

# Political Report

# HOWEY

V13 N12

Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006

## Five Indiana CDs fully in play

### Carson, Souder join the endangered incumbent list

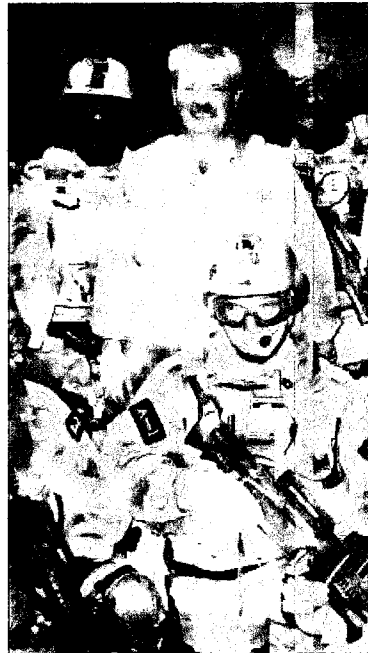
By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - For months now, HPR has pondered the dynamic of the puzzling 2006 election cycle. As the second mid-term of an unpopular presidency in the midst of an ugly war, would it be an anti-Republican tide?

After three legislators, including Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, lost in the May primary, along with a dozen of their brethren in Pennsylvania, was there a general anti-incumbency move afoot?

Now, less than two weeks before the election, Indiana is home to a full third of the in-play races that could determine control of the U.S. House. HPR has three races forecast within the margin of error: the 7th, 8th and 9th CDs. The 2nd CD is leaning Democratic and the 3rd leans Republican, but any of these five seats could conceivably switch parties on Nov. 7

Did the fact that U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola and Mark Souder's GOP primary opponents both got 30 percent of the vote portend a dismal November? HPR had long identified Souder's 3rd CD as an "outside marker" on whether a Democratic wave was developing. This week the National Republican Campaign Committee rushed \$100,000



for an advertising buy for Souder.

HPR has long identi-



Indiana Congressional incumbents (clockwise) Mike Sodrel, Mark Souder and Julia Carson all are in tight races.

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## Focal point in the red zone

By **JOSHUA CLAYBOURN**

EVANSVILLE - Indiana's congressional delegation has become an unlikely focal point for the Republican Party's potential loss of control in Congress in spite of its traditionally red history. U.S. Representatives Chris



Chocola, Mike Sodrel and John Hostetler are among the nation's most vulnerable Republicans. The Democrats need only 15 seats to regain

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“ ”  
**QUOTE**  
of the Week



“I know many Americans are not satisfied with the situation in Iraq. I'm not satisfied either. Absolutely we're winning.”

- President George W. Bush



control of the U.S. House and so Indiana has become an obvious battleground.

Unfortunately for Republicans, the Democrats' renewed optimism has helped empty their supporter's wallets and boost the Democrats' stash of campaign dollars. Although the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) once held a commanding fundraising lead, by the end of September the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) reported \$36 million on hand, compared with \$39 million for the NRCC.

In the Senate races, things look even worse for the GOP. The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) has raised \$23 million compared to the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC)'s \$12 million. Yet in spite of all of this, Republicans blessed with enormous war chests and commanding leads in their races aren't always sharing the wealth.

Indiana's elder statesman Sen. Dick Lugar, for example, had \$4,011,244 cash on hand as of the July 15 reporting deadline. Earlier this week the New York Times reported he had transferred a mere \$75,000 from that. And even as he sits on millions of dollars, one can find his advertisements on television daily. But why would Sen. Lugar go to these lengths when he has no challenger?

Lugar isn't alone in his unwillingness to help fellow Republicans in need. Republican Sens. Richard Shelby of Alabama and Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas both have more than \$9 million in their campaign accounts. Lugar may have no opponent, but Shelby isn't even up for re-election this year. In spite of this, and a campaign account of \$11.6 million, he's only given \$15,000 to the NRSC. With Mr. Shelby's chairmanship of the bank-

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**Brian A. Howey, Publisher**  
**Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington Writer**  
**Mark Curry, Washington Writer**  
**Jack E. Howey, Editor**

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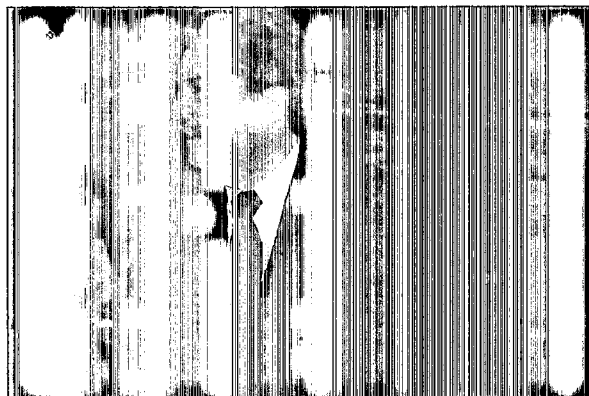
[www.howeypolitics.com](http://www.howeypolitics.com)  
BrianHowey@howeypolitics.com

Indianapolis Office: 317-506-0883.  
Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.  
Washington, DC Office: 202-256-5822.  
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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ing committee on the line, why is he holding back?

Sen. Hutchison has roughly



**U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel was trailing Baron Hill 47-45 percent in Wednesday's WISH-TV poll. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)**

\$9.5 million on hand and a commanding lead of 20 points in the polls, but she has given only \$115,000 to the

NRSC. That may sound like a lot, but it is little more than 1 percent of her campaign war chest.

Five Democrats have transferred \$1 million or more to the DSCC, but only one has done the same for the NRSC. It helps explain why the DSCC has \$23 million compared to the NRSC's \$12 million. With the Senate up for grabs, the comfortable Republicans' behavior is baffling.

If those like Sen. Lugar felt as if the Senate races weren't in need of their help, one would at least think he would choose to help fellow Hoosier Republicans such as Sodrel, Chocola, and Hostettler.

Perhaps these comfortable candidates are simply greedy. Or worse, perhaps this is an indication of their own distaste for the GOP's direction and apathy toward it losing control of Congress. ♦

**Claybourn is an Evansville attorney.**



fied the political ground organizations of U.S. Rep. John Hostettler and Julia Carson as almost legendary in their ability to win elections. Add Souder's impressive organization and you can't find a defeat among them. Yet today, there are polls showing Hostettler and Carson trailing. For Hostettler, who spent a good portion of his public spotlight lashing out at the news media this past week, it was the Iraq War and the anti-Republican tide that seemed to spark trouble. For Carson, who seems infirm and rambling, it could be a "Last Hurrah" scenario exacerbated by the notion of an anti-incumbency. An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll last week had Congress with a 16 percent approval. The fact that Marion County Democrat Melina Kennedy was trailing Prosecutor Carl Brizzi anywhere from 8 to 16 points, suggests that the picture of a Democratic juggernaut in the state's capital city was overblown.

Here is a compilation of the most recent Congressional polls:

**2nd CD:** Donnelly 50, Chocola 45 (Research 2000, Oct. 16-17).

**3rd CD:** Souder vs. Hayhurst. No public polls published or broadcast.

**7th CD:** Carson 48, Dickerson 43 (WISH-TV); Dickerson 45, Carson 42 (WTHR-TV)

**8th CD:** Ellsworth 50, Hostettler 43 (WISH-TV, Oct. 23-24).

**9th CD:** Hill 47, Sodrel 45 (WISH-TV, Oct. 23-24).

Some believe that Democratic prospects nationally and for the Indiana House have also peaked. Yet, stunningly, the NRCC and Indiana GOP don't appear interested in jumping into the Carson-Dickerson fray.

Democratic strategist and **New York Post** columnists Dick Morris and Eileen McGann observed, "The latest polls show something very strange and quite encouraging is happening: The Republican base seems to be coming back home. This trend, only vaguely and dimly emerging from a variety of polls, suggests that a trend may be afoot that would deny the Democrats control of the House and the Senate." They point to recent polls from Tennessee, Missouri, Montana and Virginia showing Republican Senate candidates making comebacks."

**The ruling by the New Jersey Supreme Court** on Wednesday stands to pump up some of the Republican base who might have been inclined to stay on the sidelines.

How the Iraq War plays out is fascinating. On Wednesday, President Bush had his second press conference on the war. "I know many Americans are not satisfied with the situation in Iraq. ... I'm not satisfied either," Bush said. However, he added that "the United States was changing tactics to deal with circumstances in Iraq but shouldn't change the overall direction of the war. Absolutely we're winning."

Bush also said, "The ultimate accountability rests with me. If people are unhappy about it, look right to the president."

The **Los Angeles Times** editorialized today: "If there was good news from President Bush's news conference Wednesday, it's that the president is not adopting a bunker mentality and is addressing the deteriorating conditions in Iraq. The bad news is that the more he talks, the more apparent it becomes that there is no easy way to reverse them. (That is) a painful admission for an administration two weeks before a midterm election, so any sense of despair was wrapped in more purposeful language."

Hoosiers heard two congressional Republicans question the war. Rep. Sodrel, who hopes President Bush's appearance on Saturday will stoke up his base, said of Iraq, "it may not have been the central front before we went there. Maybe we shouldn't have been there." But, Sodrel said, if the U.S. were to leave next year, "what kind of signal does that send to the other tyrants of the world?"

In the 8th CD, Hostettler, meeting with **Courier & Press** editors, also acknowledged the "very adverse" political climate for Republicans and distanced himself from GOP leaders in Congress. "If we had made, in my opinion, the right decisions on a wide variety of issues, this election cycle would not be much of an election cycle," Hostettler said. Hostettler said Election Day "may be an indictment on the (Republican) leadership."

Hostettler was quoted in the **Vincennes Sun-Commercial** today suggesting it was time to "wind down" the U.S. effort in Iraq.

**New York Times** columnist Bob Herbert, writing from South Bend, wrote in today's editions, that Chocola "is in big political trouble and he knows that President Bush is much more the cause than the solution. Any mention of the Bush administration tends to turn local Republicans as chilly as the dusting of lake-effect snow that fell over South Bend the other night."

Herbert added, "the 'overwhelming sense I took away from interviews with voters in and around South Bend was a feeling of disillusionment with government. Republicans and Democrats spoke sourly about the Bush administration, but no one expected dramatic changes if the Democrats gained control of one or both houses of Congress. There are only two major parties. Where do troubled voters turn if the country is in a serious fix and neither party is seen as having an adequate solution?"

**In the Indiana House.** Democrats were supposed to feast on toll road seats held by Republicans Marlin Stutzman, Mary Kay Budak, Jackie Walorski. Democrats still think they have a shot at HD20 with Andrea Renner cutting a double-digit lead to within the margin, but other slam dunk seats held by State Reps. Billy Bright and Troy Woodruff now appear to be pure tossups and most observers now must wait to see if the gay marriage wedge issue can motivate a once-dispirited GOP base.

A final thought: It's a very fluid situation here on the Crossroads of America. ♦



## With Sen. Long poised for pro tem, how far will Indiana leadership revolution go?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS — When six female Republican Indiana senators caucused last week, they interviewed the four president pro tempore candidates and decided to endorse State Sen. David Long of Fort Wayne.

It makes Long the odds-on favorite to become the next leader of the Indiana Senate when the vote occurs on Nov. 8, the day after the election. Conservative Sen. Brent Steele signaled he was pulling out, leaving Sens. Tom Weatherwax and Gary Dillon the scraps. But more importantly, in the span of two years and one day, Hoosiers will have seen a change in political leadership in three of the most powerful positions in state government: governor, Senate pro tem, and Senate Finance Committee chair.

On Nov. 7, the leadership change in Indiana could become wholesale if Democrats regain control of the Indiana House. State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer would reclaim the speakership, and Rep. William Crawford would regain the chair of Ways & Means Committee.

"The women members met. They asked each of the candidates the same questions and had a good interview with everyone," Long told HPR on Oct. 19. "They have decided to put their support behind me." Asked if it was enough to put him into the Pro Tem position, Long said, "I feel comfortable in saying that's true. I'm encouraged. We still have two other announced candidates."

Steele signalled he was pulling out, but has made no such public announcement. A number of conservative senators say the Long pro tem is essentially a "fait accompli."

State Sen. Mike Delph, an ally of Sen. Steele, acknowledged the developments. "Sen. Long had a real

good day," Delph said. The four Senate pro tem candidates — including Sens. Gary Dillon and Thomas Weatherwax — made presentations to the female members of the Senate Majority Caucus on Wednesday. Conservative senators were expected to meet today, but that meeting has been cancelled. The female senators are Pat Miller, Teresa Lubbers, Vaneta Becker, Beverly Gard, Sue Landske and Connie Lawson.

Sen. Weatherwax told the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* that he is working to bring together conservatives



Sen. Long (right) along with Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton defending the lifetime health care plan last February. At right, State Sen. Tom Weatherwax. (HPR Photos)

and moderates in his party. "With the women doing what they did, it in some ways puts us back where we were after the primary," he said. "I lost some votes yesterday but I think it's a little bit early to say what the count is. This thing isn't over yet."

Weatherwax, who is pro-life, said questions about abortion and his opposition to health insurance for legislators never came up during interviews. "It's disappointing what happened yesterday (Oct. 19). That's not like, especially our women senators, to think together like that. It was a thorough process."

Weatherwax said he has lost two votes, but is certain there are more undecided senators who may back him.

### 'Speaker Bauer' would make four

The power of a "Speaker Bauer" is not a mirage. He skillfully held the entire 48 member Democratic House



## Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

caucus into dissent on Major Moves. He is a power center. But a second Bauer speakership is not a foregone conclusion. When legislators left the Statehouse last spring, Democrats were convinced that the House was theirs for the taking, fueled by widespread discontent over Daylight saving time and the Major Moves program that leased the Indiana Toll Road, with the war in Iraq establishing a national template.

It is a game plan that Democrats have barely deviated from. When gasoline prices went to more than \$3 a gallon last summer, Bauer and other Democrats advocated suspending the gasoline tax.

But other than that, the script was written last April. Democrats are angry. The Republicans didn't listen to the people. They "sold" the toll road. The governor threw a number of counties for a loop when he allowed them to choose which time zone they wanted. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is a mess.

The battle for the House will take place in Kokomo (Rep. John Smith vs. Ron Herrell); Hartford City and Marion (Rep. Tim Harris vs. Larry Hile); Indianapolis (Reps. David Orentlicher and Larry Buell vs. Kathryn Densborn and John Barnes; Lafayette (Rep. Joe Micon vs. Connie Basham); the Madison and North Vernon (Rep. Billy Bright vs. Dave Cheatham); Vincennes (Rep. Troy Woodruff vs. Greg Battles); and northern Indiana where Republican Ed Soliday and Democrat Sylvia Graham are seeking a seat vacated by State Rep. Ralph Ayres. There are other seats that could change hands, but these are the true "tossup" encounters. The sense is that both parties are poking around looking for an opportunity for a pickup in what Republican Mike Gentry said are 20 seats in play (HPR's Horse Race has 19 races in either flip, tossup or leans).

### *Dems need a standard bearer*

It is now late October and one thing is for certain: until a Democrat emerges as a consensus gubernatorial nominee for the 2008 election – be it Mayors Bart Peterson, Graham Richard, Tom McDermott Jr., Jonathan Weinzapfel, State Sen. Vi Simpson, or former House speaker John Gregg – the party is going to essentially be rudderless, or, as U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh warned the day after the party's last nightmare (Election Day 2004), they have simply become the "sum of their resentments."

As House Republicans issued 12 "pledges of progress," Bauer posed as the rhetorical responder. Bauer has proven himself incapable of piecing together even an elementary vision for the state. We have a health care crisis, a need to fund full-day kindergarten, continue a transition from an auto-based manufacturing economy to one of logistics, life sciences, transportation, and the agricultural revolution. The talking points from House Democrats have been scant.

There never will be a B. Patrick Bauer School for Government Innovation at a major Hoosier university.

What are House Republicans campaigning on? A fully funded 10-year highway plan, the \$3.9 billion in Major Moves money now earning \$500,000 a day in interest, the \$75 million going to cities and counties for local roads, a fully funded full-day kindergarten plan, the first truly balanced budget in a decade, an energy strategy, a full repayment of state moneys owed to local school corporations from the old smoke & mirror days, \$90 million worth of pare-backs on local school construction projects, and the fruits of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation



Garton and Bauer (left) and Sen. Steele.

and the new Department of

Agriculture. With the latter two, we have a true revolution in the growing of crops (we're in the midst of a record harvest at great prices) that has spurred the construction of more than a dozen ethanol and biomass plants. There are an array of new facilities (Honda, Toyota, Nestle, Interactions, Medventure, Arbonne, Louis Dreyfus, American Commercial Lines) and expansions to existing companies (Biomet, Rolls-Royce, Indiana Packers, Federal Express, BP, Cummins) that have yet to come on line.

As the closing of Guide Lamp at Anderson and the teetering domestic automakers will attest, Indiana's economic transformation is a work in progress. Democrats point out more than 17,000 "warn" notices have been filed by Indiana Workforce Development.

Which further instills the notion that a plan, a strategy, a mission is paramount.

The voters in Kokomo, Vincennes, Lakeville, Madison, Portage, Elkhart, Lafayette and Indianapolis have a crucial decision to make: Does Indiana revert to divided government and the inertia that put the state into economic duress? Or do we continue on Gov. Mitch Daniels "Come-back" and await a Democratic standard bearer to articulate



## Bayh, Obama and the hearts and minds of Democratic voters

By MARK CURRY

WASHINGTON - Democratic hearts and minds are atwitter with the prospect that U.S. Sen. Barack Obama may enter the 2008 presidential contest. The 45-year-old, second-year senator from Illinois launched a wave of Obama mania last week when he acknowledged he is considering a run for the White House.

Evan Bayh take note: Your party hungers for a leader.

Conventional wisdom indicates Americans expect leadership experience to figure prominently in a presidential resume. We demand a substantial record of risk-taking and decision-making -- the kind you get as a company founder, CEO, mayor or, most especially, a governor. After all, four of the past five presidents have served as governors, which is why Evan Bayh stresses his two terms as Indiana' top executive almost every time he takes to the stump.

Barack Obama, on the other hand, boasts a resume thin on substance: Eight years in the Illinois state senate and two years in his current job. No wonder, as Chris Cillizza of the Washington Post noted, he is sometimes described as "wet behind the ears" and "not ready to assume the role of spokesman for his party."

**Enthusiasm for Obama** is rooted in significant strengths, however. In an article published mid-summer, Cillizza cited Obama's potential as a top-tier fundraiser and stated he would be the only viable Democratic contender who can claim to have opposed the invasion of Iraq from the beginning (Obama was in the Illinois legislature when the invasion was authorized in 2002).

But at the top of any list of Obama's strengths is the one attribute Bayh has yet to demonstrate, and that is the ability to excite the masses.

"There's little question that Obama is the hottest political Democratic commodity in the country right now, drawing support from across the geographic and ideological spectrum," Cillizza wrote.

Many observers have noted that the bright lights of an Obama campaign would dim the prospects of Bayh and others, including John Edwards and John Kerry. "Should Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton both enter the race, it would likely turn the nominating contest into a two-person affair," according to Cillizza.

My guess is Obama will resist the temptation to actively seek a spot on the 2008 ticket, although he may be signalling his interest in the number two spot. Regardless of the final decision, I do believe Obama fever offers Bayh a valuable lesson.

By most criteria the Hoosier senator's 2008 proto-campaign is among the most advanced to date, be it Republican or Democrat. The Bayh organization is one of the best in the business. He's lined up major donors. He has established a solid reputation in the senate and with the media. He even boasts a growing number of followers.

But he has yet to exhibit the quality of leadership that excites, motivates and otherwise

inspires others on the scale that will be necessary to unite and guide a fragmented Democratic Party.

"With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed," Abraham Lincoln said during his Aug. 21, 1858, debate with Stephan A. Douglas. "Consequently, he who moulds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes and decisions possible or impossible to be executed."

Bayh may want to keep that Lincoln quote handy



U.S. Sens. Evan Bayh (top, with Sheriff Brad Ellsworth) and Barack Obama. (Photos by Bayh Flickr and Brian A. Howey)





## Mayor Richard won't seek '08 gubernatorial nod

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

WASHINGTON - Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard will not be seeking the 2008 Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

"No, I am not going to run," Richard said from Washington on Wednesday afternoon. "I am going to spend the next year as a volunteer for the Bayh presidential campaign. It will be a blast."

Richard said that 2007 will be a year where he finishes up a number of projects he has started in Indiana's second largest city. One of those will be "to assist Bart Peterson" in getting the Hometown Matters program with the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns passed through the Indiana General Assembly. "We'll want to get some momentum going for that," said Richard,



who first won the mayor's office in 1999 and was easily re-elected four years later. He was also a former state senator, giving him a Statehouse pedigree that made him a logical possibility for governor.

Richard mentioned the mayors of Indiana's biggest cities -- Peterson and Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel -- as potential gubernatorial timber in 2008. Both will have to make a decision in the next four to six weeks whether to seek re-election or spend the next two years trying to deny Gov. Mitch Daniels a second term. Weinzapfel has served only one term, but is a former state representative.

Peterson must decide on whether to seek a third term. Top political allies say he is pointed to seeking a third term, though Peterson has said on the record that in doing so, that shouldn't prevent him from taking a look at the 2008 race. ♦

## Indy Works will return

By **ABDUL-HAKIM SHABAZZ**

First there was Indy Works, then came Indy Works, Part II; The Mayor Strikes Back. Now Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson is getting ready to go back to the Indiana General Assembly and ask for Indy Works, Part III; Return of the Mayor. After two semi-unsuccessful bids to get his plan through the mayor is heading back to the other end of Market Street.



Peterson told me in an interview on Wednesday that he plans to craft a new plan that calls not only

for consolidation, but more home rule for the city of Indianapolis to look for revenue to solve its own problems.

The dynamics are somewhat different this time as the mayor not only has the usual financial pressures over his head, but now he also has the added weight of the crime issue to deal with. Also with a record homicide rate on his hands, an angry Black clergy in the wings and a possible re-election bid against someone considered to



be a credible challenger in the wings, the mayor can ill-afford a loss in this area.

However, unlike last year when the mayor had to deal with a Republican-

controlled General Assembly, this time he may have friends in the House of Representatives with Democrats in control. They could leverage the mayor's proposal when dealing with the governor and the Republican-controlled Senate. It's also a budget year, which adds to the mix.

The criticism against the mayor will likely be that he already has consolidation power if he were to go out and sell his proposal to Marion County residents. It could be easier to lobby that criticism if the mayor's allies scored victories in Warren, Lawrence and Perry townships.

Either way, we get another sequel. It can either be Star Wars, The Return of the Jedi or Star Trek III; The Search for Spock. Just for the record, the conventional wisdom is that odd numbered Trek sucked. Hopefully, the mayor will have better luck because if he fails, the next sequel could be Indy Works IV; Ike Randolph's Revenge. ♦



## Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - I –

and apparently millions of other Americans – have come to a not-so-startling conclusion: Congress is functionally corrupt. In a recent poll, when asked if they thought Congress was corrupt, 50 percent of respondents said yes. Fifty-eight percent of respondents said Congress was more focused on special interests than their constituents. Seventy-five percent said Congress was out of touch with the average American. These results are not startling because of the way the Republicans have completely squandered any moral or ethical authority they may have had as a majority party in both houses of Congress. But regardless of how voters feel about Congress in general, I must say things are looking pretty bleak for Republicans. How bleak? Republican strategists report three incumbents in Indiana are trailing Democrats in private polling. In Indiana. If the GOP can't hold congressional seats in Indiana, they may as well hang it up. And you know what? I consider myself conservative and I don't care. ♦

## Rich James, *Post-Tribune* - Skip ahead

10 years to Election Day 1994 – Black Tuesday. Visclosky was on the ballot, seeking a sixth term. I called him early in the evening, shortly after the polls had closed, to get a quote in the oven – usable, of course, only after his victory was official. I recall asking him if he thought Republicans had any chance of taking control of the House of Representatives. He kind of chuckled, and I suspect he wondered what I had been smoking. The nation wasn't at war, but the people were seething. Visclosky said the people wanted campaign finance reform, welfare reform and lobby reform. Besides the lack of action by Congress, headlines screamed about congressmen bounding checks and taking junkets at taxpayer expense. Those were the worst of times for Democrats, and Bill Clinton hadn't yet met Monica. That was 12 agonizing years ago. Visclosky will be seeking a 12th term next month. If he doesn't win by at least 70,000 votes, he ought to ask for a recount. Funny how some of the problems that burned the majority Democrats back then – campaign finance, welfare and lobby reform – have worsened under Republican control over the last 12 years. Can you say Jack Abramoff and Tom DeLay? What's that saying about, "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely." ♦

## Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Percentages found: Donnelly, 50; Chocola, 45; Undecided, 5.

Meaning? This is the third WSBT-Tribune poll indicating that Donnelly is ahead, but in each case by a scant margin falling within the mathematical margin for error that pollsters cite in cautioning against taking the totals as exact numbers

on voter preference. The three consecutive polls and other indications, including leaked results from some other polls and national trends, brings the view that Donnelly would have won last Tuesday and will win on Nov. 7 if he can preserve a narrow lead. What could happen? Who knows?

Who could have predicted that Mark Foley would become a national figure? Who could have predicted that North Korea would have a nuclear test shortly before the election? The Foley scandal hurts Republican congressional candidates because it has focused attention on a Republican-controlled Congress that already was unpopular. The North Korean explosion helps Republican congressional candidates because it took the focus off Foley and captured headlines that might instead have been about Iraq. Iraq is the most important

issue, according to the WSBT-Tribune poll, a finding as significant as the indication of which candidate is ahead at the moment. Iraq was an issue helping President Bush to win re-election and Republicans to retain control of Congress in 2004. As the present campaign began, the president sought to help Republican candidates and his own approval ratings by stressing a "stay the course" policy in Iraq as vital in a global war on terror.

Iraq now is an issue that is hurting Republican candidates. Changing the course rather than staying it has become a more popular option in the view of a majority of Americans, although few embrace a "cut and run" choice. If news about Iraq is of October becoming one of the worst months for U.S. casualties, of a seeming drift toward civil war and of more pessimistic evaluations from our generals, this will be very bad for Republican candidates like Chocola, a firm backer of the president's Iraqi policies. ♦

## Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Everything political analysts say in the few weeks

before an election must carry a caveat: Three weeks is an eternity in politics, and what's true today might be 180 degrees off on Nov. 7. That said, things will have to whip around mightily in the next 23 days to wipe that miserable, heartsick look off the faces of Republicans and the cocky gleam out of the eye of Democrats. Things look horrible for Republicans, thanks to the unrelenting unpopularity of President Bush, the widespread view that his Iraq policy is an utter failure, the Abramoff-DeLay-Ney-Foley scandalrama and growing sense of a cover-up, the spending policies, the earmarks. Republicans – the voters, the volunteers – are demoralized. Democrats are giddy. National polling finds voters would rather have Democrats in control in Congress after Election Day. But Democrats can't – shouldn't – be too confident, and Republicans shouldn't be overly pessimistic. Here's why: Congressional campaigns are influenced by the national political environment, but they are rarely resolved by them. ♦







## The gay wars begin in Indiana, U.S. House races

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - House Republicans, who are fully active in 20 races, began playing their gay card today.

House Republicans gathered to make their 12th pledge, bringing a same-sex marriage constitutional amendment to the floor for a vote. It came after U.S. Rep. John Hostettler used an ad featuring a Clint Eastwood "Dirty Harry" voice railing against the "homosexual agenda" of U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi "led by Barney Frank, reprimanded by the House after paying for sex with a man who ran a gay brothel out of Congressman Frank's home." On Wednesday, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the state's legislature must make some legal accommodation for same-sex relationships.

Gay Republican Gary Welsh, who runs the Advance Indiana website, reacted: "As much disdain as I have for the use of gay marriage as a political wedge issue, there is little doubt in my mind that today's New Jersey Supreme Court ruling ... will effectively stop short the wave of momentum Democrats have been riding so far in this year's congressional elections—perhaps even enough to deny them control of Congress. This is the exact opposite conclusion I held in mid-August where I suggested that the gay marriage issue would have little impact in this year's congressional elections."

**Earlier this month**, House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer tried to inoculate his caucus from the issue, saying he would bring it up for a vote if he is speaker. "I just think that the only way for (Republicans) not to (continue to) demagogue it is to have a redundancy," Bauer said. Today, Bauer said, "If I am elected Speaker of the Indiana House after the Nov. 7 general election, I will allow committee meetings, floor debate and a final vote in that chamber on a constitutional amendment to prohibit gay marriages in Indiana."

On Tuesday, House Speaker Brian Bosma said, "Rep. Bauer chose his words carefully." He said a Democratically controlled House could have a committee chair spike the bill. "If Indiana is going to make a decision to change the definition of marriage in the future, that decision should not be left to an appointed

## Battle for the House HPR Forecast: R 50, D 50

### Likely Takeover (2-R)

Heim (Dembowski)  
**J. Smith (Herrell)**

### Tossups (4-R; 1-D)

Woodruff (Battles) Orentlicher (Densborn)  
Bright (Cheatham)  
Harris (Hile)  
Open (Ayres: Soliday v. Graham (D))

### Leans (8-R; 4-D)

Lehe (Sutton) Austin (Metzger)  
Ulmer (Puro) Denbo (Patton)  
Stutzman (Rorick) Tincher (Dallas)  
Open (Messer: Eberhart vs. Lux) **Micon (Basham)**  
Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))  
Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)  
**Davis (Liggett)**  
**Buell (Barnes)**

### Likely (4-R; 2-D)

Lutz (Mengelt) Klinker (Rhoda)  
Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning) Hoy (A. Smith)  
Dodge (Rauen)  
**Walorski (Kovach)**

### Safe (34-R; 41-D)

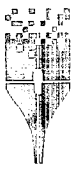
**(34 Republican)** Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borrer, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Cherry, Leonard, Neese, Borders (Bledsoe), Open (Thomas: Thomas v. Thompson (D)), Bosma (Fuldauer), **Hinkle (Olds)**

**(41-Democrats)** Avery, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Cheney, Grubb, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, Open (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, VanHaaften, Day, Summers, Mays, Crawford, Mahern, Porter, Pflum (Bell), Fry (Hiler), Bischoff (Ullrich), Open (Stemler v Theobald), Crooks (Arnold)

**Movement in bold.** Range runs from 50 seats Republican to up to 55 seats for Democrats. ♦

judge," Bosma, R-Indianapolis, said at a Statehouse news conference. "It should be left to elected legislators and citizens of this state."

Democrats now must be bracing for the GOP base-stoking gay card in House races. ♦



## Dems lead Indiana House generic 45-39 percent

**Trendline No. 1:** A new statewide poll has found greater support for Democrats regaining control of the closely divided Indiana House, while also finding more people saying the state is heading in the right direction than in the wrong direction. A WISH-TV statewide poll shows voters favor Democrats 45-39 percent. Among independents, Democrats were favored 49-28 percent. The telephone poll of 800 likely voters has a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points and was conducted Oct. 17-20 by Maryland-based Research 2000.

### Congressional Races

#### Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S.

Rep. Chris Chocola. Democrat: Joe Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** Michael Barone of U.S. News & World Report has this race as "leans Dem." Donnelly's internal numbers were showing a 10 point lead, but Democrats we spoke with believe that will tighten up. **Status: LEANS DEMOCRAT**

#### Congressional District 3: Republican:

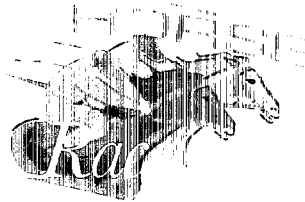
U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. Democrat: Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%. **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+17. **2002 results:** Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%). **2004 Results:** Souder, Parra 2004 Results: Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** The NRCC is pumping \$100,000 into this race. Indiana Democrats just put in \$44,000. Must be something

going on, right? There has been no polling available. "A vote for Tom Hayhurst is a vote for Nancy Pelosi as speaker of the House, Rep. Mark Souder, R-3rd, told northeast Indiana voters Wednesday during a debate on WANE-TV. "A vote for Souder," Hayhurst said, "is an endorsement of a promise-breaker who committed to serving no more than 12 years in office but is now asking for more. Souder has a great organization and conventional wisdom is that he will lose Fort Wayne but pull it out in the rural and lake counties. We have our fingers on the pulse on this one. It was always our outside marker. **Status: LEANS SOUDER**

#### Congressional District 7: Republican: Eric

Dickerson. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **People:** Urban 99.7%; median income \$36,522; poverty 13.5%; race white 63, black 29.4%, Hispanic 4.4%, Asian 1.3%; blue/white collar 26/58%; **2000 Presidential:** Gore 55%, Bush 43%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** D+6. **2002 Results:** Carson 77,478 (53%), McVey 64,379 (44%). **2004 Results:** Carson 121,303, Horning (R) 97,491, Campbell (L) 4,381. **2006 Forecast:** A second media poll in a week shows that Carson is in an unexpectedly close re-election campaign. Carson lead 48-43 percent in a WISH-TV Indiana Poll released Monday. Nine percent were undecided in the poll, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points. The new poll found the race much tighter than a WISH survey in early September, which showed Carson leading 55-35 percent.

Since then Dickerson, a former auto dealer, has often raised questions Carson's health and effectiveness in office. Carson has maintained that her health is fine. A poll for television station WTHR released last week found Dickerson with a 45-42 percent lead. Both major parties have been pouring millions into Indiana's 2nd Congressional District in north-central Indiana and the 8th and 9th Districts in Southern Indiana as they fight for control of Congress. Meanwhile, they've given little notice or money to the 7th District in Marion County (**Indianapolis Star**). National pundits say that's unlikely to change, even with polling that shows the potential for a close race. They've seen it all before. Carson has a reputation for slugging it out with her opponents until she's the last candidate standing. "It's the same story every year," said Amy Walter, who tracks congressional races for the Washington-based **Cook Political Report**. "And then she pulls it off." "This race has the potential to be the sleeper race of the cycle," said Ed Patru, spokesman for the NRCC. Our take? Dickerson's campaign has been a complete enigma. He hasn't raised much money. He has alienated national and state Republicans. He's auto dealership closed; a domestic violence case from 1991 surfaced. Yet, here he is, still in





the race, with all due apologies to the Star's Matt Tully, who pondered the whole thing a month ago. Never seen anything like it. Carson can turn out the Center Township machinery, though one Democrat told us, "She can't do that as well in Washington Township." But Frank Short is running for trustee there and we expect Democrats to be ginned up. We think that Carson survives. Some Democrats have been inclined to vote against her in 2004 in order to clear the way for a more vigorous candidate in the future. But with control of the entire U.S. House at stake, we believe they come home. At this point, we think Carson pulls out a narrow win. **Status:** LEANS CARSON

**Congressional District 8:** Republican: U.S.

Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **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. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** A WISH-TV poll released Wednesday has Ellsworth leading 50-43 percent. Barone of U.S. News & World Report has this race "Sure Democrat." Another bizarre week for Hostettler. The NRCC was polling in the 8th to determine whether Hostettler's candidacy was still viable. Hostettler said he has heard that the GOP is buying more ads after its latest polling in the 8th, and he discounts media reports that party leaders have decided he's too far behind to be helped. "I think it's a situation where the news media is making news," he said. "They're not reporting news, because none of these things have happened or are happening." Hostettler called a news conference Tuesday "to discuss an important matter relating to the terrorist attacks on the United States." That matter was the placement of a news brief about an award he received for his positions on immigration from Numbers USA and 9/11 Families for a Secure America. That news brief, which ran in the Courier & Press on Oct. 15 on Page B5, recognized the Homeland Defender Award that Hostettler, Rep. Lincoln Davis, D-Tenn., Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., and Rep. Jim Talent, R-Mo., received. Davis and Hostettler received the award at a news conference Sept. 28 on Capitol Hill. Hostettler's office waited two weeks to post a news release on the award. The paper ran the brief the next day, on the same page as obituaries and

birth records. "I am here today to protest a callous indignity that has been perpetrated upon a group of grieving patriots by the Evansville Courier & Press ...," Hostettler said Tuesday. Hostettler is seeking to motivate his base by assailing the news media. After last week's HPR cover story ("Indiana's Runaway Congressman") we began receiving calls from Hostettler supporters "thanking" us for inspiring them to get into the field.

Is Hostettler toast? Not sure. Can't rule out his machine. The **Courier & Press** reported today that Hostettler "will either lose his re-election bid in a landslide or win by his largest margin ever." That is, if you believe one of two radically different outcomes - one predicted by an opinion poll conducted for the Courier & Press by Indiana State University's Sociology Research Lab and the other based on a forecasting model created by two ISU political science professors. The forecasting model by professors Carl Klamer and Stan Buchanan projects a 21-seat gain for Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives. That is in line with what most political analysts predict. But Klamer and Buchanan's forecasting model also predicts Hostettler will defeat Democratic challenger Brad Ellsworth by a 55 percent to 45 percent margin. That is not in line with opinion polls, which foresee a Hostettler loss. The **Courier & Press** poll of 626 likely 8th District voters, concluded two weeks ago, showed Ellsworth with a commanding 55-32 percent lead (a figure HPR does not find credible). University of Evansville political scientist Robert L. Dion said forecasting models are better for identifying broad trends than for predicting specific outcomes in specific races. The predicted 10-point victory margin for Hostettler is implausible, Dion said. "That ought to have told them they needed to go back and recalibrate," he said. But Dion, who teaches a research methods class, added that he also doesn't think Hostettler is losing by the landslide margin foreseen in the **Courier & Press** poll. "It's fair to say he's trailing, and that he's under 50 percent," Dion said. **Status:** LEANS ELLSWORTH

**Congressional District 9:** Republican: U.S.

Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Results:** Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** A WISH-TV poll released Wednesday has Hill leading 47-45 percent. Barone of the U.S. News & World



# Political Report

Report has this race "Leans Dem." Hill continues to lead Sodrel, according to a SurveyUSA poll conducted exclusively for WHAS-TV. The election is in 15 days, on 11/7/06. Since an identical SurveyUSA WHAS-TV poll 2 weeks ago, Hill has lost 1 point, from 48% to 47%. Sodrel has lost 3 points, from 46% to 43%. Hill had led by 2, now leads by 4. Both results are within the poll's 4.4 percent margin of sampling error, but the advantage is with the Democrat. Libertarian Eric Schansberg has gained 3 points, from 2% to 5%, and may be a "spoiler" here, siphoning key Male votes and Independent votes from Sodrel. Hill gets 82% of Democrat votes. Sodrel gets 78% of Republican votes. With President Bush coming into the district on Saturday, the analysis is that Sodrel is now working to turn out his base. Sodrel raised eyebrows among some in the GOP hierarchy when we didn't appear with Vice President Cheney at Camp Atterbury last Friday. There's about a 20 percent difference in Bush and Cheney's fav/unfavs.

**Status: TOSSUP**

## Legislative Races

**House District 4:** Republican: Ed Soliday.

Democrat: Sylvia Graham. **2004 Results:** Ayres 19,656, Siegers (D) 8,850. **2006 Forecast:** We believe this race has tightened up and could be a potential Democratic pickup. **Status: TOSSUP**

**House District 17:** Republican: State Rep.

Steve Heim. Democrat: Nancy Dembowski. **2004 Results:** Heim 14,100, McLiver (D) 8,321, Foley (I) 854. **SD5 Results:** Heinold (R) 24,753, Dembowski (D) 24,398. **2006 Forecast:** We now believe this is the most likely seat to flip to the Democrats. **Status: LEANS D (Likely Takeover)**

**House District 20:** Republican: LaPorte

School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: LaPorte City Councilwoman Andrea Renner. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. **2004 Results:** Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** Democratic sources tell us that Renner's direct mail program has allowed her to close a 10-point gap to with 3 or 4 percentage points. Dermody has out-raised here \$220,000 to \$170,000. This is only a 48 percent Democratic district, but Gov. Mitch Daniels' favs are only 22 percent in the district. **Status: TOSSUP**

**House District 21:** Republican: State Rep.

Jackie Walorski. Democrat: Bob Kovach. **2002 Results:** Mangus 10,722. **2004 Results:** Walorski 13,753, Kaser (D) 7,737. **2006 Forecast:** We believe Walorski will win. Kovach been out-raised \$220,000 to \$70,000. **Status: LEANS REPUBLICAN.**

**House District 26:** Republican: Tippecanoe

County Councilwoman Connie Basham. **Democrat:** Joe Micon. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **2002 Results:** Scholer 5,630, Micon 4,731.

**2004 Results:** Micon (D) 10,077, Basham (R) 9,471. **2006 Forecast:** Basham is dropping what has been described as "gay bashing" direct mail, which Democrats says breaks a promise not to do negative campaigning. Ouch. Republican sources tell us they believe this race has tightened up. **Status: LEANS D**

**House District 30:** Republican: State Rep.

John Smith. Democrat: Ron Herrell. **2002 Results:** Herrell (D) 9,017, Rudolph (R) 6,966, Fridholm (L) 379. **2004 Results:** Smith 12,398, Herrell (D) 11,279. **2006 Forecast:** Within days of filing the mandatory campaign finance report on Friday with the Howard County Clerk's Office, Smith tripled the amount raised (de la Bastide, **Kokomo Tribune**). For the period from April to Oct. 13, Smith's campaign committee reported contributions of \$42,034 and expenditures of \$14,306. As of last Friday, Herrell had raised \$173,636 and spent \$118,197. The gap in fund-raising changed abruptly when Smith received a \$93,000 in-kind donation from the House Republican Campaign Committee. His committee received an additional \$1,000 from the (Jeff) Drozda for Senate Committee and another \$4,000 from the GOP on Monday. Smith has now raised \$140,034 for his re-election campaign with \$98,930 coming from the House Republican Campaign Committee. Not to be outdone, Herrell's committee received an additional \$15,000 on Wednesday from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees International Union in Washington. The Hoosiers for Herrell committee has now raised \$183,636, of which \$111,696 has come from the Indiana Democratic Party. "Any race being contested is very important," Mike Gentry, executive director of the Indiana House Republican Campaign Committee, said Wednesday. "The race is back on the map again." Gentry said everyone is assessing the races on a day-to-day basis. "We're tracking about 20 races across the state," he said. "We're looking at the big picture and won't determine how to deploy our resources on Election Day until the day before." Dan Parker, chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party didn't return several telephone calls to the Kokomo Tribune. HPR now believes this seat is ripe for a flip. Democrat Joe Donnelly appears to be headed for a victory over U.S. Rep. Choccola, Howard County Republicans are feuding, and Smith needed about 12 pints of blood from House Republicans. **Status: LEANS D (LIKELY TAKEOVER).**

**House District 31:** Republican: State Rep.

Tim Harris. Democrat: Blackford County Commissioner Larry Hile. **2002 Results:** Herrell (D) 9,017, Rudolph (R) 6,966, Fridholm (L) 379. **2004 Results:** Harris 10,480, Hile (D) 10,330. **2006 Forecast:** Harris is up on Indianapolis TV. Pure tossup. This could be the classic bellwether seat. It's a rematch, and it appears to have picked up from the narrow margin in 2004. It is not inordinately impacted by Major Move. **Status: TOSSUP.**

**House District 33:** Republican: State Rep.



Bill Davis. Democrat: Ron Liggett. 2002 Results: Liggett (D) 9,143, Thornburg (R) 6,895. **2004 Results:** Davis 13,330, Liggett 10,924. **2006 Forecast:** Democrats tell us they think Liggett can win, but Republicans are equally confident. **Status:** LEANS DAVIS.

**House District 49:** Republican: State Rep. John Ulmer. Democrat: Mike Puro. **2004 Results:** Ullmer 17,592. **2006 Forecast:** Nearly a quarter century ago, Mike Puro ran for the seat against state Rep. Phil Warner. In 1982, Puro was running for his first office and running against a popular legislator. The new punch-card system indicated on election night that Puro won (**King, Elkhart Truth**). "I went to bed understanding that I had won that race," he said. Election officials discovered errors that benefited Warner's tally, and Puro called for a total recount. He lost and Warner went on to serve 16 more years before his death in 1998. In 1982, homeowners asked Puro to get off their porch when they learned he was a Democrat. But he's won election four times since then. He was Goshen clerk-treasurer and then Goshen mayor before Gov. Frank O'Bannon appointed him in 1997 as director of the Indiana Toll Road. He's running hard and against State Rep. John Ulmer. He thinks he can win. "I don't tilt at windmills. I'm not going to go out there and run an election when everything is stacked in favor of the other candidate just to have my name on the ticket," he said. During the state debate on daylight-saving time, Ulmer told voters he would vote against it. He told Gov. Mitch Daniels the same (**Elkhart Truth**). He listened to testimony that indicated it would help Indiana business and changed his mind between two votes in the same day. He told House Speaker Brian Bosma, but not others. "The governor never knew it until after my vote that I was going to change," he said. Angry constituents called Ulmer's home late at night and made threats. "I apologize for changing my mind," he said of the vote on the time change, but defends doing so because of consistency if offers businesses. "I'm down there doing what I think is the best for my constituency," he said. Ulmer doesn't accept campaign contributions and pays his own campaign expenses. "I don't want anybody to think that because they contribute to my campaign, I listened to them more than anybody else," he said. **Status:** LEANS REPUBLICAN

**House District 55:** Republican: Tom Knollman. Democrat: Dale Lanning. **2004 Results:** Hoffman 17,410, McGlothen (D) 6,864, Marcum (L) 800. 18,202, Durber (D) 7,318, Bod (L) 1,194, Cramer (I) 577. **2006 Forecast:** The Fayette County Farm Bureau pulled its endorsement of Lanning (**Richmond Palladium-Item**). Lanning ran an ad in the **Liberty Herald** last week and in the Brookville Democrat this week listing the federal farm payments Republican candidate Tom Knollman of Liberty has received. The ad was based on information from the Environmental Working Group's Website, which is critical of

agricultural subsidies. Fayette County Farm Bureau President Tom Naylor said Lanning's endorsement was dropped on Monday because the board thought Lanning was attacking the farm population in general. "It was in bad taste. It wasn't thought out," Naylor said. "I don't think (Lanning) realizes what farm payments do. All that money goes back to the local economy and we pay taxes on it. Some years it's the only profit there is." Lanning, who spoke to the Farm Bureau before it voted to withdraw the endorsement, said he was surprised farmers took the ad personally. "It wasn't aimed at farmers. It was aimed at my opponent who is saying one thing and doing another. He's going throughout the district saying he wants to cut give-aways, saying no to new taxes for the library, but nothing about this and what he gets from our taxes," Lanning said. Knollman said he was "extremely disappointed" when he saw the ad. The state Farm Bureau endorsed Knollman. **Status:** LEANS REPUBLICAN.

**House District 57:** Republican: Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004 **2006 Forecast:** Lux and Eberhart spar over the food and beverage tax. **Status:** LEANS REPUBLICAN

**House District 64:** Republican: State Rep. Troy Woodruff. Democrat: Kreg Battles. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Results:** Woodruff 12,698, Frenz 12,507. **2006 Forecast:** Battles has raised about \$284,000, including \$100,000 from the Indiana State Teachers Association; \$102,134 from the state Democratic Party; and about \$17,600 from the House Democratic committee. He has spent about \$278,000 and had \$6,343 in cash on hand. Woodruff raised about \$252,500 this election cycle, including about \$47,000 from the House Republican committee and \$30,000 from the state Republican Party. He has spent about \$209,200 and had \$43,295 in cash on hand. With clocks changing this Sunday, will that be enough to remind folks of the DST consternation and work against Woodruff? **Status:** TOSSUP

**House District 69:** Republican: Billy Bright. Democrat: Dave Cheatham. **2002 Results:** Lytle 9,777, Newell 7,678. **2004 Results:** Bright 12,639, Lytle 11,018. **2006 Forecast:** Democrats say Bright's numbers are in the low '40s. **Status:** TOSSUP

**House District 86:** Republican: Kathryn Densborn. Democrat: State Rep. David Orentlicher. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. 2004 Results: Orentlicher 15,178, Large (R) 13,261, Goldstein (L) 585. **2006 Forecast:** Both candidates have raised about \$220,000. Pure, pure, pure tossup. Could go either way. Get the attorneys ginned up for Nov. 8. Densborn running attack ads accusing the Democrat of voting against the pledge of allegiance and flag burning. Orentlicher mailer brings out immigration issue. **Status:** TOSSUP. ♦



## Hoosiers line National Road for fallen Marine

TERRE HAUTE - When a Marine gives his life, the whole world stops. At least that's how it seemed Wednesday night as a motorcade escorted the body of Lance Cpl. Joshua M. Hines from the Indianapolis International Airport along U.S. 40 through Terre Haute and on to Casey, Ill., where he will be buried Friday (McKee, Terre Haute Tribune-Star). Members of area fire departments, American Legion representatives and individuals all stood at attention in the cold along the National Road as the motorcade passed. Vehicles pulled over and stopped. At every intersection, police vehicles blocked traffic, while officers saluted the man who died and the family that gave him up. Hines, 26, of Westfield, Ill., died Oct. 15 while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Iraq. Hines was riding in a Humvee with two other Marines when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle, killing Hines and Sgt. Brock Babb, 40, of Evansville. Both Marines were members of Kilo Company 3rd Battalion 24th Marines Reservists, based in Terre Haute. Hines leaves behind his wife, Caryn, and infant son, Rylie. Caryn rode in the motorcade in a vehicle driven by a Marine from her husband's unit.



Machine statute.

"This ruling recognizes the individual privacy rights of citizens and recognizes that FreeEats and other companies providing similar services have the ability to place millions of automated calls within a relatively short amount of time," Attorney General Steve Carter said. "The Court also observes that this company and its client have a variety of other ways to communicate with residents besides annoying and unwanted automated calls." In a ruling issued this week, U.S. District Court Judge Larry McKinney says: "The Court finds that the statute leaves open ample alternative forms of communication. First, the Statute does not ban companies from calling Indiana residents. Moreover, the statute leaves room for other forms of political speech such as door-to-door campaigning, bulk mailings, leafleting, and use of posters and signs to name a few examples."

## Tickets for Bush visit are all sold out

SELLERSBURG - No tickets remain for a rally featuring President Bush on Saturday in Sellersburg (Louisville Courier-Journal). The campaign of U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel, R-9th District, has allocated all 4,000 of the tickets just one day after they became available. "I knew the president would be a big draw," campaign manager Cam Savage said yesterday. "But I've never seen anything like it." He said all the tickets went to Hoosiers and most of them to people in Clark and Floyd counties.

## Chamber to push city-county merger

FORT WAYNE - After a proposal to study a complete Fort Wayne-Allen County government merger seemed to die last month, one of the largest supporters of the idea will likely use petitions to force further discussion on consolidation (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The Greater Fort

Wayne Chamber of Commerce today is expected to announce the start of a petition drive to force the City Council and county commissioners to conduct another public hearing on consolidation. Ozzie Mitson, Chamber manager of government and community affairs, would only confirm the Chamber is conducting a news conference about government restructuring.

## Donnelly receives ARA endorsement

SOUTH BEND - Democratic congressional candidate Joe Donnelly told union retirees Wednesday that negotiating Medicare prescription prices will be a top priority if he is elected, and said that a vote on the issue could come within the first week of the next congressional session (South Bend Tribune). Donnelly, who collected the endorsement of the Alliance for Retired Americans on Wednesday, said House Democrats already have been discussing the prescription price issue and "there's a large number of Republicans who feel the same way."

## Mrvan assails opponent

HAMMOND - A candidate's debate for the District 1 Senate seat became heated Wednesday when a combative Sen. Frank Mrvan challenged opponent Christopher Morrow's connection to the embattled Gary Urban Enterprise Association. Mrvan, D-Hammond, is running against Morrow, the former head of Mercantile National Bank. Morrow was chairman of the GUEA board from 2000 until it descended into scandal in 2004 amid charges that top officials used public funds for a private spending spree (Post-Tribune). "He knew what was going on. He saw what was going on and he did nothing. He does not deserve to be promoted," Mrvan said. ♦

## Court upholds auto dialer ban, Carter says

INDIANAPOLIS - A federal court ruling allows Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter to continue to enforce Indiana's statute governing prerecorded messages. Last month, Virginia-based FreeEats.com filed legal action against Carter challenging his ability to enforce the law against violators of the state's Automated Dialing