

A rare campaign for Senate succession

Senate President Pro Tem Long's announcement sets up battle last seen in 2006, 1980

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The timing of Senate President Pro Tempore David Long's retirement announcement, coming in the middle of this session, was the big surprise on Tuesday. But those of us who read Statehouse tea leaves, the notion that Long would follow

his wife, Melissa, into the sunset was a change of the guard realization that began to take shape with Long's sine die speech last April.

For just the third time since 1980, this sets up a succession dynamic that will be fascinating. Here are several key points to consider:

- Long is taking a systemic approach to reshaping the Senate with the reality that after November, he, Luke Kenley and Brandt Hershman will no longer be there. Long has installed



Senate President Pro Tem David Long said Tuesday, "No one is indispensable" and "you know when it's time to step down. (HPI Photo by Mark Curry).

Sen. Ryan Mishler in Kenley's appropriations chair, and Sen. Travis Holdman in Hershman's tax and fiscal policy chair. Unlike former House minority leader Scott Pelath, who wouldn't even vote on a successor, Long is likely to play a decisive role here. As one hallway veteran observed, "I think David will play a large and positive role in choosing his successor. That's a good thing in my view. He is clear-eyed and knows fully what is required of anyone in that role. And ...

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INSen budget politics

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE – The candidates for the hotly contested Indiana United States Senate seat were certified just hours after the budget passed Congress and was signed into law by the president. The vote clearly outlined the battle lines which had already been drawn.



It is increasingly difficult to see how the Republicans will maintain even their razor-thin margin of 51-49 in the Senate without recapturing the Indiana seat. This is astounding, and depressing, given that 25 senators who caucus as Democrats and only eight Republicans are among the third of the Senate up for election in this cycle.



“The 2018 midterm elections are a potential target for Russian influence operations ... and will remain a significant threat to U.S. interests. Russia probably will be most capable and aggressive source of this threat in 2018.”

- National Intelligence Director Dan Coats, on Tuesday



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This was the cycle to gain ground, because the next two will be playing defense.

This is also the vice president's home state and a state that went overwhelmingly for President Trump in 2016. To outside observers, this adds to the perception that if the Republicans can't win here, where are they safe? Indiana is the most conservative state east of the Mississippi River and in the North. But anyone who spends more than time at an airport here knows our politics is far more complicated. Bernie Sanders' narrow win over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 primary showed that even female pride could not overcome left-wing and anti-Washington establishment passion within the Indiana Democrat Party. However, given the ineptness of the Indiana Democrats to actually compete in much of Indiana, they more readily unite to back anybody who seems even somewhat electable.

I am suggesting that if Sen. Joe Donnelly were to lose as did the legendary Evan Bayh, that the growing leftist branch of the Democrat Party will say, "What is the point of compromise if we are going to lose anyway?" Donnelly has repeatedly split with Bernie Sanders, whom Indiana Democrats supported, including on abortion and this budget vote. Donnelly also made it crystal clear that he viewed avoidance of a government shutdown trumped fixing the so-called "Dreamer" issue.

Because Donnelly repeatedly stressed the importance of compromise and avoiding a shutdown, he polished his moderate credentials in front of the entire nation. The fact that he was able to do so and avoid getting blasted by Indiana Democrats shows that the left flank is holding their tongues for now. They will sell their soul for a win. A less ideological view, suggests that they instinctively know that Donnelly isn't the leader of their party, Schumer and Pelosi are. With a Democrat majority, the moderates won't be in charge of policy.

We Republicans, however, prefer to fight among ourselves. I remember as a youth in Indiana politics 50 years ago being somewhat surprised when a Republican leader told me that while defeating Democrats was enjoyable, there was nothing like a good old primary brawl. I think it was the legendary Seth Denbo who told me that, but if it wasn't, it certainly represented his view. He's a good and deserving place to centralize



such stories.

The three Republican candidates in this Senate race are yet another example of our rowdy factions. Historically, there were two basic divisions, going back to the post-World War II days. The more conservative faction was primarily located from central Indiana south, versus the more urban, northern branch. When I aligned with the more conservative faction, legendary Fort Wayne boss Orvas Beers blasted me for siding with the "south of 40" crowd.

Issues caused shifting from time to time, and 40 north overpowered 40 south in population. Dan Quayle was a northerner, but through his Pulliam connections and father was an active member of the conservative faction. By the time Dan Coats became a senator, the more conservative faction had mostly absorbed the newly powerful social conservative movement.

Nothing better illustrates the conservative tilt of this state than the fact that the Keith Bulen-led faction, which backed Dick Lugar in Indianapolis and included the kid Mitch Dan-

iels, was viewed as the liberal faction. They were hardly liberals, though on some issues they compromised more than conservatives would have liked. Emphasis on social issues became a new dividing line.

Generally, the two major candidates in Republican primary would have a base in one of those two factions, and whoever could gain enough crossovers would win. The statewide victories of Quayle and Coats would be examples of the conservative flank winning; Daniels gained the support of enough of the social conservative leaders for a sound triumph over Eric Miller. Lugar did not receive such support during his final losing primary battle with Richard Mourdock, for a variety of reasons.

The 1998 Senate primary was a rare time when three candidates faced off with strong support. Paul Helmke of Fort Wayne, whose father had been one of the political leaders that built the more powerful northern urban coalition, won the primary with 35.1% of the vote. John Price of Carmel led the traditional southern conservative wing with the newly powerful social conservatives providing ground troops. Price finished second with 33.7% of the vote.

The third-place finisher had actually been the favorite to prevail, Peter Rusthoven. He had traditional establishment support. Brian Howey described it this way in April of 1998: "Rusthoven is a victim of the Republican establishment that urged him to get into the race. He has the backing of some of the top names in GOP politics – like Rex Early and Mitch Daniels ... He put a campaign committee together that reads like the who's who of Republican politics." Rusthoven finished third, with 31.2%, in spite of having people from the economic faction of both the old north and south conservative wings.

Geography played a big role, with Helmke rolling up huge margins in northern Indiana where he was finishing his third term as mayor of Fort Wayne. He ran strong enough elsewhere to prevail in spite of being considerably more liberal than the other candidates.

History does not repeat itself but often it rhymes. One evolution of the Indiana GOP is this: In 2018 there is not a candidate with particularly dominant ties to social conservatives like Price and Mourdock had. But all three – Congressman Todd Rokita, Congressman Luke Messer and former state representative Mike Braun – campaign as pro-life. Rokita and Messer have basically perfect pro-life voting records, so Right-to-Life supports both of them. The entire GOP has moved right, but not as far right.

There are some pronounced geographic differences, and the recent financial statements reflect that.

Rokita and Messer both have pulled contributions from around the state, showing they have strong support for being the nominee. But Rokita's money comes disproportionately from Northwest Indiana and from his congressional district. Messer's comes from within his district but also showed more support not only from Hamilton and Marion counties, but some important support from Allen, Elkhart and Kosciusko counties in northeast Indiana.

Braun has demonstrated the power of a newer force in Indiana politics: Personal wealth invested in extraordinary amounts. Congressman Trey Hollingsworth, who represents southeast Indiana, demonstrated that enough money can overcome endorsements, long-term involvement and name recognition. He used his money to go directly to voters about issues. Name ID can be purchased.

The budget vote in Washington has re-set all the dividing lines of this Republican primary. Messer is the conservative insider, with the endorsements. While he's raising plenty of money, it has been more difficult than one would expect for the "establishment" candidate. If he's really the "establishment," where's the financial dominance? What is more accurate, is that some of his key supporters are the ultimate establishment figures in Republican politics, though many are not.

Messer, as the elected leader of the Republican Conference, presumably was included in at least some if not most of the leadership meetings decided the House would support the Senate-passed budget.

Whether or not he personally agreed with the conclusion, as conference chairman (and who prominently sat next to Whip Steve Scalise at the State of the Union Address) he also would have been expected to help round up enough Republicans to pass the bill.

Messer likely agreed with two positions that I also happen to agree with. 1) If the government had stayed shut down, and it was the undisputedly the fault of the House Republicans, they might as well have begun turning over everything to the Democrats and hardly bother with an election. Most people believed that Congress looked stupid, and like a bunch of children engaged in food fights. 2) You have to pass a budget, and a debt limit, or you risk tanking the economy. Sometimes decisions are difficult. You can't pee your pants every time a tough decision looms that makes people upset. This is a democratic Republic, not a pure democracy for a reason. Constitutionally it requires compromise.

But politically, for a Republican primary, this issue has a lot more ramifications than purely making the necessary governing decision. Rokita voted "no," which draws a sharp contrast to Messer. Braun is in the enviable position of getting to stand outside and criticize. If it shut down,



he would have said Congress needed a businessman who could get things done, not these political children. Now that it passed, Braun can claim that it spends too much, compromised on too many issues, and didn't resolve the immigration issue either. Being a critic is so much easier than governing. It is hypothetical, and you can promise to do things that cannot be done.

Politically Rokita's position offers a contrast to Messer's, who voted the same way as Donnelly. Messer will position as the responsible leader who can advance a conservative agenda, not just talk. Rokita voted with Pelosi and Sanders/Warren but that is difficult to sort out. He can assail Messer for spending, for compromising on Planned Parenthood, for voting to extend the debt limit and many other horrific things. Messer can respond that it was necessary to not have a yet another government shutdown (but that threat is past for now) and that Republicans didn't have 60 votes in the Senate for the House bill, or even 50 (but that is inside baseball and the response of hard-right conservatives is that if the Republicans stood on principle, we'd win 60 seats). Rokita looks like the experienced conservative insider who stands on principle, arguing that he just needs more allies in the Senate.

But here the Braun drain comes into play for Rokita. If Braun continues to spend as he has done so far, and especially if the congressmen don't spend some money soon and define him differently, he is the businessman outsider who will claim that Rokita is just another politician like Messer. Both congressmen should be tossed. To beat Donnelly, Braun claims, Republicans need a candidate who can run as a real contrast to Washington.

This scenario has given Republicans three clear choices, who have roughly equal amounts of cash in the bank and clearly different strategies. This could be a close three-way race like in 1998. It will likely come down to who makes mistakes, the ups and downs of the president's tweets over the remaining months until the vote, and potentially how well small sub-components of the strategy of each is executed (e.g. appeals to social conservatives, who does well in southwest Indiana, identification with other candidates in a few other closely contested primaries).

The budget votes and the finance reports clearly set up an exciting primary that will also illustrate many of the dividing lines of the national Republican Party. ❖

Souder is a former Republican congressman.

President Long, from page 1

he loves the Senate and wants a strong person to lead it."

■ The names we are hearing most are Sens.

Rodric Bray (pictured) and Holdman. We expect at least one other serious candidate, possibly Majority Caucus Chair Jim Merritt, Randy Head, the assistant majority floor leader, or Majority Whip Mark Messmer to enter. Holdman is already on the financial track and has a primary opponent from the right to contend with this year. Merritt is said to be considering a 2019 Indianapolis mayoral run and he has maintained a distinct portfolio on issues related to the drug crisis. Bray has become a trusted Long lieutenant and is from Martinsville, a relatively easy drive to Indianapolis. He has school age children.



■ Of the potential field, Holdman, Merritt, Chip Perfect, Messmer and Erin Houchin are up for reelection this cycle. That gives Bray an advantage of focus on the leadership race.

■ The past two showdowns have been three-way battles. In 2006, Long defeated Sens. Tom Weatherwax and Brent Steele, with help from the six-member "female" caucus. In 1980, when the indicted President Pro Tem Martin "Chip" Edwards stepped away from the post, Gar-ton prevailed over Sens. Larry Borst and Joe Harrison.

■ There are three Republican senators – in the open seats of retiring Sens. Doug Eckerty and Jim Smith, and Long's successor – who aren't even there yet. And there are two newcomers, Sens. Victoria Spartz and Brian Buchanan, who have yet to gravitate into a grouping. So there will be five votes that might not align into identifiable categories.

■ Do the potential candidates we are hearing have the potential to keep the caucus together? One of Sen. Long's historic attributes was keeping the various factions together. Despite his genteel manner, he could be the proverbial "nut-cutter" when necessary. Sen. Messmer is one name we hear who has the "enforcer" personality.

The majority caucus camps

Here is how we breakdown the various Senate factions:

■ **Seniors:** Ron Alting, Joe Zakas, Glick, Dennis Kruse, Randy Head, Holdman, Jim Buck, Phil Boots, Merritt, Mike Young, Vaneta Becker, Jean Leising, Mike Delph, Ron Grooms, Greg Walker, Ed Charbonneau, Mishler, Bray, Perfect, Jim Tomes, Mike Crider. Messmer and Koch fit in this category given their House experience.

■ **New kids:** John Ruckelshaus, Aaron Freeman, Houchin, Greg Bassler, Jack Sandlin, John Crane, Mike

Bochacek, Blake Doriot, Liz Brown, Jon Ford, Rick Niemeyer, Jeff Raatz, Perfect, Andy Zay.

■ **Newbies:** Buchanan, Spartz and whoever takes the Smith, Eckerty and Long seats, assuming GOP keeps those seats.

As for ideology, we break down the Senate majority caucus like this:

■ **Social conservatives:** Kruse, Holdman, Buck, Young, Delph, Tomes, Freeman, Crane.

■ **Economic conservatives:** Crider, Zakas, Glick, Head, Boots, Merritt, Leising, Grooms, Walker, Charbonneau, Mishler, Bray, Perfect, Messmer, Koch, Houchin, Bassler, Sandlin, Bochacek, Doriot, Brown, Ford, Niemeyer, Raatz, Perfect, Zay, Buchanan, Spartz.

■ **Outliers:** Alting, Becker, Ruckelshaus.



had assembled support from the six female senators along with the more moderate wing of the caucus.

As HPI reported in 2006: Long appeared to have early momentum. Steele had the support of Sens. John Waterman, Mike Delph and Mike Young. Long was expected to have the support of Sens. Bray and Hershman. Weatherwax was described as not the first choice for many, but the second choice for all. The Old Guard – Sens. Kenley, Robert Meeks, Pat Miller, Tom Wyss and Johnny Nugent – were initially uncommitted. They had much to lose. Pick the wrong horse and lose your chair. But wait too long and you miss cutting a deal with the frontrunner-turned-king. Then there were the moderates: Sens. Ron Alting, the late Sue Landske, Allan Paul, Mishler and Marvin Riegsecker. Pick up four out of that group, and you win.

Long obviously picked up the right four.

Garton and Harrison deal

As for the 1980 race, Borst told HPI in 2006, “Bob Garton began campaigning for the Senate pro tem position soon after the May primary in 1980. He had a sense that the position would be open. In deference to and being loyal to the incumbent pro tem, I decided that I would not make any announcement of candidacy until there was

The art of the deal

There is an art of winning the position and it’s all about cutting deals. In 2006, by the end of session, it was clear that the embattled Garton was in danger of losing the primary to Greg Walker, giving Long an opportunity to prepare for succession. When it came time to vote, Long

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an opening. The incumbent did not announce that he would not be a candidate until after the November election."

Harrison had seniority over Garton, was adamantly opposed to the Columbus Republican, and waged an energetic campaign. So did Garton, "making personal contacts with all the incumbent senators," often at their homes, Borst said.

There was a new group of senators labeled by Sen. Bill Dunbar of Terre Haute as the "God squad" and Garton "courted and counseled them" throughout the fall election season.

The day after the November 1980 election, Republican Chairman Gordon Durnil convened a vote. "Strangely," Borst recalled, "the ballots for pro tem were cast and then were opened one by one and names announced and tallied in front of all the senators. Of the first 20 opened, read, announced, and counted, all but two were for Bob Garton. One was for me. One for someone else. Then Joe Harrison made a motion to dispense with opening the remaining ballots, since Bob Garton had received a clear majority."

Borst then had an epiphany: "It belatedly dawned on me that Harrison had made a deal with Garton. Harri-

son had earlier suggested a deal with me. As events unfolded, his accommodation with Bob Garton turned out to be much better."

Predictions

Our take at this point is that Sen. Bray is an early front-runner. This comes after talking with more than a dozen informed and reliable Statehouse sources. But it is early. There's still half a session to deal with. There are deals to be made. Holdman will have a primary race to contend with and other potential rivals will have general election races coming in a potentially tough environment for the GOP. It will be eight long

months before there's a vote. There will be at least three new members.

And we won't know a number of outside dynamics: Whether there is a Democratic tidal wave that could cut into the Majority Caucus, or whether the "pink wave" creates a compelling case for someone like Sen. Glick or Houchin to take the helm. ❖

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The Pro Tem Deal: In 1980, a deal by Harrison & Garton shaped power for years

By BRIAN A. HOWEY
INDIANAPOLIS - In the past 26 years, there have been more popes elected than Indiana Senate President Pro Tems.

Most people remember 1980 as the second year of John Paul II's historic papacy, as the ignition of the Reagan Revolution and the ascendancy to the national stage of one J. Danforth Quayle after his upset of U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh. But in November of that year, a day after that stunning election, the die was cast that would establish the leadership structure in the Indiana Senate for a quarter of a century.

Senate Pro Tempore Martin "Chip" Edwards was under investigation for corruption and chose not to seek another term. It set up a three-way power struggle between Sens. Robert Garton, Larry Borst and Joe Harrison.

As any Statehouse creature knows, Garton, a 10-year-veteran at the time, won this battle; Borst would settle back into the Senate Finance Chair, with Harrison becoming Majority Floor Leader. Those three senators left an indelible mark on Indiana budgets, taxation, labor law and scores of other issues they controlled as they became the most powerful triumvirate in the state's 190-year history. It wasn't until Borst was defeated in the May 2004 primary that this legendary power arrangement began to loosen its grip, with Garton following in an equally stunning defeat last May due to a hubris that brought him to defend the legislator health care for life package.

Only Sen. Harrison, now the floor leader emeritus after turning those powers over to Sen. David Long a

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Lessons from Rumsfeld's fog

INDIANAPOLIS - And so here we are at Labor Day 2006. The Iraq war hovers over the heads of U.S. Reps. Chris Choccolu, Mike Sotrel and John Hostettler like an anvil, even though none of them voted in October 2002 to authorize the war. Hostettler was against and Choccolu and Sotrel hadn't been elected. Sotrel's opponent, former congressman Baron Hill, did vote for the war in Iraq and he says he was misled -- no, lied to -- by the White House. As many of you know, I've been reading a great deal about the War in Iraq. I've cited two books: "Cobra II" and "Fiasco." And after reading those accounts of the ramp

"None of us wants to experience this or any of the nightmare scenarios that await us. It is time to summon the political will to overcome the energy stalemate."

- U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar

QUOTE of the Week

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23 legislators face primaries on May 8

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – As restive Hoosiers pass the first hurdle of the mid-terms, the filing for the May 8 primary last Friday, we find that 23 General Assembly incumbents are facing primary opponents.

Five Indiana Senate incumbents (three Republican, two Dems) and 18 in the Indiana House (including 12 Republicans) are facing primary challenges. In 2016, five Senate incumbents had primary opponents along with a dozen House incumbents. Five of the current class of challengers are females challenging male incumbents.

In 2014, two Senate incumbents faced challengers, when Eric Bassler defeated Sen. John Waterman, and eight faced challengers in the House, with Christopher Judy defeating Rep. Kathy Heuer.

These primaries take shape with the emergence of the “pink wave.” With a couple of gender neutral names in the mix, we count 42 women seeking Indiana House seats, 13 in the Indiana Senate, and a dozen for Congress. There are 20 open seats this cycle, including 12 in the House. Three open Senate seats feature primaries.

Indiana Democrats note that there has been an 84% uptick in legislative candidates from 83 in 2014 to 103 this cycle, including 52 female candidates, compared to just 22 in 2014. That’s a 136% increase. “A construction worker. A vocational and tech educator. Working moms. Our candidates are real people who live the issues facing Hoosier families every day,” said Indiana Democratic Chairman John Zody. “It’s energizing to see Hoosiers who reflect their communities stepping up to run. They’re sick and tired of politics as usual and are ready to roll up their sleeves and make a difference. Hoosier Democrats fight for the future, for working families and for fairness. Our 2018 Statehouse candidate class embodies those principles.”

Like 2016, when Senate President Pro Tem David Long and Senate Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley faced and easily survived primary challengers, this cycle finds the following being primaried: Senate Majority Caucus Chair Jim Merritt, Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane, Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Chairman Travis Holdman,

House Assistant Majority Floor Leader Jerry Torr, and Assistant Majority Caucus Chairman Tom Saunders. We believe all should easily be renominated, with the possible exception of Torr, who faces a rematch in a race that he won with just 52% of the vote in 2016 against Tom Linkmeyer.

Of the incumbents, another facing a test will be State Sen. Mike Delph, who is being challenged by former Carmel Redevelopment Director Corrie Meyer, who announced the endorsement of Hamilton County mayors earlier this week. Delph is expected to report around \$250,000. So Carmel is going to be the epicenter of legislative primaries this year.

Here is our first round analysis of General Assembly primary races. These will be updated as more information on candidates emerges.

Indiana Senate Republican primaries


SD19: Republican: State Sen. Travis Holdman, Eric Orr. **Analysis:** Orr, an attorney from Berne, told the Journal Gazette he would challenge Holdman in May of 2017, saying, “It seems that many of our legislators who campaigned on conservative principles have, upon stepping foot inside the Statehouse, forgotten those same principles. I think many voters are disappointed with the legislative priorities of the current assembly. Every election should present voters with more than one option, but far too often, we’re only given the choice between ‘R’ and ‘D.’” **Horse Race Status:** Likely Holdman.

SD26: Republican: Open (Sen. Doug Eckerty retiring). Mike Gaskill, Steffanie Owens. **Analysis:** This could be a real race. Madison County Councilman Mike Gaskill, 53, will face Madison County Commissioner Steffanie Owens. Gaskill is an ally of Sen. Eckerty and we’ll be watching if he can land the endorsement. **Horse Race**

Status: Tossup.

SD29: Republican: State Sen. Mike Delph, Corrie Meyer. **Analysis:** Delph is sitting on a war chest of close to \$250,000 and believes he can fend off this challenge from Meyer, the former Carmel Redevelopment Commission director. Meyer’s committee has not posted a year-end fundraising report. Delph has long maintained a large volunteer cadre and is a persistent presence in parades and festivals across the district that is gradually becoming more Democratic. But Meyer unveiled the endorsements of Zionsville Mayor Tim Haak, Carmel’s Jim Brainard, Noblesville’s John Ditslear, Fishers’ Scott Fadness, and former mayors Greg Ballard of Indianapolis and Jane Reiman of Carmel. Meyer told the IndyStar last year, “We are can-



	2018	2014	Percent increase
Total Districts with candidates	103	83	24%
Total first-time candidates	60	17	253%
Total millennial candidates	27	9	200%
Total women candidates	52	22	136%

vassing neighborhoods and fundraising and meeting with lots of different people, township trustees, precinct committee members. I need to have time to dedicate work-day business time to the campaign.” Delph defeated Democrat J.D. Ford by about 2,400 votes in 2014. Ford is seeking the Democratic nomination. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Delph.



Corrie Meyer (left) and Sen. Mike Delph are squaring off in the SD29 Republican primary.

SD31: Republican: State Sen. James W. Merritt Jr., Crystal D. LaMotte. **Analysis:** This is a rematch, with Merritt easily defeating LaMotte with 74% of the vote in 2014. Merritt, who chairs the Marion County GOP and is a potential 2019 Republican Indianapolis mayoral candidate, is the slated candidate. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Merritt.

Indiana Senate Democrat primaries

SD1: State Sen. Frank Mrvan Jr., Chris Kukuch, Mark T. Kurowski. **Analysis:** Sen. Mrvan is a stalwart of Lake County Democratic politics and should easily win reelection. He won reelection in 2014 by more than 2,500 votes over Ken Stevenson. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Mrvan.

SD25: State Sen. Tim Lanane, Tamala Dixon-Tatum. **Analysis:** Anderson City Councilman Ollie H. Dixon filed last month to oppose incumbent Democrat Sen. Lanane in the May 8 primary, but he stepped aside at filing deadline for his daughter. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Lanane.

SD26: Open (Sen. Doug Eckerty retiring). **Analysis:** Anderson Fire Department Chief Dave Cravens faces Muncie businessman Dave Ring. We think Cravens has an early edge in this race. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Cravens.

SD38: Maria David, David Allan Fuchs II, Chris Gambill. **Analysis:** Gambill has decades of experience in law enforcement, as legal advisor to the Terre Haute Police Department, as a drug forfeiture attorney, and as a special trial deputy for the Clay County prosecutor. Gambill has also served as the attorney for Clay City since 1984. Little information was available on David and Fuchs. The winner faces State Sen. Jon Ford. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Gambill.

Indiana House Republican primaries

HD17: Rep. Jack Jordan, Jesse Bohannon. **Analysis:** This is a rematch from 2016. Bohannon is a Bremen School Board member. He lost to Jordan 55-44%

in the primary. In a Facebook posting, Bohannon said, “This is the audacity of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce (the same lobbyists who managed and funded State Rep. Jack Jordan). Every year they put out a 50-page book full of ways they want to run our lives, and the money they invest in influencing elections gives them the loudest voice in Indianapolis.” **Horse Race Status:** Likely

Jordan.

HD18: Rep. David A. Wolkins, Russell Reahard. **Analysis:** Reahard told the Wabash Plain-Dealer that his pro-life stance sets him apart from Wolkins. “I want to look at some of the root causes of our social problems,” Reahard said. “If we can solve them at the root cause it may save money, rather than treating the symptoms and having to build more prisons and more treatment centers for drug and alcohol addiction.” Improvements in Wolkins’ health and encouragement from his constituents led him to run for reelection. “I have gotten a clean bill of health every time I’ve been in,” Wolkins said. “I had a number of people say as long as your health is good, as long as you enjoy doing it and as long as you represent us, we would like to have you continue. That was the main reason.” The winner will face Democrat Dee Moore, who unsuccessfully challenged Rep. Wolkins in 2016. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Wolkins.

HD22: State Rep. Curt Nisly, Kimberly Cates. **Analysis:** Rep. Nisly faces a challenge from Kosciusko County Councilwoman Kimberly Cates of Syracuse. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Nisly.

HD29: Open (Rep. Kathy Kreg Richardson retiring). Brandon (Brad) Beaver, Garen T. Bragg, Chuck Goodrich, Noblesville Councilman Gregory P. O’Connor. **Analysis:** Councilman O’Connor has served 10 years there. “I have worked diligently over the last 10 years for the citizens of Noblesville as a city councilman. I intend to take the experience and knowledge I’ve developed over the last decade and apply it to effectively represent the citizens of District 29,” O’Connor said. “Hamilton County is a driver of the economic success of our state and I intend to work closely with local and county government to ensure ongoing job creation, economic development, and workforce development.” Goodrich has taken the lead in starting a job innovation center locally and actively supports Indiana Work Force Development. Gaylor Electric has an internship

program for high school and college students. Bragg is an Army National Guard officer, and insurance producer. Bragg notes he is a pro-life supporter of the 2nd Amendment and committed to protecting the religious liberties outlined in Indiana's constitution. Bragg recently posted on Facebook, "The origin of the United States is inseparably linked to the idea that our rights come from God. Today's government is out of control because bureaucrats and politicians believe that your rights are in their hands." **Horse**

Race Status: Leans O'Connor.

HD33: Open: (State Rep. Greg Beumer retiring). Jenae Horn Blasdel, John (J.D.) Prescott. **Analysis:** Blasdel was a former campaign manager of Beumer and could have an edge if she gets the incumbent's endorsement. Prescott is a former campaign volunteer for Gov. Mike Pence. **Horse**

Race Status: Leans Blasdel.

HD39: State Rep. Jerry Torr, Tom Linkmeyer. **Analysis:** This is a 2016 primary rematch between the veteran Carmel legislator and Linkmeyer, the assistant principal at Mary Castle Elementary School. Torr defeated Linkmeyer with 52% of the vote, 7,896 to 7,111. This could be another competitive primary race for Torr. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Torr.

HD43: Open (State Rep. Clyde Kersey retiring) Isaac Deal, Darrell (Eddie) Felling. **Analysis:** Felling is Terre Haute's city attorney. "I am very excited and honored to announce my intention of candidacy," Felling said in a news release. "As a Terre Haute native with longstanding family roots in Vigo County, I understand the challenges we face not only in our community but also throughout our great state." Not much information was available on Deal. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Felling.

HD44: Open (Rep. Jim Baird running for Congress). Beau Baird, Jess L. Norton. **Analysis:** Beau Baird is the son of the retiring legislator who is seeking the 4th CD. We give the younger Baird an edge in this primary. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Baird.

HD47: State Rep. John T. Young, Scott Horvath. **Analysis:** Young won a hard-fought primary against Matt Prince by just under 1,000 votes in 2016, then defeated Democrat Mike Reddick in November. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Young.

HD49: Open (Rep. Wes Culver retiring). Kevin Gipson, Christy Stutzman. **Analysis:** The wife of former congressman Marlin Stutzman has long been seen as ambitious, and this will be her first try for public office following her husband's U.S. Senate primary defeat to Todd Young in May 2016. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Stutzman.

HD52: State Rep. Ben Smaltz, William Carlin.

House Incumbents in Primary Contests

			2012 Election	2014 Election	2016 Election	Avg. Contested	Cash on Hand 1/1/2018
Dist	Last Name	First Name	Win %	Win %	Win %	Win %	COH
2	Harris	Earl Jr.	100	90	100	90.0	\$9,165
12	Reardon	Mara	53.8	51	63.2	58.5	\$35,141
34	Errington	Sue	67.6	66	65.7	66.4	\$12,912
36	Austin	Terri	63.8	61	58.7	61.2	\$51,041
80	GiaQuinta	Phil	100	100	100	100.0	\$77,086
98	Shackleford	Robin	100	89	81.4	85.0	\$7,878
18	Wolkins	Dave	70.3	100	76.1	73.2	\$22,373
22	Nisly	Curt	75.6	71	79.4	75.3	\$10,477
52	Smaltz	Ben	71.0	75	75.0	73.7	\$36,771
54	Saunders	Tom	73.1	73	72.9	73.0	\$20,524
55	Ziemke	Cindy	60.6	71	76.4	69.3	\$14,300
56	Hamm	Dick	49.3	59	61.3	56.5	\$12,742
57	Eberhart	Sean	67.1	100	100	67.1	\$76,475
69	Lucas	Jim	57.8	100	100	57.8	\$6,475
73	Davisson	Steven	54.5	70	72.8	65.8	\$5,184
3	Brown	Charlie	100	100	100	100.0	\$32,084
9	Pelath	Scott	69.5	100	100	69.5	\$35,712
43	Kersey	Clyde	64.8	100	100	64.8	\$15,210
71	Stemler	Steven	100	84	80.3	82.0	\$9,441
29	Richardson	Kathy	100	74	100	74.0	\$12,916
33	Beumer	Greg	57.8	60	100	58.9	\$20,559
44	Baird	Jim	65.1	100	68.9	67.0	\$33,953
49	Culver	Wes	100	83	100	83.0	\$11,510
59	Smith	Milo	100	60	61.2	61.0	\$4,471
63	Braun	Mike	100	100	71.7	71.7	\$49,772
64	Washburne	Tom	58.3	100	100	58.3	\$5,136
Retirements							

Analysis: The various pro-life coalitions are angered at Smaltz for what Hoosiers4Life claims on its website: "For the second year in a row, Rep. Ben Smaltz of Auburn killed a bill that would have ended abortion in Indiana, costing nearly 8,000 pre-born Hoosier babies their lives this year alone. His decision to side with Planned Parenthood in keeping abortion safe has caused people to sit up and take notice of his activities." Carlin is from Garrett. Smaltz's SEA80, which has crimped domestic meth production across the state and in this district, will be an issue he will be able to campaign on. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Smaltz.

HD54: State Rep. Thomas E. (Tom) Saunders, Jeffrey D. Embry. **Analysis:** We could find little information or a campaign website for Embry. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Saunders.

HD55: State Rep. Cindy Meyer Ziemke, Mark

Bacon. **Analysis:** Bacon was the Indiana Farm Bureau's District 8 director. He told Hoosier Ag Today, "Now would be the best time to seek the next chapter in my life. I've gone to the Statehouse and Washington, D.C., and lobbied for 30 years, now being involved in Farm Bureau and maybe it's time to be on the other side and see what I can do for the membership and for the citizens of District 55 and my rural area." Bacon says this is a good time for another farmer in the Statehouse, which is a rarity. "Agriculture is the lifeblood of Indiana and for the U.S.," Bacon said, "and if we don't work for the issues that pertain to agriculture, somebody else will make those rules for us. We need representation on the state level." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Ziemke.

HD56: State Rep. Dick Hamm, Bradford J. Barrett. **Analysis:** We could not find a campaign website or information on Barrett. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Hamm.

HD57: State Rep. Sean Eberhart, Luke Campbell. **Analysis:** Not much information is available on Campbell, who appears to be a political newcomer. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Eberhart.

HD59: Open (State Rep. Milo Smith retiring). Benjamin C. Chastain, John D. Counciller, JoAnne Flohr, Ryan Lauer, Allen K. Smith II, Bartholomew County Assessor Lew Wilson. **Analysis:** Wilson, the two-term assessor, and Lauer, a former county council president, challenged Smith in the 2016 GOP primary. Garnering 47% of the votes, Smith won over Lauer's 39% and Wilson's 14% (Columbus Republic). Six months later, Smith won 61% of the vote over Democrat Bob Pitman to earn his sixth consecutive term. After becoming a regular attendee of the Third House legislative sessions in Columbus, Wilson listed several areas of concern. Wilson described the opioid crisis as the most urgent and pressing problem that could dramatically increase the costs for first responders, hospital services and child services. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Lauer.

HD64: Open (Rep. Thomas Washburne (R) is retiring). Ken A. Beckerman, Matt Hostettler, Vanderburgh County Commissioner Bruce W. Ungethiem. **Analysis:** Commissioner Ungethiem looks to have an advantage in this primary race due to his current office. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Ungethiem.

HD66: Mike Bowling, Joseph Van Wye Sr. **Analysis:** Van Wye ran in the 2014 primary and gained only 200 votes. The winner takes on House Minority Leader Terry Goodin. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

HD69: State Rep. Jim Lucas, Nancy L. Franke, Charles Johnson. **Analysis:** This is a rematch, with Lucas defeating Franke, a teacher, 7,705 to 4,044 two years ago. Lucas continues to generate headlines, becoming the chief advocate for medicinal marijuana and also for eliminating gun licensing. Johnson lives in Columbus. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Lucas.

HD71: Open (State Rep. Steve Stemler is retiring). Kevin R. Burke, Matt Owen. **Analysis:** Rep. Stemler

ran unopposed in 2016. Indiana Republican chairman Kyle Hupfer believes the GOP can pick up this Republican-trending seat. Dr. Kevin Burke, Clark County's former health commissioner, filed for candidacy last week. He is facing Jeffersonville City Councilman Matt Owen, who announced his plans to run in September (Grady, News & Tribune). Burke, who retired in October last year after 27 years as health officer, said he had toyed with running for Stemler's seat before, but ultimately, respected the politician too much to attempt to unseat him. Recently, his work with Clark County CARES Drug Fact week reignited his interest. "I felt so stimulated and invigorated by the process, I realized that I missed the public service part of my life," Burke said. Back in the fall, Owen was inspired to run by his seven years of experience working in emergency medical services. "I think that I would have a perspective up there [in the Indiana General Assembly]; a first responder dealing with these opioid issues is going to be an asset to the legislature," he said. Owen often responds to overdoses in his role as a captain at New Chapel EMS. Both Burke and Owen placed a heavy emphasis on addressing the opioid crisis if they are to be elected. Burke, who helped establish Clark County's syringe exchange program, thinks that prevention is key, and one of his main ideas is to develop educational, anti-drug programs for children. Owen talked about a "multi-faceted" approach that included increasing access to treatment, perhaps through allowing Jeffersonville residents on Medicaid the ability to cross the state border for help. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

HD73: State Rep. Steve Davisson, Buford L. Dewitt. **Analysis:** Dewitt hails from Paoli, while Davisson is a well-known pharmacist from Salem. **Horse Race State:** Safe Davisson.

House Notes: No Republicans are running in HD94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99 and 100.

House Democrat primaries

HD2: State Rep. Earl L. Harris Jr., Jayson H. Reeves, Rosa Maria Rodriguez. **Analysis:** Rep. Harris won a three-way primary in 2016 with 3,882 votes, over Rodriguez (3,187), Tammi Davis (3,056) and Drake Morris (1,177). This could be a close race between Harris and Rodriguez. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Harris.

HD3: Open (State Rep. Charlie Brown retiring). Ragen H. Hatcher, Jessica Renslow. **Analysis:** Gary Councilwoman Regan Hatcher is the daughter of former mayor Richard G. Hatcher. She has the endorsement of Rep. Brown and that makes her the favorite. **HPI Horse Race Status:** Safe Hatcher.

HD9: Open (State Rep. Scott Pelath retiring). Michigan City Councilwoman Patricia Boy, Sean Fitzpatrick. **Analysis:** Boy declared in December, saying, "It's a new challenge for me," she said in the release, "and it's time to try to make a bigger difference. Having served on the Common Council, I can see areas where state law and

administration unnecessarily limit cities and towns, and I would like to help change some of that." Fitzpatrick withdrew from a LaPorte County Council race on Feb. 7 to run in this race. He serves as treasurer for the LaPorte County Democrats. He cited "politics as usual" in Indianapolis, saying legislators spent "an absurd amount of time debating Sunday alcohol sales when we have an opioid epidemic ravaging our cities and towns." He also cited a bill that would allow "loan sharks at payday lenders to triple interest rates." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Fitzpatrick.

HD12: State Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon, Pamela R. Eanes. **Analysis:** Reardon was unopposed in the 2016 primary on her way to reclaiming the seat from Republican Bill Fine, who upset her in 2014. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Reardon.

HD16: Joshua Bolen, Christina L. Zacny. **Analysis:** The winner will take on State Rep. Douglas Gutwein. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

HD25: Maurice Oakel Fuller, Justin P. Notoras. **Analysis:** This is a primary rematch from 2016 with Fuller defeating Notoras 2,153 to 1,605. The winner faces State Rep. Don Lehe. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Fuller.

HD33: Open (State Rep. Greg Beumer retiring). Cheryl Ashley-Robbins, Winchester Mayor Shon Byrum. **Analysis:** Mayor Byrum is seen by the Democratic Party as a potential rising star who has a shot at picking up the seat. Beumer defeated Byrum in 2016. He's earned praise for his efforts to combat the heroin crisis by setting up a treatment center in his city and earning the praise of Gov. Eric Holcomb. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Byrum.

HD 34: State Rep. Sue Errington, Jim Hiatt.

Analysis: Rep. Errington fended off Joe Shank in the 2016 primary by over 3,000 votes. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Errington.

HD36: State Rep. Terri Jo Austin, Anderson Councilwoman Rebecca Crumes. **Analysis:** The Madison County area is restive, with primary challengers to three incumbent legislators. The winner will likely face Republican Anderson Councilman Jennifer Culp, who won an upset city race in 2015. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Austin.

HD43: Open (State Rep. Clyde Kersey retiring). Mark Bird, Sylvester "Coach" Edwards, Norman E. (Norm) Loudermilk II. Chad Overton. Tonya Pfaff. **Analysis:** "I've gotten some great support from Clyde (Kersey) and I hope I can follow in his footsteps and represent the 43rd District as well as he has done for more than two decades," Bird said in announcing his candidacy. He served 12 years on the Vigo County Council and lost to Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett in 2015. Bird was battling cancer during that race. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Bird.

HD59: Open (State Rep. Milo Smith retiring). Mary Kohen, Dale Nowlin. **Analysis:** Nowlin is a Columbus North HS educator; Kohen is a community activist, according to the Columbus Republic. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

HD63: Joseph Lannan, Dennis Tedrow. **Analysis:** Little information was available on the two Democrats seeking the seat of former Rep. Mike Braun, who is now running for the U.S. Senate. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup.

HD71: Open (State Rep. Steve Stemler (D) is retiring. Rita A. Fleming, Jason Schlatter. Dr. Fleming practices in Clark County and Schlatter is considered a political

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newcomer. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Fleming.

HD72: Sam Charbonneau, Christopher FitzGerald. **Analysis:** The winner will challenge State Rep. Ed Clere. There is little information on either Democrat.

Horse Race Status: Tossup.

HD80: State Rep. Phil GiaQuinta, Linda Brooks, Nick Brown. **Analysis:** No information is available on

either of GiaQuinta's primary challengers. **Horse Race Status:** Safe GiaQuinta.

HD98: State Rep. Robin Shackelford, Nichole M. Thomas. **Analysis:** No information on Thomas was available on the Internet. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Shackelford. ❖

Republican 4th, 6th CD primaries; Dems in 2nd, 9th in play

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – Indiana was once a vivid battleground for control of the U.S. House during wave years, with three seats shifting to Republicans in 1994 and three going to the Democrats in 2006. In 2010, while Republican Todd Young upset U.S. Rep. Baron Hill in the 90th CD, U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly barely staved off State Rep. Jackie Walorski in the 2nd by just 2,500 votes in that Tea Party



election.

If you believe the Cook Partisan Index, the closest congressional districts today are the Democratic 1st (+8) and the Republican 5th (+9). So Indiana's traditional congressional competitiveness is a victim of shrewd Republican computer skills employed during the 2001 redistricting process. Yes, those maps nested and respected county and municipal boundaries. But with a self-sorting population, they were a Republican safety net. Since those maps took place, there hasn't been an upset, or anything close to it.

A wave induced by President Trump, whose tweeting, insults and constant badgering of friend and foe alike have prompted dozens of Hoosier women to enter General Assembly and congressional races, appears to be emerging. What will be tested are the strength of the 2011 maps. By the fourth election cycle in the lifespan of maps, some of the assumptions change due to voter migration. When we first checked out the 9th CD, our calculation was that it had the potential to be competitive by this election cycle. However,

most trend lines are of people moving to places where most have similar beliefs and values, prompting Purdue President Mitch Daniels to talk about gerrymandering giving way to strange shaped "salamandering" districts that might provide some competition.

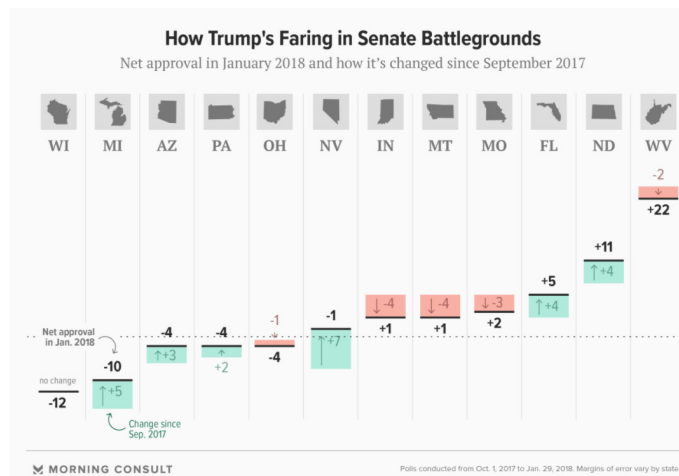
There is speculation that an anti-Trump wave could be historic in nature, akin to the 1964 LBJ wave that took an Indiana House Republican majority and left them with just a couple of dozen seats. That election came after legislative Republicans forged the first sales tax. Trump has been mired in the 35% approval range for most of 2017, though there has been an uptick into the 40% range recently, which is still an awful number for any incumbent. So the question today is whether there's enough Trump "teflon" to keep his Republican Party – and it is his GOP – from suffering dramatic and historic losses.

This past week on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," President Obama's campaign manager Jim Messina made a couple of points to keep in mind. First, ignore the co-called "congressional generic" ballot until next August or September. It will bounce around, as it has been these past few weeks. Late summer is when it will take on more relevance. And Messina underscored the value of "voter intensity." We saw that dynamic take place with Republicans in 1994 and 2010, and with Democrats in 2006 when those party bases turned out while many in the vanquished sat the election out.

Voter intensity is the key. Right now, there is a distinct Democratic edge in intensity.

We're glued to the 9th CD Democratic primary where there is a real dog fight between Democrats Liz Watson and Dan Canon. Another is taking place in the 4th CD between Republicans Diego Morales and Steve Braun. But when it comes to the fall, realistically it will be the 2nd and 9th that potentially

could change hands, and both will be outliers if such a Democratic wave takes shape. If we're talking about the 3rd CD in October, where Democrat Courtney Tritch has found some uncharacteristic money traction for a Democrat, then the Grand Old Party will be at the precipice of a



stunning drubbing.

Here are your congressional fields and analysis:

CD1: Visclosky will win

Democrat: U.S. Rep. Peter J. Visclosky, Larry Chubb, Antonio (Tony) Daggett Sr. **Republican:** Jeremy D. Belko, David Dopp, Roseann P. Ivanovich, Mark Leyva, John Meyer, Nicholas Pappas. **Cook Partisan Index:** +8 Democratic. **Analysis:** Rep. Visclosky will easily win a 15th term, no matter who the Republicans nominate. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Visclosky; Republican Tossup.

CD2: A potential autumnal battleground

Republican: U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, Mark Summe. **Democrat:** Douglas Carpenter, Pat Hackett, Mel Hall, Yatish Joshi, Roland E. Leech, John H. Petroff.

Cook Partisan Index: +11 Republican. **Analysis:** Hall nearly matched Walorski in money raised in 2017, with \$282,137 while Walorski posted \$260,103. But Walorski has double cash on hand – \$829,311 to \$432,482. Walorski will benefit from her brand and name ID. Hall could take advantage of a Democratic wave, but Walorski has been resilient. The 2nd could be fascinating to see how the impact of the tax reforms plays out, as well as the coming immigration debate. Cook Political Report moved the November race from “Solid” to “Likely” Walorski. We agree with David Wasserman’s assessment. Historically, the 2nd has been volatile, having changed since 1990 from Tim Roemer, to Chris Chocola, to Joe Donnelly and now Walorski. Voters are willing to make a change here, even if the district distinctly skewers Republican. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Walorski, Safe Hall.

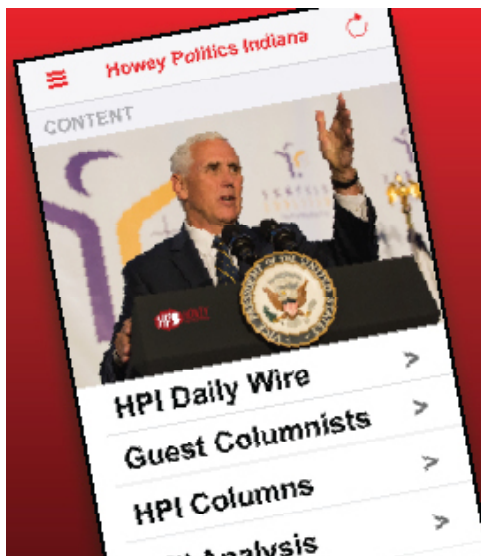
CD3: The outlier of a GOP catastrophe

Republican: U.S. Rep. Jim Banks. **Democrat:** John F. Roberson, Tommy A. Schrader, Courtney Tritch. **Cook Partisan Index:** +18 Republican. **Analysis:** Banks posted \$412,341.09 in 2017, including \$193,766 from individuals, disbursed \$250,360 and had \$306,239.93 cash on hand. Tritch has been endorsed by 3rd CD and Indiana Democrats, and raised \$189,951.79 in 2017, which is a high-water mark for a Democrat. She raised \$183,235 from individuals, disbursed \$49,882 and posted \$140,069.73 as an ending balance. Tritch is an unconventional candidate for Democrats and faces a towering GOP advantage. It would take a huge tsunami to pull her in, but we’ll keep an eye on the 3rd as an outlier if that type of dynamic takes shape next fall. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Banks; Safe Tritch.

Wednesday, February 14			
Race/Topic (Click to Sort)	Poll	Results	Spread
President Trump Job Approval	Rasmussen Reports	Approve 47, Disapprove 52	Disapprove +5
President Trump Job Approval	Economist/YouGov	Approve 45, Disapprove 50	Disapprove +5
President Trump Job Approval	PPP (D)	Approve 44, Disapprove 50	Disapprove +6
Congressional Job Approval	PPP (D)	Approve 10, Disapprove 73	Disapprove +63
Congressional Job Approval	Gallup	Approve 15, Disapprove 81	Disapprove +66
Congressional Job Approval	Economist/YouGov	Approve 12, Disapprove 68	Disapprove +56
2018 Generic Congressional Vote	Economist/YouGov	Democrats 42, Republicans 38	Democrats +4
2018 Generic Congressional Vote	PPP (D)	Democrats 49, Republicans 41	Democrats +8
Direction of Country	Economist/YouGov	Right Direction 39, Wrong Track 52	Wrong Track +13

CD4: Morales v. Braun showdown

Republican: Jim Baird, Steve Braun, Kevin J. Grant, Diego Morales, James Nease, Tim Radice, Jared Guy Thomas. **Democrat:** Tobi Beck, Roger D. Day, Roland Ellis, Darin Patrick Griesey, Joseph W. Mackey, Veronikka M Ziol. **Cook Partisan Index:** +17 Republican. **Analysis:** The scrappy Morales has the endorsements from key cogs in the Indiana GOP, including Rex Early and former Pence chiefs of staff Bill Smith and Jim Atterholt. He raised



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\$413,852.00 in 2017, including \$386,124 from individuals, which shows grassroots appeal. He disbursed just \$58,600 and posted \$355,251.25. Braun, like his brother in the U.S. Senate race, is a self-funder, and to a much lesser extent is Rep. Baird, to put \$200,000 into his campaign. But Braun posted \$325,435, including \$306,085 from individuals. He disbursed \$171,674.10 and posted \$153,760.90 cash on hand. Unlike Morales, Braun will probably have access to unlimited amounts of funds and that could be the difference. The wildcard is how the immigration debate plays out. Morales is a Guatemalan immigrant, but he rightfully points out he and his family did it the legal way and his life's story is impressive. But much of the national GOP message is an "us vs. them" dynamic, which is why the Rex Early endorsement might carry some weight here. This should be a fascinating GOP homestretch. For Democrats, Beck vastly underperformed other Democratic challengers like Tritch in the 3rd, and Liz Watson and Dan Canan in the 9th CD. She raised just \$21,210 after entering the race last summer. She had a year-end cash balance of \$3,963. Mackey raised \$15,425 but had \$1,336 cash. **Horse Race Status:** Republican Tossup; Democrat Tossup.

CD5: Brooks has huge money advantage

Republican: U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks. **Democrat:** Jennifer Christie, Dion Douglas, Sean Dugdale, Eshel Faraggi, Kyle Brenden, Aaron Schaler, Dee Thornton. **Cook Partisan Index:** +9 Republican. **Analysis:** Brooks raised \$567,526.77 for the fourth quarter, including \$207,567 from individuals, disbursed \$415,712.04 and had \$1,499,705 cash on hand. There are no FEC postings for any of the potential Democratic challengers. Without any Democrat with any type of funding, that makes that primary a pure wildcard. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Brooks; Democrat Tossup.

CD6: The Pence brand will prevail

Republican: Mike Campbell, Thomas G. Ferkinhoff, Bill Frazier, Jonathan M. Lamb, Stephen M. Mackenzie, Greg Pence, Jeff Smith. **Democrat:** George T. Holland, Jeannine Lee Lake, K. (Jasen) Lave, Jim Pruet, Lane Siekman, Joshua Williamson. **Cook Partisan Index:** +18 Republican. **Analysis:** Pence raised \$565,114.92, including \$466,681 from individuals, spent \$128,152.27 and had \$436,962.65 cash on hand. Lamb posted \$582,638.18 on his year-end report, including \$24,625 from individuals and loaned his campaign \$550,000. He had \$114,361.43 in total disbursements and had \$468,276.75 cash on hand. Pence has huge advantages in that his brother, Vice President Mike Pence, represented this district for 12 years, so the Pence name is a true brand. Pence also showed much more grassroots support with the money he's raised from individuals. And on media, Pence's TV ads are totally professional. Lamb's ads bring ridicule from the media pros. This will be a slam dunk for the Pence dynasty. **Horse**

Race Status: Safe Pence.

CD7: Carson expected to cruise

Democrat: U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, Curtis D. Godfrey, Bob Kern, Pierre Quincy Pullins, Sue Spicer. **Republican:** John L. Couch, J. Jason Davis, Donald Eason Jr., Wayne "Gunny" Harmon, J.D. Miniear, Tony "Big Dog" Van Pelt. **Cook Partisan Index:** +11 Democrat. **Analysis:** Rep. Carson raised \$497,865.53 in 2017, including \$249,087 from individuals, disbursed \$349,291 and posted \$971,921.86. All of his respective challengers in both parties are essentially broke. Carson should easily win reelection. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Carson; Tossup.

CD8: The not so bloody 8th

Republican: U.S. Rep. Larry D. Bucshon, Rachael Covington, Richard Moss. **Democrat:** Ron Drake, James Johnson, William Tanoos. **Cook Partisan Index:** +15 Republican. **Analysis:** Tanoos raised \$99,635.82, including \$94,260 from individuals, disbursed \$53,216.11 and had \$46,419.71 cash on hand. In his 2016 campaign, Drake raised \$12,275 and had \$1,301 cash on hand. He did not post a filing for 2017. So Tanoos has a slight money edge but lacks Drake's limited name ID. With former Evansville mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel out of this race, this is a potential missed opportunity pickup for Democrats. On the Republican side, Dr. Moss posted \$25,109.80 and \$17,588.53 cash on hand. That compares to Rep. Bucshon, who raised \$427,095.35 in 2017, including \$144,928 from individuals, disbursed \$287,912.95 and posted \$452,043.50 cash. He is in great shape for reelection unless there is a gigantic tsunami in November. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Tanoos; Safe Bucshon.

CD9: A potential fall battleground

Republican: U.S. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth, James Dean Alspach. **Democrat:** Dan Canon, Rob Chatlos, Liz Watson. **Cook Partisan Index:** +13 Republican. **Analysis:** Rep. Hollingsworth posted \$708,006.06 for 2017, \$173,642 from individuals, \$500,000 from committees, and no loans from himself. He had \$410,514.49 in disbursements and had \$297,796.56 cash on hand along with \$613,615 in debts/loans by committee. Hollingsworth won this seat in 2016 as a self-funder along with his father, and he will have all the financial resources necessary to win reelection. Democrat Liz Watson raised \$370,981.62 for 2017, including \$296,945 from individuals and a \$20,000 loan from herself. She disbursed \$94,612 and posted \$276,369.04 cash on hand. Canon posted similar numbers: \$310,671 raised in 2017, \$300,720 from individuals but nearly doubled Watson's disbursements, at \$198,795. He posted an ending balance of \$112,253. Watson has several primary advantages, one being in this "pink wave" year, she will benefit from gender. She has a money edge heading into the homestretch. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Hollingsworth; Leans Watson. ❖

Hall takes a money lead in Dem primary

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – Money isn't everything. But it sure is something. I have often cited that political truism in analyzing campaign finance reports. Keep it in mind as we look today at money raised, spent and still on hand as reported by candidates for Congress in Indiana's 2nd District.



Most impressive in year-end reports to the Federal Election Commission is the fundraising of Mel Hall, former chief executive officer of South Bend-based Press Ganey. Hall did better in fundraising by far than the other two main candidates for the Democratic

nomination. He even raised more in fourth-quarter contributions than Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, the Republican incumbent seeking a fourth term.

The nationally influential Cook Political Report noted Hall's successful fundraising Thursday in moving the 2nd District from "solid Republican" to "likely Republican" in its evaluation. It upgraded Democratic chances also in other districts where a Democratic challenger outraced a Republican incumbent. The other two main candidates in the race for the Democratic nomination are Yatish Joshi, owner of GTA Containers in South Bend, and South Bend attorney Pat Hackett.

Here are totals on contributions received in the latest reporting period, the fourth quarter of 2017: Hall \$282,137; Walorski \$260,103; Hackett \$16,789; Yoshi \$1,380. The two businessmen added their own money beyond those totals to their campaigns. Hall loaned \$210,000 to his campaign. Joshi loaned \$200,000 to his.

All of this and what they spent leads to these amounts the candidates reported in their coffers as 2018 began: Walorski \$829,311; Hall \$432,482; Joshi \$58,296; Hackett \$842.

Walorski started with more in the bank after her

blow-out victory in 2016, when she carried nine of the 10 counties in the district and came very close in St. Joseph County. The three Democrats began their fundraising in that fourth-quarter reporting period.

Candidates with the most money don't always win. They sometimes spend it ineffectively or even hurt their efforts with advertising that backfires. Money doesn't always save a seriously flawed candidate. But money is important in politics, especially in a sprawling district like the 2nd, where no candidate can come close to meeting all the voters and must spend for persuasive TV ads and mailings. Reaching an adequate funding plateau quickly for an effective districtwide campaign will be vital for the Democratic candidates as the May 8 primary election approaches.

Walorski certainly would like as much funding as possible to vastly outspend and drub her fall opponent, as she did in her last two elections. The Democratic nominees then were left without funding or hope. Her fundraising potential is shown by the extensive contributions already from political action committees. She received \$175,350 from political committees in the fourth quarter. The Democratic candidates received none.

It will be significant if the eventual Democratic nominee wins backing from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, especially through designation early as part of the targeted "Red to Blue" all-out effort. Targeting by the DCCC brings organization and funding help and also signals to Democratic contributors PACs nationally that this is a district where their help could bring a victory in the quest to gain control of the House.

The DCCC has been a factor in races in the South Bend-based district. When Joe Donnelly, now in the Senate, first ran for the House against former Congressman Chris Chocola, he didn't get a cent from the DCCC and lost badly with an underfunded campaign. Two years later, with all-out DCCC help, Donnelly upset Chocola by a substantial margin.

In the last two races won by Walorski, the DCCC provided no funding for the Democratic candidates. They won't help again, unless there is a Democratic candidate showing organizational, fundraising and campaigning skill. They won't spend a cent on a campaign that appears to have little or no chance. Why would they, with crucial and potentially winnable races elsewhere? ❖



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

What to do when the stock market dives

By **MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Once again, with the stock market tumbling as Lego blocks struck by a playful toddler, the inexplicable is explained by experts who declare, “The fundamentals are sound.”

We recall the anxiety of the Great Recession which was built on these the facts: The number of private sector jobs in the United States fell by 11.6 million between June 2007 and January 2010, a decline of 9.9%. Indiana’s experience was a job loss of 316,000 from June 2007 to February 2010; down by 12.2%.



These private sector job losses result from market conditions which require divine explanation. Government jobs rise and fall with the political thought waves of

elected and appointed deep thinkers.

Business cycles have three stages: Recession, recovery and expansion. The decline in business activity and an accompanying loss of jobs (in many, but not all cases) is the recession.

The recovery is an ambiguous matter. Firms may go out of existence, change locations, products and services, but the volume of activity (revenue, tonnage) may regain a previous high. Likewise, the number of jobs may again reach earlier levels, but they may be different activities done by different people. Recovery is not restoration of the past.

Expansion takes us beyond to higher levels of activity, involving the ever-popular “more.” We seek more things, more income, more travel, more exercise because we presume they are good and will make us happy.

The recession in the U.S. dated from June 2007 (as above), but when did it end? In terms of jobs, the low point nationally was reached 31 months later in January 2010. In Indiana the bottom was reached that February.

Thus, with the first pitches of Spring training 2010 the recovery began. For the nation, the recovery lasted 52 months through (May of ‘14). Hoosiers, not to be hurried by a possible fad, took 62 months (April of ‘15) to reach previous job totals. Since the recovery ended, we’ve been off to the races. The U.S. has seen a rise of nine million jobs. For Indiana, the expansion added about 120,000 jobs to date.

Will the recent decline in stock prices signal or even cause the next recession? It could, but it doesn’t have to. People who put money into stocks, may not need those funds today to buy staples. Hence, the grocers will not be denied business, the truck drivers will still have

deliveries to make, and the factories will maintain employment. If those investors borrowed money and cannot pay back what they borrowed, because the stock has fallen below their purchase price, they and their lenders will not be buying staples and the economy could become unglued.

Yes, consumer spending has been strong, corporations did make good earnings, and the malignant policies oozing from D.C. have yet to take effect. Could that be enough to avoid a recession? Let me know who has an answer. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an economist, writer, and speaker who may be reached at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.



Wives make Lake sheriff race interesting

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – I suspect you can say it could only happen in Lake County. And, yes, we are talking about a heated Democratic sheriff’s primary that just got hotter.

At first glance, the biggest loser is Sheriff Oscar Martinez, who has been in office since winning a precinct caucus last fall.



The biggest winner is former Schererville Police Chief David Dowling, who finished second in the precinct caucus. And, at the heart of all the action is Betty Dominguez, whose husband Roy Dominguez was sheriff from 2003 to 2010 and likely would be running again this year if

the sheriff wasn’t Hispanic.

Betty Dominguez, who is a retired Lake County Court probation officer, entered the sheriff’s race on Monday. Her candidacy stirs Lake County’s diverse ethnic pot.

Martinez hoped to be the lone Hispanic in the race and corner that vote. That no longer would appear to be possible. Betty Dominguez, who is almost as recognizable as her husband, would be expected to pull a substantial vote. The other Hispanic in the race is county police officer Maria (Rosa) Trajkovich.

With the Hispanic vote expected to be splintered, the same is likely the case with the county’s sizable black vote. The two black candidates are Richard Ligon, who has run twice before, and county Clerk Michael A. Brown, a popular political figure who is barred from running again because of term limits. Dowling is the only white candidate with name recognition. Former police officer Wally DeRose is also in the race.

The politics of the sheriff's primary runs deep. Betty backed the successful candidacy of Marissa McDermott for Lake Circuit Court judge in 2016. Betty said she won't hire her husband as legal advisor of chief of police if elected. "I knew Marissa would be her own person, and I'm going to be my own person," Betty said.

Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., Marissa's husband, backed Martinez in the precinct caucus

and is expected to back him in the primary. Roy Dominguez was hired by Marissa McDermott but left when the two had a disagreement on a legal issue that could have impacted Roy's ability to practice law. ❖

Rich James has been writing about politics and government for almost 40 years. He is retired from the Post-Tribune, a newspaper born in Gary.

Annexation bill passes Senate

Howey Politics Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS – A pair of bills that could affect future annexation attempts are headed to an Indiana House committee for review after passing the state Senate last week (Rollins, Bloomington Herald-Times). One is authored by Sens. Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, Eric Koch, R-Bedford, and Blake Doriot, R-Syracuse, and would affect both existing and future annexation remonstrance waivers. Property owners opposed to being annexed by a city can file

a remonstrance, in which they legally object to a proposed annexation. If enough property owners file, it can potentially stop the annexation. But a property owner loses the right to remonstrate if there is a waiver tied to the property. Senate Bill 261 could void some of those waivers. The bill would require an annexation remonstrance waiver be recorded within 30 days to be valid; void waivers 15 years old or older prior to June 30 unless they have been properly recorded before Jan. 1, 2019, and set a 15-year expiration date for waivers effected after June 30, 2003, that were properly recorded.

Autonomous vehicle bill hits bump

The future of self-driving vehicles hit a Hoosier pothole Tuesday as auto manufacturers said a legislative bill setting up standards overreaches into their attempts to build innovative and safe cars (Miley, [CNHI](#)). As proposed, House Bill 1341 sets up standards for autonomous vehicles, which some companies predict could be seen on roads by 2019. The state standards could be usurped by federal law. Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, author of the bill, said the presence of AVs on roads is further away than 2019, but that the time is now to create standards. "We believe that a requirement that an automated vehicle have a driver present limits the mobility potential such vehicles hold for the disabled and elderly, for example," the Ford Motor Company said in a statement presented to the committee. Basically, manufacturers don't want to seek state

pre-approval before testing AVs or require that their AVs have the same level of safety as a Level 0 vehicle. Andrew Berger, senior vice president of the Indiana Manufacturers Association, said safety was the foremost concern among car manufacturers.

BSU takeover bill up today

The Indiana Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to conduct a hearing Thursday, Feb. 15, on the bill to give Ball State University control of financially unstable Muncie Community Schools (Slabaugh, [Muncie Star Press](#)). The measure, House Bill 1315, passed the House by a margin of 65-26 on Feb. 1. Rep. Karlee Macer, Indianapolis, was the only Democrat to support it. All members of the Republican caucus voted for the legislation. Besides allowing BSU to govern the school district using a newly appointed seven-member school board, the bill allows the State Board of Finance to make an interest-free loan to the district; removes the district's fiscally "distressed" label; and provides extra state financial support to the district from July 1 of this year to June 22, 2022. The law specifies that the state's Distressed Unit Appeal Board (DUAB) will provide funding to the district in 2018-22 in an amount equal to the compensation that would have been provided to the district had it retained its status as a distressed unit.

Smith blocks dead voting bill

An Indiana House committee chairman plans to block a bill that would allow the votes of dead people to



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count ([Associated Press](#)). Republican Elections Committee chairman Milo Smith says he doesn't plan to allow a committee hearing or vote on the bill in the coming weeks. The Senate voted 45-2 last month in favor of the bill that requires election officials to count absentee ballots "marked and forwarded" by Indiana voters who then die before Election Day. Smith told The Times of Northwest Indiana that he based his decision on an official opinion from Republican Attorney General Curtis Hill, who said the legislation is unconstitutional because a deceased person is not considered an Indiana resident.

Savannah's law heads to House

House Bill 100, authored by Sen. Michael Delph, R-Carmel, allows fire departments to conduct carbon monoxide testing in passenger compartments at no charge for vehicle owners (Miley, [CNHI](#)). Delph's bill, known as Savannah's Law, passed 48-0 out of the Senate and now goes to the full House after moving Wednesday from the House Roads and Transportation Committee. Testing would be voluntary. The fire departments wouldn't be held liable if a civil lawsuit arises from the test if the test is conducted in good faith. In talking with mechanics, Delph said there were basically two ways to check on exhaust: One is to test the air and the other is to visually inspect an exhaust system.

Sunday sales could be on fast track

Sunday alcohol carryout sales in Indiana are another step closer to reality, and they could be coming even sooner than originally planned (Brown, [Inside Indiana](#)

[Business](#)). Senate Bill 1, which allows carryout sales on Sundays at package liquor, grocery, convenience and drug stores, has passed the House Public Policy Committee. The bill was approved the full Senate last month. The House Public Policy Committee passed the bill with an amendment that would make Sunday sales effective as soon as it's signed into law by Governor Eric Holcomb, instead of waiting until July 1, the start of Indiana's fiscal year. Senator Ron Alting (R-22), who authored the bill, expressed his support for the amendment.

Future of jobs keeps Long up at night

Economists, demographers and political leaders are increasingly concerned that the next generation of workers won't be ready to fill millions of new jobs across the country (Wilson, [The Hill](#)). The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the economy will need as many as 100,000 new information technology workers per year over the next decade. Right now, only about 60,000 of these workers enter the workforce each year. "It's a national problem. We don't have the skilled workforce that we need for the future," said David Long, the Republican leader of the Indiana state Senate. "We have to make sure we have the bodies to fill these jobs." About 108 million workers hold jobs that require moderate or high digital knowledge, according to a Brookings Institution report published in December, and jobs are increasingly likely to require higher levels of technical knowledge. "Fifty years from now, half the jobs that we know of today will be gone," Indiana's Long said. "That's the one that keeps you up at night." ❖

Photography With Punch
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David Van Drehe, Washington Post: Budget discipline is not the only concept Republicans no longer sell. Trump has replaced the free-trade GOP with a protectionist outfit. He's pushing isolationism and nativism instead of global engagement. Remember how Republicans used to pitch virtue and personal accountability? They've become the party of alleged wife-beaters and hush money to porn stars. But nothing illustrates the reverse merger with Trump more clearly than the Republican-led House of Representatives cheerfully passing tax-cut and spending bills that together will drive the annual deficit past \$1 trillion, without the slightest prospect of a balanced budget in their plans. Deficit spending in a slump can be necessary stimulus. To do it on this staggering scale in a period of steady growth and low unemployment is fiscal malpractice. Republicans used to run on promises that they would make government more efficient by cutting "waste, fraud and abuse." Forget that, too. Phase one of the first-ever audit of Pentagon budgets recently found the Defense Department is unable to account for some \$800 million in spending — by a single agency! Many more defense agencies remain to be audited. Yet the GOP insisted on adding \$165 billion over two years in new funding for a department that can't adequately account for the \$700 billion per year it already receives. Lack of transparency is business as usual for Trump, and bankruptcy a familiar harbor. He's a promoter, a tout, a shill — not a manager. It's not at all surprising that he would funny up some budget numbers to create an annual fund of about \$200 billion and call it a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan. Trump doesn't compare himself to P.T. Barnum for nothing. ❖



Walter Russell Meade, Wall Street Journal: The toughest event at this year's Winter Olympics has turned out to be the diplomatic lunge. Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korea's ruthless dictator, emerged as the early favorite, dazzling her hosts and earning points for inviting South Korea's President Moon Jae-in to visit Pyongyang. The media went into full fanboy mode, giving Ms. Kim the best publicity since Vogue magazine gushed in 2011 that Bashar al-Assad's wife was "the freshest and most magnetic of first ladies. In contrast, a dour Mike Pence not only avoided Ms. Kim during Friday's opening ceremonies but did not stand when the "united" Korean athletic team was introduced, which angered some South Koreans. The Trump administration has assiduously worked to isolate North Korea; is Ms. Kim's charm offensive now driving a wedge between the U.S. and the South? The answer, at least for now, turns out to be no. In the past, South Korean presidents who jumped at North Korean offers of talks and exchanges ended up suffering political consequences when Pyongyang failed to follow up with real concessions. Moon Jae-in was too smart and too cautious to take the bait. Rather than accepting the invitation to Pyongyang, he urged the Kim regime to talk directly with the U.S.

By the time the buzzer sounded, it was Mr. Moon who had won the diplomatic gold medal, while Ms. Kim went home empty-handed. Mr. Moon got a political boost from Ms. Kim's visit and the appearance of a thaw between the Koreas, but he avoided the backlash from appearing naive or overeager. He also reminded the Americans that South Korea cannot be taken for granted; without Seoul's support, the Trump administration's North Korea policy is unsustainable. ❖

David Brooks, New York Times: In the first half of the 1990s, I worked in Europe for The Wall Street Journal. I covered nothing but good news: the reunification of Germany, the liberation of Central Europe, the fall of the Soviet Union, the end of apartheid in South Africa, the Oslo peace process in the Middle East. Then, toward the end of my stay, there was one seemingly anomalous episode — the breakup of Yugoslavia. In retrospect, the civil war in the Balkans was the most important event of that period. It prefigured what has come since: the return of ethnic separatism, the rise of authoritarian populism, the retreat of liberal democracy, the elevation of a warrior ethos that reduces politics to friend/enemy, zero-sum conflicts. In those intervening years there's been an utter transformation in the unconscious mind-set within which people hold their beliefs. Back in the 1990s, there was an unconscious abundance mind-set. Democratic capitalism provides the bounty. Prejudice gradually fades away. Growth and dynamism are our friends. The abundance mind-set is confident in the future, welcoming toward others. It sees win-win situations everywhere. Today, after the financial crisis, the shrinking of the middle class, the partisan warfare, a scarcity mind-set is dominant: Resources are limited. The world is dangerous. Group conflict is inevitable. It's us versus them. If they win, we're ruined, therefore, let's stick with our tribe. The ends justify the means. The shift in mentalities seems like a shift in philosophy. But it's really a shift from a philosophy to an anti-philosophy. The scarcity mind-set is an acid that destroys every belief system it touches. For example, in the years after Ronald Reagan, the Republican Party was defined by its abundance mind-set. The key Republican narratives were capitalist narratives about dynamic entrepreneurs and America's heroic missions. The Wall Street Journal editorial page was the most important organ of conservative opinion. The party's views on other issues, like immigration, were downstream from confidence in the abundant marketplace and the power of the American idea. Now, Donald Trump leads the Republican Party, the personification of the scarcity mind-set. Fox News, with its daily gospel of resentments, is the most important organ of conservative opinion. Restricting immigration has become the core Republican issue. Today's Republicans are happy to trade away their fiscal principles if they can get their way on immigration, which is what they did in last week's budget deal. ❖

17 murdered in 18th school atrocity

PARKLAND, Fla. — He preened with guns and knives on social media, bragged about shooting rats with his BB gun and got kicked out of school — in part because he had brought bullets in his backpack, according to one classmate. He was later expelled for still-undisclosed disciplinary reasons ([Miami Herald](#)). The portrait of Nikolas Cruz, suspected of fatally shooting 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland and wounding 15 others at his former school, is a troubled teen with few friends and an obsessive interest in weapons. Administrators considered him enough of a potential threat that one teacher said a warning was emailed last year against allowing him on the campus with a backpack. "All he would talk about is guns, knives and hunting," said Joshua Charo, 16, a former classmate at the high school. "I can't say I was shocked. From past experiences, he seemed like the kind of kid who would do something like this." Late Wednesday, detectives were digging into the past of the 19-year-old who had no previous arrests but had displayed plenty of troubling behavior before officers took him into custody after what ranks as the third-deadliest school shooting in American history. The gun-control group backed by Michael Bloomberg, says this is the 18th school shooting of 2018 ([Politico](#)). We are seven weeks into the year. That means there's a school shooting every 2.5 days. There have been 30 mass shootings this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

Pence backs Kelly to stay in West Wing

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence wants embattled White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly to keep his job even as he admits

officials mishandled the fallout of the Rob Porter domestic abuse scandal (Bennett, [Roll Call](#)). "John Kelly has done a remarkable job as chief of staff for the president of the United States," Pence said Wednesday at an event in Washington sponsored by Axios. "And



I look forward to continuing to work with him for many, many months to come." Still, Pence was critical of how Kelly and his staff bungled the White House's response to reports — including graphic images — that the former staff secretary and Kelly confidant had abused his two ex-wives. "I feel the White House could have handled this better," he said. "Any more counsel I have on this, I'll share with the president of the United States." Pence trumpeted Kelly's career as a Marine and Homeland Security secretary, painting him as a "good man."

Trump signs athlete abuse bill

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed into law Wednesday legislation to prevent amateur athletes from being abused, a response to the sexual abuse scandal that roiled USA Gymnastics (Groppe, [USA Today](#)). Indiana's Congressional delegation lent support to the bill. The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act aims to fix a patchwork of state reporting rules by requiring adults who interact with amateur athletes to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to local law enforcement. The statute of limitations on abuse will not begin until the victim realizes she has been abused.

ADL blasts Carson over Rouhani dinner

WASHINGTON — Anti-Defamation League (ADL) CEO Jonathan Greenblatt issued a statement on Twitter denouncing three congressio-

nal Democrats for attending a dinner hosted by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in 2013 also attended by Louis Farrakhan (Banler, [Jewish Journal](#)). Greenblatt called it "extremely disturbing" that the three members, Reps. Keith Ellison (D-MN), who is also the deputy chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Gregory Meeks (D-NY) and Andre Carson (D-IN) dined with "hatemongers." "Yes, it may have been an 'official' event org by Iran govt," Greenblatt tweeted. "However, this is one of the most repressive & aggressive regimes in world."

Bipartisan group reaches DACA deal

WASHINGTON — A broad bipartisan group of senators reached agreement Wednesday on a narrow rewrite of the nation's immigration laws that would bolster border security and resolve the fate of the so-called Dreamers, even as President Trump suggested he would veto any plan that does not adhere to his harder-line approach ([New York Times](#)). Their compromise legislation sets up a clash pitting the political center of the Senate against Mr. Trump and the Republican congressional leadership.

Clerk releases audio of Mayor Henry

FORT WAYNE — A dispute between Fort Wayne's mayor and city clerk took another turn today after Clerk Lana Keesling released an audio recording that she says proves the mayor retaliated against her over a parking ticket he received on his city-owned car (Gong, [Fort Wayne Journal Gazette](#)). "The mayor's response to the parking ticket was that this was a 'disagreement' about a parking space. There is a far bigger picture here that an elected official was bullied and retaliated against for doing the job she was elected to do," Keesling said in a statement. "The mayor stated Citizens Square is his building and he can do whatever he wants."