



# Murky sale of Indiana's Senate Seat



### Mourdock disavows current system, but key patron Jim Bopp created it

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – In a U.S. Senate race engulfed by obfuscated national special interest money, Democrat Joe Donnelly charged that the seat is being “sold.”

And Republican Richard Mourdock?

When HPI asked the Republican nominee following his debate with Donnelly Monday night whether he was concerned about the \$14 million in outside money spilling in, Mourdock answered, “That’s a fair ques-

Terre Haute Attorney Jim Bopp Jr.

tion. It’s something that’s come about under Citizens United and all the rest of it. This race will very likely determine which party controls the U.S. Senate.”

Mourdock briefly paused, then said, “I want to be very careful here. Some candidates have gotten in trouble - accused of sending a message independent of what they said in the microphone. I’m not doing that.”

Mourdock restated the question: “Am I comfortable

with the system when so much money comes in?” He then

**Continued on page 3**

## Gregg jabs at Pence

By **JACK COLWELL**

NOTRE DAME – Democrat John Gregg told Hoosiers watching the second gubernatorial debate Wednesday night that he is the only person standing between them and “Tea Party government.”



He portrayed Republican Mike Pence as “a tea partier, an extremist” and took shots at Pence’s record in Congress, saying Pence accomplished little, took extreme positions there and had a poor committee attendance record.

Pence, who has sought to



**“I’m the only person standing between extremist Tea Party control of our state.”**

- Democrat John Gregg, at Wednesday’s gubernatorial debate at the University of Notre Dame



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stay above the fray in the campaign, keeping what he calls a "relentlessly positive" approach, appeared annoyed at times, once interjecting: "That's not true, John."

**Pence, as he did in the first debate**, said Gregg couldn't be counted on for fiscal restraint because while speaker of the Indiana House, Gregg presided over passage of deficit budgets in five of six sessions.

The debate, held at the University of Notre Dame, was more feisty than their first, although not anywhere near as contentious as the presidential debate the night before.

"I'm running against a Tea Partier and an extremist," Gregg said of Pence as he concluded. His verbal attacks come as his campaign began TV ads characterizing Pence as a Tea Party politician, showing a video clip of Pence on Capitol Hill urging the shutdown of the federal government.

Gregg noted that Congressional staffers had voted Pence as one of the "biggest show horses" on the Hill, and added that in Indiana, he would be down to being "a one trick pony."

**Pence bristled** briefly and waited until the next question to follow up. "You know that's not true," Pence said of never having passed a bill while noting he has a 95% attendance rate. "Just because you say it doesn't make it true. I was a driving force behind saving \$41 billion."

As moderator John Ketzenberger tried to cut Pence off due to time limits, Pence said, "We don't need negative personal attacks."

Gregg followed, saying, "Con-

gressman, in Indiana, we follow the rules." Later, Gregg said, "Congressman, what have you done in Washington over the last 12 years?"

For Gregg, trailing in the polls and in fundraising, with the election less than three weeks away, it was imperative to have a strong debate performance and sway more Hoosier voters to his side, particularly independents and moderate Republicans. He sought to do that with warnings about tea party influence and making an appeal to Republican primary supporters



of Sen. Dick Lugar, who was assailed and defeated by tea party favorite Richard Mourdock.

**At a news conference** after the debate, Gregg said he senses growing interest in the race and more understanding of the "real contrast" provided by the candidates.

He also made another appeal to Lugar voters, noting that Gov. Mitch Daniels came out in support of Lugar amid the Mourdock attacks but that Pence was "as quiet as a sinner in church."

Pence, in his post-debate news conference, said he was neither rattled nor persuaded that he will have to change strategy to hit back more at Gregg.

He interjected comments and



once sought additional rebuttal time not out of irritation but "to set the record straight," Pence said. He defended his attendance record and work on legislation that passed in Congress.

"Debates are about debating," he said, and he was satisfied that "I said what I came to say."

**Pence said he will** continue his "relentlessly positive" style in the campaign, stressing his "roadmap" for Indiana progress. If he does refrain from the negative TV attacks regarded these days by political consultants as vital

to build "negatives" on the opponent, it will be a sign that Pence regards his lead as unassailable.

The major party nominees and Libertarian nominee Rupert Boneham, who showed no favoritism toward either of his opponents Wednesday, meet for the third and final debate Oct.25 in Fort Wayne. ❖

**Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.**

## Super PACs, from page 1

answered: "I wish we had a better system."

The irony with Mourdock's answer is that one of his earliest supporters and a critical fundraiser is Jim Bopp Jr., the Terre Haute attorney who helped engineer both the Citizens United and SpeechNow.org cases that prompted rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court that have completely changed how some congressional races are financed.

It was Bopp, more than any other American, who created the current system that has allowed Mourdock's out-sourced campaign to not only knock off U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar in the May Republican primary, but has kept him in a dead heat race against Donnelly this fall. It was a legal response to the McCain-Feingold campaign finance laws that Bopp saw as an impediment to free speech.

In Bopp's mind, the new paradigm allows corporations and rich

Republican donors to offset multiple generations of labor union money that had flowed into Democratic campaigns, though business money also flowed into GOP campaigns in the old days. It also allows challengers a more equal footing with congressional incumbents, who have won (and still will win) more than 90% of reelection campaigns.

### **Mourdock expected national funding**

Almost from the onset of Mourdock's Senate campaign, he talked openly about the geyser of national money that was destined to come his way. "I'm confident that there will be a lot of outside money coming in to help us," Mourdock told WISH-TV's Jim Shella during the primary race with Lugar. He uttered similar comments in 2011.

It's easy to see the origins of that understanding.

When Mourdock kicked off his Senate campaign in February 2011, Bopp was conspicuous in his presence. Essentially, Mourdock has become Exhibit A in Bopp's campaign finance lab, the political Frankenstein that has been amply funded by Club For Growth, the National Rifle Association, Americans For Prosperity, FreedomWorks and Crossroads GPS.

When the dust settles, the vast majority of advertising on behalf of Mourdock's candidacy won't be from his campaign committee, but from the Super PACs. Mourdock raised \$2.92 million in the third quarter FEC report, compared with \$1.53 million for Donnelly. Mourdock's committee raised \$459,000 from special interests, while Donnelly took \$199,000. Club for Growth, Senate Conservatives Fund, ActRight and Norpac spent \$474,000 in donations to Mourdock.

As of early October, Super PACs that were created after the SpeechNow.org vs. Federal Election Commission case in 2010, had pumped in more than \$9.2 million on behalf of Mourdock's campaign. Donnelly has received \$5.5 million as



of early this month.

And those numbers are growing exponentially almost every day during the campaign homestretch. Just this week, Club For Growth announced it was spending another \$600,000 on behalf of Mourdock. CFG not only paid for July 2011 polling on behalf of Mourdock, but it bundled and funneled in \$1.8 million in the successful effort to defeat Lugar. That comes on the heels of Karl Rove's Crossroads GPS that is spending another \$1 million attacking Donnelly, on top of \$2 million announced last week. Add in the \$4 million that Lugar and Super PACs on his behalf and the total is approaching \$20 million.

And while Club For Growth's Chris Choccola insists that Super PAC donors are transparent, thumbing through FEC reports and determining where those funds being



bundled into the Indiana Senate race actually come from is extremely complicated. It's nothing like the old days when the quarterly FEC campaign reports listed individual donors, those from political action committees, and campaign expenses.

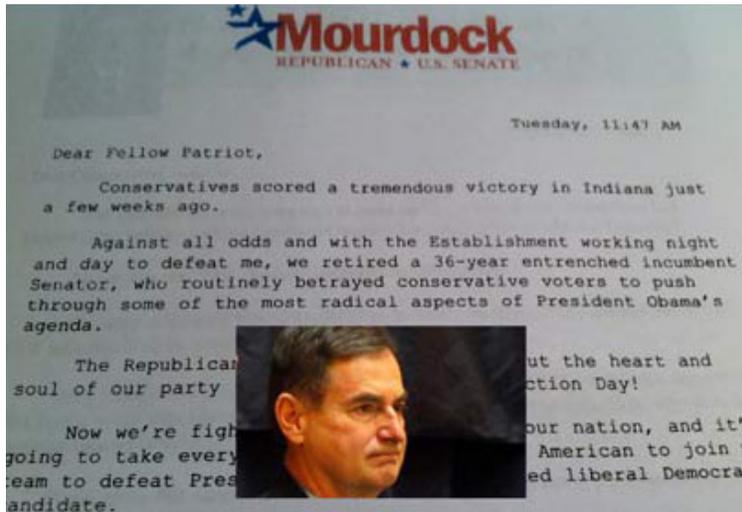
"He's the lord of darkness, really," Laura MacCleery, a lawyer with the Center for Reproductive Rights, told the American Prospect's Viveca Novak in a January article about Bopp. "His whole campaign has been about defeating efforts to make the role of money in politics transparent."

Donnelly was blunt in his assessment. "I think that there are people out there trying to buy Indiana's Senate seat," the Democrat said after Monday night's debate. "I think Indiana's Senate seat ought to belong to the people of Indiana. I think the Supreme Court decision a few years ago – citizens United – was a terrible mistake. Even further, what was a mistake was much of this money we don't even know where it comes from."

It's not quite as tawdry as convicted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich who schemed in phone calls to get something for naming Barack Obama's successor to his Senate seat in 2008. But the fact is that most of the funding and messaging decisions on behalf of the Mourdock candidacy aren't being made in Indianapolis, but in New York City and Washington, D.C. Everyone involved – i.e. Mourdock's nuanced answer to the HPI question, to Chocola, Dick Armey and Karl Rove – is playing a game with the public saying that this is all uncoordinated.

### **Bopp, Mourdock and purity**

The origins of Mourdock's campaign are themes that Bopp, as a Republican National Committeeman from Indiana until September when he was deposed by John Hammond III, line up closely with efforts the Terre Haute attorney used to try to "purify" the Republican Party. It was Bopp who attempted to get the Republican National Committee to pass a 10-point conservative litmus test in November 2009. He called the litmus test an "effective way to regain trust with conservative voters that has been undermined" by GOP financial support for "liberal Republican ticket-switchers" (New York Times). He denounced critics, saying, "They will attack any effort to reassure voters



that we are serious about restoring our conservative bona fides."

In Bopp's mind, the "big tent" GOP of the Reagan era where moderates, pro-choice and even Rockefeller liberal Republicans had a home has now vanished. Some critics say that President Reagan wouldn't have survived the Bopp litmus test.

While the litmus test failed, it turned out to be a political outlier that Mourdock could use to cultivate a small Republican

base and, in a primary where only about 10% of Hoosier voters turned out, depose the legendary Lugar despite Lugar's conservative voting record in the 90th percentile.

### **Donnelly: Won't unilaterally disarm**

Donnelly acknowledged that he, too, is accepting Super PAC funds. "I'm not going to unilaterally disarm," he explained after the debate. "I will tell you there are people out there – Crossroads – who are trying to buy Indiana's Senate seat. Indiana's Senate seat belongs to the people of Indiana and that's what I'm running for, to make sure it stays ours and not some interest group out of Washington."

He added, "Mr. Mourdock's campaign has basically been a complete Washington operation. It's like they own a franchise out here. We're watching their franchise in operation. They're a franchise, we're a homegrown team."

Donnelly insisted he will be able to compete in the final three weeks. "I don't have the refrigerator full right now but I'm working on it on a constant basis," he said. "Our donors have been incredibly generous. There's still three weeks to go. We're going to be just fine. We'll have everything we need to compete the rest of the way."

In the scheme that Bopp, Chocola, Armey, Rove and Mourdock concocted, Donnelly was supposed to be toast by now. Or as Donnelly put it, "If you look at the history of this, they said in May, 'We'll destroy Joe Donnelly before June.' And then they said, 'Well, he survived to June, we'll finish him off by July 4.' And then July 4 came and we were still even. So then they said, 'We'll finish him off by August, he won't have any money left.' And through August we made it, September we made it, October we made it."

In the September Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll, Mourdock trailed Donnelly 40-38% in the head-to-head and was leading with only 71% of Republican voters. Among Lugar primary voters, only 60.3% said they



were backing Mourdock and 9.8% of those said they could change their mind. This problem for Mourdock is reflected in the Republican-rich Indianapolis doughnut counties, where Mourdock had only a 36-32% lead over Donnelly in what is normally a GOP firewall. Mourdock was trailing Donnelly 40-38% in the Howey/DePauw September head-to-head.

During Monday's debate, Donnelly repeatedly invoked Lugar, calling him an "American hero" and referencing a post-primary fundraising letter on Mourdock campaign letterhead that stated that Lugar "routinely betrayed conservative voters to push through some of the most radical aspects of President Obama's agenda." In a story that HPI broke last July, that mailer outraged a number of Lugar supporters.

After the debate, Mourdock acknowledged the mailer had been sent "post-primary." Mourdock explained, "It was something that went out from one of our contractors. Is it the wording I would have chosen? Certainly not. It was very specific to a group of conservatives. It's to my regret."

A second mailer sent out this week by Bopp's USA Super PAC strongly implied an official Lugar endorsement of Mourdock, saying the "torch has been passed from one great leader to another."

The Lugar Senate office rebuked the mailer and the notion. "During the primary, Mourdock and his supporters perpetuated misleading statements about Sen. Lugar," said Lugar spokesman Andy Fisher. "Unfortunately that has continued with this mailer funded by a committee that spent over \$100,000 to defeat Sen. Lugar. It was clearly unauthorized and done without consultation with us. Lugar clearly stated on September 17 that he would not campaign for Mourdock in the general election for senator from Indiana."

Lugar has since declined to campaign for Mourdock. "I made no commitments with regard to the campaign," Lugar told the Indiana Barrister. "I've not been a factor in the campaign and do not intend to do so."

### **Bopp defends Lugar mailer**

Bopp defended the mailer on Wednesday. "A recent mailer by the USA Super PAC seeks to remind voters that Senator Lugar hopes that Richard Mourdock prevails in the November general elections," Bopp said. "The mail piece is attached which went to thousands of Hoosier voters this week. The USA Super PAC spend almost \$60,000 on this state wide mailer. Congressman Joe Donnelly has been attempting to mislead voters on Senator Lugar's position in the Senate race this year by cynically embracing some of Senator Lugar's positions. In fact, Congressman Don-

nelly was running for Senate for months with the intent to defeat Senator Lugar for reelection in the general election. Surprisingly, however, Richard Mourdock won the primary. Donnelly's embrace of Senator Lugar is a sinister ploy to mislead voters."



Bopp added, "I know that there are hard feeling that may not have healed from the primary but it is incumbent on Republicans to make sure that Congressman Donnelly is not allowed to cynically exploit the situation. He was prepared to run against Senator Lugar and to defeat him the general election, except for the results of the primary. I am sure that Richard Mourdock would have helped Senator Lugar against Congressman Donnelly's effort to defeat him and all Republicans are grateful to Senator Lugar for both this stellar service to our state and Nation and for his vote for Mourdock this November."

### **Lugar voters are key to victory**

The Hill newspaper reported on Wednesday that had Lugar won the primary, he would have been considered a safe bet to win reelection. Polling during the primary showed him leading Democratic candidate Joe Donnelly by 20 points. Lugar was left frustrated by his loss in a low-turnout primary election, which was dominated by the most conservative Republican voters. Mourdock's weak support among centrist Republicans has emerged as one of the biggest stumbling blocks to his campaign.

"It's obvious that the Lugar voters are the key here," said Peri Arnold, professor of political science at Notre Dame University. "If [Lugar] had fully embraced and done some campaigning for Mourdock, it would have put a stamp of acceptability on Mourdock. The fact that he has been so lukewarm has peeled off some support." Margie Hershey, a political science professor at Indiana University, said, "Lugar Republicans are critical to Mourdock's chances, and it would certainly make a difference if Lugar campaigned actively for Mourdock." ❖



## Mourdock, Donnelly spar over Chrysler

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The first Indiana U.S. Senate debate between Republican Richard Mourdock and Democrat Joe Donnelly found the pair sparring over Obamacare, national debt and the role of the federal government on education. But it was the 2008-09 Chrysler rescue and bankruptcy restructuring that dominated the first debate Monday night between the two.

Libertarian Andrew Horning took the role as the candidate aligned against the status quo.

The Chrysler case surfaced during the "Lincoln/Douglas" portion of the debate when Donnelly emphasized his work on jobs, calling it "the most critical thing."

"I worked with Sen. Lugar to save 100,000 auto jobs," Donnelly said, before turning to Mourdock and saying, "You sent out a letter about Sen. Lugar and you said he betrayed conservatives. You can disagree. But betrayed? I don't see how that even fits into the dialogue."

As Indiana treasurer, Mourdock filed suit against the Chrysler/Fiat merger, saying that Indiana police and teacher pension funds he directs were treated as losers by the federal government, rendering 200 years of U.S. bankruptcy law moot.

Murdock responded by calling Lugar - who he defeated in the May 6 Republican primary - "a good, honorable man" and added, "He is going to support us." Mourdock described the Chrysler case as a "sincere disagreement" and said he "took the fight" on behalf of police and teacher pension funds that had invested in Chrysler stocks rated at junk bond status. He said the auto bankruptcy deals involving Chrysler and General Motors would have set aside 200 years of bankruptcy law. "Someone needed to stand up to that," Mourdock said. "Government was picking winners and losers."

**Donnelly shot back**, again questioning how Mourdock's campaign could "use a word like 'betrayed.'" He added that Mourdock ended up settling for a deal for less money to the pension funds than an earlier deal that had been made by pension fund managers, and later overruled by Mourdock.

In the press conference after the debate, Mourdock

said the fundraising letter that Howey Politics Indiana first reported last July had been targeted to conservative voters after the primary. "It's something I do regret," Mourdock acknowledged.

Murdock tried to attack Donnelly's second endorsement of President Obama. "Four years ago, you endorsed Barack Obama," Mourdock said, assailing his decision to endorse him again. "You said he would bring us all together and get the national economy going again."

**Donnelly used the exchange** to turn back to Chrysler. He said that four years ago, American was bleeding jobs and that the jobless rate in Elkhart and Kokomo stood at 20%. "It is down to 8%," Donnelly said. "You could have single handedly sunk Indiana economy if you

had been success in your lawsuit to Chrysler. It takes your breath away. That's the choice you took. I stood with workers. I said I would vote with the president because he stood with those workers. I will be happy to work with Gov. Romney if he is elected."

Even the subject of Afghanistan and Iraq turned back to Chrysler. Donnelly noted the death of Osama bin Laden and that American soldiers have pulled out of Iraq and will so from Afghanistan by 2014. Then he turned to a Kokomo woman who Donnelly said had returned

from the war and now works at the Chrysler Transmission plant. While in Afghanistan, he asked the troops whether they needed better vests and trucks. "They said, 'We need a job when we get home.'"

"That's what my time in Congress has been focused on," Donnelly said.

Murdock swatted that comment back to Donnelly's support of President Obama. "You have endorsed Barack Obama," Mourdock said. "His policies have not worked." He said the drop in the unemployment rate to 7.8% "is not acceptable" and should not be the "new normal."

**"You voted for Obamacare.** You can't make government bigger than to vote for something like Obamacare," he said.

Asked by a citizen questioner about the U.S. Constitution, Mourdock cited Article 1, Section 8 that was "very specific on what the federal government can do." He then said, "Mr. Donnelly tried to attack me" on wanting to end Social Security and Medicare. "Joe, you know I've never said that," adding that the Constitution doesn't specifically mention NASA or the FBI.

Donnelly retorted, "You know, Richard, I may have





been born at night, but not last night." He said that Mourdock had asked a Madison, Ind., Tea Party group where the Constitution had specified that Social Security and Medicare were legal. Democratic trackers captured the exchange on video and it has been used in Donnelly campaign ads. "We aren't that dumb," Donnelly said. "We know what you were implying. You want to change Medicare to a voucher system."

**The candidates were asked** about how they would work with the other party and that's when the fireworks commenced. Donnelly pointed out that he has worked with Republican U.S. Rep. Fred Upton on a veterans center and U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman on fighter jets stationed at Fort Wayne. But Mourdock pounced, saying it was "very shocking" that Donnelly had painted him as someone who "can't work with others." Mourdock pointed out that he worked with Democrats in the Indiana General Assembly to create a college investment plan and that as a Vanderburgh County Commissioner, he worked with two Democrats to create a welfare to work program.

But in the press conference after the debate, Donnelly said that for the second time, Mourdock was unable to name a Senate Democrat he could work with. "This was Mourdock vs. Mourdock," Donnelly said.

Indiana Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb, however, noted that while Donnelly praised Sen. Lugar as a "hero," in reality, Donnelly had "declared to run against him."

Both candidates were more than credible. For the second time, Mourdock capably enunciated and defended his positions, which raises the question of why his campaign and the national groups backing him didn't give him a longer leash this summer and early fall. If you believe in your positions, you celebrate them with your core supporters, and try to sell the ideas to independent voters.

Mourdock, however, opted not to participate in any joint forums, other than the two debates, and even then he didn't commit until just two weeks ago.

The three candidates will meet for a final time on Oct. 23 at IU Southeast in New Albany. ❖

## Bellwether Barometer: Lugar playing outsized role in Senate race

By **CHRISTINE MATTHEWS**

WASHINGTON - The first U.S. Senate debate between Richard Mourdock and Joe Donnelly took place on Monday and from the start of the debate through the next 36 hours The Bellwether Barometer monitored commentary and coverage. I hope you will look at the report in its entirety (which can be found under the Bellwether Barometer tab on our website at [www.howeypolitics.com](http://www.howeypolitics.com)). The space we have here does not do it justice.

For an interesting comparison, we sorted the data into two categories: social media and traditional news. We even have a Twitter only timeline for the night of the debate.

It is very clear that, despite his loss in the primary and lack of campaigning since, U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar is playing an outsized role in this general election con-



Indiana Bellwether Barometer  
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October 17, 2012  
Special Report:

36 hour monitor from  
First U.S. Senate debate

test. His name dominated the Twitter feed the night of the debate and Lugar Republicans were a key theme in social and news commentary during and after the debate. Discussion of what Lugar Republicans will do is THE main theme that remained following the debate.

Related to that, the Tea Party and whether that defines who Mourdock is and his attempts to moderate from this perception are another key take away. On the other side of the equation, The President and Obamacare are

### Indiana Senate Debate October 15-17 Social Media – Word Cloud October 15

Categories in the documents as Mourdock, Donnelly, Horning

**Appeal to Lugar Republicans** Collaboration vs. Principle? Donnelly - against medical device tax but pro Obamacare Donnelly - Lugar an "American hero" Donnelly - Mourdock partisanship Donnelly lies about Mourdock to hide own tax delinquencies Donnelly voted for big gov Obama agenda Donnelly voted for **Obamacare Horning - "I vote for losers"** Horning - Move away from "status quo" Horning - say "status quo" one more time Mitt White II moderator Mourdock - bipartisanship gave \$16T debt **Mourdock attacked on lawsuit against auto bailout** Mourdock does not support ethanol Mourdock flipflop on fair tax Mourdock not looking at camera Mourdock on bipartisanship - "worked in jungles of Bolivia" Mourdock on Chrysler - "stood up for rule of law" Mourdock sued to force Chrysler liquidation Tea Party Washington, WPM Studios



the other key players in this race, although in social media commentary that connection faded away after the first night of the debate – and what lasted was discussion of Lugar Republicans.

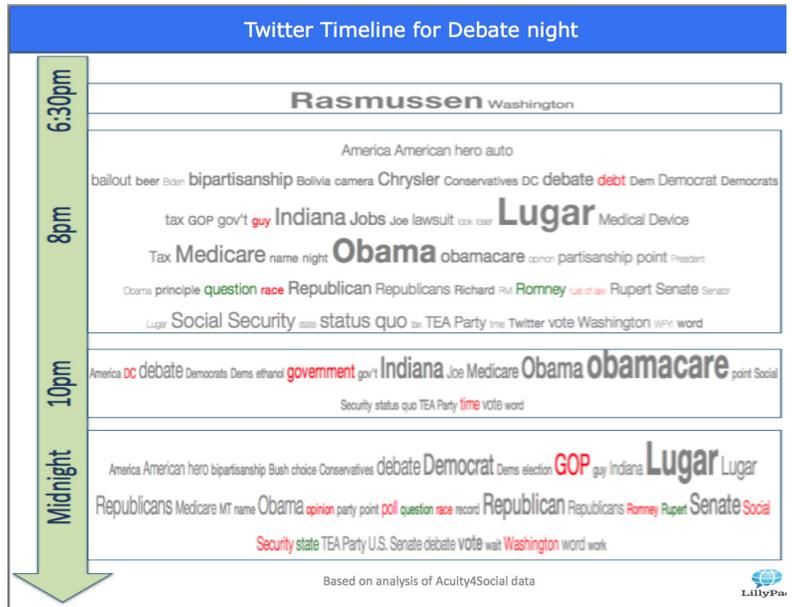
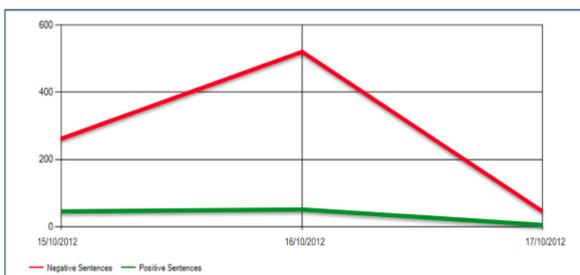
The news coverage was much more contextual, as one would expect, probing the relationship between what each candidate talked about in the debate and how that related to their advertising or main campaign themes. The news coverage also focused much more on the closeness of the race, polling numbers, and how the Indiana race may decide U.S. Senate control.

One of the fascinating differences in the social media vs news commentary is that the Donnelly's quote "we are not that dumb" (to believe Mourdock's defense of his comments on the constitutionality of Social Security and Medicare) was prevalent in news coverage, but did not show up at all in social media. It was also telling to look at the themes that came up in social media that did not receive much or any play in news coverage.

**Andy Horning**, in particular, annoyed social commentators by mentioning "status quo" so much. His quote that he usually "votes for losers" was another social meme. For Richard Mourdock, his pronunciation of "Washington" was notable in social media commentary and his mention of his time in the "jungles of Bolivia" also came up. The auto bailout and Donnelly's attack on Mourdock was another more important theme on social media than in the news commentary.

There is so much more, so take a look at the charts. We've also included the names of key influencers in the social commentary and news coverage. You might even be there! We'll have another report after the final U.S. Senate debate, so stay tuned. ❖

### Indiana Senate Debate October 15-17 Mainstream News



### Indiana Senate Debate News – Word Cloud October 16

Categories in the documents as Mourdock, Donnelly, Horning



### Indiana Senate Debate October 15-17 Social Media – Word Cloud October 16

Categories in the documents as Mourdock, Donnelly, Horning





## Social Media Only: Key comments on debate by date

Mourdock - lawsuit against auto bailout
Mourdock – bipartisanship gave \$16T debt
Appeal to Lugar Republicans
Donnelly supported big gov agenda
Donnelly lies but hides own tax delinquencies
Donnelly voted for Obamacare
<b>Mourdock &amp; Donnelly clash</b>
WFYI Studios
Horning – “I vote for losers”
Donnelly against medical device tax
Collaboration vs. Principle
“Warshington”
Mourdock sued to fight Chrysler liquidation
Mourdock flip-flop on fair tax
Donnelly – Lugar and “American hero”
Mourdock does not support ethanol
Horning – “move away from status quo”
Mourdock – abolish Department of Education
Mourdock – worked in “jungles of Bolivia”
Donnelly – Mourdock partisanship
Mourdock on Chrysler – “stood up for rule of law”
Mizell White III moderator
Horning- say “status quo” one more time
Horning saying the same thing
Mourdock not looking at camera
Tea Party

Mourdock - lawsuit against auto bailout
Mourdock – bipartisanship gave \$16T debt
Appeal to Lugar Republicans
Donnelly supported big gov agenda
Donnelly lies, hides own tax delinquencies
Donnelly voted for Obamacare
<b>Mourdock &amp; Donnelly clash</b>
Horning – “I vote for losers”
Collaboration vs. Principle
“Warshington”
Donnelly – Lugar and “American hero”
Mourdock – abolish Department of Education
Mourdock - “stood up for rule of law”
Mizell White III moderator
Horning saying the same thing
Tea Party

Mourdock - lawsuit against auto bailout
Mourdock, bipartisanship gave \$16T debt
Appeal to Lugar Republicans
Donnelly voted for Obamacare
<b>Mourdock &amp; Donnelly clash</b>
Donnelly against medical device tax
Senator Lugar
Equal opportunity
Social Security
bailout
Mizell White III moderator
Horning – say “status quo” again
Middle Class
Tea Party
Medicare
economy

October 15

October 16

October 17



## News Coverage of debate and race by date

Mourdock – College savings plan
WFYI Studios
Mourdock partisan politician
Candidates repeating campaign attacks
Mourdock Tea Party favorite
Horning – two party status quo
unapologetic tea party leader
Mourdock – bipartisanship=bowing to Dems
Donnelly supported Obamacare
Second debate October 23rd
Donnelly – keep Air Force fighter jets
Partisan principles vs. reaching across party lines
Mourdock vs. Mourdock debate
Mourdock, Donnelly landed a few blows
Donnelly – Veteran’s center in South Bend
Mourdock – distance from Tea Party
Appeal to Lugar Republicans
Horning – Donnelly-Mourdock cogs
Donnelly – “we are not that dumb”
Hoosier common sense
Indiana Debate Commission

Mourdock – College savings plan
WFYI Studios
Mourdock partisan politician
Candidates repeating campaign attacks
Mourdock Tea Party favorite
Horning – two party status quo
Democrat Joe Donnelly
Republican Richard Mourdock
first debate
unapologetic tea party leader
expensive air war
Mourdock – bipartisanship=bowing to Dems
tight Indiana Senate battle
Donnelly supported Obamacare
Second debate October 23rd
Donnelly – keep Air Force fighter jets
Partisan principles vs. reaching across party lines
One of a handful of tight races
fund-raising reports
fundraising figure
Mourdock vs. Mourdock debate
Mourdock, Donnelly landed a few blows
fundraising race
Donnelly – Veteran’s center in South Bend
Mourdock – distance from Tea Party
value of bipartisanship
fundraising report
Appeal to Lugar Republicans
Horning – Donnelly-Mourdock cogs
Donnelly – “we are not that dumb”

Horning, two party status quo
Democrat Joe Donnelly
Republican Richard Mourdock
campaign airing ads
distinct financial edge
Latest fundraising quarter
four-seat gain
nationwide race
Appeal to Lugar Republicans

October 15

October 16

October 17





## Republicans hold big money lead in CD races

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**  
and **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

WASHINGTON – With three weeks left in the campaign, Hoosier voters find only one of the nine congressional seats in play, though the light still flickers on the 2nd CD with the House Majority PAC sinking \$175,000 in an attack ad on Republican Jackie Walorski.

With third quarter FEC reports in, Republicans Walorski and U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon both reported robust \$400,000 totals. And as a whole, Republican candidates nearly doubled the money totals of their Democratic counterparts.



At this point, it appears that both Walorski and Susan Brooks in the 5th CD are poised to go to Washington, a history-making event since Hoosier Republicans haven't

elected a female in more than half a century.

Here is a district-by-district look at the money totals and a current status update:

**1st CD:** Republican Joel Phelps: \$31K Raised 3Q, \$45K Total Raised, \$1K COH; Democrat U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky: \$91K Raised 3Q, \$714K Total Raised, \$298K COH. Visclosky will easily be reelected and Phelps has been left to complain that the incumbent won't debate. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Visclosky

**2nd CD:** Republican Jackie Walorski: \$412K Raised 3Q, \$1.539M Total Raised, \$397K COH; Democrat Brendan Mullen: \$263K Raised 3Q, \$1.066M Total Raised, \$226K COH. The Democratic-affiliated group House Majority PAC makes its first move here with a \$175,000 buy in the South Bend media market. Mullen, a Democrat from Granger, criticizes Walorski in the new ad for voting against a bill when she was a state representative that required insurers in Indiana to cover "medically necessary" prosthetics and orthotic devices. The piece suggests Walorski's vote was against veterans who would need such devices after a service-related injury, but her campaign manager said Mullen is mischaracterizing the legislation. Sam Alameda, a Marine Corps veteran from Mishawaka, narrates the ad, which begins with an image of a building exploding next to U.S. soldiers in Iraq. "This is what we were up against," Alameda says. "Thousands of veterans are coming home with critical injuries, but Jackie Walorski voted against requiring insurance companies to cover prosthetic devices that could

benefit wounded veterans." Walorski's campaign manager, Brendon DelToro, said HB 1140 didn't affect veterans, whose health care is covered through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. "Jackie has been on the record multiple times talking about the importance of protecting veterans and providing the medical support and services they need, from education to small business tax credits," DelToro wrote in an e-mail. "Jackie has co-sponsored and voted for numerous bills in the legislature to benefit veterans and their families, and these attempts to distort her record are baseless." **Horse Race Status:** Likely Walorski

**3rd CD:** Republican U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman: \$178K Raised 3Q, \$837K Total Raised, \$314K COH; Democrat Kevin Boyd: \$18K Raised 3Q, \$40K Total Raised, \$12K COH. The money totals tell this story. Stutzman will easily win a second term. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Stutzman.

**4th CD:** Republican U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita: \$207K Raised 3Q, \$1.143M Total Raised, \$712K COH; Democrat Tara Nelson: \$7K Raised 3Q, \$20K Total Raised, \$1K COH. This is another ho-hummer with Rokita becoming a campaign donor rep, pumping more than \$100,000 into other campaigns. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Rokita

**5th CD:** Republican Susan Brooks: \$331K Raised 3Q, \$1.228M Total Raised, \$356K COH. Democrat Scott Reske: \$78K Raised 3Q, \$362K Total Raised, \$79K COH. Another overwhelmingly Republican district finds Brooks preparing to go to Washington. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Brooks

**6th CD:** Republican Luke Messer: \$213K Raised 3Q, \$931K Total Raised, \$145K COH; Democrat Brad Bookout: \$23K Raised 3Q, \$61K Total Raised, \$6K COH. Former legislator Messer is poised 12 years after his first congressional run to finally make it. He lost primary battles against Mike Pence in 2000 and Dan Burton in 2010. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Messer

**7th CD:** Republican Carlos May: \$28K Raised 3Q, \$60K Total Raised, \$4K COH; Democrat U.S. Rep. Andre Carson: \$230K Raised 3Q, \$1.008M Total Raised, \$560K COH. Carson is gliding toward reelection, but the word is that in 2014 Republicans will take a long hard look at this district and possibly find a candidate to make a credible challenge to Carson. But it won't happen this year. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Carson

**8th CD:** Republican U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon: \$402K Raised 3Q, \$1.256M Total Raised, \$323K COH; Dave Crooks: \$194K Raised 3Q, \$858K Total Raised, \$183K COH. Bucshon, decisively outraised Democratic challenger Crooks in the third quarter – \$401,000 to \$194,000 – but the Crooks campaign is touting the makeup of its donor base. Crooks led Bucshon in "unitemized contributions," or those of \$200 or less, by a margin of \$38,870 to \$20,243. Boris



Medzhibovsky said that the campaign now has 2,500 active donors. "We are very excited about our growing grassroots support," Medzhibovsky said in a statement. "While Congressman Bucshon is relying on out-of-state Super PACs to dump over \$750,000 to defend his record of outsourcing jobs overseas and voting to give China a free pass, our campaign has hundreds of 8th District residents who are fed up with Congressman Bucshon's budget priorities and are supporting Dave's campaign any way they can." As the Crooks campaign puts the best spin it can on the fundraising results, the bottom line looks much better for Bucshon, who has \$322,630 cash on hand compared to Crooks' \$182,752. "Career politician Dave Crooks' fundraising shows that he is in trouble and likely does not have enough money to cross the finish line. Instead, he is relying on Washington, D.C., and the [Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee] to support his campaign and control his message," Bucshon campaign spokesman Nicholas McGee said in a statement. "Voters understand that Crooks will be a rubber stamp to President Obama's failed policies, supports Obamacare and endorsed President Obama. Hoosiers trust Dr. Bucshon to protect Medicare, repeal Obamacare, and put people back to work." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Bucshon

**9th CD:** Republican U.S. Rep. Todd Young: \$358K Raised 3Q, \$1.614M Total Raised, \$951K COH; Democrat Shelli Yoder: \$170K Raised 3Q, \$272K Total Raised, \$146K COH. Young is in great shape and his second TV ad takes a shot at Obamacare. Yoder finally showed some fundraising legs, but it comes too late in a district that has a potential for a credible Democratic challenger, but not this cycle. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Young

## **Pence, Mourdock outrage opponents**

Republicans Mike Pence and Richard Mourdock continued on a fundraising clip substantially above their opponents in the gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races.

Pence reported more than \$2.9 million raised in the third quarter of 2012, with \$12.75 million raised in total. The report shows Pence closed the quarter with more than \$1.8 million on hand. Democrat John Gregg posted \$1,003,815, with more than 97% raised from Indiana donors. From July 1 to September 30, Pence raised \$2,900,634.22. The campaign now counts 9,740 donors with 78.8 percent of donations coming from Hoosiers. Pence, who has been running statewide television ads since May 15, reported \$1,811,416.78 cash on hand, with the final three weeks of television ads totaling \$2.3 million already paid in full. "Over the past few months, Mike's positive, issues-based vision and Roadmap to make Indiana the state that works have drawn thousands of Hoosiers to invest time, talent and resources," said Kyle Robertson,

campaign manager. "We are grateful to have the continued outpouring of support from Hoosiers in all corners of the state as we enter the final weeks of the campaign." The Gregg campaign noted that the Sandborn Democrat has been running TV ads for the last three months and said the report shows that Gregg has continued to raise the money needed to run a successful campaign. "I continue to be honored and humbled by the support that Hoosiers have given my campaign," Gregg said. "I have taken my message of creating jobs, strengthening education and bi-partisan cooperation to every corner of the state, and today's report shows that the message is resonating with voters throughout Indiana."

A poll by You.Gov.com released on Wednesday had Pence leading Gregg 49-38% but did not include Libertarian Rupert Boneham. It also showed Pence getting 24% of the African-American vote. In the Senate race, Mourdock was up 45-41%, but again, without Libertarian Andy Horning. Mourdock leads in every region of the state except Indianapolis, however he only has a 2-point lead in Northwest Indiana and 26% of the voters there are undecided. And while Mourdock enjoys double-digit leads in the doughnut counties (52-31%) and the rest of central Indiana, Donnelly leads 59-24 in Indianapolis and 17% of voters are undecided. In the presidential race, Mitt Romney had a 50-38% lead over President Obama. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of Likely Indiana Voters shows Mourdock earning 47% of the vote to Donnelly's 42%. Two percent (2%) prefer some other candidate, and eight percent (8%) are undecided. The poll did not include Libertarian nominee Andy Horning, who polled 7% in the September Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll.

Murdock reported \$3 million, compared to \$1.55 million for Donnelly. As far as the campaign goes, Mourdock will have about a \$400,000 edge over Donnelly in the final three weeks of the campaign, though the Super PACs will actually be spending much more on behalf of both candidates. Jennifer Duffy, who tracks Senate races



**New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie headlined a fundraiser for Richard Mourdock in Merrillville Wednesday night (NWI Times photo)**



for the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, said the race will come down to which candidate's message has broad appeal among the voters and which campaign's get-out-the-vote operation is more effective (Gannett News Service). "Mourdock's money is pretty healthy, but this race isn't going to be won or lost because of money," Duffy said. "Both sides will be well-funded thanks to help from the parties and outside groups."

Mourdock received a money boost on Wednesday and U.S. Sens. Lindsay Graham and John McCain held a fundraiser for him Indianapolis, and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie joined him for a gubernatorial debate party in Merrillville Wednesday evening. "We hope that some of Senator Lugar's supporters would understand that, one, it's over," said Sen. McCain, "and, second of all, this race could determine as to who is in the majority in the United States Senate." Graham added, "So, to the Lugar voter your country needs you to vote and based on Richard Lugar's representation of Indiana for a very long time, Richard Mourdock is so much closer to Richard Lugar than the other gentleman."

Former President Bill Clinton stoked up the Hoosier Democratic base at North Central HS in Indianapolis Friday morning for Gregg and Donnelly. "I don't understand how you could say that your biggest thrill in life is to impose your opinion on someone else, particularly if you don't know what you're talking about," Clinton said. "Cooperation and honorable compromise work better than constant conflict."

"This deal that is now being presented to us by the Republican party doesn't work very well. I frankly resent the fact that it's called conservative, because it's not," Clinton added. "The four people on this stage - we are way more fiscally conservative than they've got running for president, vice president and every other office. What is this idea of it's my way or the highway?"

"Maybe Mr. Mourdock is right all the time," said Clinton, flanked by Donnelly, Gregg and former senator Evan Bayh. "He's waaaaay right all the time." "I loved everything Indiana had in the Senate when we had Evan Bayh and Dick Lugar," Clinton said. "We got together and we worked together. When I saw this primary and Joe's opponent was excoriating Sen. Lugar for working with president Obama on national security matters ... I thought that was an American issue."

## **Governor: Gregg goes negative**

The Gregg gubernatorial campaign is airing an ad that attempts to tie Pence to the Tea Party. The ad focuses on Pence's congressional career, noting that at one point he advocated closing the federal government. The ad shows a clip of Pence telling a Washington rally, "Shut it down."

Indiana Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb took Gregg to task for the negative ad. "Unfortunately, John Gregg has abandoned his pledge to run a clean campaign focused on his vision for Indiana's future," said Holcomb. "We took Speaker Gregg at his word and are disappointed in his decision to go all negative. The question we have to ask ourselves about the debate is, 'How low is Gregg willing to go in an attempt to resuscitate a campaign down double digits in recent polling?'"

Pence's latest ad shows him meeting with Indiana high school students and focuses on his policy proposal to increase career, technical and vocational education in Indiana high schools. "Too few of our kids finish high school with the skills they need to get a good-paying job," says Pence in the ad. "Our Roadmap for Indiana brings employers and educators together to build better career and vocational pathways for our students. We've got to make sure our schools work for all our kids, whether they want to go to college or start a career." In 2011 only 1 percent (1,010) of all high school graduates earned a Core40 with Technical Honors degree, and yet Indiana has the third highest percentage of high school graduates in our workforce. Improving the quality of Indiana high school graduates is critical to improving the quality of Indiana's workforce.

Appearing at IPFW on Tuesday Gregg urged the group to look beyond party labels and vote for who was best for Indiana (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "I'm the only candidate with experience in education, experience in state government and experience creating jobs, he said. A former Speaker of the Indiana House, Gregg had been out of politics for several years. The creation of well-paying jobs is a top priority with Hoosiers, Gregg said. And he thinks women, many of whom "happen to be Lugar Republicans," are the deciding factor in the race for governor. Gregg touts himself as a pro-life Democrat who is a strong supporter of Planned Parenthood. "Planned Parenthood performs cancer screenings and family planning and birth control services for thousands of women every year who could otherwise not afford it," Gregg said. The war on woman and limiting their access to health care must stop, Gregg said.

Indiana Right to Life Political Action Committee has endorsed Pence for governor. "Mike Pence demonstrated he is the clear choice to lead Indiana," said Mike Fichter, Chairman of Indiana Right to Life PAC. "Hoosiers want a governor who shares their values. Mike Pence will boldly stand for those values as he did tonight in the governor's debate. "As governor, Mike Pence will uphold a culture of life. One way he will do that is by resisting President Obama's pro-abortion agenda found in Obamacare from taking effect in Indiana. Mike Pence knows Indiana cannot afford Obamacare, a program that offers taxpayer-funded abortions. Indiana Right to Life PAC is proud to support Mike Pence in



his race for governor as our endorsed candidate.” **Horse Race Status:** Likely Pence

### **U.S. Senate: Donnelly ad features Clinton**

Donnelly’s campaign for U.S. Senate unveiled its latest ad highlighting more rejection of Mourdock’s “my way or the highway” approach to politics and it used video clips from President Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. “Richard Mourdock’s ‘my way or the highway’ approach is so out of the mainstream that both Governor Romney and President Clinton reject it,” said Elizabeth Shappell,

communications director. “He not only has questioned the constitutionality of Medicare and Social Security, he would cut help for wounded veterans while giving oil companies tax breaks. Our American heroes coming back from overseas deserve a U.S. Senator who will fight for them, not big oil companies. That’s Joe Donnelly.”



Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies (GPS) announced a new TV ad in Indiana focusing on Joe Donnelly’s votes for President Obama’s budget and his health care takeover, both of which raised taxes on Indiana small businesses. Supported by a \$1 million total buy, the ad starts today and will air on local broadcast and cable networks. “Joe Donnelly’s record is a rubber-stamp for President Obama’s out-of-touch policies which has resulted in Indiana’s unemployment rate being above the national average,” said Nate Hodson, Crossroads GPS Director of State and Regional Media Relations. “Crossroads GPS is working to stop the higher taxes and more government that Obama and Donnelly support from continuing to hinder the economic recovery Indiana families need.” The anti-tax Club for Growth is spending \$1.5 million on tight Senate races in Arizona and Indiana (Evansville Courier & Press). The group is spending \$600,000 in Indiana on an ad hitting Donnelly for supporting congressional earmarks and \$900,000 in Arizona supporting Republican Jeff Flake for opposing the targeted spending. Club spokesman Barney Keller said the ad will show Donnelly is “just another liberal” who supported Washington spending. Donnelly has pushed back against that argument throughout the campaign, noting most recently that he voted with Republican Speaker John Boehner 60 percent of the time.

Mourdock’s guarantee to overturn Obamacare claimed that he is the only candidate that will steadfastly defend life in the U.S. Senate. “When Hoosiers needed Joe Donnelly the most to defend their values, he gave Speaker

Nancy Pelosi and President Barack Obama a necessary vote to pass pro-abortion Obamacare,” stated Mike Fichter, Chairman of Indiana Right to Life Political Action Committee (PAC). “Obamacare is the most pro-abortion piece of legislation ever passed by Congress and Joe Donnelly helped ensure it became law.”

During an Elkhart Truth editorial board meeting, Mourdock’s website had said he “supports the elimination” of the Internal Revenue Service. By 10:29 it had been tweaked to read he “supports the reduction” of the agency (Vandenack, Elkhart Truth). “I’m not sure where that one’s coming from, I’ll have to check that one,” he answered. “I’ve never said to remove the IRS. I mean there’s something called the Fair Tax that would do away with the IRS but I’ve never endorsed the Fair Tax.” **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

### **Indiana General Assembly**

**INDIANA CHAMBER ENDORSES REP. NOE:** The Indiana Chamber of Commerce announced today its endorsement of State Representative Cindy Noe (R-Indianapolis) for reelection to HD87. “Rep. Cindy Noe is focused on the need to grow our state’s economy, create jobs, and drive prosperity forward for all Hoosiers,” said Kevin Brinegar, president and CEO of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. “Rep. Noe doesn’t just talk these issues, but as a former small business owner she understands these issues and makes a real difference at the Statehouse.”

**ISTA ENDORSES TRUITT:** On paper, the challenge reads like a referendum on Indiana’s education reform movement: a teachers union advocate with 29 years of service taking on a local state representative who was on the winning side of measures that still make public schoolteachers’ blood boil (Bangert, Lafayette Journal & Courier). So what must have been going through the head of Rick Cornstuble, a Lafayette Democrat and a retired Indiana State Teachers Association employee, when he realized the local union was going to lend its weight to Rep. Randy Truitt, a West Lafayette Republican, in Indiana House District 26? “I did not get a clear answer from the ISTA, even from old friends and colleagues,” Cornstuble said this week. “What I have surmised from what they did say, and from some other rather bizarre ISTA endorsements from around the state, is that there is a real paranoia about angering incumbents, and they are trying to play it safe.”

**POLL SHOWS MILLER WITH BIG LEAD:** A Tarrance Group Poll released by the Senate majority caucus shows State Sen. Pat Miller with a 62 to 33% lead over Democrat John Barnes. The margin of error for the sample is +/- 5.8%. Survey dates were Oct. 14-15. ❖



## Indiana House Races Democrats Republicans

40 60

### Republican Pickup

**HD5: Dale DeVon (R) v. Jerod Warrnock (D)**

### Tossup

HD42: Alan Morrison (R) v. Mark Spelbring (D)

HD76: T. Van Haaften (D) vs. W. McNamara (R)

HD87: Rep. Cindy Noe (R) v. Christina Hale (D)

**HD35: Rep. Jack Lutz (R) v. Melanie Wright (D)**

**HD81: Rep. W. Moses(D) v. Martin Carbaugh(R)**

### Leans D

HD15: Tommy O'Donnell (D) vs. Hal Schlager (R)

HD56: Rep. Phil Pflum (D) vs. Dick Hamm (R)

HD74: Mike Schriefer (D) v. Lloyd Arnold (R)

HD19: Ron Johnson(R) v. Rep. S.VanDenBurgh(D)

HD66: Rep. Terry Goodin (D) vs. Justin Stevens(R)

HD92: Karlee Macer (D) v. Tim Motsinger (R)

### Leans R

HD45: Rep. B. Borders (R) vs. Rep. K. Battles (D)

HD69: Mark Norton (D) v. Jim Lucas (R)

### Likely D

HD34: Sue Errington (D) vs. Brad Oliver (R)

HD100: Dan Forestal (D) vs. Scott Keller (R)

### Likely R

HD31: Rep. Kevin Mahan (R) vs. Katie Morgan (D)

HD60: Rep. Peggy Welch (D) vs. Peggy Mayfield R

### Safe

**Democrats (22):** Austin, DeLaney, Klinker, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, V. Smith, Moseley, Kersey, Pierce, Stemler, GiaQuinta, Pryor, Bartlett, Porter, Summers. **Incoming freshman:** Justin Moed, Robin Shackelford

**Republicans (60):** Heaton, Davisson, Karickhoff, Rhoads, Lehe, Kirchhofer, Baird, Clere, Ubelhoer, McMillan, Bacon, Truitt, Morris, Heuer, Kubacki, Van Natter, Frye, Speedy, Dermody, Messmer, Neese, Gutwein, Wolkins, Friend, J. Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Davis, Lutz, Torr, Steuerwald, T. Brown, Culver, Leonard, Cherry, Saunders, Soliday, Eberhart, Burton, M. Smith, Koch, Crouch, Lehman, Pond, Wesco, Bosma, Behning, Frizzell. **Incoming freshmen:** John Price, Todd Huston, Steven Braun, Timothy Harman, Rick Niemeyer, Sharon Negele, Dennis Zent, Ben Smaltz, Cindy Meyer Ziemke, Thomas Washburne, David Ober,

**Horse Race Notes:** By our analysis, House Republicans are in great shape to retain their current majority and factoring in the six races in Pickup or Tossup, could be at 66 seats if they run the table there. A super majority comes into play if they can force any of the six "Leans D" seats in play. So keep an eye on that tier. Watch for a full HPI analysis in next week's edition. ❖



## Media credibility continues to drop

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE – It is increasingly apparent that so-called “mainstream media” are continuing to lose credibility in Indiana as well as the United States. The best Indiana example is the Donnelly-Mourdock race. The continuing bias by the media (and denial of such bias) is just making the majority of Indiana voters less interested in the editorials and even political news reports of that media.



What is most incredible is that they often seem oblivious of their own bias and are in denial. They live and talk in sheltered cocoons while accusing conservatives of doing what they actually do. They don't even consider themselves to be liberal. More conservatives read and hear the mass liberal media than those media people actually listen to or read conservative media. Their idea

of alternative listening is catching snippets out of context on MSNBC or Huffington, which are far more biased than Fox ever was.

Here are a few examples of bias against Mourdock.

**1. The first debate:** Stacked questions (in addition to arguably the worst produced and conceived debate ever, even beyond bias), framework favoring the preferred candidate, and then coverage as if the election was a choice between bi-partisanship and a closed mind. Bipartisanship is a post-election concept not a partisan election issue. Not sure whether this is just uninformed or willful bias.

**2. The Lugar question:** Lugar did endorse Mourdock, when using the correct language you don't need clearance (especially if you tried and couldn't get calls returned) and of course Lugar is still hurt. But, in fact, he said he was voting for Mourdock and doesn't want the Democrats in control of the Senate. But the media want to damage Mourdock so it is being distorted.

**3. The Obama question:** Virtual silence on Donnelly backing Obama now and before. Since that is a central message of Mourdock, the media either ignore it or downplay it. To voters, this point is more relevant than Lugar (who will be gone) and it is the key issue of how Hoosiers will be represented in the Senate. How will our senator vote to organize the Senate? Every committee chairman, for example, is determined by that vote.

**4. Chrysler:** Joe Donnelly has received no flak

for basically saying he would not have defended the trust funds or that he supports changing rules for protected bonds. Instead, the entire focus is on the “bailout vote.” I supported the GM vote so I can hardly be called a “shill” on this. The coverage has been distorted and incredibly biased, unbelievable in fact. A complicated, difficult issue – especially for Hoosiers as to whether to invest in Chrysler while still private and then what to do when the government violates basic economic principles (I favored assistance, not destroying bond guarantees) – was turned into a simplistic, cartoon Democrat talking point.

**5. Tea Party:** The media knows full well that Richard Mourdock was a conservative long before the Tea Party existed. He clearly used the Tea Party to win a primary because he shared many of their views. Where is the analysis about the Donnelly union and trial attorney ties? Coverage is non-existent or buried, yet it's more significant. Same truth applies to outside money.

**6. Polls:** It became apparent in the primary that Senator Lugar couldn't get above 45% yet they continued to assume that Mourdock couldn't win because he trailed Lugar. I too have been under 50%. But my opponents – thanks in part to my help – were never able to consolidate the vote and yet I defeated an incumbent who had won 62% the previous two elections, and as well won multiple tough primaries (16 for 16 in contested elections). I was declared dead, including in this publication, more than once. It was apparent, however, that the personal negative ad campaign against Mourdock had not moved voters to Lugar. So when Mourdock did well in the debate, he went straight up in the Howey/DePauw poll and never looked back. In this fall's race, Donnelly – in spite of a brilliantly conceived ad campaign that reflected him accurately – was stuck at 40% (or perhaps a bit higher). If the so-called Lugar voters were actually going to vote for Donnelly, that would most likely have shown up in the earliest days when they were most angry. Now it is just petulance from a few. The polls are moving to Mourdock, and moving faster. The media blithely pretend as if this isn't happening. No wonder they continue to lose credibility. They continue to suggest that something is occurring for which there is no evidence, and what evidence exists shows that Mourdock has been gradually and steadily gaining post-primary. Furthermore, the Democrats are about to get blown away in Indiana and there is no sign of actual split ticket voting in federal races. Hoosiers understand a vote for a Democrat Senate is a vote for President Obama.

**7. Libertarian:** Completely irrelevant vote and irrelevant to polling. It is the head-to-head lead that matters. The Libertarian only reduces the number (or percentages) in the head-to-head. This year the Libertarian will draw a few more Republican votes than Democrat votes at every level, which is the same impact as staying home. Better



that than voting Democrat.

**8. Bias in ad coverage:** No acknowledgement that the Mourdock highway ad was an excellent rebuttal to the “my highway or the highway” line. A highway has two choices – right or left. Lots of whining about Mourdock’s synchronized swimming ad but there is a dramatic failure to point out that the actual choice is about which direction Indiana will go, with or not with President Obama in the Senate.

## Donnelly’s ad campaign as good as Pence’s

By **BLAIR ENGLEHART**

INDIANAPOLIS - When someone wants to be seen as being in the middle of the road, it makes sense to show him in the middle of the road.

That may seem like a simplistic thought. But, as Joe Donnelly and his campaign have shown, sometimes the simplest of concepts become the most effective messages.



But let’s look back just a little. Traditional wisdom states that, in today’s contentious campaigns, a candidate has to swing hard to the left or the right during primary season (depending, of course, on your political preferences). In the general election, then, they need to swing back to the middle, in order to capture that volatile independent vote and those who may have become disenfranchised due to the primary

election results. The Donnelly campaign had the benefit of being uncontested in the primary, so they weren’t forced far to the left during the springtime ruckus. They could, in fact, sit back and watch the opposing party fight amongst themselves, while comfortably remaining quiet.

**The biggest benefits?** First, Joe Donnelly hasn’t had to move back to the center, because he never had to stake out a far-left position in the primary. Perhaps even more importantly, Donnelly has the additional benefit of potentially appealing to Lugar Republicans who are still stinging from the primary fight – and who may be looking for a moderate candidate. I didn’t know much about Donnelly when this campaign started. Honestly, he’s been involved in politics for a long time, but I don’t live in his district and had little exposure to his politics or his policies. But this campaign has changed all of that.

From the very first commercial, they have done it the right way. Their goal was to introduce Donnelly into my

The “mainstream Indiana media” don’t like this choice. Tough, that is the choice.

I could go on but if you don’t agree about the bias after all these points, another dozen or so likely won’t influence you either. This election is also becoming another referendum on how out of touch national and Hoosier media are with actual voters. ❖

**Souder is a former Republican Member of Congress.**

life (and the lives of Hoosiers across the state) and they’ve done a great job of it. They’ve established Joe’s brand as a guy who will stand for his principles, work across the aisle, and walk down the middle of the road.

**In fact, they’ve been talking** to both Democrats and Lugar Republicans. And, not to belabor the point, the commercial I’ve seen most often has him literally walking down the middle of the road. What a perfect visual. As my son’s girlfriend would say: “Oh My Gawwwd!”

All of the campaigns (and their “unassociated” PACs) have been running so many commercials recently that it’s hard for even us admen to keep track of them. But most (if not all) of Donnelly’s commercials have included a Richard Mourdock stand-in stating that it’s “my way or the highway” as a way to draw a contrast on the issue of partisanship. Now whether that’s an actual quote from Mourdock or just a catchy slogan, it effectively captures what has apparently become a deep-seated perception of Mourdock and his governing style.

And whether or not it’s true doesn’t matter – it exists, just as Chevy Chase falling down as Gerald Ford created a perception (Ford was actually an accomplished athlete), Amy Poehler cackling as Hillary Clinton created a perception (Hillary’s laugh really isn’t that shrill or maniacal) and Phil Hartman’s portrayal of Bill Clinton as someone who would ravenously munch on other people’s Big Macs created a perception (ok, the jury may still be out on this one).

In my opinion, Donnelly’s television campaign has been nearly as perfect as Mike Pence’s, in that it seems to be successfully branding the candidate as who he is (or, at the very least, who his campaign wants you to think he is). And while it has jabs at Mourdock, those haven’t impressed me as being overly mean-spirited or defamatory.

**They’ve stayed on point** and never waived in their delivery. They haven’t been extreme in tone or message. Like their candidate, they’ve successfully travelled right down the middle of the road. ❖

**Englehart is president of The Englehart Group, a strategic marketing communications firm located in Indianapolis.**



## Gregg claims he, not Pence, makes sense

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPOUR - Perhaps the most poignant moment in this year's campaign for Indiana governor came in the waning moments of last week's debate.

That was when former House Speaker John Gregg candidly admitted that if voters identified with far right candidates and the Tea Party manifesto, he simply wasn't their man. If they were Lugar Republicans who felt more comfortable with a six-term incumbent than Republican

Senate nominee Richard Mourdock however, they were – and are -- the people Gregg wants to convince that they have to vote for him.

For a moment, the most folksy gubernatorial candidate Indiana has probably ever had pivoted seriously to the folks he has to convince if he has any hopes of becoming the first member of his party to win the governor's office since Frank O'Bannon in 2000.



On style points, Gregg was a winner in the debate when he and Rep. Mike Pence finally engaged head-to-head in a conversation that had a tinge of bitterness, but little departure from Pence's cool approach to his old law school classmate, Gregg. His appeal was Gregg-arious, but it will have to be to more resonant if supporters will be exhorting a Gregg-orian chant on election night next month.

Was that appeal from Gregg sincere enough – and loud enough to be heard? If it wasn't, it should be the mantra of his remaining commercials, along with two other words: Experience Matters. Pence has none in the Indiana General Assembly and his running mate has only one two-year term. Gregg and his running mate have been integral parts of state government for much of the past two decades and have probably forgotten more about state government than the Pence ticket actually knows. State Sen. Vi Simpson alone has served longer as a public official than Pence.

**Unfortunately, Indiana politics** in presidential years tends to default to Republican expectations in a way similar to how Sports Illustrated and every preseason football publication defaults to Notre Dame, Alabama and USC – even if Oregon, Auburn, Oklahoma State and Utah have the best teams in the continental 48. To win, Democrats have to simply outplay the competition just as the Boise States do in college football.

The governor's race presents a stark contrast. Dare

I say if Democrats had the governor and lieutenant governor candidates with the state government experience the Pence ticket doesn't have, the poll numbers would probably be the same? Maybe ... maybe not. But Gregg and the Democrats have simply not exploited an advantage. Gregg's television commercial featuring his friend "Hobo" are nice, but commercials that connect funding approved while he was House speaker to the projects now in place across the state would create more of a hubbub about him as a candidate for governor.

**While Gregg's mustachioed** yard signs are popping up in Republican leaning counties, there is a lesson to be learned for his campaign from former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean. His greatest contribution to party politics and presidential politics is engaging the party in a 50-state campaign.

That made sense from an Electoral College standpoint, and it was enough to swing states such as Indiana to Barack Obama in 2008. It makes even more sense for Gregg to run a 92-county campaign in the closing weeks because there is no Electoral College in Indiana. It's all a matter of popular vote. If he can make a strong showing in Allen, Tippecanoe, Bartholomew, Vanderburgh, Elkhart, Monroe, Porter, Howard, Vigo, Grant and Delaware counties, there's a chance that majorities in Lake, St. Joseph, Marion and Knox counties can pull him through. But if the race is out of hand, it simply won't matter. Democrats will have allowed Pence to skate by with a victory inasmuch as he skated with his wife in his first campaign television commercial.

Marion Wayne Seybold is much better on the ice, even if he couldn't win his party's nomination for 5th District Republican Congressional candidate. Pence is leading based on voter assumption that he is somehow anointed as the governor in waiting because he is the party nominee.

**Pence so far in the election** has done an excellent job of appearing to stay above the fray of the race and remaining positive. But questions about what he really has accomplished in Washington linger. If he is "one of the hardest working" members of Congress as he claimed in the debate, what legislation can he claim to have passed, and what leadership has he provided that somehow changed Washington for the better?

For now, it is Gregg, not the Republicans, who are faced with the reality that there may very well be 47 percent of the Indiana electorate that will not vote for him. But there is the reality that slightly more than 50 percent of voters put O'Bannon in office in 1996, and that number allows for 47 percent of likely Republican voters to get their way. Gregg's hope in thinning the ice beneath the Pence campaign has to be one that is clarified in closing weeks that show him running like the future of his party depends on it. In a very real sense, it truly might. ❖



## Bubba, did you have to?

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – Oh, my, Bubba. Did you have to do it?

I'm talking about your trip to Indianapolis last week. And right there in front of God and Hoosier nation you sang the praises of Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott, who is known to own one of the biggest egos in Lake County politics. And he likely would admit it.

Bill Clinton praised McDermott for "standing up, among other things, for the right to vote and the rule of law and all the good stuff." "All the good stuff" more than likely was a reference to McDermott leading Hillary Clinton around Lake County during the 2008 presidential primary against Barack Obama. McDermott, who said Clinton's comments were the highlight of his political career, likely will come back to Earth in a decade or two.



In the interim, it is McDermott's job as county Democratic chairman to rally the troops to elect Joe Donnelly to the U.S. Senate and John Gregg to the

governor's office. Clearly the issues are there to turn out Democrats.

Perhaps Clinton's best line during his speech was in reference to Republican Senate candidate Richard Mourdock who has said his interpretation of politics is not to compromise but coerce people to vote his way.

In that regard, Clinton said, "I don't understand how you can say your biggest thrill in life is to impose your opinion, especially if you don't necessarily know what you're talking about."

**Electing Donnelly, who is in** a dead heat with Mourdock, may rest with Lake County Democrats. And that will mean the efforts of organized labor from steelworkers to carpenters to teachers.

Lake County Sheriff John Buncich, who always has had broad support from the unions, said recently that organized labor is "energized." And why are they energized? Thomas O'Connell, former Lake County councilman who is the Democratic candidate for state representative District 15, put it best.

When asked why he was running for the Indiana House, O'Donnell listed three primary reasons. He said the majority Republicans in Indianapolis have attacked public education by taking away teachers' bargaining rights and expanding the school voucher system. O'Donnell also cited

the right-to-work law passed by Republicans last year to erode the influence of unions in the workplace. And finally, O'Donnell mentioned the financial cuts in the problem-plagued Department of Child Services.

**Although two other issues** didn't become law, O'Donnell said they point to the need to elect more Democrats. The issues, O'Donnell said, are the suggestion that that it would be unlawful to wrongly sing the national anthem and that the Girl Scouts were a radicalized group. That's scary.

The race between O'Donnell and Schererville Councilman Hal Slager in the 15th House District is one of the few generating local interest. There's also a good bit of activity in the 19th House District where incumbent state Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh, D-Crown Point, is challenged by Pastor Ron Johnson, a Republican who leads the Living Stones Church in Crown Point.

This is a district that Republicans every two years think they can win. But they don't. Former Crown Point Mayor Dan Klein challenged VanDenburgh two years ago and was embarrassed, essentially ending Klein's political career for good. Before VanDenburgh, Republicans went after Democratic Rep. Bob Kuzman several times without success.

Perhaps the most popular Democrat in south Lake County is County Commissioner Gerry Scheub who annihilated former Sheriff Roy Dominguez in the primary. While driving around the 19th House District, it becomes clear that Scheub and VanDenburgh are a team of sorts. If a yard has a Scheub sign – and hundreds do – there is a VanDenburgh sign as well. That's powerful stuff in grass-roots politics.

**The only Republican who** really thinks he can win a Democratic seat this fall is surveyor candidate Eric Krieg.

Krieg keeps attacking Democratic Surveyor George Van Til about drainage projects across south county. Van Til, who has a lengthy record of accomplishments in terms of drainage in south county, finds Krieg's attacks to be an annoyance. Yeah, kind of like a fly at a picnic.

Republicans and Democrats alike have pooh-poohed virtually all of what Krieg has said. And even the State Board of Accounts has said Krieg doesn't know what he's talking about.

And unfortunately for Krieg, a lot of those in heavily Republican south county will vote for Van Til because they appreciate what he has done to keep flood waters out of farm fields and subdivisions.

It's one of those good government makes good politics things. ❖

**Rich James is the former editorial page editor and columnist for the Post-Tribune in Merrillville.**



**Abdul-Hakim Shabazz, Evansville Courier & Press:**

Back in August, I wrote a column headlined "Still looking for those Lugar Republicans." My premise was every poll regarding Indiana showed Republicans Mitt Romney and Mike Pence basically walking away with their respective races over Democrats Barack Obama and John Gregg, while the GOP's Richard Mourdock found himself in a dead heat with Joe Donnelly. My theory at the time as to why that race was so close was because the Lugar Republicans — those moderates who for years supported outgoing Sen. Richard Lugar, whom Mourdock defeated in the primary — have not come home yet to Mourdock, even as they do plan to vote for Romney and Pence. The latest poll by Howey Politics and DePauw University reinforces that theory. The Battleground Indiana poll of more than 800 likely voters showed Donnelly leading Mourdock 40 percent to 38 percent. Libertarian Andy Horning got 7 percent and the rest were undecided. As we get under the 30-day window until Election Day, the question changes from "Will the Lugar Republicans come out?" to "Which Lugar Republicans will show up?" Based on numerous conversations with various sources around the state I can put the Lugar Republicans into four categories. 1. Lugar Republicans who will vote for Joe Donnelly. 2. Lugar Republicans who will skip the race altogether. 3. Lugar Republicans who will hold their nose and vote for Mourdock. 4. Lugar Republicans who will vote for Andy Horning. Each type of Lugar Republican I spoke with who fits into these categories offered a perfect explanation for his decision. The constant theme throughout is the Lugar Republicans are not excited about Mourdock. In addition, Mourdock's team made a serious misstep after the primary. Instead of spending the summer healing the rift with Lugar's supporters, they acted as if they were not important and did not need them to win. Mourdock's team decided not to reach out to Lugar's supporters. In fact just the opposite occurred. When one of Lugar's top supporters approached Mourdock campaign manager Jim Holden to congratulate him on the win and offer to help, Holden basically told the Lugar supporter to go, well, it was unprintable here. ❖

**Mark Kiesling, NWI Times:** Imagine my shock when I came back to work after taking some time off for personal business and found five public officials had been indicted. Here's the question for you: Was I shocked that public officials had been accused of corruption, or was I shocked it was only five? It's been 27 years since I started with The Times, and the headlines then were of two parallel but unrelated federal investigations that ended up cleaning up the rat's nest that was Lake County government. Another fellow who started at the same time in the

U.S. attorney's office was Dave Capp, who is now the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Indiana. So he and I have seen about the same things as far as public corruption prosecutions. I called him Tuesday and asked him why people apparently don't learn from the mistakes of their predecessors. "I don't want to speculate," he said circumspectly. "Or I'm going to end up dealing with it in the courtroom." Yep. Stuff like that has a way of coming back to bite you in the end, maybe even the rear end. I wasn't wearing rose-colored glasses when I took this job, a job in what former U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy in 1962 said was the most corrupt per square mile of any county in America. And here we are, 50 years after Kennedy's observations, listening to Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels tell people in Lake County that they are scaring business away by the way they do business, but that the citizens "deserve all the corrupt government they vote for." ❖



**Larry Sabato, University of Virginia:**

If the presidential race seems like it's hard to get a grip on, that's because it is -- the contest has gone through at least three distinct phases at this point, and where it might go over the final three weeks seems to be anyone's guess. In the lead-up to the conventions, President Obama appeared to hold a small lead on Mitt Romney. The national polls would vary slightly, but the president generally held an edge of a few percentage points. This narrowed to an exact tie in the RealClearPolitics average on Sept. 5 -- the second day of the Democratic convention -- indicating at least something of a post-convention bounce for Romney. After Obama's convention, the president got his lead back, and he eventually expanded his national polling edge to 4.3 percentage points in late September. While this was not Obama's biggest lead of the cycle -- he was up 4.7 points as recently as mid-August -- it was enough to signal that, barring some big outside development or gaffe at a debate, the president was in a strong position to win reelection. Obama's lead was down to 3.1 points by Oct. 3, the day of the Denver debate -- and we all know what happened then. Over the course of just a handful of days following Romney's Mile High rout, Romney took his first national polling lead of the calendar year in the RCP average, reaching a high of 1.5 points on Oct. 10, a week after the debate. And then, over the past week, the race settled into effectively a national tie -- as of midday Wednesday, Romney held a tiny 0.4% lead; that includes Gallup's seven-day tracker, which showed Romney up 51%-45% Wednesday (that does not include any polling following Tuesday night's debate). The problem for the president is that in the current average -- 47.4% for Romney and 47.0% for Obama -- Romney is closer to his peak than Obama is to his. This points to an enthusiasm gap for the president. ❖



## Daniels burns state mortgages

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels says the state government's debt for construction projects and other expenses has dropped by more than half during his eight years in office (WTHR-TV). Daniels and other state officials on Wednesday marked the early completion of payments on 10 state facilities by ceremonially burning the mortgage paperwork in a trash can outside the Statehouse. The governor's office says the total state debt has gone from \$3.6 billion to \$1.7 billion since early 2005. That debt includes financing for buildings and roads and delayed payments to school districts and universities. Daniels said he believed there is now a "culture of economy and taxpayer protection in state government." He also said that the reduced debt "positions the state very, very well for jobs in the future and for continued fiscal stability." The governor credits several factors for the drop in state debt, including an amnesty program run by the Department of Revenue, the sale of the Indiana Toll Road and outsourcing various needs like printing, mailing and food services. The paperwork burned included that for two office buildings and two parking garages near the Statehouse, White River State Park in Indianapolis and prison facilities in Pendleton, Rockville, New Castle and Plainfield.



## Lake to borrow \$15M from Porter

CROWN POINT - Lake County government soon may be indebted to

Porter County, literally (Dolan, NWI Times). Lake County Commissioner Gerry Scheub, D-Crown Point, announced Wednesday he has been in discussion with Porter County Treasurer Mike Bucko and others about borrowing as much as \$15.5 million to keep Lake government spending at current levels without having to go into deficit or pass a new tax. "It's very unique situation. Porter County has money from its hospital sale. I've met with Mr. Bucko. We think we can negotiate a lower interest rate than any bank," Scheub said. Bucko said Wednesday, "We have an opportunity here. If it benefits us, we'll do it, and if doesn't work for us, we won't." He said Porter County has been looking for ways to better invest the \$173 million it received from the sale of the Porter Memorial Hospital to a private health care firm several years ago. A change in state law and a county ordinance allows Bucko to extend loans for a period of up to five years to other local governments.

## Johnson calls mandate 'tyranny'

MERRILLVILLE: The gloves came off Wednesday as religious leaders from Roman Catholic and Protestant churches across Lake County gathered to blast one mandate of the Health and Human Services Affordable Care Act (NWI Times). During a news conference at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, leaders of the newly formed Coalition for Religious Liberty in NWI challenged the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requirement that all employers, except houses of worship, must include in their health care plans free contraceptives, sterilizations and abortion-inducing drugs. "In an unprecedented act of tyranny, the federal government is forcing religious employers such as Catholic hospitals, Christian schools

and faith-based pregnancy care centers to provide and pay for such coverage for their employees regardless of their religious beliefs," said the Rev. Ron Johnson Jr., senior pastor of Living Stones Church in Crown Point.

## Gov. Christie lauds Mourdock

MERRILLVILLE - New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, whose speech drew rounds of applause, laughs and even cheers from the crowd, said Republican Senate nominee Richard Mourdock will be his own man if elected (NWI Times). "Richard Mourdock has a principled background and courage," Christie said. Christie told those at the rally to do their best to get Mourdock elected. "I expect all of you to wear your heart on your sleeves.. You don't want to wake up on Nov. 7 and see Donnelly beat Mourdock by so much," Christie said. Christie, a Republican, also spoke of his own challenges at running for governor in a state in which Democrats outnumber Republicans by 700,000. In the end, Christie said, he won his election in 2009 by attracting independents and even some Democrats because he maintained his principles. "They felt they needed someone like me to fix the state," Christie said. Mourdock, who thanked Christie for appearing on his behalf, said Wednesday marked a special day. "Twenty nights from tonight we'll call Barack Obama a one-term president," Mourdock said. He said he also foresees Republican candidate Mike Pence being elected governor of the state, himself elected to the U.S. Senate and other Republicans following suit. "We're on the verge of making history. We're at a unique moment in history in that it's never been so easy to identify Republicans and Democrats. I've never seen a time when Democrats were more asleep," Mourdock said.