

INGOP presses Gregg on Clinton

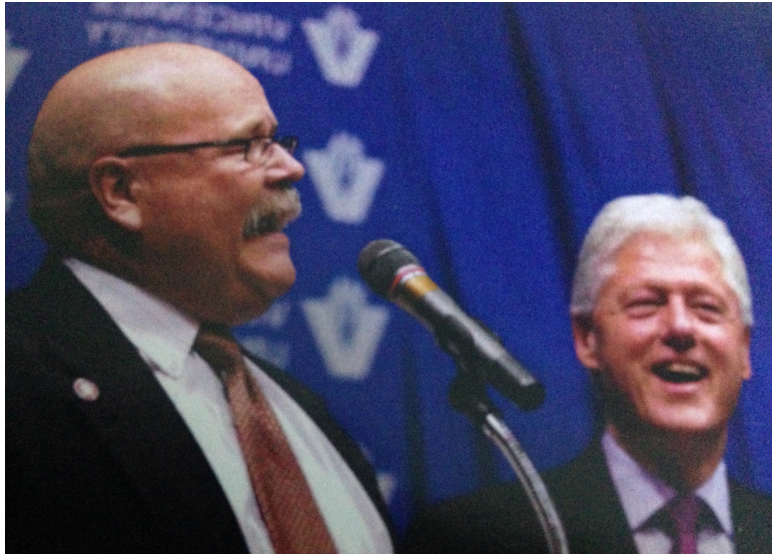
Democrat won't rule out campaigning with Hillary, but says GOP trying to 'nationalize' the race

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

BATTLE GROUND, Ind. – In April 2008 in the midst of an intense Indiana presidential primary, the question for John Gregg might have been “boxers or briefs?”

Eight years removed, the question all inquiring Republicans want to know is whether the Democratic gubernatorial nominee will ever take the stage with Hillary Clinton. In an election cycle where both presidential nominees have historic negatives

and unfavorables, both Gregg and Gov. Mike Pence are on record as supporting their presidential nominees. But Pence has been more upfront with Donald Trump, who had a 70% unfavorable rating in the ABC/Washington Post Poll last week and is losing support among Republicans in a



Democrat John Gregg campaigned with President Bill Clinton on behalf of Hillary Clinton in the 2008 Indiana Democratic presidential primary.



Fox News Poll today (see page 20), while Gregg has been more circumspect with Clinton, whose negatives were at 55% in the ABC/Post poll.

Indiana Democrats don't have to link Pence to Trump. The governor did that himself two days after the May 3 primary, when he said in Terre Haute he would support and campaign with Trump. But John Gregg has,

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Gregg's health care scare

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – From the day John Gregg declared he was running for governor in 2011, that one issue, legislator health care for life, was one of those stirring in the shadows. That it would take Indiana Republicans until late June 2016 to make some hay out of it is one of those “who'd a thunk it” riddles that makes Hoosier politics so interesting.



Indiana House Republicans have confirmed that the former House speaker and his family have received \$239,110.54 in employer matched health care coverage since Jan. 1, 2006.

It was an extension to a



“I have indicated multiple times that every day that goes by is one day less to campaign. He is attempting to overturn the will of the people. I won the primary.”

- 8th CD Democrat Ron Drake on David Orentlicher and a recount that hasn't begun.



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2002 legislative package, forged in the final hours of Gregg's speakership, that gave all legislators free health care for life. By 2003, I was getting regular phone calls from former Gov. Bob Orr, venting at both Gregg and then Senate President Bob Garton, who in the wee hours on the final day of a June special session pulled the proverbial "fast one."

In January 2006, when Republican Speaker Brian Bosma ascended to that office, he administratively ended the health-care-for-life program, according to his spokeswoman, Erin Reece, who confirmed the employer match numbers for Howey Politics Indiana. The program was statutorily repealed in 2007.

Since 2006, some 29 former House and Senate members – or their spouses – are receiving state-subsidized benefits, including former Republican Sens. Murray Clark, Larry Borst and Garton, costing taxpayers \$6 million.

The story appears to be a precursor to a Republican Governors Association TV ad that will debut on July 5 on behalf of Gov. Mike Pence's reelection campaign.

With Gov. Pence's reelect numbers, according to multiple sources, in the commode, he needed that silver bullet to pierce through the din and create a badly needed buzz while damaging Gregg. The notion that Pence had to use the issue in June is a telling statement about how shaky the ground is under his feet.

Health care for life came up in only cursory fashion during the 2012 campaign against Gregg. Most observers believed Pence would easily cruise past Gregg, or win in a landslide, so they never put that bullet in the chamber. With the Pence reelect in obvious trouble, the option of waiting until voters are much more engaged in October appears to be a luxury.

But after Abdul-Hakim Shabazz broke the story in Republican attack dog fashion Tuesday evening, and it was validated by the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette's Niki Kelly Wednesday morning, we learned that the

Republican Governors Association was making a statewide buy. So the issue is coming into your living room on July 5.

"John Gregg's decision to provide himself and his family taxpayer-funded health insurance for life, while at the same time slashing education spending, cutting state services, and freezing the salaries of state employees, proves that he is no fiscal conservative," said Marc Lotter, deputy campaign manager for Gov. Pence's reelection bid. "At a time when our state is seeking funding to expand Gov. Pence's Pre-K program and increase career and technical education in our schools, it is a shame that taxpayers have already paid \$200,000



Then House Speaker John Gregg with Republican Paul Mannweiler. Both are receiving health care from the state. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

to date and an estimated \$36,000 this year alone for lobbyist John Gregg's health insurance."

The Gregg campaign responded, with spokesman Jeff Harris, saying, "The facts are that John Gregg and Republicans in the state legislature passed bipartisan legislation to update the health insurance lawmakers received. When he retired after 16 years of service in 2002, he enrolled in the plan and paid premiums to do so." The \$239,000 figure is an employer match.

Harris also noted that Pence has been on taxpayer-funded health care for much of his career as gov-

error and a congressman for 12 years. Gregg said in a 2003 report, "I didn't have any problem signing off on it. I think it's a benefit that's deserved. It was already the law. We just hadn't gone ahead with it." The Pence office and campaign were asked to release any government match for health coverage he receives from the state and federal government and has not responded.

Indiana Republican Chairman Jeff Cardwell also weighed in, saying of Gregg, "He avoids taking responsibility, but the facts are clear: He was a leader in this effort to give himself, his family and other legislators free health care for life at the expense of Indiana taxpayers, and even shamefully called the perk well-deserved."

The law was passed in the final hours of a June 2002 special session, with Gregg joining Garton in the effort. It induced a great deal of controversy once the implications were assessed in 2003. The legislation passed late in the process that was dominated by a property tax reform package. Gregg would say of Garton and Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst at the time, "Garton and Borst apparently patched things up and worked together. No kidding, Garton is tops. He is the most underestimated guy in the place. If I were in a foxhole and could pick only a handful, Bob G. would be one of them."

Garton was defeated in the Republican primary in 2006 by current Sen. Greg Walker, with that issue surfacing during the campaign along with Right to Life and Right to Work. Borst was defeated in the GOP primary in 2004.

When current Senate President David Long replaced Garton, he ended the program in the upper chamber.

So health care for life has some lethal qualities to it. In 2012, Pence had vowed not to campaign in negative fashion, and he held on for a victory over Gregg by less than 3%.

In the rematch this year, Pence has vowed to contrast his record with Gregg's, and it was inevitable that the health care controversy would surface.

The RGA has clearly become Pence's attack dog. It has spent \$1.47 million on behalf of Pence in June. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reported the RGA has put in more than \$3 million this election cycle. The Democratic Governors Association has given \$526,000 to Gregg's campaign but hasn't run any ads. Jared Leopold, spokesman for the DGA, said they are committed to Gregg's campaign, but wouldn't be specific about when or if the group might get more involved. "It is certainly one we will engage in as time goes on," he said. "It is one of the top gubernatorial races in the country. We will see how this race plays out."

Harris told HPI that the Gregg campaign is in touch with the DGA on a daily basis.

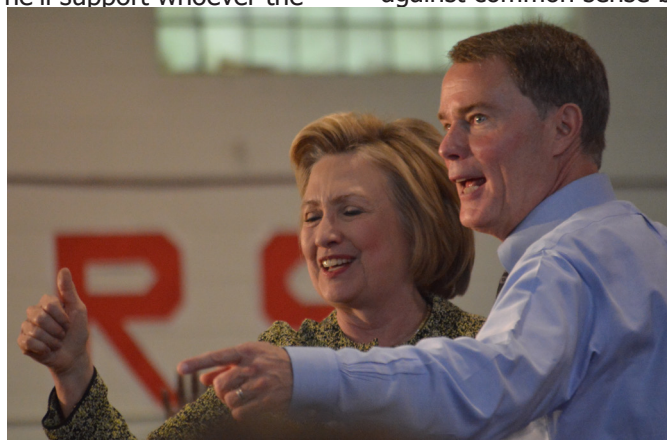
Our sources are telling us the Pence-Gregg rematch is a tossup. The electorate is polarized in what many believe is a referendum on Gov. Pence.

So the governor's allies, sensing the broad mistrust in the "system" and with career politicians, are seeking to spread some of the pain to the jovial challenger. ❖

Gregg & Clinton, from page 1

rhetorically, been much more inconspicuous with Hillary Clinton. "In 2008, John was a private citizen," campaign spokesman Jeff Harris said of the year when the former House speaker was one of 10 honorary co-chairs for Clinton. "This year, he is focused on his race. The two are very different. Once the nominee is determined, there will be opportunities to campaign and he'll support whoever the Democratic nominee is. While it looks like it will be Secretary Clinton, he'll wait for the final determination."

That comes at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in late July. Currently, Clinton has enough delegates to win the nomination and there is virtually no erosion of her standing with super delegates, who put her over the top. But U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders has not folded his campaign, nor has he officially endorsed



Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett with Hillary Clinton at Douglass Park in May. Democrat Rep. Andre Carson and Sen. Joe Donnelly showed up, but not gubernatorial nominee John Gregg. (HPI Photo by Brian

Clinton, though he said last week he planned to vote for her in November, vowing to "do whatever I can" to prevent a Trump presidency.

Pence deputy campaign manager Marc Lotter told Howey Politics, "There's no question that John Gregg and Hillary Clinton are ticket mates and allies. He chaired her 2008 campaign. He maxed out for her during this primary cycle. Given her position on many issues that fall directly against common sense beliefs and the values of Hoosiers, it's important for voters to know."

The Indiana Republican Party released an internet ad this week using coal miners to link Gregg to the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan. That ad was removed from the internet on Tuesday.

With Trump leading Clinton in the WTHR/Howey Politics Indiana Poll in April 47-39%, and in a Bellwether Research Poll in May 40-31%, the prospects for Trump carrying Indiana appear to be far

better. Pence needs Trump voters, many of them voting for the first time, even though an NBC/Wall Street Journal News Poll this week showed that only 45% of Republicans are "satisfied" with the nominee. Today's Fox News Poll revealed that 51% of Republicans want a different nominee.

The Bellwether Poll reveals limits to how much help Trump can give Pence. Trump leads 47% to 28% among men and trails 34% to 35% among women. In 2012, Romney won both men and women in Indiana with a small 5-point gender gap (57% support among men, 52% among women). Trump wins 68% of all Republicans, but among those who say they supported another Republican candidate in the May primary, he gets 44% and 14% support Clinton. There is a 12-point gap between Trump's support among GOP men (74%) and GOP women (62%). Clinton garners 52% from Democrats who say they voted for Sanders in the May 3 primary, while Trump gets 10% of their vote. Trump leads Clinton among independents by a 36%-25% margin with significant undecideds.

When Clinton appeared before the U.S. Conference of Mayors last Sunday, Indiana Republicans would once again note that Gregg did not appear with her, though a speech to a conference doesn't bring out allies like a campaign rally does.

A tale of two Bubbas

While Gregg has supported Clinton in 2008 and again this year, the real political bromance exists between Gregg and former President Bill Clinton.

In 2008, Gregg was preparing to support former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. In his book, "From Sandborn to the Statehouse," Gregg described how he became a Clinton convert. "My law partner and Evan Bayh's right hand man, Joe Hogsett, flopped in my office one day and announced, "Speaker, since Evan is out, we need you to get on the Hillary Clinton bandwagon."

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh had been preparing for the 2008 race but was eclipsed by the rise of Illinois Sen. Barack Obama. He stunned the political world for the first time in late 2006, bowing out of a race that then boiled down to Clinton, Obama and John Edwards.

Gregg described what happened after Hogsett's invitation. "Well, I didn't want to get on the Hillary Clinton bandwagon. If I was going to support one person only, it was going to be Bill Richardson," he wrote. "But as the talking went on, it was obvious Evan wanted me to do that. The Democrats needed somebody from the 8th District in southwestern Indiana, they needed another gun-toting, Bible-quoting, Southern Indiana Democrat, Reagan Democrat, Dixie Democrat, whatever you want to call us. The call had gone out and I answered that clarion call."

What subsequently occurred in the spring of 2008 was a bonding between Gregg and the former president.

"And what fun I did have," Gregg said. "I spent so much time with Bill Clinton I thought it was like (we) were running for county commissioner and county council at-large. I have never had more fun with my clothes on in my life."

The campaign took the pair to Angola, Kendallville, South Bend, Plymouth and in the event nearest and dearest to Gregg's heart, his beloved Vincennes University, where he had served as the interim president. With the future Indianapolis mayor the chief strategist for Hillary Clinton, Gregg begged Hogsett, "Please, please bring Bill Clinton to Vincennes."

In April, it came to pass and Gregg introduced Bill Clinton to about 3,200 people on campus. Gregg would turn to his mother and say, "Mom, you told me all my life to do something special and I want you to know that tonight I'm following your advice, I'm here with the President of the United States. But I want you to know that I put on clean underwear for the event."

For the sake of decorum, Gregg did not reveal whether they were boxers or briefs, as an MTV reporter famously asked Bill Clinton in the 1992 campaign. Clinton was amused, responding, "Gregg, I've been introduced a lot, but never by anybody who bragged that they had on clean underwear."

Gregg noticed that even when Bill Clinton appeared in Republican towns like Kendallville and Plymouth, large crowds turned out. Hoosiers wanted to see a president.

"I witnessed a difference in audience reaction from President Clinton" and Hillary, Gregg said. "It was really noticeable by the time I was with her in Evansville and Terre Haute, I had noticed that when Bill Clinton spoke, how people listened, but when Hillary Clinton spoke they knew she was talking about the future and he had represented the past. People were there to listen to her, people that were holding out hope. Maybe they didn't have the best lives now. Maybe they had lost their jobs. Women of all ages looked at Hillary Clinton, particularly those 40 and up, as if thinking, 'This woman has gone to the top and gone through the glass ceiling.'"

Clinton drag in Indiana?

Conventional wisdom, which has been seriously trashed this year, is that Trump will easily carry Indiana. He won the Indiana primary with 53% and Indiana has gone Democratic only twice since 1964, with Obama winning the state by a little over 25,000 votes over Republican John McCain, 49.9 to 49%.

Thus, it's easy to see why Pence would perceive some cover in aligning with Trump. "I think at the end of the day, you can highlight the favorables or unfavorables as one factor, but when Hoosiers vote, this state will be solidly for the Republican nominee," Lotter said. "As Gov. Pence has said through and after primary process, he has talked about how he needs an ally in Washington for job



creation and being a partner with this state. So as Gov. Pence has said, he will support the Republican nominee."

That means supporting Trump even when he is at his most outrageous, whether it's the proposed Muslim ban or accepting "congrats" after the Orlando massacre. "Gov. Pence has had a long history of making his decision on his terms," Lotter continued. "While there may be specific policy areas of disagreement, he recognizes the overall position of having an ally in the White House. He took positions against President (George W.) Bush, but that didn't mean he was not supportive of overall goals."



Lotter and the Pence campaign believe that Gregg is fleeing Clinton. "She was here last Sunday and he was not anywhere to be seen. I'm not going to speak for his reasons. He is trying not to be seen next to Hillary Clinton."

As the GOP internet ad revealed, Republicans want to link Gregg to Clinton, who took a controversial stance on the Obama/EPA Clean Power Plan. In March she declared, "We're going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business." Democrats say the quote was taken out of context in that she was talking about assisting coal miners as their jobs disappeared.

Republicans both here in Indiana and nationally have attempted to use that against her. However, Indiana has only 2,500 coal miners, and the 57,000 nationwide is at a record low and down from 175,000 in 1985. Indiana's use of coal is also waning, with only 75% of the power coming from coal-fired power plants, down from 90% just a few years ago. The nation is transitioning away from coal to clean power sources.

Republicans are telling voters that because of the Clean Power Plan, energy costs are likely to increase by 20 to 25%. Gregg is campaigning on investing in renewable energy, replacing coal mining jobs with those making solar panels, wind turbines and other emerging technologies.

Hillary Clinton made about a half dozen appearances before the primary and Gregg never joined her. He did attend a Steelworkers rally at the Statehouse that Bernie Sanders spoke at later – they did not appear together – but Harris said that was the nominee showing solidarity with the union.

Would he campaign with her once she wins the nomination?

"It's too early to tell," Harris said. "We don't know if (Indiana) will be targeted race. We're working on our race. We're focused on our race and our schedule. I don't want to speculate."

Is the Gregg campaign fearful of Clinton's negatives? "John is running his own race," Harris responded. "We're running against Mike Pence, while Mike Pence will do everything to nationalize this race. We're going to focus on Mike Pence's record and John Gregg's issues. Every-

thing else is noise."

As for appearing with Clinton, Harris said, "If it supports our message and lays out John Gregg's vision and Mike Pence's record, we'll look at those opportunities."

Democrats say that Gregg is on record "vehemently" opposing the Obama Clean Power Plan. "John has talked about his opposition to what Obama has proposed," Harris said. "But also understanding, while he thinks it goes too far, too fast, he believes that the governor should have brought all the stakeholders together and develop an Indiana plan. Mike Pence is sticking his head in the sand and risking a federal takeover of the process."

Indiana a slam dunk for Trump?

Will Clinton be blown out of Indiana, and potentially taking John Gregg with her? Part of that will be decided by the Clinton campaign's Electoral College map. In 2008, Obama and campaign manager David Plouffe included Indiana in its Electoral College strategy. The Obama campaign had invested in Indiana during the primary, which he lost by a mere 14,000 votes. Obama spent time here, made a number of appearances in the fall, and won the state that November.

In 2012, Obama's Electoral College plan did not need Indiana and he didn't spend or campaign here. He still won 44% of the vote. Several Democratic sources say that had Obama prioritized Indiana and invested in 2012, he would have done much better than 44% and possibly one, claiming credit for saving 150,000 domestic auto industry jobs in the 2009 restructuring. Some of that comes with U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly's victory over Richard Mourdock as evidence that the state could have been competitive. Democrats such as former state chairman Dan Parker believe that Clinton made a serious mistake in not investing and campaigning in Indiana in this year's primary. It prolonged her primary race with Sanders, and she has yet to consolidate Sanders backers. Sanders won the state with 53%, another reason why Gregg has to be careful about alienating Sanders supporters. They are a work in progress.

Had Clinton invested in the primary and had her Electoral College math revealed a need for Indiana's 11 votes, the state could have become competitive. It's why a number of prognosticating sources such as Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball has Indiana in the pale red column as "likely" to go Trump, but not in the right red "safe" Trump states.

At this point, Pence has a greater need in bringing in the Trump voter, although he risks being tied to a loose cannon. One only needs to go to that Donnelly/Murdock debate in late October 2012 to see how a controversial and untimely comment can create severe damage and change maps. **HPI Horse Race Status:** Tossup.



Coleman says police work will help him serve in Congress

By **THOMAS CURRY**

INDIANAPOLIS – In 2014, 96% of Congress was reelected despite having an 11% approval rating. Those odds don't scare Democrat Lynn Coleman, who is hoping that he has an upset brewing vs. Republican Congresswoman Jackie Walorski of the 2nd Congressional District.

Coleman has never run for office before even though he has served decades in public service. The South Bend native and former police officer is running on a message of positivism and sending the voice of those unheard



to Washington in a election year that already has a negative tone, both on the presidential level and here in Indiana's gubernatorial race. In a year when it seems the whole political landscape may change, the iron may be hot for

a political newcomer like Coleman to upset Walorski in a Republican district.

Coleman believes the votes and interest are there, citing endorsements by the Congressional Black Caucus and U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly, which has attracted the attention of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

HPI caught up with Coleman for a phone interview last week, when we talked about himself, what he thinks it will take to win, and what his message is going to be in the fall campaign.

HPI: What made you decide to get into the race?

Coleman: A lot of things ultimately led to the decision. The big thing is that this gives me the opportunity to continue to serve; to be able to advocate for those who don't have a voice or don't have an ear. I have worked and been involved with community work in some capacity for nearly 40 years, from a police officer, to an assistant to the mayor, to community volunteer, to mentor. I have spent that time trying to find ways to help people. This, in my opinion, gives me the opportunity to do that; to take the meaning of service to the next level, to represent people that I feel are under represented and to serve folks who have not been served particularly well.



This is not something that I have always been looking to do or anything like that. I honestly believe that sometimes we are put in a position to do things, and you choose your career and how you are going to do it. Sometimes, your career chooses you. For my entire adult life, working professionally or as a volunteer, I didn't choose it. It chose me. Here I am again with an opportunity to serve and to help others. That's been my life calling. That's why I decided to run.

HPI: Talk a little about your experience as a police officer, as well as your other experiences and how you will apply that to working in Washington. How does it make you different?

Coleman: Police work does a lot of things. Most times, people think it is putting on the uniform, badge and gun and taking people to jail. That's the simplistic understanding of it. Police work gave me an opportunity to meet people and to understand people. It gave me problem solving skills, trying to figure out ways to bring people together to solve problems; to understand why people are going through what they are going through. Police work encompasses an awful lot of stuff. During the eight-hour shift you could be an enforcer, a social worker, a first responder, a counselor, you name it. Police work was extremely important to me. As a police officer I had an opportunity to help the city of South Bend, I helped out with Special Olympics and other work. I worked part time as a security officer for high schools, meeting kids and their families while I tried to help and understand them, keeping them on the straight and narrow. It was never important how many people I could arrest and take to jail, but to see how many people we could keep from taking to

jail. Our government needs people who are willing to understand where others are coming from, people who are willing to listen to others and find solutions, to find answers that are not just the best for them and their political goals. This is not about me, this is not about Lynn Coleman. This is about what is good for the 800,000 people that live in the 2nd District. We are by title

representatives. We represent other people and try to be the best representatives that we can be for the people, not for just some people, not just for a small percentage of people determined by where they live or how much money they make. We should be willing to represent all people, regardless of title. That could be United States veterans, an extremely important group we need to support. That could be people called homeless who need support. That could be our kids who need support. A group of people who don't even have a title are just Hoosiers who deserve to be represented as well. My experiences give me the

comfort to deal with a wide range of people, that's why I do what I do: Make good decisions and connect myself to resources and people who can help us make those decisions.

HPI: What do you think needs to be done about homelessness, for example?

Coleman: In my little neck of the woods there is far too much, too many people on the street with no place to go and with nothing to do. I think it's deeper than just homelessness. Drug addiction is a factor. A lot of homeless people have physiological and mental problems, some because of economic and job issues, not being to work and take care of themselves. A lot of people are homeless because of issues like domestic violence. We see those problems throughout the country. Before we can tackle one issue, we have to look at all the issues that feed into that. We have to figure out what we can do to mitigate some of those problems. All of those things are important. Unfortunately, a lot of homeless are veterans. We have to give them medical and physiological help after they come back from military service to insure they are a productive member of society. A lot of it is because if you are not properly educated, you are less likely to get steady employment and can fall prey to the criminal life and criminal activity. All of these things lead to the potential of being homeless. I think we have to work with local agencies to advocate for that population. We have to find a solution to

those problems because if we don't, we end up paying for it anyway. It is important to me that we try to help them. Does that mean I think we can help everybody? Absolutely not. I just think we have to do a better job of helping people who want to be helped.

HPI: As you say, drug addiction plays a huge part in our homeless problem. What should be done about the meth and heroin problem and what are you hearing about it in your district?

Coleman: We have to figure out what the magnitude of the problem is, not just politically, but from law enforcement. Then we have to provide resources to combat that. The drug problem is a lot bigger than we think. We have to talk about where the drugs come from, how they are manufactured and how we can cut off that stream of drugs. We need to provide treatment for those who have gotten involved and who are trying to get off but can't. Treatment needs to be quality, not something where we just put them in housing and call it treatment. It has to be strong, not only physically but emotionally too. Then we have to have strong education with kids early on about the consequences of drug addiction and what that whole life means. It's more than just one level and we can't expect just law enforcement to take care of all of this. All of us have to work together to figure out how we can take on the drug issue that affects this country.

HPI: A big part of any campaign is strengthening

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the economy and job creation. What is your plan to bring jobs to the 2nd District?

Coleman: First of all, we have to make sure that we provide resources and the culture that make business want to come to our district. Any congress person who says, "I want to bring jobs here," has to be responsible for creating the culture. We have to provide strength and support to existing companies and new companies. One of the problems in this country is that we don't make lots of products, but we certainly buy lots of stuff. We have to get back to making things, small items to major stuff, encouraging steel companies to work here, so we do not depend on China and foreign countries for our steel. We have unemployed people who can make steel here, so that doesn't make sense. We have to foster a culture that will allow us to build, make and produce stuff in the United States. There are places in the 2nd District, companies in the agriculture business that have access to the free market and free trade. We need to work with different businesses, whether steel companies outside the district or in agriculture, to stimulate their businesses.

HPI: Does part of that mean nationwide broadband and improving our infrastructure?

Coleman: Absolutely, infrastructure is extremely important. Twenty years ago, infrastructure was roads and highways; now it is still that but the highways are technologies like broadband. We have to make sure that we stay

21st century so that we can compete not only locally but globally. Making sure we are competitive with our competition is extremely important. It can't just be one city. We have to make sure we are helping the community around us be strong too. If we are strong and everyone around us is weak, then that is not good. If all of us are strong and all of us are doing well, we can lift each other up.

HPI: It's not an open seat. Did you have polling that made you confident to go against an incumbent? What do you think it will take to win against Rep. Walorski?

Coleman: We have not done formal polling at this point. We are confident that we can win and were confident when I first got into the race. We didn't get into the race to finish second and put up a good showing. We got into the race thinking that we could win and with the intention of winning. Even with the district cut up and gerrymandered, there still is a path to victory. We are not running against Jackie Walorski; we are running for the people of the 2nd District. Our focus is on the people in the district – Democrat, Republican, Christian, Muslim, it doesn't matter, we are running for all of them. We think there are the votes to allow us to do it. Four years ago in the general election, when she (Walorski) ran against Brendan Mullen, she won by 4,000 votes. We believe there are well more than 4,000 people who for some reason chose not to vote; we have identified them and are work-

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ing to get them to the polls. Yes, she is an incumbent and we thank her for what she has done, but we think that she is beatable and that's why we got into the race. We have talked to people all through the district who say there needs to be a change. They tell me they are glad I am running and that we need different and better representation. There is a pathway to victory and there are people who support that. We are excited about it.

HPI: Has the Indiana Democratic Party or the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee shown any interest?

Coleman: We are getting a lot of interest both locally and on the federal level. The local Democratic party has been extremely supportive, the state party is on board and has publicly endorsed the campaign. The DCCC is helping us out; we went to D.C. and met with the national party, and they have been supportive. We are getting support from local and international labor unions; 17 or 18 have contributed or endorsed. We have been endorsed by the Congressional Black Caucus. There is interest from both inside and outside the party.

HPI: It is shaping up to be an exciting election cycle. How do you think the presidential campaign will affect your race?

Coleman: It will draw more people out to vote. The more who vote, the better off we are. Nobody really knows what will happen, but we have to do what we have to do. We are going to leave no stone unturned and are going to knock on as many doors as we

can, make as many phone calls as we can, and see as many people as we can. Hopefully by Nov. 8, more voters will support us than support our opponent, giving us an opportunity to represent Hoosiers in the 2nd District.

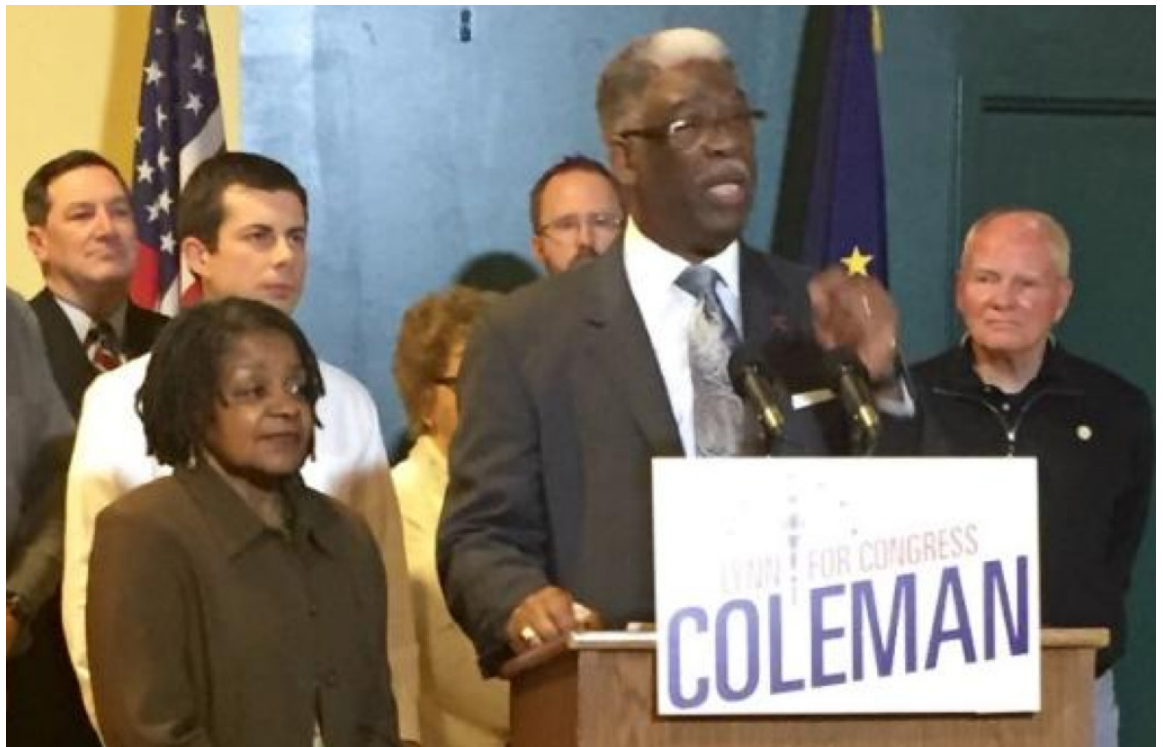
HPI: What political or historical figures do you consider to be your role models?

Coleman: My role models were not political leaders. As a kid, my role model was my mom or my pastor or Arnett Goldy, a woman in the community who ran a program for neighborhood organizations. On the national level people was Muhammad Ali – what an awesome individual. I had the opportunity to meet him and have a lot of respect for him. As big a star as he was, he was a big-hearted individual. Ali was huge to me. Martin Luther

King was an icon. I admire the life and work of Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and President Kennedy. Now I have been around people like John Lewis and Sen. Joe Donnelly, who has been a mentor to me throughout this process. A lot of people have poured into the life of Lynn Coleman and I am extremely grateful to every single one of them. There have been some negative people who have been important, who gave me an opportunity to look at the glass both half full and half empty.

HPI: Did you want to comment on the Senate filibuster or House sit-in?

Coleman: Historical. Never happened before. It makes sense that our lawmakers are attracting attention to an issue that needs attention. Hopefully, people call the 435 members of Congress to pay attention to the issue that people are concerned about. As representatives, it is not about us, it is about the people we are representing. We need to hear the voice of the people of this country.



HPI: Certainly as a police officer you saw that firsthand.

Coleman: For 23 years as a police officer I witnessed or was involved in the death of people in the community by handguns. I certainly support the Constitution of the United States, but we have to have common sense laws and dialogue to protect our citizens. I can remember buying a car that didn't have a safety belt; it was determined that a vehicle without a safety belt is a danger. We came together and fixed that. Why isn't the same type of energy being shown to solve this problem? ❖

Trump shadows over Coleman/Walorski race

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – On the ballot for Congress in Indiana’s 2nd District, voters will not see the name of Donald Trump. But the chances of an upset by Lynn Coleman, the Democratic challenger, over Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, the Republican seeking a third term, could depend on Trump.



While he will not be listed for Congress, Trump will be on the ballot, right at the top, for president. Coleman is seeking to link Walorski with Trump, repeatedly asking her in campaign statements if she supports or repudiates the controversial comments and stances of Trump, who is sure now to lead the Republican ticket.

Walorski, who has not endorsed Trump by name, has said she will back the winner of the Republican presidential nomination. That nominee selected at the Republican National Convention, July 18-21 in Cleveland, will be Trump, despite belated efforts to stop him by conservatives and traditional Republicans who never got together to defeat him in the primaries.

The methods of dealing with Trump are shown by the congressional candidates in their responses to Trump’s tirade against Gonzalo Curiel, the native Hoosier who is the federal judge in one of the lawsuits claiming fraud in deals of the defunct “Trump University.”

Walorski was one of the first Indiana Republican officials to respond with a critical statement on Trump’s claim that the Hoosier judge is unfair because he is “we believe, Mexican.” Walorski quickly issued this statement: “Questioning a judge’s impartiality based on his ethnicity is not only inappropriate, it has no place in American society.”

She has refrained from a ringing endorsement of Trump of the type Gov. Mike Pence provided in his call at the Republican State Convention for Indiana to be the first

state on election night to be declared for Trump for president.

Walorski shows more caution than Pence. But Coleman seeks to use that caution as a sign of refusal to speak out against Trump’s controversial charges and claims. Coleman welcomed Walorski’s critical comments about the insults directed at Judge Curiel, but he questions why she didn’t express disagreement earlier with other controversial Trump remarks. Also, Democrats have contended she should have said something stronger than that Trump’s remarks were “inappropriate,” something like “racist.”

When Coleman announced his candidacy last December, he was regarded as long shot. He still is. Thanks to Trump, the odds do not seem quite as long.

Walorski, becoming a better candidate and becoming entrenched, won big in 2014, carrying nine of the 10 counties of the district. The 2nd was drawn with Republican flavor. She is way ahead in campaign funding. And Coleman, a retired South Bend police officer and former mayoral assistant, lacks her saturation name recognition outside St. Joseph County.

Coleman’s chances always have depended on the political climate in Indiana when voters head to the polls. In one of those Republican tides that often sweep across Indiana, he would have no chance. If Trump instead leaves choppy waters rather than a Republican tide, Coleman has a chance. He of course would have to run a strong campaign on his own in order to take advantage.

Coleman now is also criticizing the Republican-controlled Congress for failure to enact legislation to ban gun sales to individuals on terror watch lists and to expand background checks for gun purchases. He comes at the issue, he says, as having seen as a police officer how “guns, when used irresponsibly, can take a life in seconds.”

To win, Coleman also would probably need some mistakes by Walorski, perhaps in her responses to what Trump says and does in the fall campaign. Trump could make it a lot easier for all of the down-ticket Republicans if he really did pivot to becoming more presidential.

Although Trump won’t be on the ballot for Congress, a Trump card, if indeed held and played right by Coleman, could make the congressional race closer

than the political experts once predicted. ❖



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

Drake tires of 'wait & see' 8th CD recount

By **THOMAS CURRY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Although the election was 56 days ago, Democrats Ron Drake and David Orentlicher are still fighting for the Democrat nomination to face off against U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon. The recount commission is meeting this morning to announce the results of another recount in State Senate District 36 and with that process concluded, the focus will shift to the recount in the 8th CD.

Drake told HPI that the process is still "wait and see." Drake, who initially filed for the recount to be dismissed by challenging Orentlicher's intentions, has grown tired of waiting for results. "I have indicated multiple times that every day that goes by is one day less to campaign. Orentlicher has said all the way through the campaign that his goal is to turn the district blue but it seems he is attempting to overturn the will of the people. I won that primary. It would seem that his primary concern is not the district, where he parachuted in to and has no ties, it would seem his interests is his own personal interest."

With regards to having a pre-recount inspection of counties, Drake said that he doesn't understand the need for them. He continued to say that he has "complete confidence in the State Board of Accounts and the recount director. The problem started with my opponent delaying on the other side. It's Orentlicher and his legal team that are delaying the matter."

Orentlicher, who pushed for pre-recount inspection in all counties, said that the screening was recommended by the recount director and has been done before. "It would let us get ahead of the issues and save some time. Mr. Drake was only agreeable to inspections in three counties. It is designed to let parties narrow down the key issues and the material subject to the dispute so we can get the recount done efficiently. We don't understand why Drake is opposing them. He says he doesn't want to waste time traveling but he doesn't want to have a pre-inspection in his home district. We are wondering what his agenda is, frankly. We are doing what is recommended for this process", said Orentlicher.

The recount process for the 8th CD is slated to begin after the July 4th holiday and could last until the August deadline.

Clinton comments on Brexit in Indy

Citing her experience with foreign leaders, time in the Senate and her time doing charity work, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton

attempted to win over the nation's mayors at the annual United States Mayors Conference in downtown Indianapolis on Sunday.

Clinton opened her remarks to more than 200 mayors attending by speaking for the first time about the Brexit vote that has spun the international economy into chaos. Clinton called it a "reminder that what happens around the world has consequences," pointing out that Americans lost more than \$100 billion in their 401K accounts since the Brexit took place last week.

Taking a shot at presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump, Clinton said, "Bombastic comments make the situation worse in tumultuous times" and added the country needs "steady leadership in troubled times." She added, "We need leaders ... who understand how to work with other leaders to manage risks, who understand that bombastic comments in turbulent times can actually cause more turbulence and who put the interests of the American people ahead of their personal business interests. We have got to be clear about this: No one should be confused about America's commitment to Europe, not an autocrat in the Kremlin, not a presidential candidate on a Scottish golf course."

Clinton also told the mayors what she plans to do once she takes office to start fixing some of the serious issues that effect the country and its cities. Clinton cited her record in the Senate that shows she has the ability work with Republicans to pass legislation. She brought attention to the inability of the current Senate leadership to have a hearing on the vacant Supreme Court position and said that it is stopping the country from moving forward, as seen in the 4-4 vote on President Obama's immigration measures.

Clinton received applause from the audience when she praised the mayors and their ability to find solutions to problems by saying "cities are where things are happening and getting done." She said that many mayors have told her there is "no Republican or Democratic solution to fixing the roads" and that there is "no monopoly on good ideas." Clinton said she will take that experience and advice to Washington to solve the gridlock there.

Clinton cited her five-point economic plan last week and said that she believes that plan can help solve the economy that is "not working as it should" for the majority of the country. A major focus of that plan will be improving infrastructure, which she said has left a divide in the country.

Clinton promised to bring nationwide broadband by the year 2020 to the farthest reaches of the country to help bridge the gap between the part of the country that is technologically advanced and the part that is not. She also promised to work with the nation's mayors to fix the failing roads and bridges that are a serious issue around the country.

Clinton concluded her remarks to the gathering of



mayors by saying, "I will never plan for you but will work with you" to solve the nation's problems. She said that the country works better when local governments are involved in addressing issues nationwide. Clinton said she will take the smart solutions of mayors and "bring them up to size" to implement them on the federal level.

The Indiana Republican Party "welcomed" Clinton to Indianapolis and tried to latch her on to Democratic gubernatorial nominee John Gregg, who has not appeared with Clinton on campaign stops after endorsing her during in 2008 campaign. It comes after Gov. Mike Pence has endorsed Trump and vowed to make Indiana the "first state on the board" for Trump in November.

"The Clinton-Gregg machine continues down the beaten warpath against Republicans. The Democrat ticket is desperate to hide the past mistakes of their candidates," said Indiana Republican Party Chairman Jeff Cardwell. "Hoosiers can't be fooled. Hillary has stood behind her comment that she wants to put our coal industry out of business and John Gregg continues to be silent on her attacks, despite lobbying for Peabody Coal. John Gregg is refusing to denounce Clinton's liberal, extremist energy and regulatory agenda. Hoosiers deserve to know where he stands."

Johnson sees a spoiler role

Libertarian nominee for president Gary Johnson told the nation's mayors that he is not afraid to play spoiler and embraces the opportunity to upset an already chaotic election cycle. Johnson said it's a "system that needs spoiling" and that recent polling shows the third party ticket may have a historic chance in 2016.

Speaking on the ABC/Washington Post poll released on Sunday that shows Johnson at 10%, trailing Democrat Hillary Clinton at 47% and Republican Donald Trump at 37%, the former Republican New Mexico governor said, "When you do the math, 43% of Americans are declaring themselves Independents, 30% Democrat and 27% Republican. When you look at Trump's 39 points, that comes out to 13% of the electorate determining his nomination. Hillary's nomination was determined by 15% of the electorate. Where is the other 70%? Why is it that these two are proclaimed representatives of Americans when they are not?" Johnson went on further to say "many Americans are Libertarians but just don't know it yet."



Johnson said cities are the "laboratories of government." He continued saying, "You guys are the front lines" and that "I will end the imperial presidency" that he says

insults cities by Air Force One and the Presidential motorcade clogging city streets for hours. If he is elected he would eliminate the income and corporate tax to make it easier for start ups to grow.

The Libertarian candidate talked about the problem of "chrony capitalism" that hurts America's cities and economy. Johnson said on free trade that "The government is for sale, government favor is for sale" and that "You and I can level the playing field. We can fix the government from spending too much and becoming too big."

Johnson said his stance on immigration is the "biggest difference between me and Donald Trump" and showed disdain for Trump's stance of wanting to deport and break apart immigrant families.

He also spoke against Trump's proposed Muslim entry ban. Johnson cited statistics that show immigrations are far less prone to violence than the average citizen.

As for Hillary Clinton, who spoke at the conference Sunday, Johnson said, "She is the status quo and that will result in the government being more involved in our lives." Johnson criticized Clinton's foreign policy and said, "If you take Syria and Libya as an example, she has empowered the Jihadists. Did she do that intentionally? No. But she is responsible for it."

Governor

Democrats file complaint over RGA ad

The Republican Governors Association (RGA) is standing by their campaign ads against Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg following a recent complaint filed by the Indiana Democratic Party (IDP) (Mullis, Statehouse File). The Indiana Democratic Party filed a complaint Tuesday with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), calling the two campaign ads "misleading" and "in violation of federal election law." "Mike Pence broke his promise on no negative campaigning, and he allowed the RGA to produce content that is misleading and in violation of federal election law," said John Zody, IDP chairman, in a press release. "We're asking the FEC to investigate, and for the RGA to pull down the ad. It's clear the RGA is willing to do anything to avoid talking about Gov. Mike Pence's failed record." Candidates, third-party organizations and political committees, such as the Republican Governors Association, are required to carry disclaimers with their content, including television ads, regardless of the content, according to Federal Election Commission regulations. In a recent press release, the Indiana Democratic Party said the Republican Governors Association failed to comply with these rules in their latest ads. "We stand by our ad," said Jon Thompson, an RGA spokesperson. "If this desperate attempt by Indiana Democrats to mislead voters is their only response to John Gregg's record of wasteful spending, tax-hikes and special favors for his clients at Enron, his campaign is in serious trouble."

Republicans rap Gregg over lobbying

While he was Speaker of the House, John Gregg supported legislation that would have eliminated the requirement for him to disclose business dealings between lobbyists and lawmakers, reads a news release distributed by the Indiana Republican Party. (State Of Indiana, Senate Bill 123: Passed 52-45, Gregg voted yea, 4/12/99). The release included snippets from an article published in the April 7, 1999, edition of The Indianapolis Star, which noted the bill "...guts one section of Indiana lobbying law, and overturns an advisory opinion that the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission issued last year." The article stated that Julia Vaughn with the citizen lobbying group Common Cause Indiana was "...shocked that this happened."

U.S. Senate

Dems seek to link Young to Trump

The Indiana Democratic Party released a news item attempting to tie GOP senatorial candidate Todd Young to "Donald Trump's Toxic Campaign." The news item cites this quote by Young that appeared in yesterday's Elkhart Truth: "I intend to support the Republican nominee. I also intend to run my own race and where there are differences between myself and those who are running for president, I'll speak to those." Drew Anderson, communications director for the state's Democratic party, stated, "From calling for a ban on Muslims in the United States to saying hateful and sexist things about women, Donald Trump is running a campaign that's toxic and divisive for the state of Indiana. Todd Young has been silent on everything Donald Trump has said during this election year. Having staff speak on his behalf doesn't count, and his silence puts him 100% in lockstep with the presumptive nominee. Congressman Young needs to come out of hiding and actually speak with all Hoosiers and not those prearranged by his staff."

Young campaigns in Elkhart

Job creation and U.S. security are two big concerns for U.S. Senate hopeful Todd Young, the candidate said during a stop in Elkhart on Monday. The Republican also sounded off on GOP presidential hopeful Donald Trump, at least peripherally, expressing backing for his candidacy (Vandenack, Elkhart Truth). "I'm running because I want to make sure that we create an environment where more jobs can be created that pay well here in Indiana," Young said. "This is an effort to get to know the community and the local economy and some of the leaders of the local community better." In the presidential race, he said he'd back Trump, in part to prevent Democratic hopeful Hillary Clinton from getting in the White House. "We can't have another four years of President Obama's policies and that's exactly what we'll get under a Hillary Clinton presidency. I intend to support the Republican nominee. I also intend to run my own race and where

there are differences between myself and those who are running for president, I'll speak to those," he said.

Hill to walk across state

Hill announced Wednesday that he will walk nearly 500 miles the length Indiana to give Hoosier voters the access they deserve in this year's U.S. Senate race and to listen to their ideas, concerns and problems. It is a repeat of his 1990 campaign against U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, when he walked from the Ohio River to Lake Michigan. Baron's walk, titled "Hoosiers First: Main Street, not Wall Street," will begin in South Bend on July 11 and end in Evansville. The walk will include stops in numerous towns including, but not limited to, South Bend, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Huntington, Marion, Muncie, Anderson, Indianapolis, Bloomington, French Lick, Huntingburg, Santa Claus, Boonville and Evansville. "We're facing one of the most important elections in my lifetime, and Hoosiers want to see and hear from their candidates and I want to hear from them," Hill said. "For too long, Washington politicians have listened to Wall Street banks and corporations, not small businesses throughout Main Street America. I'm walking our great state because you will find more Hoosiers on the main streets of Indiana than you will hiding out in a Congressional office or at a Wall Street fundraiser. No one will outwork me in this campaign, and no one will outwork me in the U.S. Senate, fighting for Indiana and putting Hoosiers first."

Hill, Young agree to debates

Republican U.S. Rep. Todd Young has said he will participate in two debates ahead of the November election for the open U.S. Senate seat (Mullis, Statehouse File). On June 7, Democrat Baron Hill challenged his two opponents, Young and Libertarian Lucy Brenton, to participate in a series of four debates and five town hall meetings. The Indiana Debate Commission has not set dates yet but has said traditionally debates are planned for late September through October. "The Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian candidates for the U.S. Senate seat have all been invited to participate," said Cathleen Shrader, the Indiana Debate Commission Board secretary. "It is my understanding that all have expressed interest in participating in televised debates this fall. We are still in the planning stages for dates and venues, as well as formats. Those are set with input from the candidates." **HPI Horse Race Status:** Likely Young.

General Assembly

Gorman wins SD36 Democrat recount

Democrat Sean Gorman was declared winner of the SD36 primary by the Indiana Recount Commission this morning. Gorman will face Republican Indianapolis Councilman Jack Sandlin in November. ❖

Keep calm & bugger on

By **CRAIG DUNN**

KOKOMO – I have a deep dark secret to confide. I am one of the most committed Anglophiles in the United States. I love everything British. I love the history. I love the monarchy. I love the tradition. I even love that funny language they call English. Despite the fact that George Bernard Shaw once said that, "Americans and the British are two peoples separated by a common language," I find myself proud that my heritage springs from the land of King Harold, Robin Hood and Winston Churchill.



Heck, if Henry VIII hadn't sent my ancestors from Scotland to Northern Ireland in an effort to whip those Emerald Islanders into shape, I might be living at the foot of Castle Hill, in Edinburgh, selling bangers and mash from a street cart. Unfortunately, the survival manual distributed by Henry VIII to the emigrants sent to Northern Ireland didn't reveal the secret about how to grow potatoes in rocky soil. The desire to eat being a rather strong incentive, my ancestors sailed for the New World and the availability of Big Macs.

My ancestors, the Scots Irish, arrived in the New World and quickly made a new and successful life in a land of milk and honey. In a time before green cards and other restrictions, immigration was pretty simple if you could afford the price of a boat ticket. Sail to Virginia, get off the boat and go to work. It was folks like my ancestors who cleared the forests, tilled the land and began the manufacturing and commercial interests of the New World.

Even though my ancestors left the friendly confines of Britain, they still considered themselves to be subjects of the king and loyal citizens of the realm. Until they didn't.

The American colonists slowly but surely became disillusioned with their status as the stepchildren of His Majesty King George III. Why did the American colonists have to pay steep taxes to pay for British problems on the European continent? Why did British tariffs harm some fledgling businesses and enterprises? Why should American colonists labor under laws established thousands of miles away? Why shouldn't Americans pass their own laws for America?

What did the Dunns, Monroes, Fenns, Jacksons and friends do when confronted with gross interference from abroad? "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's

God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

Old Thomas Jefferson hit the nail on the head. It was true then, in 1776, and it's true now. It is just another one of the long list of inconvenient truths that the purveyors of big government would like to ignore. If you treat the people poorly, if you make ridiculous laws, if you fail to protect your people and, if you tax people unreasonably, then they will rise up and break the shackles that bind.

As a Great Britain-loving American, I found it to be drenched with irony that the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. The reasons were deliciously similar to the reasons given by our founding fathers for the original Brexit in 1776.

The general reasons a voter voted to leave the European Union included but were certainly not limited to the following:

1. Centralized power is not the way to go. Brussels-based bureaucrats didn't really give two hoots for the problems of day-to-day life in the United Kingdom.

2. Fringe nations generally perform better than the big boys. Working on the outside of the European Union, such as Switzerland and Norway, provides significant advantages.

3. Regulations should be done in your own backyard. Currently, 65% of regulations were set in Brussels. That's why you have guidelines governing the curvature of bananas and cucumbers in the European Union. If you grow a banana that is curved too much, no matter how tasty, it must be thrown away. Go figure.

4. People in the United Kingdom were tired of subsidizing the lifestyles of the rich and slovenly in southern Europe. How do you think the average Brit related to this following tidbit from Reuters? "In a system where bonuses can add 5 to 1,300 euros to a monthly paycheck, some civil servants are paid extra for using a computer. Some get a bonus for speaking a foreign language and others for arriving at work on time, while many foresters get a bonus for working outdoors. All Greek public and private sector workers get 14 monthly salary payments a year, a structure aimed at keeping basic monthly salaries, and the pensions that are based on them, low. Half a month's extra salary is paid at Easter and another half during the summer. The 14th salary is paid to civil servants at Christmas when the whole economy is geared to consuming it.

This is in addition to allowing employees to retire as early as age 45 with full pay! Margaret Thatcher said it best, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

5. Great Britain is being overrun by both legal and illegal immigrants. With a mandated free flow of workers throughout the European Union, Great Britain faced an onslaught of unemployed workers from countries such as Poland and Greece. These workers displaced many British citizens from working in their own country. Because there is no border control in the European Union, if you can

walk into Europe, you can get into Great Britain. A healthy economy has much to fear from an unrestricted influx of immigrants fleeing the Mideast.

6. Trade deals espoused by the EU have been a red herring. Since 1999, British trade with the European Union has declined by 20%. Prove to the British people that free access to the European markets has been pretty for the people of Piccadilly.

7. Integration with the EU has led to accelerated economic decline. In 1973, the Common Market produced 38% of the world's goods and services. Today, it produces 17%. In contrast, the United States produced 30% of the world's GDP. Today, the U.S. produces 22%.

8. If you are a voter in Great Britain, who do you hold responsible for bad economic performance? Most regulations and laws in the European Union are promulgated by unelected bureaucrats who are unaccountable to the voters. You simply can't throw the bums out when you can't get at the bums.

9. Seventy percent of land in Great Britain is owned by 6,000 people. Instead of paying taxes, the

European Union pays these owners instead. Farm production is limited by regulation and that has led to a decline in agricultural jobs and an increase in agricultural imports of food stuffs from Africa.

10. Lastly, British fishermen and fisherwomen have been on the hook for bailing out the suffering fisheries of southern Europe. Sixty percent of all European water belongs to Great Britain and Ireland and yet European laws have limited British fishing revenues to only 16% of total fishing revenues. The EU has effectively killed the British maritime industry while artificially propping up Greek, Italian and Spanish fishing interests.

Great Britain's vote to leave the European Union is just one more warning signal that the people of the world have grown sick and tired of the inefficiencies, abuse and waste of big government. The Donald Trump phenomenon is not limited to the United States. His rise is not the cause of our collective world problems, his rise is merely a symptom. Hillary Clinton, beware! ❖

Dunn is chairman of Howard County Republicans.

McDermott rises over Buncich

By RICH JAMES

MERRILLVILLE – Things are looking up for Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., who clings to the hope that one day he will be elected to something bigger than the head of Lake County's largest city.



You probably recall that McDermott has talked for several years about running for governor or U.S. Senate. Well, the former Lake County Democratic chairman hasn't taken the step to do either. Nevertheless, his stock seems to be rising. And much of that has to do with his stance during the 2008 Democratic

presidential primary between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

That race, you may recall, had Lake County as politically divided as it ever has been. County Democratic Chairman Rudy Clay led the Obama supporters, who basically came from the heavily black city of Gary. McDermott, on the other hand, was the unofficial leader of those backing Clinton. He hosted several events for her in Lake County, including a stop at Bronko's Restaurant in Crown Point for a shot and a beer.

His support of Hillary hasn't been forgotten by

the Clinton faithful. In part because Bernie Sanders beat Clinton in the Indiana primary this year, the configuration of delegates to the national convention is skewed. For the last several decades, the Lake County Democratic chairman was automatically selected for the national convention. Because Sanders will have several delegates, the Lake County chairman wasn't automatically chosen as a delegate. But McDermott, because of his prior support of Clinton, was selected as a Clinton delegate.

That left Lake County Democratic Chairman John Buncich on the outside looking in. Thanks, but no thanks, Buncich told the party, choosing not to run for election as a delegate. That had to make folks like gubernatorial nominee John Gregg a bit nervous, given that Buncich is one of his leading backers and is close to the heavy labor vote in Northwest Indiana.

Two months ago McDermott's stock moved up several notches. The mayor's wife, Marissa McDermott, ran in the Democratic primary for Lake Circuit Court judge. And, no one gave the political novice much of a chance against incumbent Judge George Paras.

Not only did she win, but she won with surprising ease. And McDermott didn't credit her victory to her ability as a lawyer. No, she gave all the credit to having the same last name as the Hammond mayor.

Yes, and that is the guy who keeps talking about turning his attention to something bigger than mayor. If Gregg loses to Gov. Mike Pence, you've got to think McDermott will give serious thought to governor in 2020. ❖

Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is a columnist for The Times of Northwest Indiana.

IEDC's Schellinger refutes jobs analysis

By **JIM SCHELLINGER**

INDIANAPOLIS – Earlier this week, Hoosiers in northwest Indiana were met with a jarring statement, "Indiana spending \$43K per job in economic development," plastered across their local newspaper in a big, bold font. This statement is not only misguided, it's inaccurate, and not once does the ensuing 260-word article attempt to clarify.



The piece is based on a recent study authored by economist Michael Hicks from the Ball State Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), which, if you were to actually read it, tells a story of "A State That Works."

Hicks himself notes in this study that "Indiana is not especially lavish with incentives when compared to other states," referencing a Nevada offer that exceeded \$200,000

per job. And in a 2013 study, Hicks concluded that Indiana's largest incentive, EDGE credits, "provide a significant impact with respect to job creation," with each \$1,000 awarded yielding roughly 5 to 6 new jobs for Hoosiers.

The \$43,700 figure that NWI Times' Joseph Pete carelessly throws around is actually from a separate study conducted by a non-academic organization, Good Jobs First, which Hicks notes is "not comprehensive." These figures, moreover, encompass incentives committed from the state as well as local communities. But you wouldn't know that from Pete's report on the study, which doesn't use the word "local" even one time despite covering a study that, by admission of its title, is primarily focused on "local economic development efforts."

Here at the Indiana

Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), our incentives are a function of our primary objective, to create quality jobs for Hoosiers. State incentives are performance-based, meaning companies cannot claim tax credits until they create jobs and support skills training for employees, which benefit workers throughout their careers. We base incentives on new payroll rather than projected headcount to encourage and

support increased wages, with incentives representing just a fraction (15-20 cents on average) of each dollar job creators put in Hoosier pockets.

To compare this to the measure used in the study though, our year-to-date incentives average \$9,465 per job – just 21 percent of Pete's \$43,700 total – and that annual average has never exceeded \$11,805 since our establishment in 2005. Even our largest, most prominent successes are earned with fiscal prudence. In 2011, for example, Fronius USA announced plans to relocate its North American Headquarters from Michigan to Portage, paving the way for 512 Hoosier jobs. The state committed up to \$4.25 million in performance-based tax credits, equating to \$8,300 per job.

In East Chicago, Hoist Liftruck will create 500 new Indiana jobs after relocating its manufacturing operations from Illinois. The company offers average salaries of \$55,000 annually, 43% higher than Lake County's personal per capita income. At least a dozen of Hoist's employees have already moved to the Region and 15 other Illinois companies have reached out to ask about the benefits of doing business in Indiana. With only 29,000 residents, East Chicago has consistently had one of the highest jobless rates in the state. The community needed this. Yet the state offered up to \$6.2 million in performance-based tax credits based on new payroll, equating to \$12,400 per job.

Pete's article ends with a conclusion from the CBER study, noting that "a better approach, and wiser investment of tax dollars, would be to attract workforce talent," yet fails to acknowledge that the state is already doing this. In 2013, under the direction of Gov. Pence, the IEDC identified population stagnation as the biggest threat to continued economic growth. That's why our efforts have shifted and why the state is now allocating \$126 million to support quality of place initiatives in three Indiana regions to enhance our communities and attract top talent to the state for generations to come.

Not only has Hicks praised the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative, but he's been complimentary of the efficacy of our agency overall and has stated that Indiana's strategy has become a model for other states.

Here at the IEDC we take great pride in our work and strive day in and day out to ensure more residents are earning quality paychecks while keeping taxes low and protecting those funds from misuse. Any insinuation of the contrary is misguided and is a disservice to Hoosiers across this state. ❖

Schellinger is president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation

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YOUR FRIENDS ALL HANG OUT HERE... DO YOU?

Pence, Hershman whistle by graveyard

By **SHAW FRIEDMAN**

LaPORTE – State Sen. Brandt Hershman (R-Buck Creek) has emerged as one of Gov. Mike Pence’s chief surrogates, assigned mainly with the unenviable task of trying to paint the Hoosier economy as far better for ordinary working families than it really is.

Hershman’s latest, a column he sent around to Indiana newspapers last week, is notable for its “whistling past the graveyard” optimism that could only be attained from surveying the Hoosier economy from the corner office suites of the most prosperous CEO’s in our state, or from one of the few counties like Boone and Hamilton where the “gilded age” reigns supreme as state government continues to shower largesse on the few while neglecting 80 to 85 other counties.



For Hershman to wax rhapsodic about rankings from the likes of CEO Magazine, or to tout a business tax climate that is superior to other states, completely neglects the key indicator that his hero, former Gov. Mitch Daniels, said success should be judged by: Did Indiana increase per-capita income during state Republicans’ tour of duty? The fact is that yes, Indiana “is a State that Works” but only for the very few at the top of the heap.

Hershman flat-out misrepresents Indiana incomes as growing and outpacing the nation, and gives no source to back up his boastful claims. The fact is that the non-partisan Bureau of Economic Analysis data shows that Indiana’s income growth was 0.7% in the first quarter of this year and trailed the national average of 1.1%. Even the state economy that Hershman and Daniels try to favorably compare us to, Illinois, outpaced our growth.

Most damning is the very statistic that Daniels said his tenure should be judged by, per-capita income. According to business reporter Joseph Pete in the Times of Northwest Indiana in this past weekend’s editions, the Hoosier state has now seen per-capita income average \$38,812 last year, which was 38th in the country and still down from when Republicans took over in 2005.

For Pence and Hershman to continue claiming that their endless cutting of corporate taxes,

including cutting taxes on big banks and the biggest, multi-state corporations, has done anything other than deprive the state of much-needed tax revenues to improve roads and education is just plain false and misleading.

At the same time that Hershman claims Indiana’s economy is so superior to our neighbors, despite our abysmal per-capita income rankings, he actually has the temerity to claim quality of life is improving. Again, Brandt, take a look at the surveys released in just the past week as your pollyanna, rose-colored view of the world from the corporate suites just doesn’t match up with what Hoosiers are feeling when they gather around the kitchen table to pay their bills.

In just the last week, WNDU-TV reported that Washington-based personal finance site WalletHub ranked Indiana fourth from the bottom of states for military retirees. That’s right, Brandt. Those who’ve sacrificed and given their all for this country and our freedoms find that on 20 different factors from taxing military pensions to access to VA facilities and numbers of doctors and cost of living, we are nearly dead last in the nation. Another survey prepared by the VA itself and released this past week found Indiana ranked 47th in the nation in benefits paid to veterans as a percentage of the state’s total veteran population.

The same for the consumer website Bankrate.com which ranked the best and the worst states for overall retirement. Indiana placed 37th on that list last week, lower than our neighboring states, including Illinois.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the newly released Kids Count book just came out from the Annie Casey Foundation, finding that our state ranked 30th in the nation for overall child well being and 31st in the nation for child health.

I understand politics as well as the next guy, and certainly if you’re the Pence administration that has been so diverted with divisive, polarizing social issues, you want to change the subject and try to put a good face on your economic efforts, weak though they may be.

But it is downright objectionable for surrogates like Brandt Hershman to try to claim with a straight face that our Indiana economy is the “envy” of other states

when the statistics and surveys released the very same week tell a much different story. Brandt, there’s massaging the message and then there’s flat-out mischaracterization, and what you and the governor are doing to claim we are the “envy” of other states just doesn’t square with reality.



Shaw R. Friedman is former legal counsel for the Indiana Democratic Party and a long-time HPI columnist.

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Yahooing the Indiana economy

By **MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – If you Googled Indiana’s economy recently, you found our governor, lieutenant governor, and State Sen. Hershman all yahooing our employment situation. That’s good. The numbers do look good for Indiana as they do for the nation. It’s nice to see these



Indiana leaders harmonizing with President Obama.

It was a particular delight to have Sen. Hershman cite the fact that Indiana led the nation’s growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the last quarter of 2015. That’s a rare distinction for us. We weren’t just ahead of the national average. Indiana was the number one state in the union with an annualized growth rate of 3 percent compared to a rate of 1.7 percent for the nation.

What makes this special is twofold: First, this seems like the only time I recall a leading Hoosier politician paying attention to state GDP figures. I suppose when Indiana is number one in anything, it brings out our yahooing instincts.

Second, the last time Indiana led all states in GDP growth was the fourth quarter of 2009. Imagine the statewide celebration if we had gone as long as the Cubs or the Cleveland teams without such a stellar achievement.

How did this wonder happen? The answer will be found down on the farm. For reasons I have yet to discover, the value of agricultural output in Indiana accounted for 25% of our GDP growth in the fourth quarter. This was a Hoosier distinction because nationwide agriculture accounted for only 0.7% of GDP growth. The fourth quarter alone provided 72% of 2015’s growth in Indiana’s agricultural sector, compared to just 3.1% nationally.

If our yahooing

leaders knew the answers, why didn’t they tell us about them?

When we think of the fourth quarter (October, November and December) retail sales come to mind: Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Retail sales may come to mind, but they didn’t come to the cash register in 2015. Across the U.S., retail sales were extremely weak in the fourth quarter of 2015, following what had been a relatively strong year. Hoosier retail trade was flat (up an unobservable 0.04%) to complement the nation’s anemic increase of 0.1%.

If Indiana’s economy was “booming,” as claimed by our political boosters, that sound was not coming from the actions of Hoosier consumers. Where was our strength? What sector of the non-farm economy was allowing us to claim the quarterly GDP growth crown? It was our trusted, old friend manufacturing growing by a mere 1.1%, yet almost twice the national rate of 0.6%. The result was Hoosier manufacturing contributed 44% to our fourth quarter growth, while that sector was just 17% of the growth in U.S. GDP.

Ironic, isn’t it? The two sectors that have done the most for Hoosier exports, the two sectors declared dead by many seers, are flexing the most economic muscle. Will that good fortune hold or was the fourth quarter a fluke? Stay tuned, but don’t expect film at 10 or 11 p.m. ❖

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Matthew Tully, IndyStar: Let's just listen to the words for a moment. Let's put aside personality conflicts, partisan differences and decades of baggage, and just listen to the words. "There are more mass shootings in the United States than in any other country in the world. It's not even close. I do not think Americans are more violent (or) are worse human beings. I believe we cannot accept this, not now and not ever." It's that simple: The current level of gun violence is unacceptable and we can do better. That's not a solution, but it is a great starting point for agenda-setting and for what should be the national goal of reduced gun violence. Of course it's true that there's not a realistic path that would make this country free of gun violence, or close to it, whether it's gun violence related to terrorism or the much more common shootings that plague our cities. But we can do better. Anyone who tells you something different, who acts as if this is the best we can do, is just giving up. Here are a few other words worth hearing, and I probably should tell you that like the words above they were offered by Hillary Clinton, who spoke Sunday at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Indianapolis. But before some of you dismiss the words because of the messenger, at least listen to them. "I know we can respect the Second Amendment and make common-sense reforms," she said. "... I really believe the American people deserve better. In fact, every survey I've looked at shows that there is a very big majority of Americans who favor this path, and a considerable majority of gun owners agree." Now I understand that in the minds of some who are reading this Clinton is absolutely unfit, ethically and politically, to serve as president. That's fine. We can let the voters sort that out between now and November. But here's an important truth: Her views on gun policy are mainstream, moderate and respectful of the millions of citizens in this country who legally own guns. Along with most Americans, she believes universal background checks and a ban on assault weapons could help prevent some of the violence that plagues the nation. She opposes a ridiculous law that gives the gun industry unique protection from lawsuits, and she supports strengthening laws aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, those with severe mental illnesses and people on the terrorist watch list. Maybe I'm wrong, but these sound like reasonable steps — steps that are at least worth an honest debate in Congress. And here's another point: Even doing a bit better would save lives. ❖



Neil Irwin, New York Times: Donald J. Trump went to a suburb of Pittsburgh called Monessen on Tuesday to talk about the steel industry and talk about trade. The mix of location and topic was uniquely appropriate for a major economic speech, though probably not in the way Mr. Trump apparently intended. "Today I am going to talk about how to make America wealthy again," he said.

"We are going to put American-produced steel back into the backbone of our country. This alone will create massive numbers of jobs." He's right that the number of steel industry jobs — more precisely "iron and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing," in government data-speak — is down by 44 percent in the Pittsburgh area since 1990, a span in which the United States entered the North American Free Trade Agreement and engaged in much more extensive trade with China. But two things are worth knowing. Before Nafta was even a gleam in a trade negotiator's eye, Pittsburgh had already lost the biggest chunk of its steelworking jobs. The culprit in that era was both international competition and the introduction of mini-mills, which allowed the production of steel with far fewer man-hours. Because of that and other technological innovations that improved productivity, total American steel output is about the same now as it was in 1990, even with far fewer workers. That steep contraction in steel production jobs has been more than counterbalanced by a rise in other types of work. The 5,100 steel production jobs lost in Pittsburgh are dwarfed by the 66,000 health care jobs gained in the same time span. Pittsburgh has often been viewed as the very model of a city moving beyond its heavy industrial history to find new prosperity in areas like health care, banking, and professional services. And that shows the fundamental challenge Mr. Trump faces in seeking — as he did in Tuesday's speech — to put opposition to trade deals at the center of his economic agenda in the presidential race. The economics of nostalgia may capture the hearts of a certain portion of voters. But it is disconnected from the decades-long direction of the United States economy and the interests of the businesses that are historically a crucial part of the Republican coalition. That shift has been one of the more remarkable turns in what has been a remarkable race. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers rapidly took to Twitter to blast Mr. Trump's plans as likely to lead to "higher prices, fewer jobs and a weaker economy." ❖

Bob Kravitz, WTHR-TV: So now Andrew Luck can buy the robotic Ping-Pong opponent he so desperately desires. Although you would think that for \$140 million over six years, including \$87 million guaranteed, the poor guy would be able to buy himself a real-life Ping-Pong friend. Yeah, it's a ton of money, an otherworldly amount of money, currently standing as the richest contract in NFL history — although that will likely change in the blink of an eye, just as it always does. But you know what? He's worth it. Honestly, what choice did the Colts have in this matter? Luck is their New Age Peyton Manning, the furry face of the franchise, the sun around whom all the other planets revolve. Without Luck, the Colts of the future are like the Colts in the pre-Manning days, forever searching for the franchise quarterback who could lead them out of the abyss of awfulness. ❖

Trump fades in new Fox Poll

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has had a few rocky weeks on the campaign trail, and it shows in the latest Fox News Poll. Just over half of Republicans would rather have someone besides Trump as their nominee, and his support in the presidential ballot test has dropped seven points since May. Democrat Hillary Clinton is up 44-38 percent over Trump in a head-to-head matchup. Earlier this month, Clinton had a three-point edge (42-39 percent). In May, Trump was up by three (45-42 percent). Libertarian Gary Johnson captures 10 percent in a hypothetical three-way vote. That causes both Clinton and Trump to lose ground, although for the most part she maintains her edge (41-36 percent). Another 14 percent is up for grabs. Clinton's current lead is just inside the poll's margin of sampling error.

The national poll, released Wednesday, finds she has a similar advantage when voters are asked about confidence in the candidates to make the "right" decisions for the country if they were president: 48 percent are at least somewhat confident Clinton would. It's 42 percent for Trump. In the matchup, Clinton is the choice among blacks (87-3 percent), women (51-32 percent), voters under age 45 (45-35 percent), and those earning less than \$50,000 annually (52-30 percent). Trump leads among white evangelical Christians (66-18 percent), whites without a college degree (51-33 percent), gun owners (52-30 percent), whites (48-34 percent), men (46-36 percent), and independents (39-31 percent).

Since May, Trump has lost ground with Republicans (-8 points), whites without degrees (-10 points), and men (-9 points). Party unity is a trouble spot for Trump. Just 74 percent of Republicans back him over Clinton, down from 82 percent in May.

For comparison, Mitt Romney lost despite garnering 93 percent support among Republicans in 2012. In addition, just over half of Republicans would prefer a different nominee (51 percent someone else vs. 48 percent Trump). And while most GOP voters describe Trump as intelligent, more than 7-in-10 feel he's hot-headed and obnoxious.

Kasich says 'I told you so' on polls

COLUMBUS, Ohio — John Kasich suspended his run for president nearly two months ago, but his campaign is still arguing that he, and not Donald Trump, would be the best candidate to take on Hillary Clinton (Politico). On Wednesday, the Ohio governor's top political adviser trumpeted a new round of polls that showed Kasich besting Clinton in swing states — and showed Trump getting decimated. "Under a modeled electorate, Trump loses every swing state by 6-12 points. Governor Kasich wins 6 out of 7 swing states. Speaker Ryan wins 2 out of 7 swing states," wrote John Weaver, Kasich's former senior campaign adviser, in an email to supporters. "This data is just further proof that Governor Kasich is the most popular Republican politician in the nation today."

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Alting seeks to review vape law

LAFAYETTE — After weeks of taking heat over new Indiana regulations for e-cigarette industry and hearing implications that the law was rigged to benefit a hometown Lafayette business, state Sen. Ron Alting this week joined the mounting calls to re-evaluate the law again in 2017 (Bangert, Lafayette Journal & Courier). "I give you my word that I'll work with the leadership in the Senate, and we're going to get that thing fixed," said Alting, a Lafayette Republican.

"This was supposed to be about safety in an unregulated industry, not about creating monopolies or anything." That promise won't be enough to salvage business in the state for producers to the flavored liquid used in vaping, an electronic alternative to smoking. Indiana's law — a mix of new regulations, including the prohibition of sales to minors, requirements to list ingredients and manufacturing rules — goes into effect Friday.

Pence lauds Fitch AAA credit rating

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Mike Pence today announced that Fitch Ratings has reaffirmed Indiana's AAA credit rating for its responsible management of state budgets, revenue, and public debt. Indiana has held AAA ratings with all three agencies, Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch Ratings, since April of 2010. "Indiana is truly the fiscal envy of our nation," said Governor Pence. "Fitch's affirmation of our fiscal management reflects what Hoosiers have come to expect in state government — balanced budgets, low taxes and a healthy savings account that will protect us in the event of an economic downturn."

Trump alleged to seek foreign money

NEW YORK — Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has his own e-mail scandal (Bloomberg Politics). In a complaint filed Wednesday with the Federal Election Commission, a pair of non-partisan campaign finance watchdogs alleged that the Trump campaign solicited campaign contributions from foreign government officials. Not only is it illegal for a candidate to accept money from foreign nationals, it's also a violation of the law to ask for it. "Donald J. Trump's presidential campaign committee is violating black-letter federal law by sending campaign fundraising emails to foreign nationals," Paul S. Ryan of the Washington-based Campaign Legal Center wrote.

