



# Tea Party takes aim at Lugar

### GOP civil war could rival one on national scene

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The civil war bubbling up within the Indiana Republican Party pits the upstart Tea Party movement against one of the most dynamic political operations in Hoosier history - the political campaign of Richard Green Lugar.

This divide mirrors what Americans saw on Tuesday night following President Obama's state of the union address. House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wisc., gave the official Republican rebuttal, saying the "days of business as usual are over" and that "spending cuts must come first" while U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., gave a disjointed blast of what The New York Times called "Tea Party fury" while looking past the Fox pool feed camera and



Tea Party members sign a letter asking Sen. Richard Lugar not to run for reelection in 2012 at an organizing convention in Sharpsville on Saturday. (AP Photo)

focusing on the Tea Party Express lens. The Bachmann address came just days after she said in Iowa that the Founding Fathers had ended slavery.

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# It's the economy, stupid

By **RUSS STILWELL**

BOONVILLE - "It's the economy, stupid" was a phrase widely used during Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign against President George H.W. Bush.

"I do not believe we can repair the basic fabric of society until people who are willing to work have work," Clinton said.

Along with thousands of other Hoosiers I watched Gov. Daniels deliver his State of State message just a short couple weeks ago. I even concluded that he delivered a powerful speech with a specific list of things to



**"This is the first audience I've been with lately where they've waved using all their fingers."**

**- Supt. Tony Bennett, making remarks before the screening of 'Waiting for Superman' Tuesday**



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do. I was impressed. But then I took the time to actually read the speech. It wasn't about jobs and the economy.

**The governor included** all the clever references such as how "Hoosiers are waiting tonight for a national economic recovery." He eloquently spoke of building one of the best job climates in the country (think he should review the WTHR "Where are the Jobs" investigative reporting every once in a while?).

He continued, "Breaking the all-time record for new job commitments isn't enough. Adding new jobs at twice the national average isn't enough. It could not offset the terrible drag of a national economic tide that continues to leave too many boats suck in the muck."

Seems that "national economy" has singled out our Hoosier state in spite of our state's Herculean efforts!

And with that he took off and spent the remainder of the evening talking about cutting taxes, his proposed budget and education. And he quoted that famous Hoosier philoso-

pher who said, "it's tainted money. 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine." (It was, in fact, Mark Twain.)

I'll bet the bankers in our state liked that 'tainted money' line when they realized the Gov planned on taking \$200 million of their contributions from the insurance trust fund that protects Hoosiers from possible bank meltdowns!

But one should always save the best for last, just like Gov. Daniels did in his annual address: Education Reform.

Every Hoosier governor has attempted educational reform in every possible fashion since the beginning of time. Some got it right and some just didn't get it! I think Gov. Daniels is somewhere in the middle.

**Last week, I asked** a normal hard-working small business owner a question about public school reform. She doesn't give a hoot about education policy or the sport of political jousting. The question was simple: "Why do some kids do well and others seem to fail in our public schools?"

She thought for only a second



or two and very expertly explained to me why some kids do well and others poorly. She noted why most private school kids seem to do very well and why charter schools get high marks. All of this from a person who does not give these issues a thought or two throughout the course of a year?

She began, "It isn't rocket science. Kids that have a stable home life with supportive parents that instill an environment of education and learning will do well in school. Kids from poorer neighborhoods whose single parent (or parents) work dead-end jobs and don't find the time to help with homework, or are just too worn out from putting food on the table, will not fare very well. Education reform begins at home."

She gets it better than most of our school experts. It's about jobs and the economy!

Solid meaningful jobs for Hoosiers always should be our number one priority. With good jobs come stable homes, supportive parents and better educational achievement for our kids.

**But I didn't hear the governor** venture into our dismal state jobs numbers. And I can't blame him either. I wouldn't want to talk about these figures if they occurred on my watch.

I didn't hear him talk about our 300,000 long-term unemployed Hoosiers. I seemed to miss any mention of our nearly 10% Hoosier unemployment rate that consistently ranks as one of the worst in the nation. And I missed how he intends to help the nearly 1 in 5 Hoosiers who are unemployed or underemployed. Think maybe the House majority can fix this when they tidy up the unem-

ployment insurance trust fund with lower benefits?

But I did hear a lot about education reform. Let's pass charter school reform and let scores of new entities start new charter schools and continue the drain on our public schools.

**Let's eliminate some of our most** challenged teachers because they happen to teach students from public schools that accept students from all walks of life.

Let's send our kids to private schools with public money, and let the public schools teach only those who are physically, emotionally and mentally challenged! A real recipe for success not to mention constitutionally questionable!

Seems the legislators listened. Just last week they passed enabling legislation that dictated the start date for local schools cannot begin until after Labor Day regardless of what the local school officials think. I bet that will really get them test scores up, won't it?

They held hearings on a massive increase in charter schools. And more change is sure to come.

At the end of the day in all probability, things won't change much if the real issues in the 2010 election aren't addressed. Clinton got it right. It's about jobs and the economy.

The quicker someone begins a serious dialogue about jobs for Hoosiers, the quicker we will have quality education and a better place for all Hoosiers to call home.

After all, it's the economy, stupid. ❖

**Stilwell is a former Democratic state representative.**

## Tea Party, from page 1

"We also know that the very founders that wrote those documents worked tirelessly until slavery was no more in the United States," Bachmann said.

Last Saturday, 180 Hoosier Tea Party members representing 70 tribes gathered at a church near Sharpsville to forge an anti-Lugar confederation. They sent a letter - one of 899 Sen. Lugar received on Monday - thanking him for his service while asking that he drop out of the 2012 U.S. Senate race. Monica Boyer, a Kosciusko County Silent No More Tea Party activist who lost a recent school board race after getting only 11 percent of the vote, sees strength in her movement.

"We're excited today," Boyer told the press, saying the event

"showed us a strength of unity." To defeat Lugar, "All we need is 700,000 votes," she said.

Greg Fettig of the Hamilton County tribe, said the Tea Party movement has 35,000 people.

"Each of them have 10 people in their sphere of influence," Fettig said. "That's 350,000 people. They will vote as we will vote. If we don't unify, we might as well go home."

Saturday the blueprint to defeat Lugar was forged and by June, after the confederation determines what exactly it officially is (a PAC? A foundation?), they will invite Lugar and potential challengers - State Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock, former State Rep. Jackie Walorski - to make their pitch, then unify behind one challenger. Other challengers may stay in the race, but the members of the Tea Party vow not to split its vote as they did in the 2010



**Monica Boyer of the Kosciusko County Silent No More Tea Party. (AP Photo)**



Republican U.S. Senate primary that Sen. Dan Coats won with 39 percent.

### Friday night in Carmel

On Friday night, 420 Lugar supporters gathered at the Ritz Charles in Carmel where they donated nearly \$400,000 to his campaign. The Lugar political organization has its roots dating back to L. Keith Bulen days - ironically a GOP insurgency itself in the mid-1960s. It counts a young Mitch Daniels who managed the senator's first reelection campaign in 1982.

It followed a Lugar mailing to 500,000 registered Republican voters, appealing for their financial support and the ballot petition drive. By the time Sen. Lugar arrived in Carmel for the fete, the campaign had gathered 8,400 signatures. That rose to 8,867 signatures by Wednesday, with the campaign gathering them at a clip of 536 a day.

"Tonight we are on the precipice of what will be an important and tough battle," said Mark Lubbers, who ran Lugar's 1996 presidential campaign. "And I am determined to see that everyone face this reality and that none leave here tonight complacent. Our hearts must be in this. We can harbor no doubt about the rightness of our cause. We must meet righteous opinions with righteous opinions. And, we need to see this coming battle for what it is, which is more than just Dick Lugar's reelection."

In the Lugar world view, the Tea Party movement is the result of a bad economy and what Lubbers called the "giant, absurd over-reach of Obamacare" that jolted citizens into a Howard Beale ("I'm as mad as hell and I'm not gonna take this anymore") reflex. They learned what Howard Beale discovered in the legendary film "Network."

"It feels good to get to the end of your rope, to throw off the silence and literally be empowered to fight back," Lubbers said. "Especially when you find yourself part of something - to have friends who are as angry and as frustrated as you are. We welcomed these fellow citizens into the fray. They had been stirred by the same spirit

that caused each of us, as an obligation of citizenship, to participate in the process. That is why we found common purpose with these new voices - they seemed to be saying what we'd been saying for a long time. It seemed that what they believed was the essence of what we believe as Republicans. And, here in Indiana, a handful of people are intent on organizing that anger and frustration into a campaign. To do what? The answer ... to take Dick Lugar out."

### Right wing complaints

Except that the Tea Party - which originally stood for "Taxed Enough Already" - has diverged into a right wing list of complaints. They are against the Dream Act. They opposed the Supreme Court nominees Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor. They opposed the START Treaty.

"With the votes we follow, we believe it shows he is not a conservative," Fettig said.

As the Tea Party met in Sharpesville, Lugar was being honored by LaPlaza, a Latino group which hailed his backing of the Dream Act, legislation that would naturalize the children of illegal immigrants.

"I told them I merited their support and hoped I would have it," Lugar said at the event.

The Indianapolis Star reported that he expressed some bewilderment that they see his record as liberal, saying he's been a champion of small

business, voting over the years to cut taxes and spending.

"But this particular Tea Party group is interested in the Dream Act and the START treaty," Lugar said. "It is unusual. They are attempting to find particular policies they object to that are not related to spending and controls."

"It is the Dream Act, START, the last two justices," Fettig said. "Those justices almost sealed it for everyone in the Tea Party. Kagan was the last straw."

In the Tea Party world view, "if they don't live by the Constitution, that does not count."

Fettig said that Sotomayor would take race in account in her rulings.

"Justice is blind to color," Fettig said. "Kagan said she would look to international law."



U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar at a press conference with then Sen. Barack Obama.



Kagan and Sotomayor had Republican support beyond Lugar. Republicans Judd Gregg, Lindsey Graham, Olympia Snowe, and Susan Collins voted to confirm Kagan. Collins, Snowe, Gregg, Graham, George Voinovich, Mel Martinez, Christopher Bond and Lamar Alexander voted for Sotomayor. Half of the Democrats and independents had backed Chief Justice John Roberts (though not U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, which infuriated the Tea Party activists), but only 9 percent voted for Justice Samuel Alito in 2006, which was the last straw for many conservatives when it comes to voting for nominees of Democratic presidents.

### **Lugar isn't backing away**

Since the spike in the Tea Party's aim at taking out Lugar, the senator hasn't backed away from any of the hot button issues that certainly will be used against him. He renewed his long-time call for an assault weapons ban in the wake of the assassination of federal Judge John Roll and five others, along with the wounding of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. His ardent backing of the START treaty probably saved it in December. He accepted honors for his work on the unsuccessful Dream Act literally while the Tea Party tribes met in Sharpesville.

Lubbers reminded the Lugar faithful: "Faced with this, I am in awe of the calm, confident, humble attitude of the Senator. He is as unchanging as ever in the face of this challenge. While other Republicans have twisted themselves into political pretzels to get in line with this political threat, the senator has held true to his views – not in defiance, as has been reported by the media, but as an act of ultimate integrity. And he is as cheerful and as gracious as the first day any one of us met him for the first time. You can feel his determination. His resistance to shallow cliché politics. He has always been guided by a comment made by Edmund Burke – who, as any true conservative knows, is the father of the modern conservative movement. Faced with a situation not unlike ours today in the parliamentary election of 1774, Burke said: 'Your representative owes you not only his industry, but his judgment; and he betrays you, if he sacrifices it to public opinion.'"

Lubbers also addressed the age issue.

"The day after the 2010 election, while most of the senators under 70 went on vacation, what was Dick Lugar doing? Flying to Africa to secure biological weapons. Why? Because there is no one else with the energy and the experience to do this. And why is it important? Because any one of these strains if weaponized would make 9-11 look like a picnic."

### **Dream Act and Latino vote**

And Lubbers put the Dream Act into a political focus.

"The Dream Act proposed one thing – enable illegal

aliens who were brought here as children to earn citizenship by getting an education or serving in the military," Lubbers said. "Our opponents falsely call it amnesty. Since when is it amnesty to bestow citizenship in return for joining the Marines and getting shot at in Kandahar defending the American flag?"

In 2000 and 2004, it was the Latino vote that helped George W. Bush win two very close elections. It is the fastest growing voting block in America. In 2006, Republicans like U.S. Reps. John Hostettler, Mike Sodrel and Chris Chocola of Indiana advocated strict immigration laws. All three lost that year. In 2008, President Obama won 67 percent of the Latino vote, a 36 percent increase over their support for John Kerry in 2004. Obama won 77 percent of the Indiana Latino vote as this voting block went from 3 to 4 percent of the Indiana electorate between 2004 and 2008. It will be even bigger in 2012.

Obama increased his support among Catholics from 16 to 32 percent. Four in 10 Catholics are Latino. Said Notre Dame Associate Prof. David Campbell, "Latinos are the face of the Catholic population going forward. Latinos swung to Obama."

Mark Halperin of Time Magazine told the Bulen Symposium in November 2008 that Republicans "have to be spooked" about their Latino losses.

State Sen. Mike Delph, who has been critical of Lugar over immigration issues, now has a "Draft Mike Delph" website that features photos of Lugar with then-Sens. Obama and Hillary Clinton. "Richard Lugar is running for re-election in 2012. His voting record is far worse than the one Dan Coats was running from – and he's running on it. He has a mixed voting record on abortion. He's for bail-outs. He's one of the few Republicans who voted to confirm both of Obama's leftist Supreme Court nominees, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. He's not only pro-amnesty, he was a co-sponsor and biggest supporter of the most recent attempt at amnesty! Delph's supporters are already more passionate than Lugar's," the website claims. "We're already more mobilized. Soon, we'll have the entire Tea Party unified behind him. If we come together as early as possible and form a truly united front, we can't lose. If we hesitate or allow ourselves to be divided, we will lose. If we fail to inform people about what Dick Lugar truly believes and what he stands for, we will lose. Please join us in supporting Mike Delph for U.S. Senator in the 2012 election. How To Help: 1. Email Mike Delph and ask him to declare his candidacy early

Lubbers asked Republicans to "show me a way for our presidential nominee in 2012 to get 270 Electoral College votes without winning a lot of Hispanic votes? It cannot be done. You want four more years of Barack Obama? Be against the Dream Act."

Thus, there lies the vulnerability of the Tea Party



movement. The nominations of Joe Miller in Alaska, Sharron Angle in Nevada and Christine O'Donnell in Delaware and their subsequent defeats probably kept the U.S. Senate in the hands of the Democratic majority. The sharp right bends may bring tangible benefits in closed primaries or Utah-style conventions, but will leave many independents (and Latinos) in other camps in the general.

Mourdock was quoted as having internal polling showing a confrontation with Lugar as "winnable." They join the legion of push polls conducted by past potential Lugar challengers (i.e. David Johnson and Tim Roemer) which also uncovered Lugar vulnerabilities that were never exploited.

Indiana Republicans will be seeking to retain the governorship, two new congressional seats and the Indiana House. There is profound risk of jettisoning the most prolific Republican vote getter of all time in Lugar. The Lugar campaign will find a rock solid base of Republican support. But it also has a reservoir of independent voters - some 40 percent of the Hoosier electorate - which can be resourced in the 2012 primary. That pool will stand out even more if Hoosier Democrats successfully coalesce around a single gubernatorial nominee and President Obama runs unopposed in the primary.

The Lugar political operation sees 67 weeks between now and the primary. The goal will be, as one operative put it, "to win every week. The Tea Party's assumption is that we will just stand pat, and we won't."

There is talk that the Tea Party will seek support from Dick Armey's FreedomWorks and Chris Chocola's Club for Growth. The risk there is an influx of outside money impacting an Indiana Senate race. That is fodder for the incumbent.

"This has become a national race," Fettig said, citing Freedom Works, the Tea Party Express and potentially the Club for Growth. "Today this is a national race."

In the 2010 time frame, the Tea Party was able to raise fantastic amounts of money for O'Donnell and Angle, who at one point had \$14 million gushing in during the month of October, but was still unable to unseat the unpopular Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, R-Nev.



**Sen. Lugar drops off his nomination petitions in 2006 at the Indiana Statehouse in an election he ran without a Democratic opponent. (HPI Photo)**

Perhaps the biggest risk for Lugar beyond a publicized health problem is the nagging 9.5 percent jobless rate afflicting Indiana. Within the context of a bad economy, defeat lurks for every incumbent.

Can Lugar be defeated?

Bart Peterson, Bob Garton, Larry Borst, Homer Capehart and other previously invincible leaders - perhaps even Evan Bayh - would answer yes. But the seeds of those defeats laid with a lack of understanding the potency of the challenge.

While the Tea Party tribes are flexing their muscles, the Lugar brain trust has full understanding of the threat. ❖

## Long wants immigration message

**By LAUREN CASEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore David Long hopes all 50 states - including his own - pass immigration legislation.

"It's important to send a message to Washington," said Long this morning.

He said that illegal immigration is a huge national security issue and that it is a "national disgrace" that Washington continues to not do anything about it because constitutionally, immigration is a federal issue.

A bill that would require all state documents to be printed in English, authored by Rep. Suzanne Crouch, R-Evansville, passed the Indiana House of Representatives 63-26 on Monday.

Long said that he agrees that English should be supported as Indiana's dominant language, but that the issue is where to draw the line. He also said that no citizen would move out of the bottom level of poverty in this state without mastering English.

Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, authored an Arizona style immigration bill, which currently rests in the Senate Committee on Pensions and Labor. In regards to Delph's bill, Long said that it is important how the legislature deals with an individual's Constitutional Rights. He does not believe that this bill would lead to racial profiling. ❖



## Pence should seek the presidency

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - Mike Pence should run for president.

I write this not being flip or condescending, for Congressman Pence and I have a long, friendly history. He began his radio show about the same time I began publishing *Howey Politics Indiana* back in 1994. I appeared on his radio show often. In 1997, Pence and Peter Rusthoven convinced Harrison Ullmann over drinks at Claude & Annie's after a Pence TV show taping to hire me at NUVO Newsweekly.

It has been fascinating to watch Pence rise from a twice-defeated congressional candidate, to his heading the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, to his IPR article "Confessions of a Negative Campaigner," to begin his 10-year congressional career that brought him into leadership. Because Pence has established a staunch conservative credo and has used his ample communication skills to establish himself in the presidential conversation, he now is faced with an epic dilemma.

He has a wide open path to the Republican Indiana gubernatorial nomination. Or he could seek the 2012 Republican presidential nomination.

Mike Pence should go for the latter. He should run for president.

The Indiana governorship is normally the crowning achievement for a Hoosier politician. There have been a few - Thomas A. Marshall, Thomas A. Hendricks, Doc Bowen, Henry Lane and to some extent Evan Bayh - who parlayed a gubernatorial win into the vice presidency, a presidential cabinet position or the U.S. Senate. There have been others who have sought the Indiana governorship - President Benjamin Harrison for example - and were denied, yet were able to achieve higher office.

With Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman out of the race, Pence is not only the odds-on favorite to win the GOP nomination for governor, but he would be an early favorite in the general election. It would appear to be an easy decision.

But media reports in the last week have portrayed Pence as "torn" about coming back to run for governor or seeking the presidency, which just about everyone acknowledges would be a long shot. He says his decision will be made on where best he and his family can contribute.

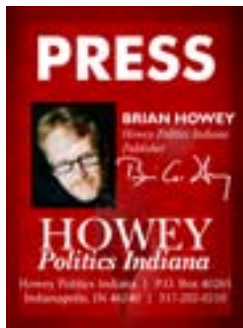
My concern about Mike Pence is that being governor of Indiana wouldn't be the crowning achievement. It would be a stepping stone. And for eight years between 1988 and 1996, Gov. Evan Bayh also saw the office as a stop on the path. Bayh was a decent governor, but many saw many of his decisions as governor within the context of whether it would further his presidential ambitions.

I personally think Evan Bayh would have been a better governor if he had just governed - and governed boldly - and allowed good public policy to evolve into good politics. In Gov. Mitch Daniels, we see this kind of leadership result in not only mold-shattering public policy, but it has gone a long way in creating the presidential buzz that surrounds him now.

Indiana is in better financial shape than most states coming out of the Great Recession of 2009-11. But we're still mired in a 9.8 percent jobless rate and many Hoosier families are suffering. We need our next governor to be focused on one key thing: job creation. Not job creation for himself, but for the tens of thousands of Hoosiers caught in the throes of this tepid economy.

Daniels acknowledged in December that eight years would never be enough to right the state's decades-long slide into mediocrity. The job will require intense concentration, particularly over the next decade when the economy continues to globalize, when competition (and opportunity) from Asia will grow more intense, and the potential impact of the Affordable Care Act will become more apparent.

Indiana will need a policy making executive with



U.S. Rep. Mike Pence with freshmen (from left) Reps. Marlin Stutzman, Todd Young, Todd Rokita and Larry Bucshon. (Photo by Trevor Foughty)



his eye on ... Indiana.

If Mike Pence comes back to run for governor, he will have his eyes on Indiana, and Washington as well.

He says he's more "Flat Rock than Potomac" - a reference to rivers near and far. But I wonder how a politician who has become so adept at working Capitol Hill will feel when he comes back to the Indiana Statehouse and has to deal with B. Patrick Bauer. Dan Quayle was presented with that very scenario in 1995 and couldn't pull the trigger. It takes a special person who's played in the Major Leagues to be willing to toil on bush leagues and buses in Covleski Stadium.

Wouldn't a Pence presidential bid be tantamount to political oblivion?

Well, ask Barack Obama. When Sen. Obama made the decision to seek the presidency in 2006, David Plouffe gave him an unvarnished reality check: he had no better than a 10 percent shot at success. There was a prohibitive favorite in Hillary Clinton standing in his path, as well as a yet-to-be-tainted former vice presidential nominee in John Edwards.

We know how that story turned out. We also know that obscure outsiders named Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton were staring at bleak odds in 1974 and 1991 when they were faced with similar decisions against supposedly better situated competition.

Most see Pence as a congressman and note that only James A. Garfield was able to go from the U.S. House to the White House. But there is a real opportunity in this presidential race for Mike Pence. The social conservatives are beginning to coalesce around him. His credo - "conservative but in a good mood about it" - would have broad appeal.

There is no front runner. And the closest thing to it is former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who is so flawed as a candidate, particularly with his own brand of health reform. The rest of the field - the Huckabees, Palins, Barbour, Gingrichs and Pawlentys - all have with big downsides. Our governor is equivocating on whether to go.

The ambitious Pence may never see a more open road to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. than he has right now.

From the very beginning of the Obama presidency - from that day in February 2009 when the president was in Elkhart and the congressman was doing a town hall in Columbus - Pence has established himself as a ringing voice in the Republican opposition. Obama said in

Elkhart that day that if his stimulus plan failed, he'd likely be a one-term president. Pence put it like this: "What the American people are tired of is runaway federal spending. I believe the American people rejected that under Republican control, and I believe that's the reason why support for this stimulus bill is collapsing by the hour. The American people know we can't borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing economy."

So there is historic continuity between Pence and Obama as opponents -- even more so with Pence since he stood up against some of the unfunded Bush era follies. Pence has been a long-time critic of our last two presidents and represents the essence of the Tea Party movement.

This is why Pence is so torn. He knows that there is a historic calling at hand that may never come his way again. His rhetoric has been consistent and now the events of his time are sliding into his zone. It may never happen again. He could use the presidential campaign to be a major player on the epic stage, or he could be a bit player as Indiana governor, keeping his powder dry for a day that may never come.

There is even political cover in such a risky strategy. If Pence runs and doesn't win the presidential nomination, he probably will know before the Indiana filing deadline. He could run for the presidency, give it his best shot, and still

keep his congressional seat if he fails. He certainly would make many vice presidential short lists.

Congressman Pence, history is calling. ❖



**U.S. Rep. Mike Pence appeared on a Politico webcast Wednesday but declined an offer to announce his political future.**

## **Pence decision 'by end of the month'**

**By BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - We await word.

From Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., who is supposed to announce his decision sometime between now and Monday on whether he will run for president or governor.

And from Gov. Mitch Daniels, who may be presidential timber.

Those in the tightest of circles wear poker faces and don't reveal their cards or return phone calls as of this writing. So here's what I think is happening:

**Mike Pence:** Pence said on a Politico webcast Wednesday, "We're going to meet our deadline by the end of the month. We are sorting out where we can have the best opportunity to serve our conservative values that brought us to Washington in the first place."





When I talked with Pence's Chief of Staff Bill Smith on Tuesday, he indicated that Pence had not made a decision. But whatever his decision will be will come by Monday, which is Jan. 31. Pence's staff did not return phone calls Wednesday and today.

WISH-TV's Jim Shella was reporting on a "Pence for Governor" Facebook page, though there is no content and it isn't clear it was a Pence-sanctioned page.

The Associated Press reported today that Pence "doesn't seem to be signalling to party leaders around the state whether he's made a decision." It also noted that a state ethics law passed last year could throw a wrench into any immediate campaign for governor since it prohibits any political fundraising by candidates for statewide office until the Legislature completes its session in late April. It's possible that Pence could say whether he'll run for president and leave the rest until later, something HPI speculated on last week, pointing to a possible presidential exploratory committee. That would give Pence more time to assess. "By saying what they won't do, it will probably tell us what he will do," said Mike McDaniel, a former state Republican chairman. "If he is going to run for governor, I'm sure there's no hurry for him to actually say it."

What do I think is happening? It appears that Pence has been torn between a date with potential presidential destiny and a somewhat sure thing in a gubernatorial run. Perhaps it's as simple as trading retreats in Williamsburg for Lincoln Day Dinners at Nelson's Golden Glo Port-a-Pit Hall in Wakarusa (OK, I used that same line in 1995 with Dan Quayle). Some in the GOP have to be wondering why - with the path to the Republican gubernatorial nomination cleared - does he tarry? Perhaps it goes beyond making the presidential race. Perhaps he's thinking that a gubernatorial run effectively preempts the other, better potential opportunity in 2012: a place on the GOP ticket. After a gut check, I think Pence comes to his senses, takes the sure thing (the governor's race) and prepares for a 2016 presidential bid when there likely will be an open White House. But I might think something entirely different tomorrow.

**Gov. Mitch Daniels:** President Barack Obama delivered the State of the Union speech Tuesday night, but Obama's potential presidential rival - Gov. Daniels - said he was too busy watching Ohio State beat Purdue, 87-64, to hear the president speak (Sarah Seward, HPI/Franklin). "You caught me. I didn't watch it," Daniels said during a stop at Klondike Middle School in West Lafayette Wednesday.

Daniels said he read accounts of the speech and was disappointed. "There were some hopeful notes I read about in last night's speech, but maybe still not enough

influence on heading off the fiscal crisis that we're heading for like an iceberg in this country," Daniels said. "So, I hope there will be a little more attention paid to that. It seems the president didn't do that last night."

I don't know this for a fact, but I suspect the governor has not been amused with the Pence POTUS dalliance because the Arme-y-Ryun Draft Mike movement mucks up the whole Draft Mitch narrative. There is also the growing feeling that Daniels has been so coy, so "aw-shucks" about it that the whole facade is getting old and has allowed Pence to rush into the vacuum. He needs to give a vivid signal soon - May 1 after the General Assembly sine die could be too late. Watch the Conservative Political



**Gov. Daniels checks out a book at Klondike Elementary School in West Lafayette on Wednesday and admitted he didn't watch President Obama's State of the Union address. (HPI Photo by Megan Banta)**

Action Committee speech on Feb. 11 for Daniels to make a clearer declaration about where he's at. Had Daniels signalled vivid intentions sooner, the whole Pence for president thing would have been rendered moot by now. If Pence chooses the presidential option, that certainly complicates things for the governor.

What do I think is going to happen? I suspect the First Lady is not fully on board with a national campaign. But she wasn't fully on board with the gubernatorial run and has gradually embraced her role. But running for president is so much more intense and that their personal life veil will be lifted. I think that Daniels really wants to make the run, in part due to the same historic call tugging at Mike Pence, but the family dynamic may be delaying a clear signal. ❖



## Time to ponder the 2011 HPI Power 50

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - With four new members of Congress, more than a dozen new Indiana General Assembly members and significant changes in the Daniels administration, there will be significant changes in the 2011 Howey Politics Indiana Power 50.

The Power 50 has been published every year since 1999. The list is designed to weigh and rank the 50 Hoosiers who will most likely have the biggest impact on the coming year. It gauges not only current standing, but expectations.

In 2011, the top newsmakers will come from the Statehouse on the biennial budget process, redistricting, education and local government reforms. We also have municipal elections, so there will be a change of the guard in many cities across the state.

As always, HPI invites readers to weigh in. Feel free to nominate those you think should be on the list, or give us your own list. We will form the 2011 list based on feedback from our readers as well as HPI contributors. Send your nominations to: [bhowey2@gmail.com](mailto:bhowey2@gmail.com).

Normally the Power 50 list is published on the first Thursday of the new year. But with the prospects that Mike Pence will be making announcement this month, we decided to push this year's list back to Thursday, Feb. 3.

### Here is the 2010 HPI Power 50 list:

1. Gov. Mitch Daniels
2. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence
3. U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar
4. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
5. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill
6. Speaker B. Patrick Bauer
7. Senate President David Long

8. Education Supt. Tony Bennett
9. FSSA Commissioner Anne Murphy
10. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman
11. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton
12. U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly
13. U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth
14. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma
15. State Sens. Luke Kenley and Brandt Hershman
16. OMB Director Ryan Kitchell
17. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel
18. Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard
19. Commerce Secretary Mitch Roob
20. State Rep. Randy Borrer
21. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky
22. State Rep. Kreg Battles and State Sen. Connie Lawson

23. Secretary of State Todd Rokita
24. State Rep. Ed DeLaney
25. Treasurer Richard Mourdock
26. Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry
27. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder
28. Earl Goode
29. Marty Morris
30. IMA President Pat Kiely
31. ISTA President Nate Schnelberger
32. Chamber President Kevin Brinegar
33. House Majority Leader Russ Stilwell
34. Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson
35. Budget Director Chris Ruhl
36. Indiana Republican Chairman Murray Clark
37. Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker
38. Mike Gentry, HRCC
39. Kristen Self, HDCC
40. Betsey Burdick and Eric Holcomb
41. Mike Sodrel and Todd Young

42. Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi
43. Matt Greller, Indiana Association of Cities & Towns
44. Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson
45. U.S. Rep. Andre Carson
46. Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott and Lake Sheriff Rogelio Dominguez
47. Attorney General Greg Zoeller
48. Ways & Means Chairman William Crawford
49. Farm Bureau President Don Villwock
50. State Reps. Scott Pelath and Jeff Espich ❖



### 2010 Power List invited to Tea Party

*Partisanship will grip Indiana politics in 2010*

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

INDIANAPOLIS - After a year of economic crisis and turmoil - beginning with the possibility of a second Great Depression and ending with the closest brush to a terror attack since 2001 - 2010 has arrived in what could be the most partisan environment in memory. Politics in America and Indiana is as polarized as we've ever seen it. A recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll showed that despite the bitter divide between Republicans and Democrats, neither party is in good standing today. Only 35 percent viewed Democrats positively and a mere 28 percent liked what they saw of the Republicans. But 41 percent have positive feelings of the Tea Party movement.

HPI spent a good part of this week looking for



The Tea Party movement is the wild card in Indiana politics in 2010. Here is a scene from the April 15, 2009 Statehouse Tea Party. (HPI Photo by A. Walker Shaw)

Hoosier Tea Party leaders. What we've discovered are tribes of disaffected people lashing out. There are close to a dozen Tea Party websites based in Indiana, but no visible or charismatic leadership. A couple of Republican Indiana House candidates - Jim Lucas of Seymour and Wes Robinson of...

See Page 3

### Legislative timelines

By **KATIE COFFIN**

INDIANAPOLIS - As the Senate convened for the first time in 2010, President Pro Tempore David Long, R-Fort Wayne, said he expected the legislature to be in a "dead sprint" this short session and that he hoped for a "prosperous" year for the state. Leadership in the House has also implied that this could be an even shorter session.

While there are some reasons why legislators would want to call it quits early, among them being the looming elections, some aren't buying into the hype. Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said he would be "sorely disappointed" if the General Assembly hurries out of session in the middle of the greatest economic downturn since the Depression. He said he does not fore-



**"What's so wrong with the system right now is it costs \$1.20 roughly to give away a dollar. We ought to devote the money we save to the poor people."**

- STATE REP. ED DELANEY, on his bill to abolish townships



## Biden talks electric cars in Greenfield

By **MIKE ROBERTSON**

GREENFIELD - Vice President Joe Biden made a visit to Indiana on Wednesday to tout the role of clean energy in the automotive industry's future.

Biden made a visit to Ener1 Inc., which designs and creates energy solutions for large-format lithium-ion battery technology. Those batteries are used primarily in electric and hybrid cars. "The future starts off with hybrid automobiles, battery-operated automobiles, and partially battery-operated automobiles," Biden said.

Biden's remarks come as President Barack Obama and some federal lawmakers renew their push for clean energy.

Biden said the impact of clean energy solutions would be economic as well as environmental.

"Right now were importing \$400 billion of oil a year," Biden said. "Imagine if we had that money to invest in our own country."

Obama addressed the issue in his State of the Union address Tuesday. "With more research and incentives, we can break our dependence on oil with biofuels, and become the first county to have a million electric vehicles on the road by 2015," Obama said.

Biden said government incentives may be the only way to drive that number up in any significant way.

"We propose a change of what is now an existing \$7,500 tax credit to an immediate \$7,500 rebate, where you get a check for \$7,500 for those who invest in battery-operated automobiles," Biden said.

**The issue of clean energy** is being addressed outside the Obama administration, as well.

On Tuesday U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar introduced the "Dual Fuel Vehicles Bill of 2011," which would provide vehicle owners a choice in fueling options in the future.

"In order to rapidly decrease our dependence on imports of foreign oil, we must expand domestic energy production from strategic resources like biofuels and from unrecovered domestic oil reserves," Lugar said. ❖

## Bill would limit teacher contracts to wages, benefits

By **SUZANNAH COUCH**

INDIANAPOLIS - Contract negotiations between teachers' unions and their school corporations would be limited to salaries and benefits such as health care under a bill approved by a state Senate committee Wednesday.

This strips away teachers' ability to negotiate other issues such as how evaluations are conducted and layoffs are determined, which textbooks are used and what items teachers receive for their classrooms.

The Senate Pensions and Labor Committee heard from supporters and opponents of the proposal, which is a key part of Gov. Mitch Daniels' education reform agenda, during a hearing Wednesday morning.

Author Sen. Luke Kenley, R-No-blesville, presented Senate Bill 575 to the committee. "Teachers should be highly respected, valued and rewarded financially for the important contribution they make to our society," Kenley said. "But it is not the goal of the system to satisfy the employee at the cost of failure of the system."

But Sen. Timothy Skinner, D-Terre Haute, said the bill "silences teachers' voices."

Jefferson High School special education teacher Diana Koger said she is against Kenley's proposal. Koger said the bill would allow school boards to make final decisions on salaries if no decision is made with the teachers in 30 days. Koger said this could mean a cut in salaries.

Koger said collective bargaining helps ensure teachers have the textbooks they need, the free time it takes to prepare for classes and other items it takes to successfully run a classroom, such as intercoms.

**She encouraged the committee** members to follow her around her high school to show that the unions work within schools. "I'm not lazy, I'm not overpaid and I deserve what I have," Koger said.

John Ellis, the executive director of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, said he supports Kenley's bill. He said many Indiana superintendents have told him they would like to see teacher collective bargaining eliminated.

Sen. Richard Young, D-Milltown, told Ellis he is concerned that teachers would have no say in how their subject matters are taught, and could face repercussions if they complain about working conditions.

Ellis said that the bill does not outlaw discussion; it just removes those conversations from the collective bargaining process. Teachers would be protected if they





were to discuss work conditions with a superintendent or the state Department of Education.

The bill passed on a 7-2 vote. Kenley said he hopes the bill will not undergo significant changes as it advances through the legislative process. ❖

## Vote centers on a fast track

By **SHELBY SALAZAR**

INDIANAPOLIS — A measure that would allow counties to use centralized polling places is on the fast track to final passage, clearing an Indiana House panel on Wednesday after gaining the state Senate's approval last week.

"As you look at this bill, please keep in mind this is not a mandate," said the bill's author, Rep. Randy Truitt, R-West Lafayette. "This is an opportunity, or a potential, for true government modernization."

A voting center is a location where any person who is registered to vote in that county can cast their ballot, regardless of the precinct in which they live.

Truitt told the House elections committee that the bill will help counties save money because voting centers require fewer workers and less equipment. It will also make voting more convenient for several groups of people, including the elderly, he said.

Voting centers have been tested in the "pilot" counties of Tippecanoe, Wayne, and Cass. Officials in each of these counties said they cannot imagine going back to traditional precinct polling locations.

Linda Phillips, the county clerk in Tippecanoe County, testified to positive results that voting centers have had. She has found that more people are coming out to vote, including rural voters.

"More rural voters actually voted in voting centers than their rural precincts," said Phillips.

Voting centers in Tippecanoe County were set up in nursing homes as well, which Phillips said drew more positive feedback. Senior citizens found it was more convenient and appreciated the chance to vote in person again, she said.

Officials from Cass and Wayne counties echoed Phillips, saying their counties experienced similarly positive results.

"The big convenience is that you can't show up at the wrong polling place," said Julia Vaughn, policy director for Common Cause/Indiana.

None of the proposed amendments by Rep. John Barlett, D-Indianapolis, Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, and Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh D-Crown Point, passed. Each failed in a 5-8 vote, with Democrats voting yes and Republicans voting no. The bill passed, 10-3.

## Medicaid to rise despite cuts

By **JESSICA WRAY**

INDIANAPOLIS – State officials say even though they plan to shed some of the optional services that are currently offered, they need more funding for Medicaid overall.

Michael Gargano, secretary of Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, told the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday that Medicaid enrollment is growing while state finances are tightening.

The state expects to spend \$1.7 billion on Medicaid in each of the two years that will be covered by Indiana's next budget, he said.

Indiana is losing about \$600 million in federal stimulus dollars devoted to Medicaid over the last two years. Therefore, though the Daniels administration is only seeking a \$135 million increase in Medicaid funding over the next two years, that's actually new state spending that amounts to \$294 million for fiscal year 2012 and \$438 million for 2013. "That's what we've sent to the budget committee," spokesman Marcus Barlow said.

State lawmakers said there is little doubt Medicaid funding should be increased in the next two-year budget.

"The increases are needed because we're definitely seeing more people that are needing services, said Rep. Cherrish Pryor, D-Indianapolis. "The more money that we're able to put in as a state, the more money we can leverage from the federal government, which is always good."

Gargano told the committee that FSSA, as part of the governor's recommendation, proposes to eliminate optional Medicaid services such as chiropractic, podiatry and dental, for about \$13 million total potential savings in fiscal year 2012, which begins July 1, 2011 and ends June 30, 2012.

The federal government has tight regulations on Medicaid, and one of the only areas that state governments have the ability to cut within are optional Medicaid services, he said.

That proposal has met some resistance from Ways and Means Chairman Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, and especially Democrats. "I think we're going to have concerns, in particularly the impact it's going to have on people that are using Medicaid, the potential loss of services that are being provided," Pryor said.

Medicaid is not the only program to see large increases in enrollment. The Healthy Indiana Plan covers uninsured adults who do not qualify for Medicaid. There are more than 42,000 people enrolled, with more 55,000 people on the waiting list.

Seema Verma, the FSSA official who runs the plan, told the committee that spending has exceeded revenues, and that FSSA has had to draw from HIP surplus funds. ❖



## Welcome to Indiana ... Suckers

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Because the Illinois General Assembly decided - finally - to pay its bills, Indiana politicians swoop like vultures to claw away jobs.

This isn't the most noble or effective job creation plan for Indiana.

Purdue economic development expert Ed Morrison calls the effort "hopelessly out of date" and "out of step with what the global competitive realities are."



However, it follows the Golden Rule of state cooperation: "Do unto your neighboring state before it does unto you."

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is gleeful over the Illinois decision to pay down its crushing debt and balance its budget with corporate and individual income tax increases.

Daniels sees it as an opportunity to lower Indiana's high unemployment rate by scavenging jobs from a tax-happy neighbor.

In a Chicago radio interview, Our Man Mitch quipped that having Illinois as a neighbor "is like living next door to 'The Simpsons,' you know, the dysfunctional family down the street."

Not a bad laugh line for Daniels, whose satirical humor will be featured as the Republican speaker at the Washington Gridiron Dinner. He will trade quips with some guy from Illinois who now resides in the White House.

But was that any way for Mitch to talk about Illinois government, what with the most recent former Illinois governors so prominent in the news? Former Gov. George Ryan, disgraced, is trying to get out of prison. Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, impeached, is trying to stay out of prison.

**Ryan and Blago declined** to pay their administration bills. The Illinois debt climbed amid "creative" budgeting and bragging about no income tax increase. Illinois had the lowest individual income tax rate in the nation, just 3 percent.

Now, it goes to 5 percent. The Illinois corporate rate goes up also by a couple percentage points in this day of fiscal reckoning.

It's the corporate hike especially that inspires Indiana politicians to urge Illinois businesses to take a hike across the border in quest of a rate that's a little lower.

A letter from Indianapolis Mayor Gregory Ballard, urging Illinois business leaders to consider moving to his

city is featured in a full-page ad placed in The Chicago Tribune and Springfield and Peoria newspapers.

In the ad, featuring an attractive view of the Indianapolis skyline, Ballard tells Illinois business execs:

**"As you consider the effect of large,** new state tax increases on your company's bottom line and ability to hire, I invite you to take a serious look at Indianapolis. The nation's 13th largest city is right next door, offering the same Midwestern work ethic and conveniences - but in a much more stable, affordable and pro-growth economic environment."

Billboards in Chicago may follow.

Whether or not Illinois businesses are lured, the publicity about this back home in Indiana will be a plus for Ballard, who is running for re-election as mayor.

Comparing state tax rates is tricky.

For example, Marion County (Indianapolis) has a hefty county option income tax tacked on to the state rate. So, an Illinois exec could find the total Indianapolis individual rate higher than the new Illinois rate. Then there's that extra restaurant tax for Lucas Oil Stadium and Indiana Convention Center expansion.

Also, according to The Chicago Tribune, the Illinois corporate income tax formula enables more than two-thirds of corporations to avoid payment of that tax.

Still, total tax paid in most of Illinois no doubt is higher than what is paid in most of Indiana.

But taxes aren't the only thing considered in deciding where to locate.

Indiana economist Morton J. Marcus wrote in a Howey Politics Indiana column that the state shows "dangerous neglect" with service cuts, education woes, streets and roads "in poor to dismal repair" and ancient sewerage systems.

**Marcus also noted that Indiana** is avoiding paying its bills for underfunded pensions and the \$2 billion owed to the federal government for unemployment compensation borrowing.

"Nevertheless, this is the Indiana to which we hope to attract Illinois residents and businesses," the economist wrote.

Illinois once was known as "the sucker state," with various reasons cited for the nickname, some fishy.

With that nickname in mind, the appeal to Illinois businesses execs perhaps should include: "Welcome to Indiana, Suckers." ❖

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



## In Indiana if it's broke, throw it out

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana's new policy is "If it is broken, throw it out." We applied that policy to township assessors and now we are applying it to township government. Soon we may do the same to urban school districts.

When something is not working as it should, what do you do? Kick it or bang it, thinking a good jarring will restore proper functioning? Examine it, diagnose the operation of its parts, seek to fix the faulty mechanism? Rid yourself of the offending thing and get a new one. Or, do without whatever the thing was intended to do?

Not long ago, similar homes in the same Indiana county were assigned very different values. Assessments seemed arbitrary and subjective. Township assessors' offices were ripe with opportunities for nepotism, excessive spending, and sweetheart assessments. The legislature's solution: get rid of township assessors, except in a few instances.

County assessors assumed the responsibilities of township assessors. Most often the township assessors were hired into the county assessors' offices. Those township assessors who ran low-cost, efficient, and equitable operations were bundled in with the inept and the crooks.

Rather than carefully auditing the activities in each township assessor's office, Indiana chopped down the institution. We did not expose the crooks or offer up the inept for public scrutiny. Worse, when the scythe cuts through, the healthy plants fall with the diseased.

**Now township** trustees and their advisory boards face their turn. Again there are charges of mismanagement and malfeasance. Instead of investigating, exposing, and prosecuting, we will eradicate township government.

Yes, too many local governments infest Indiana. We do not, however, establish criteria for consolidating governments or

coordinating governmental functions. In the case of townships, we are instructed to abandon their activities to the counties.

Likewise, large inner-city school corporations are under attack. The fact that such schools are the depositories for society's poorest and most afflicted populations is well understood, but not forgiven. Instead of seeking to improve these schools, we rush to put them out of business.

**A proposal before the legislature** offers vouchers for use in private schools. For students from households with less than \$42,000 income, the vouchers would be worth 90 percent of the per-pupil state aid formerly received by the school the student leaves. Statewide, such vouchers would average more than \$6,000 per student per year. In the Indianapolis Public Schools, the amount would be in excess of \$7,800 per student for private tuition.

The amount of the voucher (and the commensurate decrease in state aid to the public school) goes down as the student's household income rises. For a student from a household with income from \$42,000 to \$84,000 the voucher is 50 percent of per-student aid, falling to 25 percent when the student comes from a household with income between \$84,000 and \$105,000. This insidious idea presumes a school with poor students can give up a larger part of its state aid than can a school with a wealthy clientele.

**This program destroys** the public school economy. If 10 students leave an elementary school, how much less money is needed to run that school and its buses? Will the heating costs decline for the building? Will fewer teachers be required?

We don't like the performance of inner-city schools so we devise a program to destroy them. We don't approve of the behavior of township officials, so we legislate them out of existence. We don't feel comfortable with the assessment of our homes, so we dismiss township assessors.

If it doesn't work, break it. If it is broken, throw it out. Never fix anything. Will that be the next motto on our license plates? ❖

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



Morton Marcus  
Column

### JOBLESS RATES



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Star



## Sabato, Howey combine on 2010 election book 'Pendulum Swing'

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. – The University of Virginia Center for Politics released its latest book, *Pendulum Swing*, drawing on the collective wisdom of nearly two dozen of the nation's top political analysts, journalists, and academics for comprehensive analysis of the 2010 midterm elections and the subsequent policy implications.

This timely publication by Center for Politics Director Larry Sabato and a national team of contributing experts delves into the overlooked details of the 2010 elections. Looking back at the titanic political shift in Washington, DC and around the nation, the authors explore how that shift could affect the 2012 presidential election. The book is the newest in an ongoing annual election series developed by the Center for Politics and published by Pearson/Longman publishers ([www.pearsonhighered.com](http://www.pearsonhighered.com)).

"The 2010 midterm election was one of the most significant in modern American history. The voters spoke emphatically and what they said will have great consequences for years to come. This is an election that deserves extensive treatment, and that is what we have tried to deliver in *Pendulum Swing*," Sabato said.

Separating political myth from reality, *Pendulum Swing* tackles topics such as the Tea Party, campaign finance, health care, the economy, the role of the media, each party's political strategies, and how those factors contributed to the Republican wave last November.

Howey wrote about the Indiana U.S. Senate race.

### Contributing authors include:

Dr. Alan Abramowitz, Alben W. Barkley Professor of Political Science at Emory University and senior columnist for Larry Sabato's "Crystal Ball"

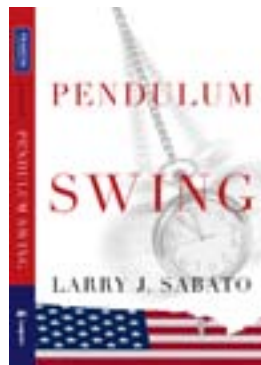
Rhodes Cook, Editor of the Rhodes Cook Letter and senior columnist for Larry Sabato's "Crystal Ball"

Dr. Thad Beyle, Thomas J. Pearsall Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina

Isaac Wood, Director of Communications at U.Va.'s Center for Politics and Editor of the "Crystal Ball"

Dr. Michael Cornfield, The Michael Cornfield Company; Adjunct Professor of Political Management, The George Washington and George Mason University

Michael Toner, Former Chairman of the FEC; cur-



rently Head of the Election Law and Government Ethics Practice at Bryan Cave LLP

Dr. Diana Owen, Associate Professor of Communication, Culture, and Technology at Georgetown University

Dr. Jack Pitney, Crocker Professor of Politics at Claremont McKenna College

Dr. Seth Masket, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Denver

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Jon Ralston, Political columnist at the Las Vegas Sun and host of the TV program "Face to Face with Jon Ralston"

Dr. Dante Scala, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of New Hampshire

Dr. Jeffrey Stonecash, Maxwell Professor of Political Science at Syracuse University

Jonathan Riskind, Washington Bureau Chief of the Columbus Dispatch

Joe Hallett, Senior Editor of the Columbus Dispatch

Dr. G. Terry Madonna, Director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs; and Professor of Public Affairs at Franklin and Marshall College

Steve Peoples, Former political reporter for the Providence Journal; now National Political Reporter for Roll Call

John O'Connor, Political columnist at The State newspaper

Jay Root, Political reporter at the Associated Press research, pragmatic analysis, and innovative educational programs. ❖



**Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana:** On Wednesday, I watched while Cass Township officials began making funeral arrangements for the township government. Aware of the increasing calls for elimination of township government, Trustee Tim Guse and the township board began the estate planning for their beloved dependent, Wanatah School. "If we wait, we might not have any options, and then what happens?" Guse asked Wednesday during the township board meeting. LaPorte County's Cass Township is the last in Northwest Indiana and one of a tiny handful in Indiana where the township government still runs the local school. Because Wanatah School is kindergarten through eighth grade, the township's high school students are given vouchers from the township to attend school elsewhere. The status quo is popular, but pressure to eliminate township government is forcing the township to seek consolidation with Dewey Prairie Consolidated School Corp., which operates LaCrosse School. LaCrosse High School has one of the smallest enrollments in the state. Combined with Cass Township, the new school district would have fewer than 500 students. That's a far cry from the 2,000 students the bipartisan Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform — commonly referred to as the Kernan-Shepard commission — would require as a minimum size for school districts. Guse acknowledges this. "This (merger with Dewey Prairie) could potentially be a steppingstone," Guse said. But for now, it allows Cass Township residents to keep their beloved school, the center of Wanatah's social life. "We don't want to be a ghost town," Guse said. "We want to grow and thrive." Next step is to enter into formal consolidation talks with Dewey Prairie school board officials and approve a joint resolution for the merger between Jan. 31 and Feb. 2. That sets up the opportunity for a petition drive to challenge the merger. If 20 percent of Cass Township's registered voters oppose the merger, it would be on the ballot May 3 for the referendum that even the township officials pushing for the merger want. And if the merger is shot down at the polls? Expect the Indiana General Assembly to address this issue next year. That's the value of approving the merger now, even before knowing whether township government will be eliminated. ❖

**Rich James, Post-Tribune:** When the state of Illinois raised its personal income tax by 66 percent and corporate income tax by 46 percent a week or so ago, Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard sprang into action. In less than a week, Ballard had full-page ads running in three Illinois newspapers, including one in Chicago. "Dear Illinois business leader," Ballard said in the ad. "As you consider the impact of large, new state tax increases on your company's bottom line and ability to hire, I invite you to take a

serious look at Indianapolis. The nation's 13th largest city is right next door, offering the same Midwestern work ethic and conveniences -- but in a much more stable, affordable and pro-growth economic environment." I'd say the good mayor got his foot in the door. While Ballard was acting, Northwest Indiana was, well, holding a meeting. That's not surprising. Northwest Indiana holds lots of meetings, largely because the region lacks a leader -- a go-to guy when a command decision is needed. The NWI Forum, the Construction Advancement Foundation and the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority were the local agencies who huddled to discuss the Illinois tax situation. Don't get me wrong, I'm glad they took the initiative to meet. But something is missing in Northwest Indiana -- a rather big void, if you will. The Forum, CAF and the CVA are just three of a multitude of organizations across Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. While each of those three agencies has its own mission -- or some would say turf to protect -- they don't represent the totality of Northwest Indiana. ❖



**Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union:**

This week, in a largely symbolic gesture, the United States House of Representatives repealed the health care measure passed by the last Congress. I say it's symbolic because the Senate likely will not pass the bill, and even in the highly unlikely event that it did, the bill would surely be vetoed by President Obama. Nonetheless, I think the discussions of the healthcare bill remain valid. There are lots of reasons - constitutional and otherwise - to oppose the flawed health insurance law that is commonly known as Obamacare. But I want to focus this week on something that has not been at the forefront of the discussion. Aside from all its other flaws and foibles, Obamacare constitutes one of the largest tax increases in history. Americans for Tax Reform recently published a comprehensive list of tax hikes in Obamacare. I've been watching both sides of the debate. One side says Obamacare will reduce the deficit. The other side says Obamacare will increase the deficit. One side says it will create jobs. The other side says it will kill jobs. I frankly don't know who to believe. But based on this information from ATR, I think we can be pretty sure of one thing about Obamacare. It's going to cost us.

**Andrea Neal, Indianapolis Star:** A public school teacher I know makes the claim that teachers would consent to performance pay for their profession if state legislators accepted merit pay for theirs. As a practical matter, the two careers aren't comparable. Teachers work full-time and can be assessed on results achieved by students in individual classrooms. Legislators are part-time and their work product comes from majority rule. ❖





## Daniels says highway under budget, head of schedule

By SARAH SEWARD

LOGANSPORT - Gov. Mitch Daniels met with Indiana Department of Transportation officials here Wednesday and reported that the Hoosier Heartland Corridor was under budget and ahead of schedule.



The Hoosier Heartland Corridor is a high priority project funded by the federal stimulus package and Major Moves that aims to connect Lafayette, Ind. to, eventually, Toledo, Ohio, via State Road 21.

"Of all the 200+ projects that the Major Moves effort has made possible, this may be my very favorite," said Daniels, "and it's way ahead of schedule and it's under budget so we're going to keep pushing ahead with it because of the way it's going to link some of our great towns starting in Lafayette, Delphi, Logansport and Peru and Wabash." The project began in 2008 and was supposed to finish in 2015, but Gov. Daniels reported Wednesday that it would be finished by 2013, at the latest. He cited out of the box thinking from workers as the reason for the early completion date.

"The schedule has been accelerated dramatically over the last few years. These guys are doing a great job," said Daniels. He added that \$18.75 million in federal money was granted for work on the highway but since the project is progressing at a faster rate than anticipated, it will cost 3.77 million dollars less than expected.



According to Will Wingfield of INDOT, competition among construction companies for work on the project has made the project cheaper.

Daniels said the importance of this project lies in it building economic growth as well as making State Road 21 safer. "More than anything the Hoosier Heartland is a great example of how public investment in quality transportation infrastructure trigger job growth and economic growth," said Daniels. The project also will make safe what Daniels calls "one of the most dangerous roads in the state."

## Man arrested after threats to Donnelly

SOUTH BEND - Federal authorities have charged a Granger man with threatening U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly and his South Bend office staff (South Bend Tribune). Brett Keiling, 46, of the 10000 block of Anderson Road, called Donnelly's downtown South Bend office Monday and told a

staff member that everyone in the office had been "back-stabbing him," according to an affidavit from FBI special agent Robert Dane. The employee tried to rationalize with Keiling, but he continued to threaten her, saying, "I am going to come and back stab you. I mean literally come down and stab you." The woman told the FBI that she thought the threat was directed at her, the rest of the staff and Donnelly, D-2nd. Keiling regularly calls the Donnelly headquarters and the FBI's South Bend office to discuss current events in the media, and is "routinely irrational, confrontational and uses vulgar language," Dane wrote in his affidavit. The FBI and St. Joseph County police Monday night arrested Keiling at his home and booked him into the county jail, where he was held without bond.

## Bill would tamp referendum speech

INDIANAPOLIS - An Indiana House committee on Wednesday approved a measure that would prohibit



teachers and other school employees from advertising a position on a school referendum, including discussing it in class or wearing a button that mentions the issue (Casey, HPI/Franklin). Rep. Cindy Noe, R-Indianapolis, said she introduced House Bill 1238 to address complaints from taxpayers that school referendum advertising hurt the education of their children. She said the bill would make operational referenda more consistent with current state law regarding capital referenda. Joan Laskowski, vice president of legislation for the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, said the bill might violate the Constitution. "I am concerned that this bill would violate freedom of speech," said Laskowski, who said she is speaking for herself, not the ACLU, which has not yet arrived at a position. The bill would allow superintendents or designees to promote the referenda only at community organizations if invited to speak. "We are trying to provide transparency so that neither side [of the issue] has the upper hand," said Noe.

## **Charter schools would get buildings**

INDIANAPOLIS - A Senate committee Wednesday approved a bill that would allow charter schools to seize unused public school buildings (Casey, HPI/Franklin). The Senate Education and Career Development Committee also debated and amended bills that would give school systems the right to issue first-year teachers short-term probationary contracts and that would allow high school seniors to graduate a year early. The committee approved Senate Bill 446, 8-0. The bill would allow charter schools to seize unused school building space from the traditional public corporations. Sen. Scott Schneider, R-Indianapolis, and Sen. Carlin Yoder, R-Middlebury, co-authored the bill. With the amendments

added Wednesday, the Department of Education would be required to keep a list of unused school buildings. The list would have to be updated annually. Charter schools looking to acquire the space would have to submit a request to the DOE and enter into a lease. The charter school also would have to use the space for classroom instruction, not storage. Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, asked about the procedure for when the charter school is finished with the building.

## **Goodnight reports \$212K cash on hand**

KOKOMO - Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight's campaign reported \$212,709 cash on hand at the end of 2010, including \$81,528 raised last year. On Friday, January 21, 2011, Mayor Goodnight formally filled his paperwork declaring his candidacy as a Democrat for a second term in office.

## **Henry says Fort Wayne is strong**

FORT WAYNE - Even while suffering through a national recession, Fort Wayne is in a strong position to grow, Mayor Tom Henry said Wednesday. Henry gave his fourth State of the City address in front of a packed auditorium at the downtown Allen County Public Library. "Yes, we have experienced the full impact of one of the country's worst recessions, but I can report today that the city's fiscal standing is sound," he said.

## **Obama seeks to curtail coal**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The Obama administration's proposal for protecting streams from coal mining would eliminate thousands of jobs

and curtail mining across much of the country.

The job and production losses are outlined in an Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement document obtained by The Associated Press. The rules are supposed to replace Bush-era regulations aimed largely at Appalachian surface mining (Associated Press). The document outlines changes that OSM estimates would slash more than 9,000 jobs and production from surface and underground mines in 22 states. OSM had no immediate comment. But mining states and the mining industry say they're deeply disappointed.

## **Economic outlook brightens in survey**

WASHINGTON — Employers will hire more workers this year, and the economy will grow faster than envisioned three months ago, according to an Associated Press survey that found growing optimism among leading economists. But unemployment will stay chronically high — nearly 9 percent by year's end, the latest quarterly AP Economy Survey shows. A majority of economists say it will be 2016 or later before unemployment drops to a historically normal rate of around 5 percent. Economists have become more confident 19 months after the worst recession since the Great Depression ended. Lower Social Security taxes and higher stock prices will embolden Americans to spend more and help power the economy, they say. "People will finally recognize that an economic recovery is under way," said Lynn Reaser, a board member of the National Association for Business Economics. "This won't be a recovery seen only by economists."