



House Forecast: 53 seats for GOP

Another 4 Democratic seats in Horse Race 'Tossup' zone

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Republicans appear to be on a new comeback in the Indiana House. In a Howey Politics Indiana analysis of October pre-election reports and supplemental spending along with current trends, history, and overlapping polling data, the GOP appears to be on track to pick up five House seats which would put their majority at 53 seats.

HPI is forecasting GOP victories for Kokomo Councilman Mike Karickhoff in HD30 over State Rep. Ron Herrell, Bob Heaton in the open HD46, Mike Ubelhor in HD62 over

State Rep. Sandra Blanton, Rhonda Rhoads over State Rep. Paul Robertson in HD70, and Steve Davisson the open HD73 formerly held by the Oxley family.

There are another four seats -



Democratic State Reps. Bob Bischoff (left), Ron Herrell (top) and Nancy Michael are facing intense challenges on Nov. 2. (HPI Photos by Steve Dickerson)

HD44, HD68, HD76 and HD77 - that are pure tossups and could go to either party. In a best case scenario for Republicans, running the table on those seats would put the majority at 57 seats. A historic Republican wave could pull in

Continued on page 4

The majority governor?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - At this point - less than a week before the Nov. 2 elections - the hypothetical dynamic is that Republicans are poised to reclaim majority in the Indiana House.

And the big question is, if they do, what will Gov. Mitch Daniels do with it?

He had majorities in both the House and Senate in 2005 and 2006 and rammed through a balanced budget, and amnesty for taxpayers that brought in millions of dollars to state coffers. He achieved the Major Moves leasing of the Indiana Toll Road, moved the state to



“The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president.”

- U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell





Howey Politics Indiana

is a non-partisan newsletter based in Indianapolis and published on the campus of Franklin College. It was founded in 1994 in Fort Wayne.

Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington
Jack E. Howey, editor
Beverly K. Phillips, associate editor

Subscriptions

\$350 annually HPI Weekly
\$550 annually HPI Weekly and HPI Daily Wire.

☎ Call 317.627.6746

Contact HPI

Howey Politics Indiana
6255 N. Evanston Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

www.howeypolitics.com

bhowey2@gmail.com

☎ Howey's cell: 317.506.0883

☎ Washington: 703.248.0909

☎ Business Office: 317.627.6746

2010, Howey Politics Indiana. All rights reserved. Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, whole or part, is a violation of federal law without permission from the publisher. ❖

Daylight Saving Time and signed the Indiana Telecommunications Reform Act of 2006 that is bringing broadband into rural areas and small towns.

Democrats reclaimed the House in 2006 and it slowed what Daniels called his "freight train of change" during his 2004 gubernatorial campaign and while there were some achievements - the Healthy Indiana Plan is notable and the property tax cuts of 2008 - and two subsequent balanced budgets (he vetoed one which now is prominently featured in TV ads against Democrats this fall), the thrust of his local government and school reforms ground to a halt in the legislature. He opted for licensing and standard boards, along with the State Board of Education to launch a series of school reforms.

A Republican majority in the House will mean that the thrust of reforms will return to the legislative theater, with education taking center stage. "America is about to make big changes and the forces defending the status quo are pretty isolated," Daniels said in an interview Wednesday in his Statehouse office. He emphasized that he, President Obama, U.S. Education Sec. Arne Duncan and Indiana Supt. Tony Bennett are all on the same page. States that drag their feet on education reforms will "get left behind," Daniels said.

In the 2011 Indiana General Assembly, Daniels said of his first educational mission: "I would start with teacher quality. This means paying the best teachers more, paying the teachers in the most important subjects more. Or at least have the freedom to do that. And teachers earning job security because the kids learn, not because they've been around for years. Pure seniority doesn't work well for kids. We have teachers of the year who get laid off."

Daniels noted that something like 99 percent of teachers are rated satisfactory or above.

The State Board of Education

has changed the way schools will be graded, going to an A through F format. He said that it would not be fair to hold schools accountable without taking down "all sorts of mandates and handcuffs, whether it's by statute or regulation."

The governor wants to "take the lid off charter schools" so that they don't struggle. This would mean ending a six month delay in payments from the state. He added that school corporations won't sell or give charter schools empty school buildings that taxpayers have already paid for. "We'll address that and give them a fair shake," he said.

"I'm going to propose that Indiana students who want to can graduate in less than 12 years," Daniels said, adding that he's been approached by scores of students who tell him they had amassed enough credit hours to have graduated one or two semesters earlier. He said seniors frequently tell him "I'm cruising" at a cost of between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per year to taxpayers.

He said that the state had "accidentally" created a competitive environment between public schools when the state assumed all K-12 school funding, taking it off the property tax rolls. "There are now billboards where schools are saying, 'Check out our test scores.'"

"We should say schools can't charge tuition," Daniels said, suggesting that if an Indianapolis Public School student wants to enroll at Ben Davis, "there will be more freedom and more options." Bennett, speaking to teachers at the film "Waiting for Superman" last week, was quoted in the Evansville Courier & Press saying that the money should follow the student, adding that currently, when students leave schools, especially those where enrollment is declining, the money is phased out over three years - a policy called a "degoster." Therefore, growing schools receive fewer dollars per student than shrinking schools do.



And Daniels pointed to the 16 "new tech" high schools created around the state in the last three years that will provide students with advanced technological training. "We don't tell people where they have to buy their groceries," Daniels said. "But we tell them where they have to go to school."

Some Democrats have charged that Daniels is intent on destroying public education. "They want to attack schools, to privatize schools," said Speaker B. Patrick Bauer on Wednesday (Louisville Courier-Journal).

"That is somebody who is thinking about adults and not the kids," Daniels responded. "We're going to shape it around the kids."

Others accuse him of trying to run the teachers unions out of business. Daniels points to his first full day in office when he ended the collective bargaining agreement with state employees and "once it was their decision, 90 percent of the employees decided to keep the money." Daniels said he directs his staff to meet with the state employees unions periodically or "when they ask."

As for the Kernan-Shepard reforms on local government, Daniels said he would like to start "with the four bills that passed the Senate twice." Those deal with nepotism among public employees, conflicts of interest (such as police and firefighters and other municipal employees serving on city and county councils that set pay), eliminating township advisory boards and moving from three county commissioners to a single county executive.

Daniels added, "I will raise the issue of township trustees."

Critics of House Democrats like to recall the House Government and Regulatory Reform Chair John Bartlett who killed all the Senate bills in an amateurish committee session on the House floor, beating a path back and forth from Bauer's office where he received his marching orders. Daniels acknowledged that there will be "bipartisan support" and "bipartisan opposition" to the reforms, but added of a potential Republican House, "At least we'll get a hearing."

State Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, noted in an e-mail Wednesday, "Indiana is in the peculiar position of having too many governments but too little governance. Some institutions hold large reserves, while others are cutting basic public services. It is not possible to monitor our maze of governments let alone to run them effectively."

Daniels has been at the center of speculation on a challenge to President Obama in 2012. These two executives might find themselves in opposite power alignments: Daniels with majorities in the House and Senate as Obama had in 2009-10, and the president dealing with a GOP majority in the U.S. House, if not the Senate.

What lessons has our Governor learned from Obama's first two years in office?

Daniels contemplated the question and suggested that Obama had "mishandled" the power by "letting legislators create the bill for him" on such controversial issues as the stimulus and the health reforms. When I suggested that Daniels had taken a similar tack during biennial budgets, allowing the people's representatives to thrash out the details while he set parameters, the governor begged

to differ, saying, "There's a big difference between close collaboration" and powerful legislators driving the final bills that ultimately become law.

The political reaction is what we are witnessing today: Daniels is propelling Republican House candidates with his demand for an honestly balanced budget. Democratic congressional candidates in Indiana are on their heels because of the Congressionally driven stimulus and health reform laws.

"We've tried along the way to give clear signals about what we were for," Daniels said.

Asked how he will approach the period from next April - when the Indiana General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn - through May and June when many Republicans will urge him to seek the presidency, Daniels described it as a "dreadful prospect."

He is hoping that one or more presidential prospects will rise to the occasion and deal with the potentially ruinous financial issues facing the nation. "It's not ideology. It's the arithmetic," Daniels said. "We are in a precarious shape with debt. The mathematics don't work."

And Daniels said his speech at the Hudson Institute in Washington last week wasn't cloaked in a secret plan to seek the presidency. He said he went to "commit candor." His role now is to "offer ideas and suggestions" and "show the party can be effective."

And while Daniels said he has not had conversations with U.S. Rep. Mike Pence about the speculation surrounding both of their presidential prospects, he said it was unlikely Indiana will be the platform for two Republican White House campaigns. ❖



Gov. Daniels in his office on Wednesday afternoon.
(HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Battle for House, from page 1

competitive races in the Democratic seats of HD19, HD31, HD37, HD42 and HD74. In our analysis, HPI has Democratic incumbents favored in those races.

Republican sources tell HPI they feel the party's "worst case scenario" is 51 GOP seats. Key Democrats who as one source told HPI "may be whistling past the graveyard" are saying they believe they can preserve their majority at 51 seats. House Democrats know they are in for a fight in the Ohio River seats of HD68, HD70, HD76 and HD77. They believe that as you proceed further north, the better chances they have to hold on to House seats such as HD30, HD31, HD19 and HD17. On GOP source told HPI at noon today that internal polls are showing challenges against State Rep. Kreg Battles and Clyde Kersey tightening up.

"It's going to be a battle down to the wire," House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer told the Louisville Courier-Journal. "I feel very optimistic right now," said House Minority Leader Brian Bosma. "But you're talking to the team that's won as much as 58 percent of the vote and still been in the minority. So we have to have a tsunamic victory to overcome the maps drawn by others, and fortunately we feel that tsunami building."

The charts accompanying this story were updated at 11 a.m. today and may not be reflected throughout this story. Here is a seat-by-seat analysis of seats HPI has been monitoring in this, the Battle for the House:

HD17: State Rep. Nancy Dembowski appears to be holding on. She outraised Republican challenger Frances Ellert \$242,411 to \$155,103. She has a big lead in the total pre-elect supplementals

| Dist. | Candidate | Total Pre-Elect Supplemental | Pre-election Contributions Year to Date | Pre-election Cash on Hand |
|-------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17 | Nancy Dembowski | 64,473 | 242,411 | 30,077 |
| | Francis Ellert | 24,050 | 155,103 | 34,693 |
| 19 | Shelli VanDenburgh | 116,716 | 134,145 | 24,448 |
| | Dan Klein | 9,400 | 159,012 | 2,565 |
| 26 | Paul Roales | 24,560 | 72,439 | 19,130 |
| | Randy Truitt | 8,250 | 161,031 | 62,291 |
| 30 | Ron Herrell | 121,895 | 161,074 | 17,781 |
| | Michael Karickhoff | 137,440 | 72,725 | 36,449 |
| 31 | Joe Pearson | 41,000 | 132,656 | 80,436 |
| | Kevin Mahan | 49,566 | 77,619 | 25,358 |
| 37 | Scott Reske | 27,192 | 125,679 | 26,291 |
| | Kyle Hupfer | 180,963 | 205,080 | 13,091 |
| 42 | Dale Grubb | 4,000 | 74,719 | 20,066 |
| | Sharon Negele | 50,573 | 89,217 | 786 |
| 44 | Nancy Michael | 67,353 | 150,299 | 39,115 |
| | Jim Baird | 134,509 | 59,193 | 49,225 |
| 46 | Bionca Gambil | 70,480 | 355,487 | 16,502 |
| | Bob Heaton | 249,780 | 198,576 | 52,945 |
| 51 | Codie Ross | 102,680 | 217,317 | 61,719 |
| | Dick Dodge | 33,500 | 105,424 | 3,528 |
| 62 | Sandy Blanton | 51,956 | 135,541 | 18,295 |
| | Matt Uebelhor | 170,044 | 186,160 | 18,539 |
| 68 | Bob Bischoff | 167,325 | 240,593 | 89,675 |
| | Jud McMillin | 227,110 | 63,340 | 7,499 |
| 70 | Paul Robertson | 208,129 | 283,679 | 34,263 |
| | Rhonda Rhoads | 128,439 | 270,796 | 4,250 |
| 72 | Shane Gibson | 168,913 | 296,207 | 68,765 |
| | Ed Clere | 136,975 | 78,793 | 4,259 |
| 73 | Ryan Bower | 10,588 | 148,745 | 22,690 |
| | Steve Davisson | 142,514 | 250,100 | 17,031 |
| 75 | Mike Goebel | 42,560 | 105,349 | 22,612 |
| | Ron Bacon | 57,071 | 101,715 | 13,223 |
| 76 | Bob Deig | 10,540 | 77,234 | 19,093 |
| | Wendy McNamara | 63,755 | 51,876 | 20,984 |
| 77 | Gail Riecken | 18,817 | 99,659 | 64,694 |
| | Cheryl Musgrave | 78,253 | 107,562 | 46,323 |
| 89 | John Barnes | 58,838 | 100,022 | 32,149 |
| | Cindy Kirchofer | 12,526 | 54,623 | 7,127 |

| |
|-----------|
| Incumbent |
| Open Seat |

Source: Indiana Secretary of State



(\$54,473 to \$21,500). With U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, the Democrat's best hope to defend the overlapping Congressional seat, we forecast a Dembowski victory. There was only a small amount of supplementals that came in for Ellert on Wednesday. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans Dembowski

HD19: Former Crown Point mayor Dan Klein posted a \$159,012 to \$134,145 lead over State Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh. Democrats have responded with \$191,673 in supplementals for VanDenburgh, compared to \$9,400 for Klein, with much of that money flowing in over the past 24 hours. Obviously they were seeing reasons to prop her up. Her comments in the Sunday Times of Northwest Indiana - "There's so much more to this race. The majority is on the line. I'm feeling the weight of the world" - indicated she is feeling the heat. The seat has been competitive in the past, though Bob Kuzman always seemed to pull away in the homestretch. We believe VanDenburgh holds on. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans VanDenburgh

HD26: Freshman State Rep. Randy Truitt had a big lead in pre-elect contributions over West Lafayette Councilman Paul Roales (\$161,031 to \$72,439) and HRCC polls have shown Truitt with comfortable leads. Democrats have responded with \$24,560 in supplementals, compared to \$8,250 for Truitt. We think Truitt wins comfortably. **Horse Race Forecast:** Likely Truitt

HD30: State Rep. Ron Herrell has a big money lead over Kokomo Councilman Mike Karickhoff - \$161,074 to \$72,725 - and Democrats have poured \$111,895 into supplementals for Herrell while Karickhoff has received \$137,000 with more than \$100,000 coming in over the past 24 hours. Our analysis is that this has been a shoe leather campaign for Karickhoff as he has visited close to

| Top 5 Key Race Late Money Donors to House Republican Candidates | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Aiming Higher PAC | 898,018 |
| 2 | Hoosiers for Economic Growth | 386,969 |
| 3 | Indiana Republican State Committee | 172,956 |
| 4 | Indiana Business for Responsive Government | 169,450 |
| 5 | House Republican Campaign Committee | 136,552 |

| Top 5 Key Race Late Money Donors to House Democratic Candidates | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Indiana House Democratic Caucus | 967,132 |
| 2 | Indiana Democratic Party | 346,960 |
| 3 | Labor Union Affiliated PACs | 56,200 |
| 4 | I-PACE Affiliated PACs | 52,183 |
| 5 | Victory 2010 Committee | 16,000 |

| Politicians Giving Late Money To Politicians | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Mike Pence Committee | 28,500 |
| 2 | Committee to Elect Terri Austin | 11,500 |
| 3 | Friends of Karen Buyer Burkhart | 8,060 |
| 4 | Weinzapfel for Mayor | 6,500 |
| 5 | Niezgodski for State Rep. | 6,500 |

8,000 homes. Democrats are obviously trying to prop up Herrell. The late fireworks will be to tie Karickhoff to State Treasurer Richard Mourdock's bid to derail the Chrysler-Fiat merger and that could tighten this race up. Gov. Daniels has made it clear he wants Karickhoff in the House and if Republicans thought he was coming up short, there'd be more Aiming Higher money flowing in. We believe this is a GOP pickup. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans Karickhoff

HD31: This race has been decided by a handful of votes for most of the past decade and we entered this cycle figuring the GOP would fight to recapture this seat. State Rep. Joe Pearson is a popular Democrat (he came within 2 percent of upsetting Secretary of State Rokita in 2006) and he outraised former Blackford Sheriff Kevin Mahan \$132,656 to \$77,619 in the pre-elect reports and both sides are about even in the supplementals at \$21,000. Pearson also had a \$65,000 cash on hand lead (\$80,000). HRCC has not been bullish on this race and we think Pearson survives the wave. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans Pearson

HD37: Aiming Higher is putting in a massive supplemental - \$199,000 with \$167,000 coming in the last month - for former DNR Commissioner Kyle Hupfer,

but unless a wave pulls him along, we think State Rep. Scott Reske holds on. Democrats have only sunk in another \$25,192 for Reske, and that's after Hupfer outraised him \$205,080 to \$125,79. That tells us that Democrats believe Reske can withstand the wave and the kitchen sink. The two had a donnybrook of a debate in Pendleton Tuesday night. "If you want to see negative, negative's coming," Hupfer said (Anderson Herald-Bulletin). Comparing Hupfer's



campaign to a school-yard bully, Reske said that sometimes you've got to punch the bully in the nose. Hupfer responded, stating that he hadn't even begun to bring Reske's "indiscretions" to light. "You've got plenty of skeletons, Scott." Whew. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans Reske

HD42: Attica Clerk-Treasurer Sharon Negele was the beneficiary of early TV money from Republicans as they sought to soften up State Rep. Dale Grubb, one of a handful of Democratic House leaders targeted. Negele outraised Grubb \$89,217 to \$74,719 and has received \$50,000 in supplementals. The fact that Grubb has received only \$4,000 in supplemental cash tells us Democrats believe he will survive. While Negele is an attractive candidate, we never thought Grubb as particularly vulnerable and believe he will return to Indianapolis.

Horse Race Forecast: Likely Grubb

HD44: Freshman Democrat Nancy Michael outraised Putnam Commissioner Jim Baird \$150,299 to \$59,193. In the supplemental wars, the GOP has infused \$134,469 compared to \$67,000 for Michael, with more than half of that amount coming in over the past 36 hours. Obviously the late money flowing in means that both parties see this in play. Baird is counting on a grassroots Tea Party movement as well as his agricultural roots in the community to bolster him in this race that has been historically close under the current maps. Rep. Michael - a former mayor of Greencastle - is well liked and respected (grudgingly by many Republicans we know) and while this looks to be close, our gut tells us the incumbent survives. Republicans have been reluctant to put this in their column. **Horse Race Forecast:** Tossup

HD46: This may be the most interesting race on the board. Democrat Biona Gambill dramatically outraised Republican Bob Heaton \$355,487 to \$198,576. Aiming Higher has urgently responded with \$181,000 in supplementals, part of an influx of \$249,000 in supplementals coming in for Heaton compared to \$70,000 for Gambill. We had this race in the GOP pickup column for most of the fall. All the activity tells us this race is still in play. Both sides are acting like control of the House may hang in the balance.

Horse Race Forecast: Leans Heaton

HD51: Democratic challenger Codie Ross outraised State Rep. Dick Dodge \$217,317 to \$105,424. Since then



State Rep. Sandy Blanton (top) is facing an intense challenge from Republican Matt Ubelhor. Republican Kokomo Councilman Mike Karickhoff is favored to defeat State Rep. Ron Herrell. (HPI Photos by Steve Dickerson and A. Walker Shaw)

Democrats have pumped \$102,680 into Ross and Republicans have responded with just \$33,500 in supplemental insurance. We didn't see HD51 as the kind of Northeastern Indiana seat that would be in play, given this environment and with State Sen. Marlin Stutzman expected to win the overlapping 3rd CD. Dodge survives this shootout.

Horse Race Forecast: Leans Dodge

HD62: Former legislator Jerry Denbo told us late last summer this district could be susceptible to a GOP wave. There is ample evidence that State Rep. Sandy Blanton is in trouble. Republican challenger Matt Ubelhor had a \$186,160 to \$135,541 pre-elect lead. The GOP has pumped in \$127,694 in supplementals compared to \$36,583 for the incumbent. Her mailers accusing Ubelhor of being a polluting coal miner smacked of desperation. We see this seat as ripe for an upset in a GOP pickup. **Horse Race Forecast:** Tossup, slight lead to Ubelhor

HD68: State Rep. Bob Bischoff eked out a narrow victory over Republican Jud McMillin in 2008. In the rematch, Bischoff outraised McMillin \$240,593 to \$63,340. Democrats have sent in another \$167,325 in supplementals, compared to \$277,000 for McMillin, with close to \$180,000 of that coming in over the past 48 hours. Obviously they are sensing a vulnerability with the incumbent. HRCC has given \$20,000 in supplementals and \$5,000 from Aiming Higher. Bischoff has been working hard and elevated the 2008 whisper campaign to a mailer accusing McMillin of legal and ethical "malpractice." Congressional generics show "wrong track" numbers in the 80th percentile. But there are twists in this equation. We keep hearing Republican State Sen. Johnny Nugent is no McMillin fan. Without polling data, our gut tells us that this race may

correspond with the overlapping 9th CD race between U.S. Rep. Baron Hill and Republican Todd Young. If Baron goes, so will Bob. **Horse Race Forecast:** Tossup

HD70: We have heard persistent anecdotes that State Rep. Paul Robertson is in big trouble. The financial numbers appear to bear that out with a lot of late money flowing in over the past 24 hours. He outraised former Harrison County Councilwoman Rhonda Rhoads, but not by much, \$283,679 to \$270,796 in the pre-elect report. Democrats have added \$208,000 in supplementals (they stood at \$149,000 on Tuesday) - including \$122,000 from the Indiana Democratic Party - compared to \$128,000 for Rhoads, with about \$25,000 of that coming in over the past two days, including \$68,000 from Aiming Higher. Several



GOP sources believe Robertson is a goner, saying Rhoads has had leads outside the margin of error. With the overlapping 9th CD race presenting a strong headwind for the Democrat, we see this as a strong potential GOP pickup.

Horse Race Forecast: Leans Rhoads

HD72: This is the payback seat for House Democrats. The day after State Rep. Ed Clere upset Bill Cochran, Democrats from New Albany Mayor Doug England to Speaker Bauer looked to get this seat back. They dispatched New Albany city attorney Shane Gibson to challenge Clere and he responded by outraising the incumbent \$296,207 to \$78,793. Both sides see this seat in play as Gibson has picked up \$128,752 in supplementals, compared to \$134,000 for Clere, who has been doing a shoe leather campaign. Multiple Republican sources tell HPI that Clere has maintained a double digit lead despite the Democratic money flowing in for Gibson. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans Clere

HD73: This is the Oxley open seat that went unrepresented during the entire 2010 legislative session. Salem pharmacist Steve Davisson not only outraised attorney Ryan Bower \$250,100 to \$148,745, but on the supplemental front he leads \$87,371 to \$1,000 which came in late from JP Morgan Chase. Bower's supplementals confirms what we've been forecasting for the past month. This is a likely GOP pickup. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans Davisson

HD75: This is a true dogfight for the Dennis Avery open seat. Democratic teacher Mike Goebel outraised Republican Warrick County Coroner Ron Bacon \$105,349 to \$101,715. Bacon leads in supplementals \$57,071 to \$41,560. Sources are telling HPI that this will likely stay in the Democratic column. If the Republicans win this seat, there will be an extraordinary wave at hand and the GOP totals will be approaching 60 seats. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans Goebel

HD76: Republican Wendy McNamara reported \$33,742 in her October filing and \$20,984 cash on hand, but has received \$46,253 from the Aiming Higher PAC, \$16,502 from Indiana Republicans, and \$1,000 each from Hoosiers for Economic Growth and Indiana Realtors. Democrat State Sen. Bob Deig raised \$71,801 and reported \$19,033 with supplementals that include \$3,000 from IBEW, \$1,000 from AFSCME and \$1,000 from Rep. Niezgodski. This is a pure tossup. **Horse Race Forecast:** Tossup

HD77: Here's another tale of the supplemental. Republicans have pumped \$78,253 into former DLGF Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave's race, compared to \$18,817 for State Rep. Gail Riecken, who has acted like a running scared incumbent from the start. Musgrave outraised her \$107,562 to \$99,659 during the pre-elect report with Riecken maintaining a cash-on-hand edge \$64,694 to \$46,323. Musgrave is undefeated in Vanderburgh County elections and has run well in this district in auditor and commissioner

racers. She told us on Oct. 12 that internal polling had this race too close to call. HRCC sees it as a pure tossup. This could be another GOP pickup, but it's in purgatory now.

Horse Race Forecast: Tossup

HD89: State Rep. John Barnes appears to be on his way to a second term. He has outraised Republican Cindy Kirchofer \$100,022 to \$54,623 in the pre-elect and Democrats have added \$58,838 in supplementals, compared to just \$9,638 for Kirchofer. That tells us the GOP has other priorities. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans Barnes

| Latest Polls | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| RACE | RESULTS | | SOURCE |
| Calif. Governor | Brown (D) | 49% | Field Poll |
| | Whitman (R) | 39% | |
| Fla. Senate | Rubio (R) | 42% | Quinnipiac |
| | Crist (I) | 35% | |
| | Meek (D) | 15% | |
| Fla. Governor | Scott (R) | 45% | Quinnipiac |
| | Sink (D) | 44% | |
| Colo. Senate | Buck (R) | 47% | CNN/TIME/Opinion Research |
| | Bennet (D) | 46% | |
| Conn. Governor | Malloy (D) | 45% | Merriman River/CT Capitol Report |
| | Foley (R) | 45% | |
| Ky. Senate | Paul (R) | 50% | CNN/TIME/Opinion Research |
| | Conway (D) | 43% | |
| Nev. Governor | Sandoval (R) | 58% | Rasmussen Reports |
| | R. Reid (D) | 35% | |
| Pa. Governor | Corbett (R) | 52% | CNN/TIME/Opinion Research |
| | Onorato (D) | 45% | |
| Calif. Senate | Boxer (D) | 50% | CNN/TIME/Opinion Research |
| | Fiorina (R) | 45% | |
| Pa. Senate | Toomey (R) | 49% | CNN/TIME/Opinion Research |
| | Sestak (D) | 45% | |
| Wis. Governor | Walker (R) | 52% | Rasmussen Reports |
| | Barrett (D) | 42% | |
| Okla. Governor | Fallin (R) | 56% | Sooner Poll |
| | Askins (D) | 38% | |
| N.Y. Governor | Cuomo (D) | 55% | Quinnipiac |
| | Paladino (R) | 35% | |



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)

HD30: Rep. Ron Herrell (D) vs. Mike Karickhoff (R)

HD70: Rep. Paul Robertson (D) vs. Rhonda Rhoads (R)

HD62: Rep. Sandra Blanton (D) v. Matt Ubelhor (R)

Tossup

HD44: Rep. Nancy Michael (D) vs. Jim Baird (R)

HD77: Rep. Gail Riecken (D) vs. Cheryl Musgrave

HD76: Sen. Bob Deig (D) vs. Wendy McNamara (R)

HD68: Rep. Bob Bischoff (D) vs. Jud McMillin (R)

Leans D

HD17: Rep. Nancy Dembowski (D) vs. Frances Elert **HD19: Dan Klein (R) v. Rep. Shelli VanDenBurgh**

HD31: Rep. Joe Pearson (D) vs. Kevin Mahan (R **HD37: Rep. Scott Reske (D) vs. Kyle Hupfer (R)**

HD42: Rep. Dale Grubb (D) vs. Sharon Negele HD66: Rep. Terry Goodin (D) vs. Jim Lucas (R)

HD74: Rep. Russ Stilwell (D) vs. Susan Ellspermann **HD75: (Open, Avery) Mike Goebel (D) vs. R. Bacon**

HD89: Rep. John Barnes (D) vs. Cindy Kirchhofer

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)

HD43: Rep. Clyde Kersey (D) vs. Al Morrison

HD97: Rep. Mary Ann Sullivan (D) vs. Wes Robinson

HD36: State Rep. Terri Austin (D) vs. Kim Bulta

HD86: Rep. Ed DeLaney (D) vs. Kurt Webber

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. ❖



Can Hill and Donnelly withstand ‘The Bomb’?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

ROCHESTER - “The Bomb” - a historic autumnal cyclone that churned 20 foot waves upon the Indiana Dunes on Tuesday and spawned eight tornadoes downstate - was a hit and miss affair.

We might be witnessing its political equivalent next Tuesday. The shrapnel will almost certainly claim Democrats Brad Ellsworth and Trent Van Haaften in the U.S. Senate and 8th CD races.

But don't be surprised if U.S. Reps. Joe Donnelly and Baron Hill - or at least one of them -

are still standing next Wednesday morning.

EPIC Polls for WISH-TV and WSBT-TV (Oct. 19-21, +/-4.9%) had Donnelly leading Republican State Rep. Jackie Walorski 48-43 percent in the 2nd CD, down from a 48-39 percent lead three weeks ago.

Informed and reliable sources tell HPI that Donnelly's recent internals show the Democrat's lead in the 10 percent range.

“I think we're doing fine,” Donnelly said Monday night after a spirited debate with Walorski at Rochester High School. “We will work our base non-stop.” On Thursday, he reacted to an American Crossroads TV ad against him by saying, ““We don't know who they are and they don't know who we are,” said Donnelly. “By calling us ‘Indianans’ in this television ad, it's clear that this organization is funded by outsiders trying to buy this election. All we know about this group is that it was founded by Republican Washington insider Karl Rove. We don't know where in the country—or the world—



the money for these ads comes from. Hoosiers deserve to know who exactly these outsiders are who are trying to influence their vote.”

Young's base challenge

In the 9th CD, The Hill newspaper released a poll from Oct. 16-19 by Penn Schoen Berland (400 likely, +/-4.9 percent) showing Hill up 46-44 percent with 9 percent undecided.

The critical figure there is that Hill was drawing 12 percent of the Republican vote. “Anything over 10 percent would be considered high,” said Chris Sautter, a Democratic consultant and HPI columnist. That statistic has to be keeping Republican Todd Young up at night.

Young's problem is that while he is drawing good support from independents, he did not mend fences with former Congressman Mike Sodrel and Tea Party primary opponent Travis Hankins. Neither have endorsed Young and multiple Republicans sources have told HPI that this dynamic could make the difference in this race.

The Young campaign released a Public Opinion Strategies survey (Oct. 24-25, +/-5.66%) Wednesday afternoon showing Young leading 49-37 percent, and leading among Republicans 80-5 percent and independents 48-35 percent. The campaign did not release the questions or crosstabs.

In 2008, Libertarian Eric Schansberg polled 3.8 percent of the vote and polled 12,000 votes. In 2006, Schansberg won 4 percent of the vote with 9,893 votes. Between 2000 and 2004, other Libertarians drew no more than 2 percent.

The Libertarian candidate this cycle - Gregg Knott - repeatedly made an appeal for voters to reject the major parties and send a message to Washington by backing his candidacy at the Oct. 18 debate in Bloomington.

Knott announced Wednesday that he will be running “cheesy” cable TV ads on a variety of news, sports and entertainment channels, ending with next Monday night's Colts-Texans game on ESPN. But his target will be Hill. Knott's first add describes “Hill's secretary during his years at a Washington lobbying firm explaining to a client how \$30,000 in lobbying fees will buy a \$390,000 taxpayer



U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly is pictured with union supporters who helped pack the Rochester HS auditorium after Monday's debate with Republican Jackie Walorski. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



funded earmark when Hill returns to Congress."

Doing the math in this race with the scant statistical data we have, let's assume the poll is correct and Hill has 46 percent, Young has 44 percent and Knott polls 4 percent: that leaves about 6 percent undecided. If the challenger gets two-thirds of the undecideds and some split off for a protest Libertarian vote, we're looking at a pure toss-up race that could be headed into the dreaded "recount zone."

One influential Republican, speaking off the record, told HPI on Wednesday, "Some of the Tea Party types will be tempted to vote Libertarian to send a message that they're upset with both parties. Democrats will not vote Libertarian. This should be a slam dunk election for a Republican, but Todd has a problem with his base."

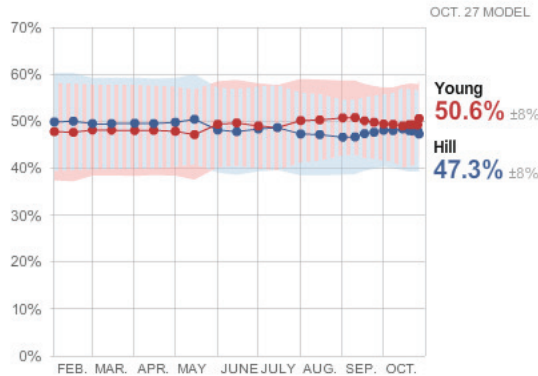
Last week, Clark County Republican Chairman Jamie Noel told HPI that he was sensing a "dead even race" and added, "I think the trend will put Todd over." But Noel added, "The only reason it's in play is he hasn't mended fences" with Sodrel and Hankins.

National prognosticators appear to be indicating

HILL VS. YOUNG

Projected Election Results

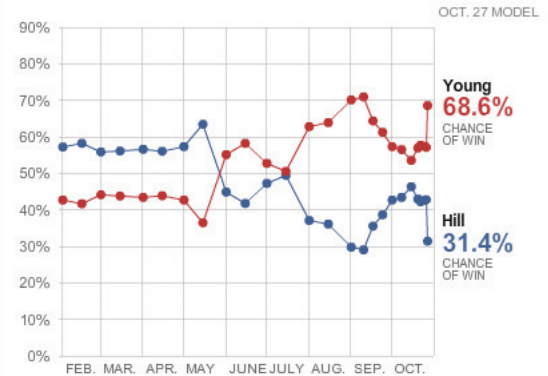
Based on polling, expert forecasts, fundraising, past election returns and other indicators, this is the prediction of how the district will vote on Nov. 2.



New York Times Graphics

Chance Each Candidate Wins The Seat

The chance that each candidate will win based on 100,000 simulations with random variation in the local and national political environment.



that a national wave will pull Young over the top, and that is a distinct possibility. Real Clear Politics rates it "Leans Republican. The New York Times FiveThirtyEight blog, which bases its forecast on statistical models that account for polling, expert forecasts, fundraising data, past election returns and other indicators projected Young winning on Nov. 2 by a 50.6 to 47.3 percent margin, with the two main party candidates getting 97.9 percent of the vote. That leaves just 2.8 percent of the vote going to the Libertarian, which runs counter to recent trends as well as the current dissatisfaction of many voters will both Republicans and Democrats. Blogger Nate Silver gives Young a 68.6 percent chance of winning. Silver also projects a 53 seat GOP pickup in the U.S. House.

A Rasmussen Reports poll released today said that 65 percent of likely U.S. voters would favor getting rid of the entire Congress if they had the option. "Let's face it: Most Americans don't have much use for either of the major political parties and think it would be better to dump the entire Congress on Election Day," Rasmussen reported.

Hill is indicating to close confidantes like former Congressman Lee Hamilton that he feels much better about this race than the one he lost to Sodrel in 2004. Hill told Hamilton that some Democrats were openly hostile to him at campaign events over his stance on China trade. This time, Hill feels that his base is solid.

Horse Race Forecast: We see a statistical deadheat. This is a pure Tossup.

Walorski and independents



U.S. Rep. Baron Hill is telling allies that he feels much better about his base than he did in the election he lost in 2004. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



The base dynamic is virtually opposite when it comes to the 2nd CD. Walorski appears to have a powerful grip on her base. It's independents that appear to be a problem with the EPIC poll putting Walorski's fav/unfavs at 35/37 percent.

The New York Times' Eight-Thirty-Five blog projects a 50 to 47.8 percent Donnelly win today. It gives Donnelly a 63.1 percent chance of victory, compared to 36.9 percent for Walorski. The Cook Political report calls this race a "real bellwether" and lists it as a "tossup."

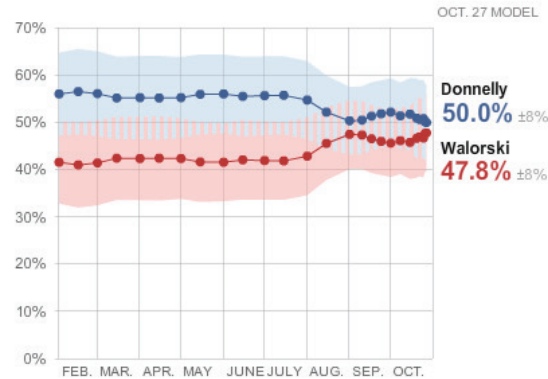
A veteran of the 2006 campaign of U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, speaking on background, explained: "In particular, I think independents breaking our way is going to be paramount to winning the 2nd District. Jackie has been narrowing the gap and (as Charlie Cook noted last week from the internal Democrat poll he saw), Donnelly is stuck in the mid-to-low 40's (for what it's worth, Baron Hill is worse off than that). Independents and undecided coming to the GOP in droves will push her over the top. As someone who worked for Chris Chocola in 2006, we saw the exact same thing (but for different parties) in that race. A month or so out, Chocola was up 8 points or so (like Donnelly was last month). Two to-3 weeks out, up around 5 points. The week before the election, the race was within the margin, before Donnelly won on Election Day by 8 points. I suspect we'll see something similar happen this year."

The former Chocola campaign aide added, "I also find it ironic that all of the Democrat talking points right now are nearly identical to our GOP talking points in 2006. We kept saying our ground game and turnout operations would stem the tide. In my analysis after the race, I saw that our turnout program did work: Our targeted GOP precincts had, on average, an increase of 10-15 percent more than the Democrat precincts

DONNELLY VS. WALORSKI

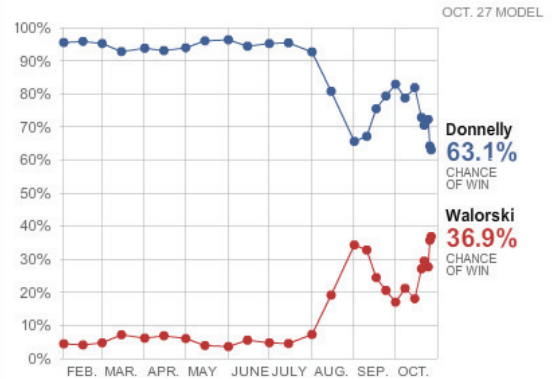
Projected Election Results

Based on polling, expert forecasts, fundraising, past election returns and other indicators, this is the prediction of how the district will vote on Nov. 2.



Chance Each Candidate Wins The Seat

The chance that each candidate will win based on 100,000 simulations with random variation in the local and national political environment.



we avoided compared to 2002. But we turned out upset voters, and in those same GOP precincts we lost, on average, 7-12 percent of the vote Chocola had received in 2002. We got voters to go to the polls, but once there they didn't all vote for us. Expect much of the same for Democrats this year."

The health care reforms could fuel a dynamic that favors Walorski. A recent Rasmussen Reports poll in the Indiana Senate race revealed that 65 percent of Hoosiers favor the repeal of the health care reforms. Donnelly was challenged on the health care reforms through the prism of abortion and jobs as he debated Walorski Monday night at Rochester High School. Donnelly was asked by Rochester Sentinel moderator Bill Wilson whether he was "soft on abortion," an assertion made by Walorski in campaign ads.

"This is my fourth election and every time the same allegation has been made," said Donnelly, the two-term Democrat. "I have fought for life" he said, saying his efforts resulted in the executive order President Obama signed as part of the Affordable Health Care Act. "It is easy to attack someone," Donnelly said, adding that he had "studied for the priesthood" before "I helped make sure the health bill had an executive order."

Donnelly also said that abortions are now at a "historic low" as a result of "people working together."

Walorski assailed the stance. "The executive order can be over turned," she said. "I can't believe you're going to take his word" she said of President Obama." Walorski added that there are 10,000 abortions a year in Indiana.

A woman in the crowd cried out,



State Rep. Jackie Walorski prepares for her debate in Rochester with Donnelly on Monday. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



"How many children have you adopted?" which set off howls and brief pandemonium in the packed auditorium filled with Walorski's volunteer army and union supporters backing Donnelly.

"Let us provide the answers," Donnelly said, attempting to calm the crowd. "I am very fortunate to be here with Miss Walorski and Mr. Vogel. They are fine people."

While the two didn't debate the health care reforms outright, it came up again when the candidates were asked about jobs going overseas. Walorski decried the tax on medical devices saying it could cost the Warsaw orthopedic sector "8,000 to 10,000 jobs."

"Repeal the Obama health plan," Walorski said. Donnelly said he had received a letter of praise for his health reform vote from the Advanced Health Industry and added that Biomet is in the midst of a "multiple hundred million dollar expansion" in Warsaw.

The two also sparred over privatizing Social Security. Donnelly charged that Walorski came out in favor of privatizing Social Security during a March Tea Party radio show. "Those words are clear," Donnelly insisted, noting that had President George W. Bush had gotten his way on privatizing the massive entitlement, millions of Americans would have seen their retirement portfolios shrink when the New York Stock Exchange declined from 14,000 to 6,500 during the Great Recession of 2009-10.

Walorski insisted that she "absolutely supports" Social Security adding that it "works well." But she called for an "honest discussion" in the future to make sure the program stays solvent.

While Donnelly and Walorski agreed on the Afghanistan War (Walorski is concerned about the "arbitrary" withdrawal deadline), they were asked if the U.S. could afford it.

Walorski began by saying that keeping the U.S. safe "was a must" and then accused Donnelly of voting with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "90 percent of the time." She added the Obama's stimulus package "created no jobs."

Donnelly responded by saying, "If you want to see jobs, go to Kokomo," a reference to the restructuring of General Motors and Chrysler under President Obama. Donnelly said that GM is about to produce a initial stock offering and "Chrysler will

pay back its loans by 2014. Those dollars will be paid back. Walk through the Chrysler plant and you'll see people working."

On Wednesday night, Walorski and Donnelly debated on the stimulus. Donnelly argued that Elkhart County's unemployment rate, which spiked to 18.9 percent in March 2009, dropped at least in part because of stimulus money (Coyne, Associated Press). The county known for making recreational vehicles now has a 13 percent jobless rate. He said the stimulus aided other counties, cities and companies in the district as well. "That bill also helped to create additional auto jobs and manufacturing jobs throughout our entire region. What we were able to see was that firefighters in Kokomo were able to go back to work, policemen in South Bend were able to go back to work because of those funds," he said. Walorski disagreed, arguing that Indiana's efforts to balance its books and keep corporate taxes low created an environment that helped companies and the economy. She said Indiana would be doing even better if not for the stimulus bill and other programs that she said are putting a drag on the economy. She compared Indiana's economy with a race car that had a governor on it limiting how fast it can go. "We need a difference in Congress to get that race car on the road," she said.

Horse Race Forecast: We sense this race is tightening and by Election Day it will likely be within the margin of error. Tossup, with a slight lean to Donnelly

U.S. Senate: Coats in the driver's seat

Republican Dan Coats looks well on his way to returning to the U.S. Senate from Indiana and moving the seat over to the GOP column in the process. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of Likely Voters in Indiana shows Coats, who previously served in the Senate from 1989 to 1999, with 52% support. His Democratic opponent, Congressman Brad Ellsworth, picks up 34% of the vote. Five percent (5%) like another candidate in the contest, and nine percent (9%) remain undecided. The survey of 500 Likely Voters in Indiana was conducted on October 20-21, 2010 by Rasmussen Reports. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.5 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence. Coats has the support of 82% of Indiana Republicans and leads by 12 points among voters not affiliated with either of the two major parties. Seventy-four percent (74%) of the state's Democrats back Ellsworth. Most voters (54%) in the state say Coats' political views are in the main-



U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth and Republican Senate nominee Dan Coats debate at Vincennes University last Monday night.



stream, but just 37% feel that way about Ellsworth's. Nearly as many (36%) say the Democrat's views are extreme, with only 23% who say the same of Coats' views. Sixty-five percent of Indiana voters favor repeal of the health care bill, including 55% who strongly favor it. Only 30% oppose repeal, with 24% strongly opposed. Support for repeal is several points higher than it is nationally. Seventy-nine percent of the larger group that strongly favors repeal support Coats. Ellsworth has the backing of 87% of voters strongly opposed to repeal. Five percent (5%) of Hoosier voters rate the U.S. economy as good or excellent, but 58% view it as poor. Thirty-one percent (31%) say the economy's getting better, but 43% think it is getting worse.

Coats and Ellsworth clashed Friday night over their past records but offered few specifics about how they'd tackle issues in the future (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). During the second of three U.S. Senate debates, the pair continued the sparring that marked their first meeting in Indianapolis earlier this month -- as well as the advertising that has flooded the airwaves. Ellsworth attacked Coats for years spent lobbying in Washington, saying the former senator took stands on issues, including the bank bailout and stimulus, based on who paid his law firm. "That's not right for Hoosiers," Ellsworth said. "We need people who stand up for us, for Hoosiers, and base their decisions on what they hear only from the people back home." Coats battled back, saying it was his law firm -- not him personally -- that represented clients on those issues. He pointed instead at Ellsworth, saying the Democrat's votes for the bailout, health-care law and stimulus bill put the country in almost insurmountable debt. "I can understand that someone who went to Washington talking like a conservative here at home but followed the agenda of Nancy Pelosi and Barack Obama nearly 90 percent of the time . . . would not want to come home and talk about that," Coats said. "You want to deflect it and center your campaign around slinging mud." **Horse Race Forecast:** Safe Coats

Secretary of State: Embattled White leads

Two polls show Republican Charlie White (pictured) with big leads. A poll by the Mike Downs Center had White leading Vop Osili 51-31 percent. His support was uniform throughout the state (north 50% to 32%; central 52% to 30%; south 52% to 33%). Among the respondents who have voted already, White is ahead 53% to 32%.

The polls come a few days after Secretary of State Todd Rokita announced completion of its review of alleged voter fraud by White when he voted in the May, 2010 Primary Election. The office's report has been sent to the Hamilton County Prosecutor and to the two special prosecutors appointed to review the allegations. The review conducted by Secretary Rokita's office was based on the forensic examination of publically available documents and

a review of applicable sections of the Indiana Election Code with related case law from Indiana Courts.

Because the voter fraud investigation authority of the Secretary of State's office does not include subpoena powers, sworn statements from witnesses and additional non-public record documents were not obtained. In recent weeks, staff attorneys devoted over 100 hours to the review. The materials delivered to the prosecutors included a 28 page report, 123 pages of documents, 25 pages of statutory materials and 89 pages of Indiana case law. In deference to the authority of the Hamilton County prosecutor and special prosecutors, the office has made no recommendations for final disposition of the matter. Furthermore, no one should conclude by the mere activity of this review and report that an offense was committed or not committed.



Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker said late this morning. "It is vital that Secretary of State Rokita release his

report for public consumption so that Hoosiers can make an educated choice on November 2nd about who will best represent them," Parker said. "Considering Secretary Rokita has made cracking down on voter fraud his pet issue during his term as Secretary of State, it is imperative that he be fully transparent about this issue with Hoosier voters."

Osili called on White to "step up and answer questions" or suspend his campaign on Wednesday. **Horse Race Forecast:** Leans White

WSBT Poll finds 57% back caps

In an election season defined by its divisions, voters in Indiana appear to be in agreement in regard to at least one issue: property taxes. According to a recent WSBT-TV poll, 57 percent of likely voters plan to answer "Yes" to Public Question No. 1, compared to just 21 percent who plan to answer "No."

Obama's Indiana approval sags

The WISH poll also showed that President Obama's Indiana approval rating sagged to 38 percent.

Forty-one percent (41%) of voters in the state approve of the job President Obama is doing, according to Rasmussen Reports. Fifty-eight percent (58%) disapprove. This is lower job approval than the president earns nationally in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll. Seventy-five percent (75%) approve of the job performance of Gov. Mitch Daniels, who is already being mentioned as a possible presidential or vice presidential nominee in 2012. Just 24% disapprove of the job he is doing. ❖



Who shows up Tuesday shows who cares most

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - One of the factoids lost in the aftermath of the 2008 presidential election was the story of voter participation.

Nationwide, 56.8 percent of registered voters cast a ballot in the general election. That was the highest percentage since 1968, the turbulent time when the nation had to choose between a "new Nixon" and Hubert Horatio Humphrey, the vice president who gave it his best after President Johnson decided not to seek a second term and Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated.



On Tuesday, we'll have a chance to find out many things in Indiana and the rest of the country. But perhaps the most important thing we'll find out is if 2008 was just a blip on the radar or if Americans are really becoming more engaged in the political process.

We won't have to do well to top the 2006 off-year elections. Only 37 percent of Americans bothered to go to the polls then.

If the turnout is higher than normal, there are three possible reasons:

1. Democrats and independent voters who backed Barack Obama in 2008 will still be energized enough to give him a congressional majority.

2. Tea party Republicans will make their presence felt.

3. A combination of one and two.

Of course, there are those in the media who lead us to believe that Republicans will capture a majority in both houses of Congress. To be sure, the president's party, regardless of party affiliation, just about always loses some seats in off-year elections. The same has historically been true with Indiana State House races. The opposition party focuses its attention on what it can win instead of what it can't. It also serves to build momentum for the next two-year cycle.

While polls are generally showing a Democratic trend after Republicans had seized the early momentum, there is reason for caution in reading much into polls this year. That's because the demographics of the American voter have changed in one key respect. Telephone polling isn't as accurate as it once was because more Americans have cellular phones now than ever before.

Who pollsters are talking to was the subject of an

interesting online journalism discussion I had a couple of weeks back. One suggestion in that discussion is that 2010 may represent a similar scenario to the 1936 presidential race. Pollsters phoned Americans that year and found the Republican candidate Alf Landon an easy shoo-in to beat President Franklin Roosevelt. But what they failed to recognize at the time was that most people who could afford a telephone and were at home in the afternoon were predominantly Republicans.

This year, the same may be true. Republicans, considered by many to be conservative in every way, may be the least likely to switch their residential phones to cellular phones. Therefore, there are likely more Republicans answering the phones when pollsters call than Democrats.

The wild card to this thinking however is that independent voters who helped Obama go from Chicago to Washington may not show up at all, or simply be ambivalent because Obama hasn't delivered the kind of change they believed in back in 2008. Even some Republicans who crossed over to vote for Obama in Indiana when the president carried the state may be delivering Republican votes.

And that's the \$64,000 question for Tuesday: Who shows up? My personal money is betting on at least a 37 percent turnout nationwide. If there is a change in either House in Congress, it will be the House, but don't bet on it yet. Indiana tends to think Republicans will find a way to right ships, but the rest of the nation doesn't think like Indiana. We're no longer the state that goes Republican before everyone else in presidential years.

That last sentence could mean Indiana Democrats will hold on to the Indiana House long enough to redraw congressional districts and hold Gov. Mitch Daniels in check for his final two years in office. It also could mean they will elect someone named "Vop" as secretary of state because the Charlie White who didn't play basketball for Purdue or win the Heisman Trophy for Southern Cal in the 1970s didn't respect the election laws he wants to uphold. What are the odds Democrats would not nominate Tom McKenna for that post, or that Hoosiers would elect anyone named "Vop"? I don't know, but Vegas oddsmakers would probably give the Cubs better odds of winning the World Series.

If Richard Mourdock is re-elected to a second term as state treasurer and/or if White wins, it will signal that Indiana voters simply haven't been listening to what's happened in their state the past four years or they don't know enough about Mourdock's squandering of \$1 million on a longshot lawsuit over the Chrysler bailout.

Who shows up on Tuesday will go a long way to determining who shows up to work in Indianapolis and Washington Jan. 21. ❖



Only tell the good news (why excite people?)

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - You have to love them the professional spinners, public and private. These are not the public relations people who work for large companies and government agencies. No. These are the corporate leaders and the public officials who listen to the PR people. Makes a person wonder if there is anyone in these companies or agencies charged with telling the truth to the powerful, let alone the public.



Morton Marcus
Column

Take an example: Mark Everson is the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD). I don't know if he and I have met and I intend no discourtesy to him. He is only following the great tradition of his predecessors: Tell the good news; if you know an ugly

truth, keep it in your hip pocket so you can sit on it.

DWD puts out a monthly news release on the employment situation in Indiana. The most recent issue (Oct. 22, 2010) quotes Mr. Everson as saying, "On a year-to-date basis, Indiana continues to be a leader in private sector job growth." Right. That's the truth.

However, just below that statement some DWD troll has placed a devilish bar chart. This image clearly shows Indiana's private sector job growth declining in three of the last four months and six of the past twelve months. While we continue to be a leader in private sector job growth, it is also true, but apparently not worth noting, that things have not been going too well lately.

But, as they say on TV, wait!

There is more!

On the same news release, but not attributed to the Commissioner, is the statement that "Indiana and its neighbors, except Michigan, report statistically even unemployment rates." The line refers to a table in which Indiana, Ohio AND Michigan had 0.1% declines in their unemployment rates from August to September this year. Possibly the author meant to highlight Kentucky which had a 0.1% increase in its unemployment rate.

Well, Michigan, Kentucky, what's the difference in the long-run? Although it may not matter to the author, it does suggest that no one proofread the news release carefully. Does the President-presumptive care about sloppiness

in his primary agency for economic statistics? Will he tolerate that when he resides on Pennsylvania Avenue?

Of course in a society where we are told "Don't Sweat the Little Stuff" and to say "YES!" to ourselves on the inevitable route to success and glory, such matters don't matter.

What's surprising is that the same troll again slipped in some less-than-good news. Indiana's unemployment rate in September this year was unchanged from a year earlier. The U.S. rate was down 0.2%; Kentucky and Ohio saw their rates fall 0.7%; Illinois's rate was down 0.9% and Michigan drew the grand prize with a 1.4% decline.

Thus, while all these areas were improving, Indiana, that leader in private sector job growth, saw no change in its unemployment rate. Funny how that was not mentioned in the DWD news release.

The Department of Workforce Development is the most important source of current information on Indiana's economy. It should be run in the interests of the people and businesses of Indiana. Yet under every administration in the past 40 years, it has progressively become a shameless tool of political mischief. It feeds the truth through a fine filter. It fails to explore and utilize its vast data base in the public interest.

The DWD budget is largely provided by the federal government. Whenever there is a fiscal squeeze, DWD cuts back on its statistical services and has virtually eliminated its analytical capabilities.

If I am wrong, someone from DWD will let me know. ❖

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



There's a hurricane a brewing. How strong?

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - The storm, long brewing in a sea of political discontent, makes landfall on Nov. 2 to sweep away many Democratic candidates.

The only question is the category of this hurricane.

Will it strike as a Category 1 hurricane, not much more than the usual storm that hits a new president's party in mid-term elections? If it's a minimal hurricane, depleting Democratic congressional strength but leaving them still with a slim House majority, it will be viewed as surprising success for Democrats in weathering a storm now forecast as more severe.

Or will it be Category 2 or 3? If it hits that hard, Democrats will lose control of the House but still cling to a slim Senate majority. That's the latest forecast.

Category 4 or 5? If it strengthens to a monster hurricane, Republicans could even control the Senate. In Indiana, the surge could bring Republican wins in all three of the battleground congressional districts, 8th, 9th and even the 2nd, where Democratic incumbent Joe Donnelly has been ahead, once comfortably so, in the race with Republican challenger Jackie Walorski.

The 8th already is virtually certain to go Republican, thanks to the domino effect of Sen. Evan Bayh's decision to flee the storm.

Bayh would have won re-election, though not easily. He choose not to run when it was too late to groom a successor or even get a nominee on the ballot. So, Democrats turned in desperation to Congressman Brad Ellsworth, an Evansville Democrat highly popular in his 8th District and sure of re-election there.

But Ellsworth, unknown in much of the state, began with no organization or preparation for a Senate race.

The highly acclaimed FiveThirtyEight political analysis blog last week calculated that Republican Dan Coats has a 99.1 percent chance to defeat Ellsworth. Meanwhile, without Ellsworth running for the House, Republicans were given a 91.1 percent chance to win in the 8th.

Republicans also are almost certainly going to

capture control of the Indiana House.

Strength of the hurricane will determine whether Democratic Congressman Baron Hill survives in the 9th District race, long listed as a tossup, and whether Donnelly can retain a lead over Walorski.

Charlie Cook, congressional race guru, last week moved the 2nd from "leaning Democratic" to "tossup." This apparently factored in heavy spending from independent expenditure groups to attack Donnelly on TV and Walorski remaining close after negative portrayals of her.

Cook said Donnelly "is still in better shape than many other Democrats" in similar industrial Midwest districts. And that FiveThirtyEight blog that forecasts so many Republican victories, including a gain of 49 House seats, still had Donnelly with a 72.9 percent chance to win.

In other words, Donnelly appears likely to win unless a Republican hurricane reaches such intensity that few Democrats, even if they have been popular, can survive in a hotly contested race.

Indeed, the national news media already is focusing on the 2nd District race as a barometer for early election night forecasting of the category of the hurricane. That's because Indiana results come in early. A Donnelly win could indicate that Democrats will win a significant share of the close ones. A Walorski win could indicate huge Republican gains.

Tea party voters, so instrumental in creating that sea of political discontent, have helped in building Republican enthusiasm nationwide and are vital in the Walorski campaign.

While helping Republicans make gains in the House, tea party voters could have eliminated chances of GOP Senate control.

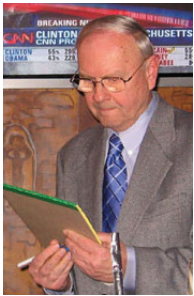
Tea party enthusiasts purged some "sure" Republican Senate winners in the primaries.

The best example is in Delaware, where a party organization choice seen as sure to win this fall, was defeated in the Republican primary by Christine "I am not a witch" O'Donnell, given a 0 percent chance to win by that blog.

In Nevada, Sen. Harry Reid, once written off with no chance, now is in a "tossup" race with another tea party favorite who also says most unusual things.

Reid still may lose. He will if the hurricane is really strong.

With that race and many more, the category of the hurricane will tell the final story of Democratic survival or failure to weather the storm. ❖



Rep. Brad Ellsworth at the Indiana State Fair last August. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



David Brooks, New York Times: Over the past year, many Democrats have resolutely paid attention to those things that make them feel good, and they have carefully filtered out those negative things that make them feel sad. For example, Democrats and their media enablers have paid lavish attention to Christine O'Donnell and Carl Paladino, even though these two Republican candidates have almost no chance of winning. That's because it feels so delicious to feel superior to opponents you consider to be feeble-minded wackos. On the other hand, Democrats and their enablers have paid no attention to Republicans like Rob Portman, Dan Coats, John Boozman and Roy Blunt, who are likely to actually get elected. It doesn't feel good when your opponents are experienced people who simply have different points of view. The existence of these impressive opponents introduces tension into the chi of your self-esteem. ❖

Erin Rosenberg, Indianapolis Times:

Secretary of State Todd Rokita has suddenly gone quiet about his investigation into voter fraud allegations against Charlie White, the man handpicked by Governor Daniels to replace Rokita as Secretary of State. After much huffing and puffing publicly when he received Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker's request for an investigation, Mr. Rokita suddenly doesn't want to talk about it anymore. He won't say a word about his finding, what facts he considered, or whether he recommended an investigation by the special prosecutors. The voters of Indiana deserve to see what public information he turned over to the special prosecutors, but Todd Rokita says, "no". What doesn't Todd Rokita want voters to see or know? Since Mr. Rokita refuses to release any information, I decided to do my own review and confined myself to the same publically available information as Mr. Rokita did (except I also looked at Indiana criminal case law and it did not take 100 hours – not even close). What I determined is that it should be fairly obvious, even to a casual observer, that Charlie White "knowingly" violated Indiana law. Second, it appears, based on Indiana case law, that the evidence of the 2009 poll book documenting Mr. White's specific knowledge of the exact procedures required to use the fail safe provision (vote legally) not only prove overwhelmingly the "knowingly" element of his May 2010 voter fraud, but also prevents Mr. White from claiming the defense of mistake. I suspect Mr. Rokita's "report" might contain some of these same facts, which would make it clear that Mr. White is in deep legal trouble right now. ❖

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star: A lot can change in three weeks. It changed dramatically when Mark Massa,

a former chief counsel in the prosecutor's office, released the most memorable TV commercial of the campaign -- and perhaps of any Indiana campaign this year. The 30-second ad features gloomy music and a sober-sounding narrator telling the story of Curry's handling of an appeal for a convicted child molester in 2001. "We're left with one question," the narrator says at the end of the commercial. "Can he really get tough with child predators when he has no problem defending one?" For cinematic effect, the ad is full of darkness and shadows and features a dozen or so young children staring sadly into the camera. The ad came out of nowhere, a sharp attack at the tail end of a policy-driven campaign. In debates, the two candidates have been respectful. In the interviews I've had with them, both seemed to agree that the other was a quality candidate. "I was exceedingly disappointed that Mark would run that ad," Curry said. "I think it's beneath him, and I think it came out of their campaign because they know they are behind." That seems to be the general consensus. As one of Massa's fellow Republicans told me last week, this isn't the type of ad you run when you're leading in an election. Both campaigns have claimed polling shows them with modest leads. But so far, only one has taken the scorched-earth strategy. ❖



Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana:

By tonight, I will have interviewed more than five dozen candidates in the Nov. 2 election. I've learned a lot about each of the individuals. But I've learned a lot about candidates in general, too. Secretary of State candidate Mike Wherry, a Libertarian, ended his interview with a question for me: What's my advice for candidates running for office for the first time? I'll give you a more complete answer than I gave him. The first thing a candidate should do is learn about the office. Find out what a person in that office can and cannot do. Become very well informed. And then hit the road. Jim Metro, the Democratic candidate for the 6th District seat in the Indiana Senate, told me he had knocked on 14,400 doors by the time I interviewed him Oct. 12. State Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh, D-Crown Point, said she had knocked on 16,543 doors by the time I talked to her Oct. 11. Running for election means shaking a lot of hands and talking to a lot of people. But don't just talk to them. Listen. I could tell which candidates had really listened to the people. They were the ones who said the people they talked to voiced concerns about the federal government, about potholes, about speeders on their street -- on everyday annoyances, many of which the candidate can do absolutely nothing about. But the candidates listened. ❖



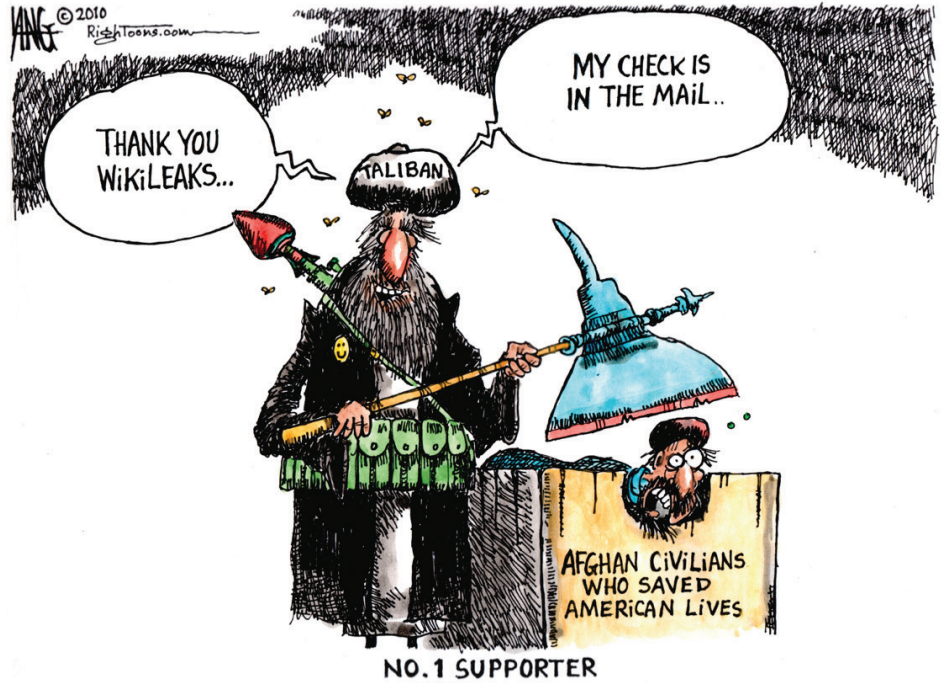
Pence says Indiana 'can set the tone'

TERRE HAUTE - Wabash Valley Republicans got a chance Wednesday to meet a GOP rising star and show their support for local candidates at a campaign rally in Terre Haute (Terre Haute Tribune-Star). Rep. Mike Pence, the number-three Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives, spoke to a crowd of more than 100 supporters at VFW Post 972 in Terre Haute. "Indiana can set the tone" on election night, Pence told supporters. "This election is about who we are as a nation." The crowd at Wednesday's rally featured several Wabash Valley Republican candidates, including Bob Heaton, who is in a critical race for Indiana's 46th House District seat against Democrat Bionca Gambill. "Clearly, the stakes are such in this election that we wanted to do everything in our power to support a Republican majority on Capitol Hill and a Republican majority at the Statehouse," Pence said after the rally. "Many of these races will be decided between now and election day."



Daniels stumps in Evansville

EVANSVILLE - Gov. Mitch Daniels attended what was billed as a "pep rally" for McNamara and two other Republican candidates for the Indiana House, Ron Bacon (District 75) and Cheryl Musgrave (District 77) at the Donut Bank on U.S. 41 at Lincoln Avenue. "There's not a place in Indiana that has more of an opportunity to shape the legislature in a more pro-taxpayer, pro-reform way than



down here (in the Evansville area)," Daniels said.

Obama says reform was 'not timid'

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama took the case for his administration's achievements to the friendly audience of "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" Wednesday night, highlighting its record on health care, financial reform and revitalizing the economy (Politico). "Over and over again we have moved forward an agenda that is making a difference in people's lives," he said during the a taping of the show in Washington that is scheduled for broadcast at 11 p.m. "We have done an awful lot that we talked about during the campaign." The interview with Stewart was part of the president's

push to reach out to younger voters, who were crucial to his 2008 campaign, before the upcoming midterm elections. "The Daily Show" averaged 1.1 million viewers between the ages of 18 and 49 this year, according to Nielsen Co. For Stewart, it was the warm-up to the "Rally to Restore Sanity And/Or Fear" that he and fellow Comedy Central comedian Stephen Colbert are sponsoring on the National Mall this Saturday. "The Daily Show" has been taping all week at the Harman Center for the Arts in downtown Washington, a short drive from the White House. Obama was quick with a joke about the set, with its desk designed to look like a part of the Capitol and a backdrop of monu-





ments and swirling flags. "It reminds me of the convention," joked Obama, slouching back, his jacket unbuttoned. At one point, Stewart said that while Obama ran for president with audacity, the change he's enacted has felt rather "timid." "Jon, I love your show, but this is something where I have a profound disagreement with you," the president replied. "This notion that health care was timid."

Republicans party at Union Station

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Republican Party and numerous Republican campaigns, organizations and elected officials will gather at Union Station on Tuesday, November 2, for their Election Night party. The gathering will include Gov. Daniels, Lt. Gov. Skillman, Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Treasurer Richard Mourdock, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, Senate nominee Dan Coats, Auditor Tim Berry and secretary of state nominee Charlie White.

Democrats will be at Marriott

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Democrats will party on Election Night at the downtown Marriott | Marriott Ballroom 5. The Marriott is located at 350 W. Maryland St.

Anti-abortion funds flow into 2nd, 9th

SOUTH BEND - Anyone driving from South Bend to Kokomo these days can't miss the billboards along U.S. 31 accusing Democratic Rep. Joe Donnelly of backing public funding of abortions. "Shame on Joe Donnelly," say the billboards, which are paid for by the Susan B. Anthony List, a

group that opposes abortion rights. Such groups have spent more than \$313,000 on ads, mailings, bus tours and other expenditures to help elect Hoosier Republicans to Congress, even though their top Democratic targets -- Donnelly, Rep. Baron Hill and Rep. Brad Ellsworth, who is running for Senate -- say they fought to prevent the new health-care law from allowing federal funding of abortions. None of the three is backed by groups that advocate for abortion rights. "My pro-life credentials are crystal-clear," said Donnelly, who received the lowest possible ratings from Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America last year. "But you have to understand, this is not about being pro-life. This is politics."

Visclosky urges rebuilding Gary

GARY - U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky told participants at a seminar to help rebuild Gary to stop feeling sorry for themselves and start acting (James, Post-Tribune). "The first thing when we walk out of this room is (to stop) feeling sorry for ourselves because we live in Gary, Ind., and Northwest Indiana," Visclosky said. "We are on the largest body of fresh water on the planet Earth." The event was hosted by the Chicago-based Metropolitan Planning Council. "We ought to stop feeling sorry for ourselves. I have hundreds of colleagues who would die to have what's here," Visclosky added. "We are sitting on a pot of gold here and ought to take some action. We are thinking regionally, let's move on to another subject. We have to start acting regionally." Without mentioning any particular project, Visclosky challenged Gary leaders to think beyond hitting home runs. "Let's get some people on base, hit a couple of singles and score some runs," Visclosky said, adding that people in Gary have been

saying they are getting close to the take-off of the Gary/Chicago International Airport ever since his father was briefly Gary mayor 47 years ago.

3 finalists for Indiana tax judge

INDIANAPOLIS - Three finalists have been selected to become the new judge of the court that oversees Indiana's state tax laws (Associated Press). Indiana Supreme Court spokeswoman Kathryn Dolan says information on the three candidates picked Wednesday by the state Judicial Nominating Commission will be sent to Gov. Mitch Daniels, who will appoint the new Tax Court judge by year's end. The three finalists are Indiana Deputy Attorney General Joby Jerrells of Bloomington; Hendricks Superior Court Judge Karen Love of Lizton; and attorney Martha Wentworth of Greenwood Current Tax Court Judge Thomas Fisher is retiring Jan. 1 after 24 years in the position.

Cook sheriff won't run for mayor

CHICAGO - In a surprising about-face, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said Wednesday he won't run for mayor of Chicago (Times of Northwest Indiana). Dart announced his decision at a morning news conference, saying he had decided the pressures of campaigning and actually being mayor would make it impossible for him to be a good husband and father to five children. "If I put politics ahead of my children ... that is something I couldn't live with," Dart said.