

## Braun has big media ad buy advantage

Jasper businessman has \$1 million ad edge over Rokita, Messer; FEC reports coming

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Mike Braun has outspent Luke Messer and Todd Rokita by \$1 million in TV and radio advertising thus far in the race for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination. In a buying time competitive report, Braun has spent or reserved air time

to the tune of \$3,030,920, compared to \$1,497,755 for Messer and just \$551,389 for Rokita.

To date, Messer has spent or reserved 9,162 gross rating points, compared to 1,149 for

Rokita and 18,653 for Braun. The three campaigns have spent \$5,080,064 at this writing.

This is a critical juncture in the GOP primary. This analysis comes as the campaigns are preparing the first



quarter FEC reports. The advertising schedule suggests that Messer might have outraised Rokita. While Messer has reserved time from today through May 7, Braun has not purchased time for the weeks of April 24 and May 1. Rokita's air time purchases end after this week as of this reporting. He typically makes his buys on Tuesdays. Braun is almost certainly awaiting the Messer and Rokita FEC reports before he makes ad-buy decisions for the final two

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## Trump for U.S. Senate

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE – I'm not sure if it has leaked out yet, but Todd Rokita has officially changed his name on the Indiana primary ballot to Donald T. R. Trump. Not to be outdone, Mike Braun switched his to Donald Brawny

Trump. Luke Messer may soon follow, possibly switching to Luke Usually Trump. He will decide before the final week of the primary.

In Indiana, the Republican Senate candidates are clearly wagering that Republicans will rally around the President for at least another 30 days. They will worry about swing voters after the primary.

At this point, only the



**“Speaker Ryan has worked tirelessly in Congress for almost two decades fighting for conservative values. He has provided the leadership needed to successfully transform those conservative ideas into achievements.”**

*- U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon  
reacting to Ryan's retirement*





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video war matters unless it is very close. If it depends upon the ground war in a very close race, it is likely Rokita will win. If the vote is extremely low, Rokita will likely win. Almost universally, the small sample polls show Rokita closely battling undecided for the lead, with Braun his closest threat. Both factors may still be just "name identification" results, which is the major reason the race is so fluid. The other reason is a great fear that the "undecided" is actually an "I don't care" polling result. However, if Rokita cannot keep up in advertising dollars with Braun or even Messer, this race could shift dramatically, and rapidly.

**Given that** each candidate claims to support the same general conservative principles, it has come down to personalities and who is most like, most loyal to, and the most adoring acolyte of President Trump. The latest wave of ads reflects the jockeying for the "I'm more Trumpian than you" pole position.

**1.)** Rokita's ad calling Messer a NeverTrumper: The fact is that all three candidates have expressed some doubts about Trump's behavior at different times. But to call Messer a "NeverTrumper" is just absurd. Messer has voted with the Trump position in Congress 92.8% of the time, while Rokita has followed suit on 90.0% of votes. This metric obviously has a built-in flaw, because it assumes that what the President supports is actually what he favors (e.g. the budget agreement), but to say Messer is a NeverTrumper is demonstrably false.

**2.)** Messer's basketball ad claiming to be on Trump's team: After stating in classic Messer terms that if Trump got North Korea to give up its nuclear program he deserved the Nobel peace prize, this is Messer's second attempt to portray himself as the leading Trumpite. While Rokita's

ad may be designed to deceive voters about Messer's actual record, Messer has been the most reserved in his Trumpism.

**As traditional** media of all types continue to decline in circulation, listenership and viewership, local news reporting continues to shrink at a rapid pace. The candidates, thus, are more or less on their own to reach voters across the state, past the declining core of party faithful and political activists. Political coverage is all Trump, all the time. The best way to reach Republican voters is to tie yourself to the President.

Messer's basketball ad is interesting on multiple levels. He starts out talking about Hoosier basketball, though the ad presumably shows Virginia basketball since his son and his son's team live there. Was the ad filmed in a Northern Virginia gym? If it was filmed in Indiana, did the team of Virginia players all come to visit Indiana? Or were they not actually the real players? Furthermore, did his ad team not remember the many failed



basketball ads over the last 30 years, including a 2016 Evan Bayh ad playing basketball with his two sons in Washington, much to the delight of Hoosier Republicans?

Trump did steamroll his primary opponents in the critical Indiana primary by storming the state with Bobby Knight, Gene Keady, and Digger Phelps (I don't think his endorsement from Mike Tyson added much.) While most boys today are playing many

sports, and fan attendance is sporadic for basketball events, Bobby Knight remains legendary. But is his appeal tied to basketball, or a memory of good times lost? Knight reminds people of a time when Indiana and America “kicked butt,” as the old expression goes. If Rokita unveils a spot featuring Bobby Knight, he will likely win the nomination. The Messer basketball spot is not as strong.



whom he wants to remake the Republican Party. Are you with him on that or not? This is especially tricky ground since Trump himself contributed to Hillary and has, at various times, called himself a Democrat. So, even the argument that being a crossover Democrat voter is different than seeking a nomination doesn’t work for a Trump enthusiast because that is precisely what Trump did.

On the other hand, Rokita’s “horrors of the results of liberalism” ad is classically Trumpian. It checks off most of the Trump basics with the scary film opening. It isn’t identified as a Rokita ad until much of its time is wasted. Then he’s on a sofa with his family and suddenly emerges firing a gun, presumably to drive away liberal threats to his family. There is a cut-in somewhere in there, where a somewhat red-faced Rokita delivers a conservative message, and it concludes with him putting on a “Make America Great Again” hat. Though unfocused, not unlike a Trump speech, once you realize it is a Rokita ad, you realize that this man likes President Trump. A lot. He’s almost a mini-me (though he hasn’t colored his hair).

**Braun pursued the** Trump mantle aggressively from the beginning, first by framing himself as a businessman and similar to the voters who moved to Trump. They were often blue-collar Democrats from Southern Indiana who switched over to the Trump-led Republican Party. Braun’s brilliant “cardboard twins” ad defined his opponents as the typical Washingtonian establishment hated by the loudest Trump enthusiasts. Then, this past week, he inexplicably aired a rather milquetoast, forgettable new ad.

The most recent Rokita ads deserve the “Most Trumpian” award. Rokita also earned the Trump raspberry award for another.

First, the raspberry. Even granting that this is a Republican primary and not a general election, why would you assault the integrity of voters who voted in past Democrat primaries before switching for Trump? He’s attacking Braun specifically, but he’s actually attacking all of them. This type of ad has not generally worked in other states for that very reason. Trump touts them as his base, with

**Voting has now started.** Unless someone has a Mourdock moment, ads will bury the debates. The war is in the ads. No candidate is likely to hold any chips back. They are all in or they are out, potentially forever. ❖

**Souder is a former Republican member of Congress from Indiana.**

**INSen TV, from page 1**

weeks.

In addition to the FEC filings, the other thing to watch for is what former congressman and HPI analyst Mark Souder calls the “major bomb” ads. It will be this weekend or by mid next week for such ads to begin airing in order to move the numbers, particularly the roughly 40% of undecided Republicans. We could see Rokita air “Mexico Mike” ads aimed at Braun’s Jasper company, or the “rich wife” ad detailing Jennifer Messer’s cushy Fishers \$240,000 a year part-time job. Rokita is likely to attempt to make hay out of Messer living in Northern Virginia.

Assault ads against Rokita could include his shoddy treatment of staff, his use of franking for political gain, taking Indian casino money, his ducking two debates, or Braun’s most damning tactic of all, calling out Messer and Rokita for being “congressmen.” As of Wednesday, Economist/YouGov Poll had congressional approval at 8% with 74% disapproving, and Quinnipiac had it at a lofty 12%

approval with 81% disapproving. The Economist/YouGov Poll had the national right/wrong track at a torpid 35/56%. These are rabidly bad numbers for any incumbent working in “the swamp.”

In broadcast TV, Braun has spent \$332,125 in the Evansville TV market, \$496,655 in the Fort Wayne market, \$731,546 in Indianapolis, \$17,575 in Lafayette, \$278,337 in South Bend/Elkhart and \$255,785 in Terre Haute.

On cable, Braun has spent \$328,114, including \$89,165 in the Chicago market, \$13,951 in Cincinnati, and \$155,929 in Indianapolis. On radio, Braun has spent \$453,527 in nine markets, including Bloomington, Chicago, Louisville, Muncie/Marion, Elkhart and South Bend.

Messer’s broadcast TV advertising includes \$176,115 in Fort Wayne, \$885,050 in Indianapolis, \$184,230 in Louisville and \$140,582 in South Bend/Elkhart. Messer’s cable buys come to \$111,598, including \$59,061 in Indianapolis and \$22,412 in Fort Wayne. Messer has not advertised in the Evansville, Terre Haute, Chicago and Lafayette markets. Messer has not conducted

a radio ad campaign to date.

Rokita's biggest broadcast splash has been the \$114,435 he's spent in Indianapolis, followed by \$36,800 in Fort Wayne and \$22,670 in South Bend/Elkhart. Rokita has not advertised in the Evansville, Terre Haute, Lafayette broadcast markets. He has spent \$40,455 in Chicago market cable, \$86,881 in Indianapolis cable, and \$27,410 in Evansville cable. Rokita also spent \$98,050 in statewide satellite advertising and \$63,978 on radio.

Braun told HPI last month that he decided to begin advertising in November. That decision came before Rokita and Messer filed tepid fourth quarter 2017 reports. In that reporting period, Braun posted \$2.3 million, Messer had \$430,000 and Rokita posted \$459,000, signaling they were facing an uphill climb in keeping up with the self-funding Braun, a Jasper business executive.

### Braun's 'throwback' ad

Braun released his eighth television ad, "The Choice" on Wednesday. "The Choice" tells the story of young Luke Messer and Todd Rokita jockeying for careers in politics, while young Mike Braun planned one day to start a business and create jobs.

"Growing up in Indiana, Todd and Luke wanted careers in politics. Mike wanted a career in business," says the voiceover. "While the career politicians argued and debated, Mike sat quietly learning how to build the economy and create jobs."



"The definition of insanity is trying the same thing over and over and expecting a different result," said Braun. "We can't send another career politician from the farm system of politics to the Senate and expect change. Hoosiers want an outsider who will join President Trump and get Washington moving again. That's exactly what I plan to do in the Senate."

Braun announced in an email that the candidate's campaign will run a brand new 60-second advertisement during tomorrow night's episode of "Roseanne" on ABC in the Fort Wayne, South Bend, Terre Haute and Evansville media markets. In the Indianapolis media market, the 60-second spot will air immediately before "Roseanne" at approximately 7:58 p.m. ET. "Roseanne is the perfect place for me to release my own 'throwback' ad and is proof positive that the Hollywood elites do NOT know best," Braun explained. "My opponents count themselves among the Washington chattering class with their long careers in politics, but I have a different story to tell, which I'd urge Roseanne viewers to keep an eye out for tomorrow night!"

### Donnelly has \$6.4M cash

U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly posted \$1.63 million in the first quarter and now has \$6.4 million cash on hand. His previous highest haul of \$1.55 million was set in the third quarter of the 2012 election, right before he defeated Republican Richard Mourdock after spending nearly \$5.6 million. The Republicans have not released their reports.

### Donnelly's approve/disapprove at 42/32%

A new Morning Consult Poll on the approve/disapprove of U.S. senators puts U.S. Sen. Donnelly at 42/32%, while U.S. Sen. Todd Young stands at 44/27%. Donnelly's net approval stands 10% above President Trump.

### Messer, Rokita spar over Trump

Messer blasted Rokita for his record of voting against President Trump's agenda. "Todd Rokita runs around the state wearing a MAGA hat but when President Trump needs his support on the tough votes, Todd Rokita votes No, No, No," Messer said. "I support the president's agenda, and I have the record to prove it." In Congress, Messer has the highest Trump rating of his primary opponents, 92.8% compared to Rokita's 90.0%. Rokita has a record of voting against the president on key agenda items, including: Trump's budget bill – President Trump said: "Republicans and Democrats must support our troops and support this Bill!" Rokita called it "a false choice." Trump's funding bill – President Trump said: "\$1.6 Billion to start Wall on Southern Border, rest will be forthcoming. Most importantly, got \$700 Billion to rebuild our military, \$716 Billion next year ... most ever." Rokita called it "the

Washington swamp at its worst." Trump's Plan to modernize air travel -- Rokita is one of three Republicans holding up Trump's airline reforms and called the plan "fundamentally flawed." Trump's counterterrorism legislation – President Trump said "We need it. Get smart!" Rokita authored an amendment to gut it. Todd Rokita was recently exposed for negative comments he made about Trump in 2016, calling him "vulgar, if not profane."

### Messer residency in news

Messer was a no-show at a campaign event with supporters in Kokomo last week, thanks to a canceled flight. He missed Gov. Eric Holcomb's GOP fundraising dinner in November. And in September, he left an Anderson venue before Vice President Mike Pence name-checked him during a speech on the Republican-led tax overhaul (Associated Press). Such are the difficulties and liabilities Messer has created for himself as he campaigns in an intense GOP primary while living in suburban Washington, D.C., more than 500 miles away. When he's not scrambling to catch a flight, the congressman and member of House leadership is taking votes, coaching his son's McLean, VA.,

basketball team, and trying to be a family man who makes it home for dinner and attends church on Sundays. But in a divisive primary that has drawn national attention for its nastiness, that's given his Republican rivals and Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly's allies plenty of grist in a state where living elsewhere has doomed other elected officials, including former Sens. Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar. "You can't fault a person for wanting to be a father who is present and spends time with his family," said University of Evansville political science professor Robert Dion. "But come on. If you need more time with your family, maybe being a federal lawmaker is not the choice for you." "Keeping the family together keeps Luke grounded," said campaign manager Chasen Bullock.

### Rokita wins 4 straw polls

Rokita has won the latest four Indiana GOP primary straw polls (Howey Politics Indiana). Included are: Steuben County GOP Straw Poll, April 4, Rokita 56%, Braun 40%, Messer 4%. Monroe County GOP Straw Poll March 31: Rokita 56%, Braun 33%, Messer 11%. Indianapolis Defenders of Liberty West Straw Poll March 26: Rokita 60%, Messer 20%, Braun 20%. Madison County GOP Straw Poll March 24: Rokita 54%, Messer 25%, Braun 21%.

### Tariffs could impact race

The potential for a trade war with China is already complicating some key Senate races ahead of the November midterms, especially for Republicans hoping to expand their majority (Bowman, Roll Call). Six of the top 10 soybean-producing states have Senate races this year — North Dakota, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Minnesota and Nebraska. In Indiana, Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly said in a phone interview Friday that he has always backed tariffs, but he believed they could be more "precise and surgical" to mitigate the effect on farmers. The three candidates in the GOP primary — Rokita, Messer and Braun — generally backed the president's move. Neither Messer nor Rokita signed onto a letter with their fellow Indiana GOP lawmakers expressing concerns about the import duties. "I want to let this work for a while," Rokita said in an interview, noting that he supports Trump and the tariffs. Messer said he wants to look out for both manufacturing and agricultural interests in the state. "But you know, I've just learned time and time again to stay out of the weeds over debates over the nuance because the president tends to negotiate to the right place over time," he said. Braun said that at the moment concerns over the tariffs were mostly "based upon what could happen not what has happened."

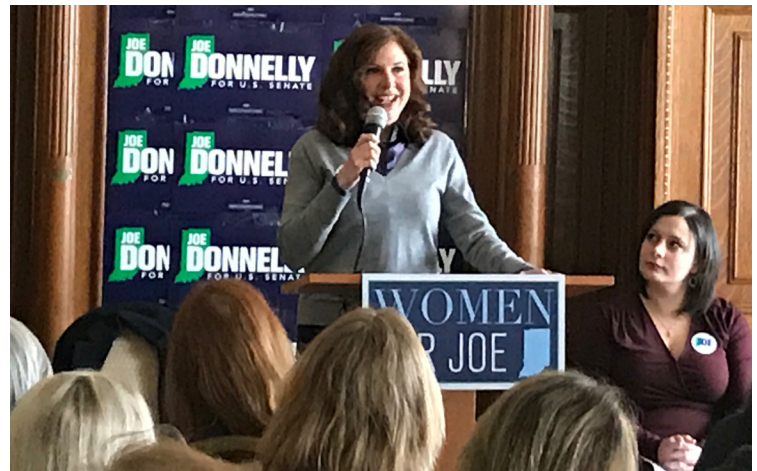
### Women rally for Donnelly

Jill Donnelly launched "Women for Joe" Tuesday at the Athenaeum with Reps. Cherrish Pryor and Carey Hamilton, and 2016 lieutenant governor nominee Christina

Hale, and more than 75 other Hoosiers discussing how Joe has fought for Hoosier women in the Senate and will continue that effort after November.

"Since I first met Joe, he's been a champion for women and a fighter for equality. He knows Hoosier women should only be limited by the boundaries of our dreams, and he's worked hard to help bring about a society reflecting that," said Jill Donnelly.

Hale said, "We are frustrated with inaction and we are ready for this election cycle. We need to keep our amazing Regular Joe in office. When I first thought about running for office, who did I reach out to? Joe Donnelly. I was a nobody, I didn't have any money. He said, 'Christina, you've gotta do this. I think you can win that race and I'm going to help you.' I thought he'd give me \$100 or something like that. That's not what that man did. He campaigned in my district. He legitimized me with Democrats



Christina Hale addresses the Women for Joe rally at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis on Tuesday as Elise Schrock looks on. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

who didn't take me seriously. He lifted me up and he didn't let me go. He took the time as a sitting U.S. senator to go door to door. He was available to me."

Rep. Pryor added, "We know there are going to be efforts to cut funding for women. We see a sustained effort by Republicans to cut all of those programs and make it difficult for women to have an equal playing field. He's somebody in D.C. who understands. Joe Donnelly listens, he pays attention. He wants to help. He understands the critical issues that affect women every single day."

And Rep. Hamilton said, "He's an amazing bipartisan leader and that is something I hold in the highest regard. He reaches across the aisle to get things done for Hoosiers and Hoosier families. I really admire that." She said she works on General Assembly legislation that "lifts up women and families" and added, "Joe does that every day. He supports paid family and medical leave. That's good for families and that is disproportionately good for women. We are the primary caregivers for our children and later in life for our parents. Family leave is crucial for women to stay in the workforce."

## Farmers express angst to Donnelly

At a diner in Rensselaer last week, Sen. Donnelly faced some agitated constituents (Litvan, Bloomberg). It wasn't Donnelly's opposition to the GOP tax-cut that animated these voters in the Republican-dominated state. Instead, many of the more than two dozen farmers gathered aired complaints about President Donald Trump's policies, primarily escalating trade tensions that threaten exports of pork and soybeans to China and corn sales to Canada and Mexico, as well as an uncertain future for a government mandate that fuel be mixed with corn-based ethanol. They were the type of voters Donnelly is doggedly cultivating as he seeks a second term in a state that Trump won by 19 percentage points in 2016.

## Donnelly blasts Trump on DACA

Donnelly took issue with the president's statements implying Democrats have chosen not to act on immigration reform (Small, ABC57). "There were three, at least, deals put together with the administration on DACA and I was actually a part of one where the president told us before we began working, 'if you put a deal together, I will sign it,'" said Sen. Donnelly. "The administration then walked away from the very deal they said they would sign."

## Indiana Dems call Rokita 'hypocritical'

The Indiana Democratic Party's website included commentary critical of GOP U.S. Senate candidate Todd Rokita's recent comments regarding support for other candidates. "Congressman Rokita bashed a Republican U.S. Senator in December for donating to a candidate the Congressman labeled as "pro-abortionist," but that claim seems hypocritical after a Journal Gazette story last week revealed he'd donated to a Congressman who'd pressured his mistress into having an abortion," the commentary stated. "During a December IN Focus interview, Congressman Rokita, who supported alleged pedophile Roy Moore until the very end, railed against Senator Jeff Flake for giving \$100 to the campaign of then-candidate Doug Jones in last year's Alabama Senate election. Rokita found several reasons to criticize Senator Flake's donation, primarily for it going to a "pro-abortionist" like Jones. On Friday, however, the Journal Gazette revealed that even though he claims to be '100 percent pro-life' and opposes abortion without exception – even to protect the life of the mother – Congressman Rokita's own leadership PAC gave \$9,000 to Scott DesJarlais, a Congressman who claimed to be similarly 'pro-life' but had pressured his mistress to have an abortion and reportedly encouraged two more for his ex-wife before they were married. The donations came after Politico called Congressman DesJarlais 'the biggest hypocrite in Congress' for his actions."❖

**Republican primary Horse Race Status:** Tossup ❖

# Ryan's retirement doesn't necessarily signal Dem tsunami

By **MARK SOUDER**  
and **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FORT WAYNE – Speaker Paul Ryan's decision to not seek reelection does not signal a political tsunami is about to engulf Republicans, but it certainly suggests he doesn't see things getting easier post-election. In other words, even if the Republicans continue in control, the Senate is likely to be nearly 50-50 and the House will have few Republican votes to spare.



Ryan lived through that once already, when he was chief of staff to then-U.S. Rep. Sam Brownback for the first two terms after the Republicans won control in the 1994 elections. In 1996 our margin narrowed, and Ryan saw how we could leverage the leadership every day. On the other hand, we were a comparatively disciplined conservative group who took some wins to keep moving forward. Many of today's dissidents are frequently more inclined to



practice scorched earth policies. Currently the speaker can lose nearly 30 Republicans most days and still prevail. If that becomes seven or fewer, as it was in the 106th and 107th Congresses, will the current group be able to practice any internal order?

In other words, if you are the Speaker, the only question isn't whether a tsunami is coming or even whether the Republicans lose control. It is whether it is a position worth having even if the Republicans retain control.

Ryan must not only be tired of the infighting in the House but also the narrow, nearly unworkable Republican margin in the Senate.

Then there is the matter of working with President Trump, who finds the concept of having three branches of government problematic. At the end of the day, presumably along with Vice President Pence and Senator McConnell, they have managed to avoid budget catastrophes with the president's cooperation, but then President Trump turns around and disassociates himself

from what he previously supported. To say that is exhausting would be an understatement of great magnitude.

I have known Paul Ryan since we were both staffers in the Senate. We were good friends in the House. He is a thinker and a good man. He fought hard for the workers of southern Wisconsin, a manufacturing district similar to northeast Indiana, which put us at odds at times with prevailing wisdom on such issues as the GM restructuring and other auto issues. Neither of us liked TARP but we understood the risk of financial collapse.

He is a rare mix of a leader who reads books and scholarly studies yet understands the practical politics of representing those with whom you grew up and for whom you are now their voice in Washington.

Potential successors such as Leader Kevin McCarthy and Whip Steve Scalise are talented leaders, but their skills are predominantly supplemental. They do not have the national clout or an internal reputation for intellectual leadership. Their styles are more similar to that of Sen. McConnell, generally referred to as "keeping the train on the tracks" and avoiding derailment.

The fact is that Speaker Ryan used up much of his conservative reputation doing just that, but he did it. It will be interesting to see if his successor can even keep an increasingly disconnected train on the tracks should Republicans retain the majority. - **Mark Souder**

## Bayh sees 'ungovernable' House

Former Indiana governor and senator Evan Bayh believes Speaker Ryan made a similar decision to the one he made in 2010 when he opted not to seek a third U.S. Senate term. "I'm not surprised," Bayh said on MSNBC Wednesday. "He's a policy wonk and a family man. Even if Republicans retain a majority, it will be so small that the House will be ungovernable." Bayh made a similar bombshell decision in 2010, citing dysfunction in the U.S. Senate and the fact that he still had children at home. Bayh said part of Ryan's decision was looking at a future where little will get done in Congress and missing out on his children growing up.

## Luntz says GOP could lose Congress

Conservative pollster Frank Luntz said on Sunday that he believes Republicans are in danger of losing both chambers of Congress in this year's midterm elections (Samuels, The Hill). "I think the Republicans are in deep trouble in the House and the Senate as well. If the election were held today, frankly, I think Republicans would lose both," Luntz said on Fox News. "If Donald Trump wants to keep a Republican Congress, he has to differentiate when he's attacking Congress in general versus the Repub-

licans in Congress. Differentiate when he's attacking the press versus when he feels he's not getting a fair shake," he continued. Luntz said that while the economy has done well, the president largely has not gotten credit for it. He suggested President Trump could draw more attention to his successes by tweeting less and focusing on the economy rather than attacking the press or other lawmakers.

## Congress

### Record number of women seeking seats

The number of women running for the U.S. House of Representatives set a record Thursday, the vast majority of them Democrats motivated by angst over President Trump and policies of the Republican-controlled Congress (CBS News). Their ranks will continue to grow, with candidate filing deadlines still to come in more than half the states. In many places, women are running for congressional seats that have never had a female representative. "It's about time," said Kara Eastman of Nebraska, one of two Democrats vying to challenge a GOP incumbent in a district centered in Omaha. A surge of women into this year's midterm elections had been expected since the Women's March demonstrations nationwide just after Mr. Trump's inauguration in January 2017. Numbers analyzed by The Associated Press show that momentum is continuing. After Virginia released its candidate list Thursday, a total of 309 women from the two major parties have filed candidacy papers to run for the House. That tops the previous record of 298 in 2012.

In Indiana, seven Democrats and four Republican women are seeking seats, including U.S. Reps. Susan Brooks and Jackie Walorski. Democrat Courtney Tritch is heavily favored to win the 3rd CD primary. In the 9th CD, Bloomington attorney Liz Watson is a slight favorite to win the Democratic nomination.

### 2nd CD: Hackett, Joshi call for single payer

In their final debate before the May 8 primary election Tuesday night, the three Democrats competing to unseat Republican incumbent Rep. Jackie Walorski found



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strategic content creation and deployment

common ground on the environment, campaign finance reform and their disdain for President Donald Trump (Parrott, South Bend Tribune). But on the Lerner Theatre stage, a few differences emerged between Pat Hackett, Mel Hall and Yatish Joshi. Declaring health care is a “right” owed to all Americans, Hackett and Joshi called for a “Medicare for all” or single-payer national health care system, while Hall stopped short of that, instead saying the Affordable Care Act can be improved. Hall said those improvements can come through increased competition among health insurance carriers, durable medical equipment makers and drug companies. He said if elected he might “look at” whether the ACA’s mandate that everyone has insurance could be reinstated.

### JLT endorses Hall

Hall announced that Jill Long Thompson, a former congresswoman and under secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, has endorsed his campaign for Congress in an op-ed she published this week. “Jill Long Thompson proudly represented Hoosiers in Washington. She knows what it takes to grow jobs and fight for working families,” said Hall. “I am honored to receive Jill’s endorsement, and I look forward to continuing her legacy of accountable leadership in Congress.” “Mel will be a champion for working families in the 2nd District,” said Thompson. “Mel will work tirelessly in Congress to find common-sense solutions to the problems we face. I am honored to endorse Mel to represent Indiana’s Second Congressional District.” Thompson is one of only two Democratic women in Indiana to win a seat in Congress. As a three-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Thompson earned a reputation as both a consensus builder and a fighter for working families, protecting investments in education, Medicare, and Social Security. **Democratic primary Horse Race Status:** Likely Hall.

### 4th CD: Baird profiled in Roll Call

State Rep. Jim Baird (pictured) is an Army veteran who lost his left arm in Vietnam and won two Purple Hearts. Baird isn’t sure he’ll advertise on TV before the May 8 primary ([Roll Call](#)). He earned his doctorate at the University of Kentucky. He and his wife started a home health care agency and own several real estate and agricultural businesses in the area. When Baird was Putnam County commissioner, Gov. Mitch Daniels called him in 2010 to encourage him to run for the legislature. He drives a red pickup truck emblazoned with “Baird for Congress.” His son Beau, who’s running for his father’s state House seat, describes them campaigning as “more



like we’re out just seeing old friends.” Baird said he hasn’t been in touch with the National Republican Congressional Committee, hasn’t done any polling and isn’t sure he’ll go on television. He loaned his campaign \$200,000 and raised little else last year. He’s working with Indiana-based consulting firm Mark It Red, which is also working with Mike Braun in the Senate race. **Republican Primary Horse Race Status:** Tossup,

### Braun brothers keep distance

If it weren’t for the last name and a slight physical resemblance, it’d be easy to forget that Mike and Steve Braun — both running for federal office in Indiana this year — are brothers (Pathe, [Roll Call](#)). Mike is seeking the Republican Senate nomination. Steve is bidding for the GOP nod in the open 4th District, which Rep. Todd Rokita is vacating to run for Senate. Both are wealthy businessmen-turned-state legislators running in what are essentially three-way Republican primaries. But as far as their campaigns go, that’s where the similarities end. Mike’s consulting team, the Indiana-based Mark It Red, has been working with one of Steve’s primary opponents in the 4th District. Steve maxed out his contribution to Rokita’s Senate campaign, although he hasn’t endorsed in the primary. The brothers don’t campaign together. They’ve appeared at just two of the same GOP events. At the Cass County Lincoln Day Dinner last month, they left with each other’s gray coats and took three weeks to return them.

### 8th CD: Covington can’t vote for herself

It’s hard enough to run for the 8th District congressional seat while living in Japan — but thanks to a choice she made, Rachel Covington won’t even get her own vote (Langhorne, Evansville Courier & Press). Covington, a 25-year-old former Evansville resident who teaches English to Japanese students in Tokyo, has asked Vanderburgh County elections officials for a Democrat absentee ballot in the May 8 primary election. It’s not a problem — unless you count the fact that Covington is running as a Republican. **Republican Primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Bucshon.

### 9th CD: Hollingsworth has primary foe

U.S. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth, who is running for a second term to represent the residents of the 9th Congressional District, will have a challenger on the Republican primary ballot (Bavis, Bloomington Herald-Times). On May 8, Hollingsworth will face James Dean Alspach, a Morgantown business owner running for political office for the first time. Alspach, who works in home improvement and excavation contracting, said he felt compelled to run after hearing from friends and neighbors who didn’t like Hollingsworth’s voting record in Washington, D.C. Hollingsworth has voted mostly along party lines his first term in office, supporting Republican bills that would repeal or replace portions of the Affordable Care Act, roll back financial reg-



ulations on Wall Street and increase military and defense spending, among other measures. This year, Hollingsworth was one of 90 Republicans to vote against the \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill Congress passed in March. "I was asked by so many people to run because they didn't like the last election cycle," Alspach said. "They didn't like the fact that they were forced to vote for someone they did not choose in the primary." **Republican primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Hollingsworth.

**General Assembly**

**SD29: Firefighters endorse Meyer**

Already endorsed by mayors from a half-dozen communities in and surrounding the district and the Indy Chamber Business Advocacy Committee, Corrie Meyer has now earned the endorsement of the rank-and-file firefighters of two different public service unions in Carmel and Hamilton County. She is challenging State Sen. Mike Delph. The Carmel Professional Fire Fighters Union (Local 4444) and the Hamilton County Professional Fire Fighters Association (Local 4416) have endorsed Corrie in her run for State Senate District 29. Hamilton County Professional firefighters Association (Local 4416) not only represents firefighters in Hamilton County but also those in Zionsville, another major city in State Senate District 29. "I am so honored to have the endorsements of these professional firefighters who lead the charge on one of my core values, public safety," said Corrie. "I look forward to being a true partner with all of those who serve the public in emergency situations." **Republican primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Delph.

**HD18: Life organization targets Wolkins**

Hoosiers for Life organization is backing William Carlin of Garrett against State Rep. Ben Smaltz. So, it was news that Indiana Right to Life gave Smaltz an emphatic endorsement earlier this month. The Warsaw Times-Union's Dan Spalding reports the group is now targeting State Reps. David Wolkins and Tim Wesco for not supporting "protection at conception" legislation which would basically ban all abortions. It was authored by State Rep. Curt Nisly, but the Times-Union noted that the bill lacked any co-sponsors or co-authors. Wesco is unopposed in the HD21 primary and Wolkins is facing Republican Russell Reahard. **Republican primary Horse Race Status:** Safe Wolkins.

**Statewides**

**Klutz files for auditor**

Indiana Auditor Tera Klutz, who was appointed to the position in January 2017 by Gov. Eric Holcomb, today filed her paper-

work with the Indiana Republican Party to seek the party's nomination to serve a full term as Indiana auditor of state. "As Indiana's first CPA auditor, I go into the office each day driven by a passion to make sure Indiana remains a center of fiscal strength and responsible, transparent government," said Klutz. "Whether that's through finding efficiencies in technology funding, providing an extra set of eyes over our expenses or making our state spending more transparent, I'm working daily to provide Hoosiers with peace of mind that their tax dollars are being responsibly managed. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve Hoosiers, and would be honored to become Indiana's first elected CPA auditor."

**Mitchell seeks 2nd term as treasurer**

State Treasurer Kelly Mitchell announced that she has filed her candidacy with the Secretary of the Indiana Republican Party to seek the nomination for state treasurer at the Indiana Republican State Convention on June 8-9. The nomination of her party is the first step in Mitchell's journey to a second term as state treasurer. Before coming to the Statehouse, Kelly Mitchell was a county commissioner for eight years in Cass County. She served as president of the Board of Commissioners for five years and was named first-term Commissioner of the Year by the Association of County Commissioners. ❖

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# Walorski sees tariff fight going ‘long haul’

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Since President Trump surprised just about everyone on tariffs, from his then economic advisor Gary Cohn, to the White House West Wing, to Republican leaders and Members of Congress, U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski has been on the tip of the reaction spear.

She quickly sounded alarms, telling CNBC, “We’re not against his tariffs. We’re not against his ability to make an executive decision where he sees it in regard to tariffs.

The issue is we’re asking him to narrow the field significantly and allow for companies who can’t find a domestic producer to be able to go and find ways that they can get this raw material to continue their business.”

She wrote President Trump on March 2, saying, “Early feedback from manufacturers in

my district has me worried that immediate, blanket tariffs could reverse the economic recovery and return of manufacturing jobs to northern Indiana. In the 24 hours since the tariffs were announced, one manufacturer has already canceled a new plant in my district. The owner told me he ‘was expecting the savings on taxes to fund the expansion’ but after yesterday’s announcement, ‘the risk is too high with the tariffs.’”

In a phone interview with Howey Politics Indiana on Tuesday, Walorski explained that she expected the Trump tariffs, something he vowed to impose in 2015 and 2016 on the campaign trail and had been working on for months.

Walorski’s challenge is unique and line-straddling. She has not been specifically critical of President Trump. Yet she found the broad tariffs dangerous for her 2nd CD, which is highly intensive on both the manufacturing and agriculture fronts. She presents a scenario where she engaged with Cohn and his staff, got face-time with the president, attended White House conferences, grilled and even upbraided Commerce Sec. Wilbur Ross while holding a bar chart showing potential job losses, used her access with Vice President Mike Pence as a fulcrum to cajole Trump to move from his machine-gun nest approach to the “scalpel” (an identical term used by U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly in last week’s HPI Interview) to limit the tariff scope.

She says her efforts have resulted in exclusions for Mexico and Canada, and a rule change that won’t saddle Hoosier manufacturers with a quarterly penalty if they receive a waiver.

While Walorski’s 2nd CD no longer seems competitive – it is +11 Republican on the Cook Partisan Index

– historically it has been, having changed hands three times in the past 15 years. In a wave environment, it could become a relative outlier this fall. Both HPI and the Cook Political Report have moved it from a “safe” Republican status to a “likely” GOP designation. It’s the only Indiana CD not in the “safe” category (though the 9th CD is also on our scope). That could change in the coming seven months.

Walorski doesn’t have a Democratic challenger yet, as Mel Hall, Pat Hackett and Joshi Yatish are squaring off for that nomination. Hall has been the most successful at raising money, though Hackett could benefit from the “pink wave” environment and Yatish has the support of former Gov. Joe Kernan.

No matter who she lines up against, Walorski will be playing a significant role if the Trump tariffs turn into a full-blown trade war, which has been widely speculated. If soybean and pork farmers take it on the chin and wallet – and they are anxious – or manufacturers find spikes in supply prices as 2018 progresses, her policy battles may become significantly political.

Here is our HPI Interview with Rep. Walorski:

**HPI:** Where do you think we stand on the Trump tariffs. Do you see a cohesive strategy unfolding here?

**Walorski:** Here is what I see. Keep in mind I’ve



Rep. Walorski holds up bar charts revealing potential job impacts of President Trump’s proposed tariffs while questioning Commerce Sec. Wilbur Ross last month.

been involved with this long before this was a public conversation. I’ve known the tariffs were coming since the fall of last year. I’ve been keeping my nose to the grindstone knowing that when Trump did announce these, and he announced them as blanket tariffs, it would be my job on

Ways & Means as the committee of jurisdiction to make sure they will be used as a strategy, more as a scalpel strategy, smaller, narrower kinds of tariffs so we're not doing damage to current U.S. manufacturers who have been weathering this storm on their own for a number of years. I got involved specifically. How much do you want me to go into the weeds on this?

**HPI:** Go deep into the weeds.

**Walorski:** I've gotten very, very involved on the trade subcommittee. I'm not on it, but being a member of Ways & Means you can participate as much as any subcommittee member. So, I do. One of the reasons is that Indiana is the fifth largest exporter and in the 2nd District, we're the second largest manufacturer and Indiana statewide is the fifth largest exporter. Trade matters. When we started talking about these tariffs, just the threat of the tariffs when the president mentioned them, we had incredible reaction from manufacturers in northern Indiana. What was happening on steel and aluminum was just the threat of raising the prices of the raw product. If these tariffs were going to be assessed, our manufacturers were going to be gouged 25-30% without any action from the president.

**HPI:** You got an immediate reaction from your district.

**Walorski:** The second thing was happening, if the manufacturers pushed back on these huge increases

in price, the companies that sell that would say, "We can't make the thing to fix your widget. We're not going to produce that kind. You'll have to go elsewhere." So out of necessity, out of survival, a lot of these manufacturers did. They had to go find places that would make this piece at a decent price. When Trump came out and said, "Hey, we're going to do these blanket tariffs," I ended up fighting Trump on these kinds of tariff. My point was it's my responsibility to stand up for Hoosier workers and Hoosiers in our district and companies that are producing jobs. I went and got involved and worked tirelessly with Gary Cohn, who at the time was economic advisor and who was also on the side of "Hey we're not trying to stop you, we're trying to make sure they are methodical and have some rationale behind them. They are strategic and very narrow. Let's protect manufacturers along the way and let's make sure we're focused on going after China. Let's go after the bad guys and let's not put these manufacturers in that category." So, I got very involved. I went to the White House and I talked to the president and shareholders. It was broadcast live with a large amount of media there. So, at that meeting I was able to make my case to the president. We started seeing a lot of action happen. A lot of doors opened that allowed me to continue to talk about this, continue to try and find places to narrow these areas. I had a couple of opportunities to talk to the president face to face and several of times to Secretary Ross when

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he came to Ways & Means for hearings. So, we did that.

**HPI:** You mentioned a rule change.

**Walorski:** The thing I'm excited about is just because of that, because we were vocal on that issue, we got the administration to change a rule. Last time I talked to Sec. Ross on that Friday, by that Saturday he sent out a press release basically saying they were changing the rule to make sure no tariffs are charged to companies to make sure there was a waiver. Previous to that the answer to the rule was that if you got a waiver from the government, if you applied for a waiver and you're under these blanket tariffs and you go to the government and say, "Hey this is available in this country and I need a product exclusion," they could take 90 days to decide your fate. If they decide to give you a waiver, they are still going to charge you tariffs for one full quarter. The last thing we need in this state, and specifically in my district, is any kind of tariff, particularly for an entire quarter. I thought that was particularly unfair. That's what we battled and that's what we got turned around.

**HPI:** What added to the angst about all of this was the way President Trump announced the tariffs. He was upset Hope Hicks had left the White House and when he announced them, he caught Cohn and his own economic team off guard, along with Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McConnell. Talk about how they were unveiled and how things have evolved since then.

**Walorski:** When he unveiled them, and again I wasn't surprised because I had been working on them for months, it came out very, very quickly. This was going to be a blanket tariff and I knew in order to be effective and be able to work with people on both sides of this issue that we were going to have to engage on it quickly and bring a coalition of folks – companies, manufacturers from all over Indiana – to start making the case of what's fair, and what's not fair and how not to alarm. We moved very quickly. Gary Cohn allowed me to make the case to the president myself. Those are open doors that I was grateful were opened. I was able to go in and talk about this in so many different ways with Trade Ambassador (Robert) Lighthizer. We just had so many opportunities. We were ahead of the stream and we were ready for the opportunity to make the case. It is so common sense that it was difficult for them to make an argument back. We're working together for U.S. manufacturers and against the bad guy, China. Let's level this playing field. Remove the waiver and don't charge them at the same time. It didn't make any sense. I just kept my head down and stayed focused on the doors that were opening. I stayed very vigilant and vocal and I

brought a lot of people in from out-state. Obviously, the vice president ...

**HPI:** It appeared Vice President Pence had his ear to the ground here in Indiana on this.

**Walorski:** Yes. I called him early on. We have such an open door on all of these issues, on trade and others. Having the vice president as our former governor, it's just incredible how the system works. He really does have an ear and gets it and is the go-to guy. To get a rule changed, I'm very excited. But this isn't done. We go back tomorrow and we have hearings this week starting Thursday. We're just starting this trade issue, we're just starting this trade talk. The issue of trade and tariffs blend into every issue in our state.

**HPI:** When I interviewed Sen. Donnelly last week, he talked about working with national security advisor H.R. McMaster on the law requiring the Trump administration to produce a North Korean summit strategy by mid-March and then mid-April. Lo and behold, H.R. McMaster is no longer there and there is no evident strategy. You say you were working with Gary Cohn on tariffs. He's no longer there. Is there a continuity issue as the president dismantles his administration and goes with his own instincts? Or is Vice President Pence that continuity since he can't be fired and won't quit?

**Walorski:** No. I don't think there is a continuity problem. Maybe the heads aren't there, but the network is still there. I have access to talk to whoever I want to talk to. Whether we're talking about soybeans in Indiana or pork, there isn't a place where I have gone over the past two weeks where someone hasn't said south of U.S. 30, "What's going to happen to our soybeans and our pork?" We have to make sure to minimize it if someone isn't buying. We have to make sure this works for us in this state and not against us.

**HPI:** President Trump comes out and announces \$50 billion worth of tariffs and then he starts carving out exclusions for Canada and Mexico. Then

last week he comes out for \$100 billion in new tariffs and Axios reported he did so with no consultation with Larry Kudlow or anyone else on the White House staff like Marc Short. Did the \$100 billion tariffs surprise you?

**Walorski:** I think it's the same perspective. My job on that committee and being elected to represent my district is to make the inroads. My job is to make sure I'm in front of those guys and talking and bringing this stuff back into Hoosier common sense. Let's protect our manufacturers, let's not get into something with our farmers that we can't pull back. I don't see things slowing down. This is a 24/7 issue. I just left a group in Indianapolis and I told them, "This is what I do 24/7 right now, me and my staff. We are on this and getting as much information as



**Rep. Walorski with Sen. Todd Young and former Trump economic advisor Gary Cohn.**

we can, as quickly as we can, so we move very efficiently in Washington. We really have quite a network. I know this is going to be a long haul.

**HPI:** President Trump is being very consistent on tariffs. When he was running in 2015 and 2016 he said he was going to impose tariffs. No one should be surprised, including many Hoosiers in rural Indiana.

**Walorski:** I agree. That's why I said what he's doing, I get it. I get the big picture of what he's doing. But I'm the voice saying, "That's great, but let's make sure we don't harm U.S. manufacturers and make sure this is common sense and let's make sure we stay focused on China as the bad guy and minimize what will happen to this country. Let's ensure all our industries and all our agriculture is represented at that table." And it is.

**HPI:** My column runs in about 30 newspapers across the state, many in small towns. Speak to Hoosier pork and soybean farmers. What do they need to know?

**Walorski:** I think they need to know there is a voice representing them who is at the table, who has been very visible, vocal and involved on being able to bring balance to this conversation. I've got their back, and will continue to until we put this whole issue to bed. My concern is we give them access to the third leg of all economics going forward, from rolling back the regs, to tax reform and the third leg of the stool are these trade decisions by the president to make them more successful and don't hurt them.

**HPI:** And what is your message to RV manufacturers and steel producers?

**Walorski:** They walked through this with me and our team for the past several months. They know we have to make sure we level the playing field and they are absolutely represented. When something that comes up that is not fair, we are battling and we've got a successful track right now. I've got their back, but this is going to be a long one.

**HPI:** So, you seem very optimistic that when this chapter is finally written, we're going to be in a better place with a good outcome. Are you pretty confident in that?

**Walorski:** I am. I will do my part and fight for them at the table, leading the way. Our state is a leader in exports and manufacturing. We build, we sell, we make these opportunities for manufacturing and agriculture. I'll lead the way to make sure our farmers are prosperous.

**HPI:** You put out a statement late last week urging President Trump to reform NAFTA. He's indicating he's pushing to get that done quickly. We know Hoosier agriculture leaders believe that NAFTA and the Trans Pacific Partnership were vital economic opportunities. What do we need to know about the current NAFTA negotiations?

**Walorski:** You're correct. The trade partners of NAFTA, Canada and Mexico, are the biggest customers and partners to this state. I'm working equally as hard on this with Ambassador Lighthizer to make sure our voices are heard, that agriculture is heard, but also one of the biggest issues is the protection of intellectual property. There are big issues emerging that hadn't been big before. We guard, we watchdog and we fight for our companies when it comes to trade secrets and counterfeiting.

**HPI:** There was a Reuters story in February that said Mexican imports of Brazilian corn increased by 970%



Rep. Walorski and congressional Republicans pressing their case on tariffs at the White

in the fourth quarter of 2017 at the expense of American growers. That is an extraordinary figure and corresponds with President Trump's often offensive rhetoric toward Mexico and its people. Are you concerned that Indiana farmers could lose that market?

**Walorski:** I am concerned or I wouldn't be into (this) as much as I am. I am making sure I am working with our shareholders to make sure there is no harm to our district and our state. This is going to be a long haul.

**HPI:** In the general political climate, there was a Morning Consult Poll this week that had President Trump's approval/disapproval at 48/49%. I know Indiana Republicans are still on board with him. You'll have an election in November where you're going to need independent voters. What are you seeing and hearing on the ground?

**Walorski:** What I am hearing on the ground politically, and I'm here every weekend ... I am hearing positive. After Feb. 1, it's positive. People have money in their pockets due to tax reform. Jobs are positive. People see a brighter America. There is one side talking gloom and doom and it sounds like the world is going to end. I do believe it's a new day in America and the economy is moving in the right direction. That's what we said we were going to do which is put more money in people's pockets, better jobs, higher wages, bonuses and 401Ks. Those are the kinds of things ... it wasn't just Trump talking about it. I talked about it too. We want to move into a direction of a much brighter, stable future for Hoosiers. I think we are seeing that day. I can tell when I'm out and about that folks come up and talk about it. They talk about more money in their pocket. That's how I see the horizon and it has everything to do with moving an economic agenda. ❖

# Making a case for Diego Morales

By CRAIG DUNN

KOKOMO – When Republican National Chairman Reince Priebus visited Indiana in 2014 as part of his tour around the United States to present the RNC’s post mortem on the 2012 election, he made his presentation to a room full of interesting Republicans. I say “interesting” Republicans because they defied the stereotypical fat cat, cigar-chomping, older white male that the national media tries to portray as the heart of the Republican Party. This group was made up of just about every racial, ethnic and religious demographic imaginable.



These Republicans attended this meeting, hosted by the Indiana Republican Party and then-Gov. Mike Pence, to hear Chairman Priebus detail why Republicans lost the 2012 presidential election and to learn what the chairman believed was needed in order to make Republicans viable in future presidential elections.

Priebus’ message was simple: The demographic makeup of the United States had changed so significantly that if the Republican Party did not change its composition and views on some issues, it would be relegated to the same political drawer as the Whig Party was in the 1800s.

As Priebus spoke, heads nodded knowing approval. Black, Hispanic, Asian, gay and Sikh attendees applauded and voiced their support for Priebus’ call for the Republican Party to embrace an expansion of the tent to encourage people of every color, creed and place of origin who share our core principles to become active participants in the electoral process.

**I thought this** meeting was the beginning of a new and greatly improved Republican Party. The call to action did not call for abandoning our critical beliefs and long-cherished attitudes. It merely asked that, as Republicans, we acknowledge that we have an immigration problem and that the problem is not the immigrant. It recommended that, as a party, we focus on issues that we have in common with all hard-working American families and avoid the petty legislative and electoral battles we fight that served more to divide us than to unite us. I believed then, as I do

now, that this is the best course of action for the Republican Party.

Of course, Priebus’ report was largely ignored by most people in the Republican Party. When decades of political wedges have been driven, it is very difficult to extract them. In fact, the 2016 election strategy of Donald Trump flew directly in the face of Priebus’ game plan.

Instead of expanding the Republican tent demographically, Trump chose to expand the tent by launching political war on his fellow Republicans. At times, it seemed as if Trump had taken a roll call of the disaffected and then weekly presented an overly simplistic fix to their concerns. Trump’s strategy worked and he was elected. However, my concern is not about the election of a single president. I am concerned about the long-term fundamental structure and health of the Republican Party and to that end, I believe that our party has done little since the 2012 Priebus post mortem to improve our long-term viability. In fact, we may have taken significant steps backward.

**In Indiana, Republicans** have defied the national trend. We have four talented women holding statewide elected offices. We have a tough and aggressive attorney general who just happens to be black. Our candidates for legislative offices are getting younger and more diverse. I give much of the credit for this movement to Gov. Mitch Daniels and Gov. Eric Holcomb. They have set the tone for the “Republican Renaissance.”

In 2018, Indiana Republicans will get another opportunity to take a further giant step on the path to a bright political future. This opportunity rests in Indiana’s 4th CD.

Diego Morales is a candidate seeking to replace Todd Rokita as 4th District U.S. representative. Morales is a special candidate and it would do all Republicans a service to closely examine his credentials.



Fourth CD Republican Diego Morales

Diego Morales came to the United States as a legal immigrant from Guatemala. As is the case with most immigrants, he came for a better life. Morales did not believe that anything should be given to him, especially citizenship. He believed that citizenship must be earned. That’s why Morales joined the United States Army.

After his service in the Army, Morales received a BA degree from Indiana University. He also received an MBA from the Krannert School of Business at Purdue University. Not satisfied with resting on these academic qualifications,

Morales also holds a Masters of International Business Administration from Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

**Those active in the** Indiana Republican Party will instantly recognize Diego Morales as the hardest working man in politics and government. He did yeoman’s work for both the Indiana secretary of state and for Gov. Mike

Pence. He tirelessly worked to help elect Republican candidates to office over the past decade. In addition, I believe that he has done more to expand the Republican tent than any other person. Best of all, Diego has done all of this with a smile on his face.

**Morales has received** major financial contributions and endorsements from a broad and exciting array of supporters who represent a wonderful cross-section of the Indiana Republican Party. Morales has established his popularity with the backbone of the Republican Party by bringing a conservative message that resonates with the faithful.

Diego Morales brings a resume of service to his

country and to his state. He offers an extensive educational background. He has both governmental and business experience. He holds sacred the key core principles of the Republican Party. He will serve as an exemplary role model for Hoosiers of all walks of life. He will make an outstanding Indiana congressman.

Here's hoping that 4th District Republicans do the right thing and nominate Diego Morales. ❖

### **Dunn is the former Howard County and 4th CD Republican chairman**

## Logansport gets some national love

By **MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – It's exciting when a Hoosier city is chosen as number one on a list of favorable attributes.



Clearly, being number one in pollution or crime would not be an honor. But to be named "the best affordable small town where you'd actually want to live" is a distinction, a recognition, a tribute of great value.

Logansport received that honor just last month from realtor.com, an online publication of the National Association of Realtors (NAR). Hoosiers know Logansport as the place where

the Eel River enters the Wabash. We recall Logansport as a longtime major rail junction, as the county seat of Cass County, and as a key city on the roads from Fort Wayne to Lafayette and Kokomo to Michigan City.

**We also know** Logansport as home to Tony Hinkle, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and the State Psychiatric Hospital. In addition, we know that Logansport is different from Cass County. However, while realtor.com wrote about Logansport, it presented data for Cass County. Thus, while Logansport, according to the Bureau of the Census, had a population nearing 17,800, realtor.com reported a population close to 38,000, which happens to be the number residing in all of Cass County.

Before you charge the NAR with numeric necromancy, it makes more sense to think of places in county

terms. Given extensive suburbanization, the city-county line in most places is an anachronism, as meaningless as "living in the country." Cities are not only the magnets for growth, they are the support and sustenance of the county population. Cities provide the jobs, the services, and much of the active intellectual life for ex-urbanites. This fact does not sit well with the rural antiquarians who populate county governments, but, as it is said, "The times, they are a-changin'."

Logansport and other small cities (Peru, Wabash, Jasper, Salem, Winchester and Sullivan) could be the growth nodes of Indiana in the 21st century. With appropriate internet services, good schools, mature trees and sidewalks, a restructuring of urban life is very possible.

**Amazon thrives on** density, the very density which is despised by a large segment of the American population. If, ultimately, people seek personal relationships and natural experiences, then the anonymity of uber-urban life will be rejected.

Logansport and similar communities have the basic infrastructure to attract and hold those households and businesses that seek roots. Columbus, Valparaiso and Princeton, each in its own way, has avoided continuing decline. To date, the same cannot be said for Marion, Michigan City and Muncie although they make sporadic, valiant efforts.

We cannot anticipate caravans of settlers arriving in Logansport as a result of being identified by a national website. Yet, this honor provides the community with an opportunity to examine the potential of the assets it has ignored for so many years. ❖



Former Democratic gubernatorial nominee John Gregg with Logansport Mayor Dave Kitchell this week.

**Mr. Marcus is an economist. His views can be followed on a [weekly podcast](#) or reached at [Whogetswhat4@gmail.com](mailto:Whogetswhat4@gmail.com)**

# A quick history of special sessions

By **TREVOR FOUGHTY**  
CapitolandWashington.com

INDIANAPOLIS – Under Indiana’s original constitution in force from 1816-1851, the General Assembly met annually and all legislative business was expected to be completed during the winter months in which they met. To that end, there wasn’t a single special session called during those years. When Indiana drafted a new constitution in 1851, the legislature was only allowed to meet in odd-numbered years, and thus the idea of special sessions was contemplated in case urgent business was required in even-numbered years.



Between 1851 and 1970 (when the constitution was amended to allow the legislature to meet

annually under our current long-session/short-session scheme), 24 special sessions were called. Twelve were in non-session (even-numbered) years, and 12 were in regular session years. Since 1970, however, special sessions have primarily been reserved for completing state budgets. In fact, of the 11 special sessions called between 1970 and 2018, nine were to complete a budget, and only one immediately followed a short session.

Here’s a quick compilation of issues that led to special sessions post-1970:

■ **1977:** The state budget wasn’t completed on time; additionally, there was disagreement over changes to property taxes that were unresolved.

■ **1981:** School funding formula couldn’t be agreed upon, which meant the state budget wasn’t completed on time.

■ **1982:** Due to missed fiscal projections, the state faced a \$450+ million budget deficit that required new revenue and spending measures.

■ **1987:** An education reform package (that eventually gave us ISTEP) and tax package proposed by Gov. Orr weren’t agreed upon, which meant the state budget wasn’t completed on time.

■ **1989:** Disagreement on the establishment of the Hoosier Lottery, pari-mutuel betting at horse tracks, property tax relief and

Gov. Bayh’s education plan led to the state budget not being completed on time.

■ **1991:** First session: The state budget wasn’t completed on time; additionally, redistricting bills weren’t completed on time.

■ **1991:** Second session: After a disagreement over whether to tackle redistricting or a state budget first, Senate Democrats boycotted any floor action and Senate Republicans responded by abruptly adjourning the first special session; Gov. Bayh was required to call a second session to deal with the same issues.

■ **1993:** Disagreement over how to fund increased Medicaid costs (Gov. Bayh proposed a hospital tax and then a cigarette tax, both rejected by Republicans) meant the state budget wasn’t completed on time.

■ **1997:** Disagreement on several issues meant the budget wasn’t completed on time,

including worker’s compensation benefits; unemployment benefits; the threshold at which Indiana’s inheritance tax kicked in; and a package to expand the Convention Center, renovate the RCA Dome and build a new arena for the Indiana Pacers (what eventually became Conseco/ Banker’s Life/TBD Field House).

■ **2002:** The post-9/11 recession led to missed fiscal projections and a \$1.3 billion budget deficit; additionally, the proposed tax package also restructured property taxes to avoid increases for homeowners as much as 90%.

■ **2009:** Unresolved issues related to school funding and education reform initiatives meant the state budget wasn’t completed on time.



| General Assembly # | Start Date | End Date                |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1                  | 36th       | 1852-04-20 – 1852-06-21 |
| 2                  | 40th       | 1858-11-20 – 1858-12-25 |
| 3                  | 41st       | 1861-04-24 – 1861-06-02 |
| 4                  | 44th       | 1865-11-13 – 1865-12-22 |
| 5                  | 46th       | 1869-04-08 – 1869-05-17 |
| 6                  | 48th       | 1872-11-13 – 1872-12-22 |
| 7                  | 49th       | 1875-03-09 – 1875-03-15 |
| 8                  | 50th       | 1877-03-06 – 1877-03-15 |
| 9                  | 51st       | 1879-03-11 – 1879-03-31 |
| 10                 | 52nd       | 1881-03-08 – 1881-04-16 |
| 11                 | 54th       | 1885-03-10 – 1885-04-13 |
| 12                 | 65th       | 1908-09-18 – 1908-09-30 |
| 13                 | 71st       | 1920-01-16 – 1920-01-16 |
| 14                 | 71st       | 1920-07-12 – 1920-07-30 |
| 15                 | 72nd       | 1921-12-14 – 1921-12-14 |
| 16                 | 77th       | 1932-07-07 – 1932-08-15 |
| 17                 | 79th       | 1936-03-05 – 1936-03-18 |
| 18                 | 80th       | 1938-07-19 – 1938-07-30 |
| 19                 | 83rd       | 1944-04-11 – 1944-04-14 |
| 20                 | 83rd       | 1944-11-04 – 1944-11-04 |
| 21                 | 87th       | 1951-09-24 – 1951-10-26 |
| 22                 | 93rd       | 1963-03-12 – 1963-04-20 |
| 23                 | 94th       | 1965-06-08 – 1965-06-08 |
| 24                 | 94th       | 1965-10-18 – 1965-11-22 |
| 25                 | 100th      | 1977-05-23 – 1977-05-23 |
| 26                 | 102nd      | 1981-05-27 – 1981-05-29 |
| 27                 | 103rd      | 1982-12-06 – 1982-12-16 |
| 28                 | 105th      | 1987-04-30 – 1987-04-30 |
| 29                 | 106th      | 1989-05-02 – 1989-05-04 |
| 30                 | 107th      | 1991-05-13 – 1991-05-22 |
| 31                 | 107th      | 1991-05-23 – 1991-06-13 |
| 32                 | 108th      | 1993-06-09 – 1993-06-30 |
| 33                 | 110th      | 1997-05-14 – 1997-05-29 |
| 34                 | 112th      | 2002-05-14 – 2002-06-22 |
| 35                 | 116th      | 2009-06-11 – 2009-06-30 |



# Rokita is the choice for Trump Hoosiers

By **TONY SAMUEL**

INDIANAPOLIS – This week, Rex Early and I endorsed Congressman Todd Rokita for the U.S. Senate seat held currently by Democrat Sen. Joe Donnelly. It was an honor to serve with Rex as the Trump-Pence Indiana 2016 campaign chairman and vice chairman.

As Rex and I campaigned around the state for Donald Trump in 2016, we met many Hoosiers who said they hadn't voted for years or decades or ever because they didn't trust Washington and were waiting for someone like Donald Trump. Our challenge now is to keep those folks engaged and encourage them to vote for like-minded candidates for Congress in 2018.



For the U.S. Senate seat, that person is Congressman Rokita. There are plenty of reasons to support Todd, from his great work as Indiana's Secretary of State, to his many accomplishments in Congress, to his no-nonsense approach to help Make America Great Again!

For Rex and me, the primary reason is to again help our president. Todd proved to us two years ago that he was for President Trump and has proven ever since that we can trust him to stand with our president even when things are tough.

Todd was the one person from Indiana's congressional delegation that reached out to us in the summer of 2016 to ask how he could help. I know this because I'm the one he called.

As I was also on the campaign payroll as the Indiana communications director, I scheduled him on three radio interviews. He helped by getting a positive message for candidate Trump out to the public through the media. He did other things too on his own, including inviting one of our campaign staff, Cody Reynolds, to come speak at his Rokita Family Fun Day rally.

**All of this meant** a lot to Rex and me because as we were making over 50 county visits in the last nine weeks of the campaign, we grew extremely frustrated with other Republicans that continued to attack Donald Trump long after the primaries were over.

It's one thing to criticize a candidate during a primary when you're helping the candidate you support, but to do so after the primaries and after the convention is only for your own political gain at the expense of our nominee.

With the latest back and forth on who supports Trump the most, I decided to look for those radio interviews that Todd did to help candidate Trump. Luckily, I found one still on WIBC's website. I had forgotten that the interview was after the first debate between Donald

Trump and Hillary Clinton. If you remember, it was this first debate that so many in the media declared her to have won. I even remember an SNL skit with Hillary dancing and drinking champagne with her supporters, already celebrating the election victory.

Trump clearly won the next two debates, but it was this first battle that he needed the most help with afterwards. And that's when Rokita stood up strong for him.

**There had been several "gotcha moments"** from Hillary in the debate and Todd had to defend Trump against them, making the point that they actually provided a chance for Hoosiers and Americans to connect with Donald Trump.

To Hillary's attack on Trump's finances, Rokita responded, "In Indiana's 4th District and Indiana itself, there are thousands of people that he connected with again last night. She bashed him for some of the bankruptcies that he's filed. There's a lot of people in this country that had to file for bankruptcy, who had to avail themselves of the same law that Donald Trump was talking about."

Hillary attacked Trump on his tax returns, to which Rokita said he doesn't believe any average people care about seeing them. "Another great example of, 'Who cares?' to people in Indiana trying to get a paycheck and hang on to as much of that as possible, whether he produces tax returns, maybe matters to the Washington elite, maybe matters to the news media, maybe it matters to congressmen and women. It doesn't matter to them (average Hoosiers)," said Rokita.

A couple of additional Rokita answers from the interview:

"What we saw last night was the status quo versus a change agent. And everywhere I'm going around Indiana and the 4th District, we're ready for a change agent and that was Donald Trump last night. I think Donald Trump did great. I don't know what all the pundits and elites are saying but the man was poised, agile, determined and showed to be the exact kind of leader we need."

I'm glad I found this interview because it proves what we've been saying – Todd Rokita stood strong for Donald Trump when it mattered the most. While Rokita was defending Trump, of the other two Republican Senate candidates, one was doing nothing to help and the other was making it harder for our nominee to beat "Crooked Hillary" by going on C-Span and CNN of all places to criticize Donald Trump.

**We expect attacks** on our president from the left and the media but when Republicans do it, we hurt our chances to win elections and we make it harder for the president to govern effectively.

We need a Republican in the Senate that has proven he will stand with our President even in the toughest times. That candidate is Todd Rokita. ❖

**Samuel is president of Samuel Solutions and was vice chair of the Trump Indiana campaign.**

# Some dummies in the NW Region

By RICH JAMES

MERRILLVILLE – There are some fairly uneducated voters in Indiana. Actually, it would be more accurate to call them dumb. And some of them make their homes in Northwest Indiana. For instance, let's take a look at last Saturday at a meeting of Indivisible NWI - a grassroots, all-volunteer citizens group in Indiana's 1st Congressional District. Speaking that night was U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky, who is known by many as the "Mayor of Northwest Indiana."



The 30 or so in attendance at the Iron Workers Local 396 hall in Portage asked a host of questions about firearms, the South Shore Railroad extension and funding for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which President Donald Trump has cut from \$300 million to \$30 million.

**But there was** one question that drew a chuckle from the crowd – and Visclosky as well. Actually, there should have been a few belly-laughs. The questioner wanted to know if Visclosky would consider supporting term limits. That's highly unlikely. Visclosky, who was first elected in 1984, is serving his 17th

two-year term and running for his 18th term.

Perhaps it was appropriate that Visclosky was asked about term limits. He is the perfect example as to why term limits are a bad idea. Visclosky is high on the seniority list on the House Appropriations Committee. And as a result of that service, he has been able to bring home millions of dollars for a host of projects in Northwest Indiana.

**One of those projects** is in Portage where a lakefront park and boardwalk were built in part with the federal money acquired by Visclosky. The Portage development is part of Visclosky's Marquette Project that is recovering Lake Michigan shoreline property for public use. He also has acquired money for additional police officers, flood control projects and new federal buildings to name a few.

Candidates with little chance of winning often prey on the emotions of those who dislike government by proposing term limits. That would result in the election of poor candidates and weaker government.

There is nothing wrong with someone making public service a career. If they don't do a good job, they can be voted out.

Visclosky hasn't come close to losing, indicating that he is doing a number of things right. ❖

**Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is retired from the Post-Tribune.**

**Photography With Punch**  
 Mark Curry On Indiana Politics  
 mark1tcphotography@gmail.com  
 http://mark1tc.smugmug.com/Political/

The collage features several photographs: a man at a podium with a 'TRUMP' sign, a man in a suit, a man in a suit, a woman with red glasses, a woman with glasses, a man in a suit, a man in a red shirt holding a 'LEGALIZE SUNDAY' sign, a woman in a blue jacket, two men in suits, a man in a suit, and a man in a suit.

**David Brooks, New York Times:** Over the past year, those of us in the anti-Trump camp have churned out billions of words critiquing the president. The point of this work is to expose the harm President Trump is doing, weaken his support and prevent him from doing worse. And by that standard, the anti-Trump movement is a failure. We have persuaded no one. Trump's approval rating is around 40 percent, which is basically unchanged from where it's been all along. We have not hindered him. Trump has more power than he did a year ago, not less. With more mainstream figures like H. R. McMaster, Rex Tillerson and Gary Cohn gone, the administration is growing more nationalist, not less. We have not dislodged him. For all the hype, the Mueller investigation looks less and less likely to fundamentally alter the course of the administration. We have not contained him. Trump's takeover of the Republican Party is complete. Eighty-nine percent of Republicans now have a positive impression of the man. According to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, 59 percent of Republicans consider themselves more a supporter of Trump than of the Republican Party. On trade, immigration, entitlement reform, spending, foreign policy, race relations and personal morality, this is Trump's party, not Reagan's or anyone else's. A lot of us never-Trumpers assumed momentum would be on our side as his scandals and incompetences mounted. It hasn't turned out that way. I almost never meet a Trump supporter who has become disillusioned. I often meet Republicans who were once ambivalent but who have now joined the Trump train. National Review was once staunchly anti-Trump, and many of its writers remain so, but, tellingly, N.R. editor Rich Lowry just had a column in Politico called "The Never Trump Delusion" arguing that Trump is not that big a departure from the Republican mainstream. The surest evidence of Trump's dominance is on the campaign trail. As The Times's Jonathan Martin reported, many Republicans, including Ted Cruz, are making the argument that if Democrats take over Congress, they will impeach the president. In other words, far from ignoring Trump, these Republicans are making defending him the center of their campaigns. In red states, as Josh Kraushaar of the National Journal noted, Republicans compete to see who is the most Trumpish. In Indiana, the men vying for the Republican Senate nomination underline their support for the trade war. One candidate has a slogan, "Defeat the elite," while another promises to "Make America Great." ❖



**Mike Allen, Axios:** A senior GOP House member predicted this about Paul Ryan's future: "He will be gone by the end of July." The current #2 is Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the favorite to succeed Ryan — despite being denied the office once before — especially because he's so close to President Trump. If McCarthy can't get enough votes — possible, given opposition among the conservative Freedom Caucus — then the most likely pick

would be the current #3, House Republican Whip Steve Scalise (La.). Scalise won't (directly) challenge McCarthy for the top job, but will step into the void if McCarthy falls short — or thinks he will fall short because Scalise allies tell him so. Scalise is viewed as more conservative and ideological. McCarthy is a political animal and massive fundraiser. President Trump, who has mused about making McCarthy his chief of staff, could pick the winner. McCarthy's weakness is hard-right Rs, so Trump's endorsement could prove decisive if it ever came. Another possible behind-the-scenes drama: Ryan said he plans to remain in office through the election, but will members let or want him? A former top Republican aide on the Hill tells us: "Donors won't give him another penny. Members won't take a tough vote because he asks. The power of leaders has been drained by the rise of social media, outside money and polarization. That's why the last two — Ryan and John Boehner — quit with relief." ❖

**Tim Alberta, Politico:** Paul Ryan came to Congress as a Jack Kemp conservative and will depart as a Donald Trump Republican. It's more complicated than that, certainly. History requires nuance and texture. But legacies are reductive by nature. The House speaker announced his retirement Wednesday, closing a messy and mesmerizing chapter in the history of the Republican Party. And for the affable Wisconsin kid who moved to Washington a quarter-century ago, eager to make his mark on fiscal policy, the harsh reality is that he might be remembered more for accommodating the impulses of the 45th president than for crafting a generational overhaul of the tax code. This is a political obituary of Ryan's own writing. His silence in the face of Trump's indignities—and his observance of "exquisite presidential leadership," a line that will live in infamy—would be less remarkable had he not first established himself as one of Congress's good guys, someone whose sense of principle and decency informed his objections to Trump's candidacy in the first place. ❖

**Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune:** Ithough three Republicans are in a fierce and close battle for their party's U.S. Senate nomination, Sen. Joe Donnelly, the Democratic incumbent, says he knows who his opponent will be — actually two opponents, the Koch brothers. Through their political funding operation, the conservative billionaire brothers already have spent nearly \$7 million to defeat Donnelly. That's just the start. Their TV ad blitz will seek to change Donnelly's image from moderate to really scary by Nov. 6. The blitz will come, Donnelly knows, whether his opponent on the ballot is named Todd Rokita, Luke Messer or Mike Braun. No matter the listed opponent, the attack will be the same and it won't be any less strident if Donnelly votes for measures that President Trump espouses. "I voted with Trump 62% of the time," Donnelly says, citing his third-highest percentage among Senate Democrats. ❖

## Brooks questions FB's Zuckerberg

WASHINGTON – While some U.S. House members questioned Facebook about privacy issues, with many not understanding how the social media site, which has been around for more than 12 years, works, Indiana's Rep. Susan Brooks (R), asked about how Facebook is stopping terrorists from using it as a recruitment tool (Davis, [WIBC](#)). "What is Facebook's leadership role in helping us fight terrorism and helping us stop the recruitment?" asked Brooks. "Terrorist content and propaganda has no place in our network," said Zuckerberg, who said the network has over 200 people who are actively looking for terrorist content and taking it down. He said their role is combined with artificial intelligence tools that seek it out and take it down before it's reported. "As recently as March 29, ISIS content was discovered on Facebook, which included an execution video," countered Brooks. "On April 9, there were five pages located of Hezbollah content. I appreciate that no system is perfect. But, this is within just a week." "It's a combination of technology and people. We have a counter-terrorism team at Facebook," said Zuckerberg. Zuckerberg said Facebook is actively developing systems that can ID patterns of terrorist communication, so that the network's people and machinery can take it down.

## Holcomb eyes mid-May for session

INDIANAPOLIS – Gov. Eric Holcomb has yet to set a date for calling the General Assembly into special session, nearly a month after several key measures died awaiting final votes at midnight March 14 when the regular legislative session expired (Carden, [NWI Times](#)). The Republican recently told reporters he expects to decide later this month when the special session will begin. Holcomb explained that he's looking at the week of May 14 because lawmakers

previously were advised by legislative leaders to be available then to return to the Statehouse to approve any necessary technical corrections to new laws before they take effect July 1. In particular, Holcomb wants lawmakers to approve added funding for school safety initiatives, a \$12 million loan for the cash-strapped Muncie Community Schools and a plan to harmonize Indiana's tax laws with recent federal tax

changes.

## Boehner joins pot advisory board

WASHINGTON – The pot industry panicked when U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions ended the government's hands-off policy on weed. Today, it can breathe a bit easier as former Republican House Speaker John Boehner joins the advisory board of U.S. cannabis producer Acreage Holdings ([Bloomberg Politics](#)). "It is difficult to overstate the impact of this monumental event for the U.S. cannabis sector," Vahan Ajamian, analyst at Beacon Securities Ltd., wrote in a note Wednesday. The announcement that Boehner and former Massachusetts Governor William Weld will advise Acreage, a private company, "should send shockwaves throughout the industry and act as a positive catalyst for the sector as a whole," Ajamian said. Boehner's move marks a fundamental shift for a man who said nine years ago he was "unalterably opposed" to legalization.

## Donnelly mum on backing Pompeo

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump's choice of Mike Pompeo as his second Secretary of State needs Democratic support for confirmation — but Democrats who voted for Pompeo last year to be CIA chief are not yet ready to back him again (Clark, [McClatchy](#)). With Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., opposed and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., out battling cancer,

Trump needs a few Democrats to get the former Kansas congressman confirmed. The Senate has 51 Republicans, 47 Democrats and two independents who caucus with Democrats. Pompeo was confirmed as CIA director, 66 to 32, with 14 Democrats voting for him. But even four Democrats who backed Pompeo for the CIA in January 2017, and face challenging re-election contests in Trump friendly states, won't commit to voting for the nominee this time. Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Indiana, stopped short of saying he'd back Pompeo, but said he was looking forward to meeting with him Tuesday night.

## Grassley moves to protect Mueller

WASHINGTON – The Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said Wednesday his panel would take up a bill to protect special counsel Robert Mueller from being dismissed without cause, the first major congressional action designed to protect the integrity of the criminal investigation into Russian activity during the 2016 election ([Wall Street Journal](#)). A spokesman for Sen. Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican, said that he would put a bipartisan bill that would prevent Mr. Mueller from being dismissed without cause on the committee's agenda. It is expected to be considered, debated and amended next week, which would set up a vote on the measure on April 26. Mr. Grassley's move was unexpected and comes as President Donald Trump has voiced increasing anger at the direction of the investigation. Earlier this week, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents searched the office, home and hotel room of Mr. Trump's longtime lawyer Michael Cohen and seized records including those related to a payment to a former adult-film actress.

