

The Howey Political Report



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Brian A. Howey, publisher

Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington writer

Jack E. Howey, editor

The Howey Political Report Office: 317-254-1533
PO Box 40265 Fax: 317-466-0993
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265 Mobile: 317-506-0883

brianhowey@howeypolitics.com
www.howeypolitics.com

Washington office: 202-775-3242;
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“My number one goal was not to put two incumbents in the same district”

- State Rep. Ed Mahern, on the new Indiana House maps released last Friday.

New CDs to change future campaigns

2nd may be key to Buyer, Kerns tangle

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

The 10-year political cicadas have tunneled out of the loam (looking, remarkably, like Ed Mahern) in the Cave of Winds, essentially recasting the Hoosier ring of hats.

What we are likely to end up with is a Congressional delegation that will feature three extremely safe Republican havens and one for the Democrats; three potentially bloody battlegrounds; and two districts - one for each party - that look nominally secure for the current party in control that would be subject to swamping by future national waves.

As for the Indiana House, the number of competitive seats will number between 12 and 15 at the beginning of the decade, and will probably be halved by its end. The big question for the Indiana Senate is how long it will take for the Republicans to seize a 34-vote quorum. Our bet is that it takes place in 2002.

The overall trend on the Congressional level is potentially better, dual party representation for key Hoosier cities. While northern Republicans moaned about the splitting off of most of Elkhart County from the old 3rd CD in the new 2nd, the fact is that the Michiana area is poised to have three Members of Congress looking after its affairs (including U.S. Rep. Fred Upton in Michigan’s 6th CD). The City of Elkhart, home to only one state legislator, will have two Members of Congress - potentially one from each party - helping with its affairs. Fort Wayne, Columbus and Bloomington will essentially have two voices - the latter two with the possibility of a Member from each party. Indianapolis, if you include U.S. Rep. Mike Pence representing its southeastern metropolitan statistical area flank, will have four.

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Covering the golden age of Hoosier politics

TICKER T A P E

DANIELS ON SIDELINES: Since the Indianapolis Star speculated on a number of names in the 2004 gubernatorial race (See page 5), HPR received this e-mail from OMB Director Mitch Daniels: "Don't know where the Star speculation comes from. This idea is not, as you might imagine, something I've spent any time thinking about. I suppose if I mess up this job badly enough, I could get sent home...but then who wants a candidate who just got fired? Seems to me the party has an abundance of potential candidates, including some not on Russ Pulliam's list. Think I'll just keep on at my current assignment and root for a revival from here."

CLINTON LIKES BAYH, EDWARDS AND KERRY IN 2004: Former President Clinton has identified three favorites for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination: Sens. Evan Bayh, John Edwards and John Kerry (Boston Phoenix). But the newspaper reported he thinks only Kerry could defeat President Bush.

LAKE COUNTY CHAIRS SATISFIED WITH MAPS: Lake County's two major party chairs like the new Indiana Senate maps. "You have to be complimented for not putting any two sen-



Redistrict, *from page 1*

The new CD maps will complicate campaigning as we enter the brink of the age of Tivo (the ability for TV viewers to program out commercials). At the beginning of the decade, the new 6th (Pence) 2nd (open) and 8th (John Hostettler) will be split among four media markets. The 4th (open) and 9th (Baron Hill) will have five TV markets; the 5th (Dan Burton) will have three; the 3rd (Mark Souder) will have two; and 7th (Julia Carson) will have one.

HPR posed this question to Prof. James A. Thurber, director of American University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies: "As the age of Tivo dawns, where is political TV advertising going to go?" Thurber responded, "That's a good question. I don't know."

In 2000, Thurber - speaking at the Indiana Political Science Association at Wabash College on March 23 - noted that \$4 billion was spent electing presidential and Congressional candidates. "Seventy-three percent of that went into television," Thurber said.

Toward the end of the decade, it seems plausible that politicians like Baron

Hill and either Steve Buyer or Brian Kerns in the new Frankenstein 4th CD, and even Mike Pence might be steering substantially more campaign funds into direct mail, print, and cable TV as network viewership continues to plunge and advertising rates increase. At some point in the next 10 years, one of these Indiana CD campaigns may write the new modern book on reaching voters.

A cicada at work

State Rep. Ed Mahern drew the new CD maps in a clockwise movement that began in Northwest Indiana's 1st CD. He sliced an 8,000 person notch out of eastern Porter County to give the new 2nd CD better Democratic numbers. As he worked "county-by-county" in the new 2nd CD, he came up 30,000 short and therefore notched in about three-fifths of Elkhart on the east side to give it a corresponding electrode. The 3rd CD - which may supplant Burton's current district as one of the most Republican in the nation - consumed the rest of Elkhart County, then east and south. "I included Allen County as far as I could go until I hit that population of one one-hundredth of a percent," Mahern said. The remnants, including

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areas just south of Fort Wayne, went to Pence's 6th CD. Mahern then went south to create the new 9th and 8th CDs, with the elongated 5th, 6th and finally the spindly 4th CD stepchild coming in last. That new creation voted 75 percent for Sen. Richard Lugar and 66 percent for President Bush in 2000.

Competitive CDs

The pundits came to love the '90s. If House Speaker John Gregg challenges Hostettler next year (our money is that he will or will have his arm desocketed by national Dems in the process), that district stands to live up to its plasmic reputation. Expect the 2nd and 9th CDs to join in the blood-letting. The 2nd CD looks to be a 51-49 split favoring Republicans and with U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer retiring is an open seat. The 9th CD looks to be about a 52 percent Democratic district, but it will become more competitive as Republicans continue to stream in from Cincinnati and Louisville. Baron Hill has a couple of election cycles to try and instill the kind of presence that Lee Hamilton conveyed for three decades.

The nominally secure outposts will be Pence's 6th CD for the Republicans, and Julia Carson's 7th CD for the Democrats. Of the two, Pence will have the tougher assignment in 2002. He will be seeking his sophomore term and will have to acquaint himself in seven new counties and the Fort Wayne media market during an iffy Bush II mid-term election. Carson's new district actually looks better than we had expected, coming in at about 56 percent Democratic. While these two incumbents would be considered nominally safe, a national washout of any kind could put either district in play.

Frankenstein fratricide

The fratricidal premier primary battle is shaping up in the new 4th CD, fashioned out of the entrails of the old 8th, 7th and 5th CDs. Kerns doesn't live there,

but represents five counties where he'll have franking privileges, though his relationship with a couple of party organizations is tepid at best. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer actually lives in the new Frankenstein 4th, but currently represents only half a county (White). We give Buyer the early edge in a political bundling process due to past media exposure, a bigger war chest and a potential for more due to his new Commerce Committee assignment. It might take six months to get a real handle on who will emerge.

Indiana Republican Chairman Mike "Switzerland" McDaniel and the Republican National Committee seeking to defend a tiny House majority in the first Bush mid-term, might try and talk Buyer into moving a couple miles east into the 2nd CD, where he'd have seven of his old 5th CD counties back and only four media markets to deal with, albeit in a competitive district where he's likely to find former U.S. Rep. Jill Long Thompson poised for a comeback. Mahern almost did that on his own, originally putting Buyer in the 2nd before he realized where his home township was and put him back in the Frankenstein scraps.

Kerns has announced he's moving his family into the 4th. "I feel sorry for Congressman Buyer," Kerns said. "It was his district that is gone and that's tough. It will take some time for him to work through that." Buyer retorted, "That's extreme; to up and move your family 70 miles. I'm pretty excited that they created a district for me that's solidly Republican."

Republican 4-year plan

In the Indiana House, Mahern essentially look two safe Republicans - sophomore Jim Atterholt of Indianapolis and veteran Jack Lutz of Anderson - and created competitive districts. He propped up veteran Democrat Dick Bodiker by splitting the cities of Richmond and Centerville in two and adding downtown

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ators in the same district," Democratic Chairman Stephen Stiglich said. "Sometimes politics drives (lumping senators in the same district). I believe the whole process is fair." Republican Chairman Roger Chiabai added, "I think you have done a heckuva nice job. I'm satisfied."

.08 BAC BILL IN JEOPARDY AGAIN: A week after Gov. Frank O'Bannon stepped in to save 0.08 legislation, there has been no movement on the issue and Republicans and Democrats have differing opinions on the agreement (Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The resulting confusion is jeopardizing the legislation, which would lower the state's drunken-driving threshold from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent blood-alcohol content. "Obviously there are some questions," O'Bannon spokesman Thad Nation said. "If the deal breaks down, we'll continue to work for an 0.08 bill - be it clean or not." An agreement was reached April 3 to revive 0.08, which was placed in question when sponsoring Sen. Tom Wyss, R-Fort Wayne, objected loudly to a beer wholesaler amendment placed into his Senate bill by a House committee.

WENGER CALLS ELECTION

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BILL 'KNEE JERK':
Delaware County Clerk Karen Wenger said efforts to throw out punch-card voting was "a knee-jerk reaction" to mismanagement by election officials in Florida (Muncie Star Press). "This will be a tremendous cost to the taxpayers," Wenger said. Delaware County uses the punch card system.

INDIANA'S FAITH-BASED MISSIONS ABOVE AVERAGE: A survey of 412 faith-based organizations in Indiana shows Hoosier groups are more likely to be involved in helping others than the national average, Governor Frank O'Bannon said today. The survey was completed as part of the state's ongoing FaithWorks Indiana initiative established in 1999 by the governor to assist faith-based organizations in providing human services under the federal Charitable Choice legislation. "The study provides some interesting insights into the work of Indiana's faith-based organizations, and underlines what many of us suspected all along - when Hoosiers are in need, there are groups willing to help," the governor said.

GARTON TO SUPPORT EXEMPTION FROM STATE DISCLOSURE LAWS:
Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton is prepared to support a bill
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New Castle. State Rep. Bob Bischoff was propped up with the addition of Democratic Switzerland County. State Rep. Dale Sturtz's competitive district in Noble and LaGrange counties is stronger D.

With State Rep. Claire Leuck retiring, Mahern was able to stretch the current Lake County Democrat districts into suburban areas (Charlie Brown, D-Gary, now will represent Chesterton) while Rep. Earl Harris, D-East Chicago, finds his district snaking south from Lake Michigan all the way to Republican-leaning Schererville. Through "sleight of

hand," Mahern maintained most of the 15 Marion County districts, stretching them into the doughnut counties.

House Minority Leader Brian Bosma told *HPR*, "We're on a four-year plan. We knew the first election after reapportionment would be tough. We wanted to maintain our incumbents in that first election and then seek a majority during that next cycle. After viewing these maps, I believe our original four year plan is still very viable."

Bosma believes there will be "12 to 15 seats in play" during the first couple of House election cycles. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Goodall points out the biggest change

HPR received this letter from Hurley Goodall, the former state representative from Muncie who now serves on the Indiana Democratic Central Committee:

I have just had an opportunity to read the March 29 edition of *HPR* and the section on "Indiana Politics as the Decade Begins" presentation at Wabash College by Howey, Feigenbaum, Cranor and Hadley on March 23.

It was interesting to read the analysis from each one of you, but I hope you don't think me as being cynical when I say I think you all missed the most important change that took place during the 1991 redistricting. That change was to 100 single-member districts in the Indiana House of Representatives. Under the old two- and three-member district system, implemented by the Republicans during the Doc Bowen heydays, Republicans were able to control the House for two decades by winning all six seats in Allen County through the use of three member

districts. By pairing two Republican areas with an urban Democratic area they could elect three Republicans with about 57 percent of the vote. The same tactic was used in Marion County where Republicans controlled 75 percent of the 15 seats allotted to Marion County with 55 percent of the votes.

With single-member districts each tub has to sit on its own bottom; a Doc Lampkin cannot carry two rumdums into office with him. My experience has been that because legislators have very little patronage (jobs, etc.) to give out the most important quality is not the makeup of the district, but the quality of the candidate. With the change to single-member districts in 1991, neither party will control the House for decades at a time.

The last 10 years have proven that a Republican can win in a Democratic leaning district - Fred Wenger and Jim Van Leer in Muncie, and a Claire Lueck or Richard Bodiker in a Republican district.

There are other examples. I just think the political gurus have slept through the most significant political change in our state in many years.

- Hurley Goodall ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - What's in a number? The 3rd by any other number would be as neat. The 3rd Congressional District -- or at least most of it -- would become the 2nd District in the redistricting plan unveiled Monday by Democrats in the Indiana House. They are likely to draw the map that becomes law. Neat? Sure, in terms of being a competitive district in which either a Democrat or a Republican could win. But nominees of both parties will find it more difficult for campaigning, with the new 2nd District stretching south of but not including Kokomo. There will be no central media market as now exists for candidates in the present 3rd District. And Republicans don't like the split of Elkhart County. The number change is just something that happens over the decades when the census dictates considerable change in redistricting. South Bend and Elkhart, together in a district called the 3rd since the 1932 election, originally were in Indiana's 2nd District. ❖

Mike Dooley, *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* - We're sorry she had to learn this way, but the daughter of former News-Sentinel reporter Dick Isenhour now knows not to expect too much from politicians. Kari Isenhour recently wrote to Sen. Evan Bayh, asking him to vote against confirming John Ashcroft as the new U.S. attorney general. When she went home to Greenwood for spring break, a reply was waiting for her. "Bayh thanked her for writing and assured her he takes the views of his constituents seriously," her father wrote us. "He didn't make any reference to the vote, however, nor did he indicate how he voted or why. "After reading (the letter) she looked at me and said, 'This could have been sent to anyone regardless of how they felt about

Ashcroft.' " A not-so-startling revelation struck Kari: "I've just been blown off by my first politician." ❖

Russ Pulliam, *Indianapolis Star* - Democrats seem ready to rally around (Lieutenant Governor Joe) Kernan. Republicans, meanwhile, have no obvious candidate to challenge him. Potential candidates are expressing interest in the nomination through speaking engagements around the state or speculation among their supporters. Among the top tier are candidates already well known: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence; U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer; former U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, O'Bannon's 2000 opponent; and state Sen. Murray Clark, McIntosh's running mate in 2000. Add to the list former Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke; state Sen. Luke Kenley; business lobbyist and former state Rep. Pat Kiely; and House Minority Leader Brian Bosma. A couple of other names have a special following among religious conservative groups: attorney John Price, who nearly won the Republican U.S. Senate nomination in 1998, and Eric Miller, head of the Advance America organization and an influential lobbyist for conservative causes in the General Assembly. Bluffton newspaper publisher George Witwer has run for the office before and might want to pursue it again, with his campaign theme of abolishing the property tax. One other potential candidate is not even living in the state now. But Mitch Daniels, now President Bush's budget director, has long and deep ties in the state's political system and has helped plenty of other political officials to success over the years. ❖

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that would exempt the General Assembly from the state's disclosure law, potentially allowing lawmakers to make their own rules for releasing public records (Columbus Republic). The Senate Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee voted to endorse legislation that would permit lawmakers to decide for themselves whether records are public or secret. The committee also included another broad public-records exemption: Letters, e-mails and other communication sent to a public agency that contain sensitive personal information would be confidential. At last week's Third House session in Columbus, Garton said he believed that correspondence needed to be protected from public scrutiny and criticized efforts by the Indianapolis Star to gain access to e-mails and letters. "I think it's a common-sense approach. It's no different from congressional practice, and it's really not much different from judicial practice because the judiciary has the authority to establish what is public and what is private," Garton said.

INDIANA EXPORTS UP: Indiana businesses exported more than \$16.5 billion in goods to other countries in 2000, setting a record for the 13th year in a row (Indianapolis Star).

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According to figures compiled by Indiana University's Global Business Information Network, the state's total exports rose 18.3 percent compared with 1999. The national average was an increase of 12.6 percent.

BUSH ELIMINATES COPS GRANTS: President Bush's plan to eliminate federal grants for hiring police officers drew expressions of concern yesterday from Southern Indiana police chiefs, who said the president's desire to increase police equipment and beef up school security wouldn't help them as much as getting more officers on the street (Louisville Courier-Journal). The Community Oriented Policing Services program has awarded grants to about 20 law enforcement agencies in southeastern Indiana.

EAST CHICAGO BAILOUT ENDORSED: A proposal to provide East Chicago a \$16 million interest-free loan passed the House Ways and Means Committee last week (Terry Burns, Times of Northwest Indiana).

ALEXA WARNS OF BETHLEHEM STEEL DEMISE; URGES TAX RESTRUCTURING: The financial problems occurring in some northern Lake County municipalities can happen in Porter County, state Sen. Bill Alexa, D-Valparaiso, warned

Indiana 2002 Racing Form

Congressional District 1: Republican: Open. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Pete

Visclosky. **Geography:** Lake, Porter, Newton, Jasper, Benton counties. **Media Market:** Chicago. **1994 results:** Visclosky 68,612, Larson 52,920. **1996 Results:** Visclosky 132,430, Petyo (R) 56,205, Crass (L) 3,122. **1998 Results:** Visclosky (D) 92,634, Petyo (R) 33,503. **2000 Results:** Visclosky 146,683, Reynolds (R) 56,200, Nelson (L) 2,907. **2002 Forecast:** Visclosky gets a nice 58 percent Democratic district and no obvious GOP challenger. **Status:** SAFE D.

Congressional District 2: Republican: Chris Chocola, State Sen. Thomas

Weatherwax, State Rep. Bill Friend. **Democrat:** Roger O. Parent, Jill Long Thompson, State Rep. Mike Dvorak, Katie Humphries, Cleo Washington. **Geography:** LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Miami, Carroll and parts of Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **2000 Result:** Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Forecast:** This looks to be the most competitive district in the state, coming in around a 51-49 split favoring Republicans. Chocola declared for this seat when it was the old 3rd CD, and he found himself on Monday living in the new 3rd. His key decision will be whether to move from his Bristol home, or run from there and hope folks don't care that he actually lives outside the district. The new 2nd takes in a Democratic area of northeastern Porter County, but adds generally Republican Cass, Pulaski, Fulton, Miami and Carroll counties. Jill Long Thompson, who will announce a committee formation on Thursday, would be our early front-runner due to her three terms in the old 4th CD, her deputy agriculture secretary experience in the Clinton

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administration that will play well in this rural district, and her fund-raising abilities. Dvorak could be in a position to get vital St. Joseph County organization support. Parent will be a strong candidate, but he's been out of the political loop for more than a decade. Former State Sen. Cleo Washington told the *South Bend Tribune*, "The initial glance at this map makes me lean more toward seeking a seat." **On the Republican side**, going into redistricting the thought was that Chocola was the only Republican of enough stature to compete. "To move my children out of their school for purely political reasons is not very attractive," Chocola said (*South Bend Tribune*). But with Chocola's exclusion and the fact that he made a big deal out of Roemer's residency, his 2002 candidacy would be problematic. With the addition of Cass and Miami counties, two credible GOP candidates could emerge. The first is State Sen. Tom Weatherwax, who has served Cass, Carroll, Miami and Fulton counties in the Senate since 1988 after two terms in the House. Weatherwax is highly regarded in the legislature, serves on the Agriculture, Commerce and Finance committees, would be in a position to raise money, and reliable Republican sources tell *HPR* he'd be interested. His current term doesn't expire until 2004. The other is State Rep. Bill Friend of Macy, who was in the running for the 1996 LG nomination. Friend has been in the House since 1992 but saw his current seat drastically altered and told the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* he'll consider a CD run. He serves on Ways & Means, giving him a good fund-raising base. Obviously both are mostly unknown in the South Bend media market, which reaches as far south as Peru. Here's another curious thought: Buyer moves a couple of blocks into the new 2nd CD and runs there, leaving the new 4th to Kerns and that keeps Buyer from having to develop a good Butternut Hoosier drawl. **Status:** Tossup.

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Open.

Geography: Fort Wayne, Goshen, Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **2000 results:** Souder (R) 131,051, Foster (D) 74,492. **2002 Forecast:** Souder says he dislikes this new district because now it is spread out over two media markets - South Bend and Fort Wayne. But it looks to be about a 65 percent Republican district and may usurp Dan Burton's as one of the most Republican in the U.S. It's hard to see a Democrat winning here. **Status:** SAFE R.

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, U.S. Rep. Brian

Kerns. Democrat: Open. **Geography:** Tippecanoe, Clinton, Boone, Montgomery, Hendricks, Morgan, Lawrence and parts of Marion, Johnson, Monroe, Fountain and White counties. **Media Market:** Lafayette, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Evansville, Louisville. **2000 Results: Old 5th CD:** Buyer (R) 132,035, Goodnight (D) 81,423; **Old 7th CD:** Kerns 131,562, Graf (D) 65,174. **2002 Forecast:** This is the Frankenstein district. Buyer actually lives there, in a notch carved out of White County, but that is the only county remaining in his old 5th CD, although he has advertised extensively in the Indianapolis and Lafayette media markets, meaning only Lawrence County has no inkling of who he is. Buyer is sitting on about \$100,000 and has 24 fund-raisers in the pipeline. Kerns already represents Tippecanoe, Boone, Fountain, Montgomery, Hendricks and Morgan counties and he is signalling his intent to move into the new district. His campaign is in debt, he's only been in office for four months and his relationships with organization people in Tippecanoe and Morgan counties is tepid. This district will be a GOP bastion, with Sen. Lugar running at 75 percent in 2000, while President Bush won with 66 percent. If a Buyer-Kerns race develops, the early money would be on Buyer as an established player who sits on the House Commerce Committee. Having said that, Kerns is a fighter who warded off a nasty challenge in the 2000 primary. It may take a good six months to see how this is going to shake out. **Status:** *SAFE R.*

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. **Democrat:**

Open. **Geography:** Indianapolis, Kokomo, Marion, Shelbyville; Wabash, Huntington, Howard, Grant, Tipton, Hamilton, Hancock and parts of Marion, Johnson and Shelby counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Lafayette. **2000 Results:** Burton (R) 194,771, Griesey (D) 72,821, Hauptmann (L) 8,874. **2002 Forecast:** Burton may not have the most Republican district in Indiana any more, but it will be a safe one for him. He still keeps key components of suburban Indianapolis (though he loses the Speedway and enters the Fort Wayne media market). While he picks up UAW strongholds in Kokomo and Marion, Burton is sitting on a \$1 million war chest and could raise another million in a short time span. Burton might have to break a bit of a sweat in the next election, but it looks like his to keep and he shows no signs of wanting to retire. **Status:** *SAFE R.*

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:**

Melina Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,07. **2002 Forecast:** This looks to be a marginally Republican district, coming in at about 54 percent. Pence won an impressive victory in 2000 against nominal opposition. State Democrats believe he is the brightest GOP rising star. Having said that, Pence is going to have to acquaint himself in seven new counties in a district that now spreads out into four media markets (Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton and Cincinnati). If President Bush looks strong heading into his first mid-term, Pence would be in good shape. If the president is wobbling in a shaky economy, he'll have his work cut out for him. The critical factor for Democrats is that if Pence can win a sophomore term, he'll be able to dig in, so 2002 may be their best shot. On the Democratic side, watch current 2nd CD vice chair Melina Ann Fox, a former presidential agriculture appointee who could resonate with the district's large farming community. Other Democrats to keep an eye on include former Secretary of State Joe Hogsett and Troy Liggett, who serves with the House Democratic caucus. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey, Marvin Scott, Tony

Samuel, Gary Hofmeister. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2000 Forecast:** Carson finds herself in a moderately Democratic district (around 56 percent) that picks up Pike, Lawrence and Warren townships where minority migration continues to grow. Carson's position should get stronger as the decade progresses. Republicans to watch include Brose McVey who has served on the Indiana Republican Central Committee and would be able to raise money, 2000 nominee Marvin Scott, his challenger, Tony Samuel, and '98 nominee Gary Hofmeister, who has a new radio show. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

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those attending a Greater Portage Chamber of Commerce luncheon Friday (Times of Northwest Indiana). What's happening in Lake County, with the filing of bankruptcy by LTV Steel and the financial crisis in East Chicago, could happen in Porter County, he said. "If Bethlehem Steel becomes in the situation of the Lake County mills, it will be devastating," said Alexa as he pitched the need to restructure the state taxing system. Alexa said 40.66 percent of the Duneland Schools' and 14.71 percent of the county's assessed valuation is dependent on the county's largest steelmaker. Alexa said the answer is to restructure the state tax system. "The process is first to create a will to get it done," he said.

LAKE COUNTY ASSESSOR CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR EXPENSES: For the better part of two years, Lake County Assessor Paul Karras has been bleeding the county's property-tax financed reassessment fund with the blessing of a majority of the County Council (Times of Northwest Indiana). Last year, county records show Karras spent about \$80,000 from the special fund that is supposed to be used to pay for work directly related to the general reassessment of properties although he had no reasses-

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sment work pending. So far this year, those same records show Karras has spent another \$25,000 from the fund.

VOTING REFORM BILL STILL ALIVE: Rep. Jonathan Weinzapfel, D-Evansville, saw his voter reform bill killed midway through the House session, but he got new life for the measure that would help counties pay for voting equipment upgrades (Tim Starks, Evansville Courier & Press). It would give 50 percent matching grants to counties that rely on lever or punch card systems and would mandate an end to punch card systems by 2004. Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, amended the bill to provide state assistance to counties with punch card or lever systems, but would give any available federal funds to counties that have already upgraded their system.

BUSH APPOINTS JAMES MOSELEY TO NO. 2 AG POST: President Bush has nominated James R. Moseley of Tippecanoe County for the deputy Department of Agriculture post. The Indianapolis Star reported that U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar had lobbied for Chuck Connor, a former Senate Agriculture Committee aide, to the post, but Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley argued for an "active farmer with dirt under his fingernails."

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:**

House Speaker John Gregg, Paul Perry, State Reps. Russ Stilwell and Jonathon Weinzapfel. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Results:** Hostettler 116,860, Perry (D) 100,461. **2002 Forecast:** This goes from a virtual 50/50 district to one that might be 55 percent Democratic. U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns actually lives in the new 8th CD, but is expected to move into the new 4th CD, leaving this turf vital for the potential control of the U.S. House to Hostettler. National Democrats are salivating at the prospects of House Speaker John Gregg challenging Hostettler. Gregg is attuned to the district on the issues of guns and abortion, carries himself as an affable good ol' boy and while he's never had a tough race in his political career, could cash in on thousands of IOUs. If Gregg passes (he professes to dislike flying), look for 2000 nominee Paul Perry, State Rep. Russ Stilwell whose work with the United Mine Workers has forged him good labor relationships from Booneville to Terre Haute, and 1996 nominee State Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel (with a couple of legislative terms under his belt) to run. The Horse's gut tells us that Gregg will be under intense pressure from national Democrats to make this race and he probably will, with pledges of massive aid. Despite the strengthened Democratic nature of this district, never count Hostettler out. While it now includes Terre Haute with its long Democratic proclivity, that's the home of national pro-life activist Jim Bopp, who can be expected to work vigorously to add to Hostettler's dynamic grassroots organization. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Kevin Kellems. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Baron Hill. **Geography:** Bloomington, Columbus, Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville; Spencer, DuBois, Orange, Crawford, Perry, Harrison, Washington, Jackson, Brown, Jennings, Scott, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ripley, Ohio, and parts of Dearborn and Monroe counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Results:** Hill 125,978, Bailey (R) 101,790, Chambers (L) 4,634. **2002 Forecast:** Hill picks up the Democratic stronghold of Bloomington and Indiana University, plus Columbus, making for a 52 percent district. He loses three northern Republican counties. This is good news for Hill, who entered Congress after a tight, come-from-behind win over Jean Leising, then got a pass against Michael Bailey in 2000. He stands to run better with Bloomington in the district during the first Bush mid-term. Kellems looks to be the emerging front-runner and Bailey is signalling party leaders that he won't run. While Republicans see Bloomington as bad news, Columbus in the district gives them a new, rich fund-raising base in what is a relatively poor district. The district is also trending Republican with in-migration from Cincinnati in the eastern Ohio river counties and from Louisville. Clark County GOP Chair Glenn Murphy told *HPR* that there are now 1,500 more straight ticket Republican voters there, and 500 fewer for the Democrats. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

Secretary of State 2002: Republican: Mike Delph, Deputy Secretary of State Todd

Rokita, Richard Mourdock, Luke Messer, Carmel Clerk-Treasurer Diana Cordray. **Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Results:** Gilroy 828,557, Little (D) 652,565, Dillon (L) 51,775. **2002 Forecast:** Our initial assessment is that while the Democrats consolidate behind Fernandez, the Republican race is wide open in a field of essentially unknowns, unless former Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke jumps in. At this first writing we see Delph as in the best position, coming out of Dan Burton's political organization, and that entity carries big, big clout in Marion County and the current 6th CD. That cannot be underestimated. Vanderburgh County Commissioner Richard Mourdock, who announced Monday, has been endorsed by the Republican chairman and vice chairman of Indiana's 8th Congressional District. Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd will be his campaign chairman. **Status:** *TOSSUP.* ❖

- Brian A. Howey