

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“She’s a class act. She has dignity. That woman has star quality....”

—U.S. Rep. Andy Jacobs, on Jill Long as a potential LG candidate, to HPR

Jill Long emerges as likely Dem LG

Witwer, Landske grade out as top GOP choices

HPR Convention Forecast: Odds are favorable for a Frank O’ Bannon-Jill Long Democratic ticket to emerge from the June 8 Indiana Democratic Convention. If that occurs, then look for a Steve Goldsmith-George Witwer ticket to shore up the 4th CD, unless demands for a female running mate outweigh that. In that case, State Sen. Sue Landske grades out best as the top gender option.



FRENCH LICK - Last summer in French Lick, Frank O’ Bannon spoke to a group of Democrats about a recent trip he had made to a national lieutenant governor’s conference in Mackinac, Mich.

“I was sitting there in the Hall of States with flags and everything, looking around, and over half of the lieutenant governors were women,” O’ Bannon observed. “Four years ago there had only been 14 in the history of the United States.”

That is one key indicator that after Indiana Democrats have their convention on June 8, they will spread out across the state proclaiming an “O’ Bannon-Long” ticket.

The current Democratic short list for lieutenant governor includes South Bend Mayor Joe Kernan, 1990 U.S. Senate nominee Baron Hill, U.S. Attorney Tom DiGuillio, Fort Wayne attorney and Indiana University Board of Trustees President John Walda, and former U.S. Rep. Jill Long, now an under-secretary of agriculture in Washington.

Jill Long stands out on this short list for a number of reasons, including those that O’ Bannon himself observed last summer. Attorney General Pam Carter is insisting she will not join the ticket. That has energized speculation that Long has moved to the top of the list.

In her own words on the the night she lost to Mark Souder in

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TICKER T A P E

PLAY OF THE WEEK: George Witwer picks up a ringing endorsement for lieutenant governor from Indianapolis News. The significance of the editorial last Thursday is that the page's editor is Russ Pulliam, a cousin to Mayor Stephen Goldsmith. "Witwer's political philosophy would make a good fit with Steve Goldsmith," the editorial said. "Witwer shares the mayor's convictions about the need for less government and more competition."



The 3rd CD race between U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer and State Sen. Joe Zakas appears to be heating up rapidly. Last week, Zakas called Roemer an

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4th CD a major factor in both party LG search

From page 1

1994, she had "defied gravity" in the heavily Republican 4th Congressional District seat previously held by Dan Quayle and Dan Coats, serving three terms until she was washed out in the Republican tidal wave.

Long ran statewide for the U.S. Senate in 1986, losing to Quayle. Her political background goes back even further into Northwest Indiana where she served on the Valparaiso City Council. She lost to Coats in the 4th District in 1988, but came back four months later for an upset special election win after Coats followed Quayle into the Senate. Long's stunning victory was a national embarrassment for the GOP just months into the Bush-Quayle administration.

Growing up on a Whitley County farm, having served in Congress and the USDA, and now married to a Marshall County farmer/pilot and living near Argos, Long has the legislative, agriculture and statewide exposure that makes a fine fit for the commerce, agriculture and Senate president duties demanded of an Indiana lieutenant governor. She also possesses strong "New Democrat" credentials.

Long's 4th District profile is also significant since John Mutz ran poorly there in 1988, as did Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith

in the May 7 primary, losing Allen County.

"There is clearly a gender gap between the Democrats and Republicans," acknowledged O'Bannon campaign manager Tom New. "The fact that Goldsmith didn't run well in the 4th District did not go unnoticed. We have been looking north."

U.S. Rep. Andy Jacobs, mentioned as a lieutenant governor possibility himself, told HPR just before he flew to Washington on Tuesday that he "absolutely" would not join the ticket. Jacobs had dinner with Long in Indianapolis Monday night and had this to say: "She's a class act. She has dignity. That woman has star quality."

Recently married and going by the name Jill Long Thompson, New noted that should O'Bannon bring her on to the ticket, she would probably campaign as "Jill Long." New was careful to note that no decision has been made with regards to the LG nomination.

If an O'Bannon-Long ticket emerges, where does that leave Goldsmith and the Republicans?

Two key factors emerge. One is the gender gap, where numerous polls show President Clinton with a substantial lead over Bob Dole among female voters. Sources tell HPR that

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Will O'Bannon, Goldsmith make the Catfish Festival?

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: Congressional analyst Charlie Cook of the *Cook Political Report* declares that Kentucky, Colorado, Florida, Ohio and Louisiana will be crucial in deciding which party controls the U.S. House. HPR still sees six competitive races in Indiana. Listening, Charlie?

PRESIDENT

Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Ross Perot, Ralph Nader

STATUS

Leans Clinton

COMMENTS

Dole's resignation energizes some elements of Republican roots (although this isn't too evident in Indiana). This may be Dole's last chance to rewrite the campaign script. Horse Race extremely skeptical this dog will hunt.

GOVERNOR

Stephen Goldsmith, Frank O'Bannon

Leans O'Bannon

Debate requests rolling in, including the real big one: The Catfish Festival in Shoals! Says Anne Shane, "We are not discounting Shoals."

DEMOCRAT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jeff Modisett, Judy Stewart

Leans Modisett

All indications point to Modisett getting this nomination.

REPUBLICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

Steve Carter, Eric Koch, Greg Zoeller

Tossup

We sense Zoeller picking up steam. Carter gets John Johnson endorsement.

3RD CD

Tim Roemer, D
Joe Zakas, R

Tossup

Roemer attempting to tie Zakas to Mark Souder/Newt Gingrich. Zakas trying to tie Roemer to Clinton. Sparks flying here.

8TH CD

Jonathon Weinzapfel, D
John Hostettler, R

Tossup

Weinzapfel challenges Hostettler to debates in each of the 13 district counties. It was the same challenge Hostettler issued to Frank McCloskey in 1994.

9th CD

Lee Hamilton, D
Jean Leisingl, R

Leans Hamilton

Hamilton exhibits the powers of the incumbency. He announces grants for 24 new police officers, from Rising Sun to Scottsburg. Will new Rising Sun officer be on patrol in time for Bob Dole visit later this summer?

TICKER T A P E

"obstacle to the quest for renewal in America." This week, Roemer told Dan Rosenberg of the Michigan City News-Dispatch that Zakas is a Mark Souder/Newt Gingrich extremist. Zakas, in turn, is calling Roemer a Clinton liberal. In a race that will likely draw considerable national attention, Roemer and Zakas appear to be intent on taking on the controversial leaders of each other's parties.

Tom New of the Frank O'Bannon campaign tells HPR that not only is the candidate looking hard at his running mate, but at the whole slate. "Frank is trying to put together an entire state ticket," New said.

Gary Petersen of the Taxpayers Research Analysis Center has also conducted a "preliminary study" on the impact of the prevailing wage changes enacted during the 1995 Indiana General Assembly. His conclusions differ from Bill Styrings (See HPR interview, pages 4 and 5). Petersen said that "the initial trends coming from limited data show no substantial cost savings." He noted that on eight projects TRAC has studied to date, "It appears that people are cost shifting." He also said that there was a "slight decline in average wages." Petersen added that TRAC "had a diffi-

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Styring insists prevailing wage reforms will dent labor wallets

INDIANAPOLIS - William Styring III could be known as the "Father of Prevailing Wage," having helped map out the issue prior to the 1995 legislative session when it became an element of high drama, prompting 25,000 members of organized labor to turn out for a rally at the Statehouse.

Prevailing wage changes passed when Gov. Evan Bayh accepted a compromise on the legislation, and the issue was turned from an ideological debate to one put into practice in dozens of Hoosier communities.

Three studies are under way on the impact of prevailing wage: one by the Taxpayer Research Analysis Center, one by the Indiana University School of Business, and one by Styring.

Styring's analysis could have a volcanic impact on the 1996 races for the Indiana General Assembly.

HPR had this conversation with Styring in his new digs at the Hudson Institute:

HPR: What does your study tell us about the practical impact of changes in prevailing wage?

Styring: What we found is that given the first five and a half months of the new law, from July 1 through mid-December when we shut the survey off, to the extent on what you can pin down on individual projects, whether prevailing wage saved any money or not, for each individual project the savings seem to be between 6 percent and 20 percent. The telling evidence came in a handful of projects which for a variety of reasons were bid under both laws. The project might have been bid under the old law, and a court case intervened and had to be rebid, or the bids were non-responsive and the new law kicked in and they were rebid. In every one of those cases, there is very clear evidence that the bids came in lower, ranging from a low of 7.9 percent to fire stations at Fishers, Indiana, where the difference was 26 percent. I think that is as apples-to-apples evidence that you can get.

HPR: How many projects were there?

Styring: In projects under both laws, you had New Albany, the Georgetown Elementary; the two fire stations in Fishers. Other projects where we have very suggestive evidence because they were bid only under the new law, but you can look at various indicators that might have been with the old law in place - the Zionsville sewer, part of the new Carmel High School ...

HPR: I figured that might have been in there.

Styring: Yeah. You're doggone sure I'm going to put that in there; I sit on the wage committee and that one came in lower; Plymouth waterline extension. I looked at Fort Wayne and Allen County and the Coliseum project that was hung up in court.

HPR: Won't it take two years to understand what the full impact of this will be?

Styring: Sure. One of the effects I would expect is that savings will tend to go up as more non-union work comes in. Right now you've got a lot of non-union firms making comparable bids. They've never done it and they've got to think of new management coming in and going through a new process. So over time I think you can expect more intensive competition. So what I think I've got here is the best preliminary assessment you can make.

HPR: Is the difference in project costs coming from wages?

Styring: Well, I don't know. Because all I'm looking at are the final bid numbers.

HPR: You mentioned figures between 6 and 20 percent. Did those figures vary from region to region. New Albany, for instance, might be more unionized than, say, Fishers.

Styring: I don't think our sample is big enough.

HPR: When you began formulating this change in the issue, you were suggesting savings of \$150 million annually. Do you think that still will be the case?

Styring: Sure. Again, based upon not what I would call solid evidence, but at least non-contradictory evidence, I'm getting more projects up there close to the 20 percent range

HPR INTERVIEW

"Now the unions are going to argue that this is \$150 million from the mouths of babies of struggling union workers. And the other side will come back and say that was \$150 million that came out of the mouths of babies of struggling taxpayers...."

- Bill Styring



than I am in the 6 to 7 percent range at a weighted midpoint sample, you're looking at maybe 15 percent. And if you look at public construction around a billion bucks then you're in the \$150 million range.

HPR: We've seen this go from a battle of theory between the Chamber and the Building Trades Council, and between Republicans and Democrats. Do you see the various disciplines at work now that it is in an operational mode? TRAC told me there was one Central Indiana project where costs were saved on the wage front but the savings were shifted to buy decorative brick.

Styring: I can't tell you. I was looking at the bottom line.

HPR: Do you have an anecdotal evidence stemming from the wage councils with the two new members on how these decisions came about?

Styring: You're asking me to make statewide generalizations.

HPR: I know I'm pressing you, so don't do that.

Styring: The ones I'm familiar with, the ones I attended or the ones I chaired like Carmel, or even the one's I've heard about, they seem to have gone pretty well. You normally had a union representative show up, occasionally not show up, argue their position very strongly, trying to pass off the union wage scale as normal. Typically the union guy made his case and got out-voted 3 to 1. Now God knows what happened in Lake County.

HPR: If these projects are down in the 6 to 20 percent range, did the difference come out of wages?

Styring: Obviously, the thing that makes this change is the wage scale. The architect's drawings and quality materials did not change. The bulk of the change, maybe all the changes, came from wages. Now the unions will argue that this is \$150 million that came from the mouths of babies of struggling union workers. And the other side will come back and say that was \$150 million that came out of the mouths of babies of struggling taxpayers. That's going to be a football, no question. The unions are going to be energized.

HPR: Republican mayors were elected in Lafayette, Kokomo, Marion, Muncie - the UAW

belt - last fall. Labor didn't appear to be energized then. Was it too early to tell of the impact?

Styring: They were still in shock.

HPR: This could be a double-edged sword for Republicans. You're saying the wages are coming out of union wallets and once this gets out, labor may wage some pretty intensive campaigns against those who brought about the changes in eight to a dozen House races.

Styring: All I can really tell you is that there have been a lot of studies done nationally that would have given you that estimate of \$150 million in savings. Based on the first five and half months. All of the evidence shows that that \$150 million ... could it be \$100 million? Sure. Could it be \$200 million? Sure. All of this points that \$150 million will change hands annually as a result. That's \$150 million from a very concentrated interest group: i.e. Building Trades. Can they be expected to react to that? Yeah. Can they be expected to react to that very strongly? I think so. Could that result in a concentrated backlash against those who voted for it? Sure, it's possible. What they've got to do is make the case that they have not taken money out of the mouths of union kids, that they've righted an injustice of price fixing. It depends if they can convince the average voter.

HPR: What impact will this have on the governor's race.

Styring: From Frank, I think you can expect the blatantly obvious. On the Goldsmith side, that could be interesting to watch. Correct me if I was wrong, of the three Republican candidates, the one who was really uncomfortable with this was Rex.

HPR: I would agree. I found myself in the middle of a rather animated confrontation between Rex Early and George Witwer at that straw poll in Merrillville on this very issue in February.

Styring: Rex kept making comments that many of those who showed up at the Statehouse had Republican stickers on their pickup trucks. In the case of Goldsmith, I don't know. I know Goldsmith understands all of this.

HPR: Steve may be forced to defend it.

Styring: After all the blood his party in the legislature poured on the carpet over this, he's not going to go out and repudiate what happened.

TICKER T A P E

cult time getting data." This preliminary study was requested by Chuck Deppert of the Indiana AFL-CIO. Petersen said Deppert has kept "a hands-off approach" on the study and was not trying to influence its outcome.

Morton Marcus of the Indiana University School of Business is preparing a third study on the impact of changes in the prevailing wage. Styring said that in a phone conversation he had with Marcus last week, decisions remained to be made on the study's methodology.

John A. Johnson, a 1994 Republican gubernatorial candidate and current Porter County Republican chairman, has endorsed Steve Carter for attorney general. Johnson said that Carter's "Northwest Indiana roots make him an extremely desirable candidate."

State Rep. Jeff Linder has announced the next House Ethics Committee hearing will take place at 1 p.m. Friday, May 24 in Room 156 of the Statehouse. Expected to take place at that hearing will be ethics charges raised against House Ways and Means Chairman Sam Turpin. The Brownsburg Republican has denied any wrongdoing in

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TICKER T A P E

allegations that he failed to declare income from a contractor who could have benefitted from decisions he made as a member of the House.

With Sen. Bob Dole retiring from the Senate, U.S. Sen. Dan Coats may be in line to move into leadership ranks in the No. 3 position. Coats enjoys a close relationship with U.S. Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, who is expected to take Dole's place as Majority Leader in June.

UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE PRIMAY RESULTS

33RD HOUSE

Sam Shoemaker, R 4,772
Marc Woods 1,776

38TH HOUSE

Jim Buck, R 7,186
Wayne Long, 3,147

39TH HOUSE

Gerald Torr, R 4,268
Mary Eckart 3,221
Keith Campbell 2,841
Cynthia Kirkman 835
Ben Edwards 448

47TH HOUSE

Ralph Foley, R 6,638
Joel Wells 2,947

50TH HOUSE

Dan Stephan, R 6,155
Ned Yingst 978

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Stuart Rothenberg, *Rothenberg Political Report* - Dole's decision to resign from the Senate is an admission that he and his party were unable to use Congress to redefine President Clinton or to set the 1996 election agenda. It is also a risky, seemingly desperate effort to change the overall political environment, which has been terrible for Dole. But just because Dole's move was desperate doesn't mean it can't be beneficial. Some candidates are lucky enough to get one opportunity during a campaign to rewrite their entire election scenario. But make no mistake about it, the task facing Dole today is *exactly* the same one that faced him a day before his announcement: to make the election a referendum on the first three years of the Clinton presidency and to raise doubt (and fear) in the minds of voters about a second Clinton term.

Mary Dieter, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Sheila Kennedy, a Republican civil libertarian, found reason to applaud the results of the recent Republican primary. Kennedy, executive director of the ICLU, says the results of the gubernatorial race, two congressional races and a state legislative primary suggest GOP voters are rejecting candidates "who would push the party to more extreme positions." She notes that Rex Early, who made a big deal of his anti-abortion, anti-gun control, anti-gambling, pro-chain gangs and pro-school prayer positions, lost to Steve Goldsmith, who she said "largely avoided the social issues in the media." She also notes that in the 10th Congressional District, Virginia Blankenbaker defeated Marvin Scott, despite the latter's contention that Blankenbaker was a liberal. In the 7th District, candidate John Smith, who ran TV ads opposing abortion rights and favoring school prayer, finished far behind candidates "with more mainstream views," Kennedy said.

Clarence Page, *Chicago Tribune* - If I were Bill Clinton, I'd be worried. After all, his approval ratings are exceedingly high, his likely opponent

is exceedingly dull, his opposition exceedingly divided and he has a seemingly endless amount of money to spend on campaign advertising. If the election were held today, he would be a shoo-in. So he should be giddy with delight, right? Well guess what? The election is not being held today. We're not even going to be seeing the nominating conventions for three more months. Most voters won't even care until after Labor Day, if then. Meanwhile, Clinton's sizeable lead in the polls is bound to tighten up. Riding high today, he has almost nowhere to slide but down. The first peril he faces is the Paradox of High Expectations. Another peril Clinton must avoid is Crisis of Overconfidence. To paraphrase FDR, you have nothing to fear but the lack of fear itself.

David Rohn, *Indianapolis News* - As much as politics usually excites me, I must admit I'm not particularly anticipating this upcoming contest between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. Yes, it remains open who Dole's running mate will be. Maybe by convention time the Republicans will be desperate enough to draft Gen. Colin Powell in an uprising from the convention floor. About the most interesting thing at this juncture to speculate about with respect to Dole's running mate is who he can pick who won't upstage his own candidacy. Thus, we have Clinton and Dole. When I think of one, I prefer the other. And Ralph Nader starts looking better all the time.

Dan Rosenberg, *Michigan City News-Dispatch* - A gas tax repeal is imminent, the headlines screamed last week. Seeing those headlines made me mad at President Clinton, Sen. Bob Dole, Congress and Americans in general, myself included. I'm mad at the politicians for attempting to use the sudden rise in pump prices for political benefit. Sure, a tax is never popular, but this one makes sense. The schemers who cheat on their income taxes can't avoid paying Uncle Sam when they pull into the local Amoco.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

A political message in every Hoosier glove compartment

SOMEWHERE-ON-THE-HIGHWAY-OF VICE-PRESIDENTS - It seems only fitting that in this, HPR's pre-Indy 500 edition, we mix cars and politics.

Like the day I tagged along on the campaign trail with Evan Bayh and Joe Hogsett for a series of newspaper interviews in late October 1994. It was an attempt by Bayh to boost Hogsett's flagging 2nd CD campaign that was up against the wicked GOP tsunami. This tour started in New Castle, then headed south to Rushville, then farther on down to Greensburg, and finally to Shelbyville.

That day, Bayh rode in an unassuming Chevrolet Caprice - something along the lines of a 1987 model, with an eight-popper - official property of the Indiana State Police. I was driving a four poppin' Pontiac Grand Am. And, man-oh-man, I couldn't keep up with those guys. That must have been a Caprice shell over a Lola-Menard or something like that. Corn stalks bent in their direction as they zoomed by ... Do Not Pass signs shimmied. I won't mention an MPH here, but had some Rush County deputy stopped me, I was wondering if this line, "I'm trying to keep up with the guv," would have brought me compassion, or a stare.

I suspect Evan Bayh takes it a little slower these days, with the twins and all. I would recommend a Dodge Caravan (the wife and I have one and love it), particularly the new models with the doors on both sides. I like the thought of Evan, Susan, Bo and Nick cruising the Hoosier landscape to visit the Shirkieville farm in a bright blue Caravan. Wholesome stuff. Family values.

Ah yes, perhaps we wander. Where might Howey be going with this, you ask?

Politics, of course.

Politics in every glove compartment throughout the Hoosier state. I went to the Morristown license branch this week to plate my Dodge and Pontiac. Bored while I waited, I

scanned my "Indiana Certificate of Vehicle Registration" and there in a colored green box right next to the "Total Amount Paid" box was this: "EXCISE TAX CUT" right next to "TOTAL AMOUNT PAID."

On my registration, the ETC was \$98.00.

I wept with joy. In past Months of May, I dreaded the trip to the BMV, because usually I had to fork over something along the lines of \$400 to \$500. This month, the grand total came to \$171.

And yet, I felt bad, too.

When Bayh, Speaker Paul Mannweiler and Sen. Bob Garton announced this historic excise tax cut last January, HPR cynically termed it the "Incumbent Preservation Pact." It appeared to be an evil cabal of Conservative Democrats and Moderate Republicans who conspired to take all the juicy controversy out of an otherwise uninspired session of the Indiana General Assembly.

This Hoosier trio of lawmakers called it an example of government working the way it should in a non-partisan manner, for the good of all taxpayers.

Now, I believe that they were right.

So beginning this month, folks all over Indiana will be finding pleasant surprises when they go to the BMV. In every glove compartment, there will be a continual reminder of the EXCISE TAX CUT.

It could become a Frank O'Bannon campaign ad ... the dreaded registration glanced from afar, with the camera slowly zooming in on the lower lefthand corner, finally settling on the words EXCISE TAX CUT.

Simply shrewd, shrewd politics in a state that has enjoyed an 80-year love affair with its cars. Shrewd enough that it may drive Evan Bayh into the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago this summer.

Shrewd enough that I think I hear Mrs. Hulman's voice ringing in my ears:

"Gentlemen ... start your campaigns!"

TICKER TAPE

54TH HOUSE

Tom Saunders, R	2,729
Linda Ratcliff	2,492
Dan Conway	2,482

57TH HOUSE

Jeff Linder, R	5,992
Ed Dundas	720

63RD HOUSE

Donna Gentry, R	3,303
Kevin Crouse	1,754

67TH HOUSE

Cleo Duncan, R	4,702
Stephen Gookins	1,981

78TH HOUSE

Vaneta Becker, R	5,352
Scott Minnette	2,608

85TH HOUSE

Phyllis Pond, R	4,022
Dennis Worman	2,139

86TH HOUSE

John Keeler, R	5,913
Greg Lawson	2,382

90TH HOUSE

Michael Murphy, R	4,494
Jeffrey Coomler	1,550

100TH HOUSE

Martha Womacks, R	1,325
Paul Swinford	634

1ST HOUSE

Ron Tabaczynski, D	2,969
Kathleen Pucalik	2,708

2ND HOUSE

Earl Harris, D	5,589
Emiliano Perez	1,558

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TICKER

T A P E

Jesse Ortiz 774

3RD HOUSE

Charlie Brown, D 4,119
Marvin Wright 2,707

12TH HOUSE

Jesse Villalpando, D 3,925
David Harretos 984
Rene Gutierrez 677

20TH HOUSE

Anthony Underly, D 2,029
Michael Schultz 1,771

30TH HOUSE

Ron Herrell, D 1,620
Jerry Fulk 1,241
Mildred Bertram 1,046

36TH HOUSE

Patrick Cunningham, D 4,206
Eddy Greenwalt 1,584

57TH HOUSE

Robert Thayer, D 1,928
Dean Wood 896

63RD HOUSE

David Crooks, D 2,942
Daniel Steiner 2,432
Ron Critchlow 808

73RD HOUSE

Dennis Heeke, D 4,496
Thomas Birk 3,892

77TH HOUSE

Brian Hasler, D 1,811
Glenda Hampton 1,568
Norbert Woolley 1,147

97TH HOUSE

Edmund Mahern, D 1,265
David Barnard 687

Jill Long from page 1

Goldsmith's pollsters have noted those national trends and are urging the nominee to select a female running mate.

The other is the 4th District and Fort Wayne, an area Goldsmith must do well in to defeat O'Bannon in November.

Four women are actively working to join the ticket with Goldsmith: State Sens. Sue Landske of Cedar Lake and Becky Skillman of Bedford, State Rep. Sue Scholer of West Lafayette, and former Huntingburg Mayor Connie Nass.

Of this group, Landske offers the most versatility when it comes to gender and geographic diversity, coming from heavily populated Lake County, where she was Republican vice chairman for 11 years. On the abortion issue, Landske supports current Indiana law and describes herself as "right in the middle."

One potential problem with Landske is that she supported Rex Early in the primary, a commitment she made two years ago. However, that can play to Landske's benefit if she uses it as a bridge between the Early and Goldsmith wings of the party.

Skillman is pro-choice, but represents a small district in a population sense. Nass has worked tirelessly over the past two years, attending more than 100 Lincoln Day dinners,

but she has the same problem that Skillman has. Huntingburg and the surrounding area don't have the same electoral importance that Lake and Allen Counties do.

Scholer represents the Lafayette area, but she is pro-choice on abortion and some Republican sources believe that is a liability, given attorney Eric Miller's political influence on the mayor. The difference between Scholer and Landske is that Lake County is expensive to advertise in via the Chicago media market.

If O'Bannon selects Long as his running mate, then Republicans will have to look at shoring up the 4th Congressional District and that's where George Witwer comes into play.

Witwer brings a number of strengths to the table. He played a key role in the GOP recapture of the Indiana House in 1994 by supporting candidates with his Opportunity Project. Since then, he has worked the state on his own gubernatorial campaign. While campaigning against Goldsmith, he artfully avoided attacking the eventual nominee. And since the primary, Goldsmith has hinted that he may include Witwer's state spending cap proposal as part of a 1997 tax reform initiative.

Witwer has a fund-raising base from both his campaign and his legislative activities and shores up Goldsmith's right flank within the party, having earned the Indiana Right to Life organization endorsement.

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