that everybody somehow come up with every penny when most states are much worse off than we are."



## Robertson named insurance chief

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch

Daniels today announced the appointment of Stephen Robertson as commissioner of the Department of Insurance (DOI). Robertson, who has served as DOI's executive director since June, replaces Carol Cutter who passed away last month.

## Daniels planning Asian trip

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is heading overseas. Daniels' office said Wednesday he will lead about 40 business leaders and elected officials on an economic development trip to China and Japan next month. The governor will meet with government and business leaders in both countries during the Nov. 6-17 trip. It will be Daniels' second trip to China and fifth trip to Japan since 2005. The trip will include visits to Shanghai and Zhejiang in China and Nagoya and Tokyo in Japan. A highlight will be meetings with officials from automakers in both countries. The trip is funded through private donations to the Indiana Economic Development Foundation.

## Ballard back pedals on meters

INDIANAPOLIS - Indianapolis City-County Council members say Mayor Greg Ballard is ready to bow to concerns that 50 years is way too long to hand over control of the city's parking meters. A scale-back in the term of Ballard's proposed lease of meters to a team led by a Dallas-based contractor is among changes that could be announced in the next week or so, according to council members. Ballard's office has been renegotiating with

Affiliated Computer Services, a Xerox company, and its Indianapolis-based partners. This week, Ballard declined to specify any changes, which could be key to winning support for the deal from even his fellow Republicans. "I think a pretty consistent view is that the agreement will not be for 50 years," said Barbara Malone, a Republican at-large council member who is the lease proposal's sponsor. She had not yet heard a firm number but said "the reality (among council members) is somewhere between 15 and 20, and maybe with some option to renew for a term."

Latest Polls			
RACE	RESULTS		SOURCE
Conn. Senate	Blumenthal (D)	54%	Quinnipiac
	McMahon (R)	43%	
Del. Senate	Coons (D)	57%	CNN/Time
	O'Donnell (R)	38%	
Nev. Senate	Angle (R)	49%	Rasmussen Reports
	Reid (D)	48%	
Ohio Governor	Kasich (R)	48%	Rasmussen Reports
	Strickland (D)	45%	
Wis. Governor	Walker (R)	51%	Rasmussen Reports
	Barrett (D)	42%	
Ore. Senate	Wyden (D)	52%	Rasmussen Reports
	Huffman (R)	36%	
Okla. Governor	Fallin (R)	54%	Sooner Poll
	Askins (D)	38%	
Fla. Senate	Rubio (R)	45%	Susquehanna/Sunshine State News
	Crist (I)	29%	
	Meek (D)	22%	
Fla. Governor	Sink (D)	46%	Public Policy Polling
	Scott (R)	41%	
Maine Governor	LePage (R)	35%	Rasmussen Reports
	Mitchell (D)	32%	
	Cutler (I)	21%	
S.C. Governor	Haley (R)	46%	Winthrop Univ.
	Sheheen (D)	37%	
W.Va. Senate	Raese (R)	49%	Rasmussen Reports
	Manchin (D)	46%	
N.Y. 19	Hayworth (R)	46%	Siena
	Hall (D)	43%	
Ill. Senate	Kirk (R)	37%	Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
	Giannoulias (D)	37%	
	Jones (G)	3%	
	Labno (L)	2%	



## 6 seek East Chicago mayoral job

EAST CHICAGO - Six candidates will compete Saturday for the challenge of running this troubled city (Tompkins, Times of Northwest Indiana). Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., the Democratic county chairman, said Wednesday the city's 36 precinct committee members will caucus at 9 a.m. Saturday at East Chicago Central High School to choose a new mayor. Among them are: John Aguilera, Anthony Copeland, Clemmie Jones, City Councilman Rich Medina, Jesus L. "Jesse" Ortiz Jr. and Dorothy Smart-Williams. The chosen one must serve the 14 months remaining in the term of former Mayor George Pabey, who a federal jury stripped of his office last month by convicting him of conspiracy and stealing government funds to revamp his home in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. The public will vote in May to name a mayor to serve after 2011.

## Lake County to cut 116 jobs

CROWN POINT - Lake County officials plan to eliminate 116 jobs from their payrolls Dec. 3 to balance the 2011 budget (Dolan, Times of Northwest Indiana). "This is for real," Dante Rondelli, the County Council's finance director, said Wednesday of the austerity moves. He spoke at the final workshop meeting of the seven-member fiscal body that will reassemble today to cast a final vote on next year's spending goals. The County Council demanded the cuts to eliminate a looming \$9 million deficit created by a state-mandated freeze on increases in the county property tax levy and caps on the highest amount the county can tax individual property owners. The Sheriff's Department will lose the most -- 26 positions now oc-

cupied by police, court security officers and civilian employees.

## Penn trustee rejects Morgan, won't quit

SOUTH BEND - Penn Township trustee Jeffrey Dean said Wednesday he does not plan to resign from office despite pressure from the county Democratic Party (Blasko, South Bend Tribune). Party Chairman Butch Morgan reportedly met with Dean over the weekend and concluded his actions as trustee "violated the public trust." In a news release issued Wednesday, Morgan said he considers Dean a friend, "but based on all that I know and the folks I have consulted, I believe he should resign." Asked to respond, Dean, who is running unopposed for re-election, said by phone Wednesday he did indeed speak to Morgan over the weekend, "and no, I'm not going to resign, and that's it." He added, "I've commented enough on this. ... I really have no other comment."

## Curry raises Bisard issue

INDIANAPOLIS - Candidates for Marion County Prosecutor are now beginning to talk about the David Bisard case. The case of the Indianapolis Metro Police officer who struck and killed a motorcyclist is now a topic in the Marion County prosecutor's race. Democrat Terry Curry says, if elected, he would try to have the drinking and driving charges against Officer David Bisard reinstated. "We will seek to refile alcohol-related charges against Officer Bisard should we be elected prosecutor. As I said on August 30. If reasonable minds can disagree on the validity of the blood draw and the interpretation of the law then the court should make the ultimate determination on this critical

issue," said Curry. "I have refrained from grand standing to score political points. So far what I have seen both the prosecutor and my opponent are both wrong and will not bring justice in this case. The prosecutor for giving up too soon and my opponent for putting forth again today a flimsy legal argument flanked by partisan political attorney's who are financially supportive of his campaign," said Republican Mark Massa.

## Prosecutor ordered off debate stage

ANDERSON - An already tense exchange between the former and current prosecutors, who are competing to win the job in the November election, came to a head when one candidate repeatedly interrupted and was asked to leave the stage Wednesday night at City Hall. "It's not the first time that we've locked horns," said Thomas Broderick Jr., Madison County prosecutor, adding that he hadn't expected the night's outcome (WISH-TV). Broderick and former prosecutor Rodney Cummings shared the same stage for the first time this election season at Wednesday's candidate forum, sponsored by The Herald Bulletin. Throughout the two-minute opening statements and the responses to four moderator questions, the two men launched accusations of biases and ineptitudes, and called each other liars. After Broderick interrupted Cummings' closing statement a third time, moderator Scott Underwood, editor of The Herald Bulletin, asked Broderick to leave the stage. "Mr. Broderick knew the ground rules and he agreed to them," Underwood said. "He'd already interrupted once. After the second interruption, it became clear that Mr. Cummings would not be able to give his closing statement if Mr. Broderick remained at the microphone."