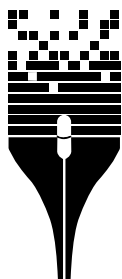


# The Howey Political Report



## McIntosh gaining on O'Bannon in poll

But trending still favors the governor

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

David McIntosh is steadily climbing back into the Indiana gubernatorial race, according to the latest HPR/TeleResearch Poll conducted after the first debate and during his first flight of comparative attack TV ads that were aimed at the "mismanagement" issue. However, our trending analysis still shows O'Bannon doing well with the key swing voting bloc - independent women - while McIntosh's very unfavorable ratings have nearly doubled.

HPR/TeleResearch sampled 810 likely voters statewide on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 and found Gov. Frank O'Bannon leading McIntosh 46 to 38 percent. Libertarian Andrew Horning came in at 4 percent. The sample included 37 percent Republican, 33 percent Democrat and 29 percent independent; 57 percent women and 43 percent men, and had an error margin of +/- 3.4 percent.

**Another aspect** of polls that will likely lift eyebrows is the relative strength of Vice President Al Gore, who trailed Gov. George W. Bush by only an 8-percent margin, 50 to 42. And in the Indiana Senate race, Republican Richard Lugar maintained a strong 60 to 23 percent lead over Democrat David Johnson. In June, Lugar led 63 to 21 percent.

The HPR/TeleResearch Poll is the fourth news media poll released since Labor Day. Along with a John McLaughlin Associates Poll taken for the Republican Governors Association that HPR obtained a copy of, all the indicators reveal a tightening of the O'Bannon-McIntosh race.

The *Indianapolis Star*/WTHR-TV poll taken Aug. 24-27 represents the low water mark for McIntosh, when he trailed 50 to 29 percent. A *South Bend Tribune*/WSBT-TV

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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I don't think a president can do that...”

- Republican George W. Bush on whether he would overturn the FDA's approval on RU-486, during Tuesday night's debate.

# TICKER T A P E

**POST DEBATE FLASH POLL:** Within an hour after Tuesday night's presidential debate, CNN/USA Today/Gallup released its first poll, saying 48 percent said Vice President Al Gore had done a better job in the debate, while 41 percent said Bush did. But only 3 percent said the debate helped change their mind on who they would vote for.

**RU-486 COULD BECOME HUGE PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE:** The FDA's curiously timed announcement that it has approved the abortion drug RU-486 jumped into the spotlight of presidential politics. Republican George W. Bush called the FDA approval "wrong." In a paper statement, Bush said, "I fear that making this abortion pill widespread will make abortions more and more common, rather than more and more rare." On Thursday night, Vice President Al Gore said on CNN's Larry King Live he supported the agency's decision. "I think it's up to the woman, and I strongly support a woman's right to choose, and I support the FDA's approval, assuming it's safe for the woman who takes it, and that's what they decided today," Gore said. "I do not think it ought to be kept away from women for some political reason." CNN/USA Today/Gallup's three-day rolling

*Continued on page 3*



## Poll, *from page 1*

poll released on Sept. 18 had O'Bannon leading 48 to 34 percent. That meshed with the partisan McLaughlin survey conducted on Sept. 24-25 just after the Sept. 22 debate and two weeks into the "mismanagement" ad campaign that began airing on Sept. 18, showing McIntosh trailing 48 to 34 percent.

In mid-June, the last time HPR/TeleResearch surveyed, O'Bannon led 44 to 40 percent, with Horning at 3 percent. While our latest survey represents an actual gain for O'Bannon, there was a considerable bulge in the governor's lead after he suspended the gasoline tax and McIntosh's campaign went through a series of message diversions and other snafus.

### Good news for McIntosh

As with most surveys, there is good news and bad news for both sides. The good news for McIntosh comes on the issues. In the March TeleResearch survey, improving public education was the top issue at 36 percent, followed by property tax reform at 31 percent, and rising prices at 15. In June, with the skyrocketing gaso-

line prices, our poll showed that issue buoying up to 23 percent, property tax reform going into the lead at 30 percent, and improving public education at 29.5 percent. Within days of the release of that survey on June 19, O'Bannon made his most cunning strategic move and suspended the state gasoline tax, which propelled him to his double-digit leads during the rest of the summer sequence.

In our latest survey, those issues came in as follows:

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Property tax reform</b> | <b>35 percent</b> |
| <b>Improving education</b> | <b>33 percent</b> |
| <b>Rising prices</b>       | <b>18 percent</b> |
| <b>Crime</b>               | <b>8 percent</b>  |
| <b>Environment</b>         | <b>5 percent.</b> |

In the June survey, it was Republicans that almost exclusively drove the property tax reform issue. It picked up about 3 percent of additional support among independent voters. That is the good news for McIntosh.

### And for O'Bannon...

Despite the closeness of the race, we still see this race trending toward O'Bannon; it's still his race to lose. In our June survey, he was getting 8 percent of the Republican vote. That now stands at

## 2000 Gubernatorial Race Polling Sequences

|                  | HPR/TR<br>6/10-15 | Star/13<br>8/24-27 | WISH/Varg<br>9/9-10 | SBT/WSBT<br>9/18 | JMA<br>9/24-25 | HPR/TR<br>9/30-10/1 |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>O'Bannon</b>  | <b>44</b>         | 50                 | 44                  | 48               | 48             | <b>46</b>           |
| <b>McIntosh</b>  | <b>40</b>         | 29                 | 26                  | 33               | 34             | <b>38</b>           |
| <b>Horning</b>   | <b>3</b>          | --                 | 1                   | --               | 1              | <b>4</b>            |
| <b>Others</b>    | --                | --                 | --                  | 2                | --             | --                  |
| <b>Undecided</b> | <b>13</b>         | 21                 | 29                  | 17               | 17             | <b>12</b>           |

15 percent. McIntosh has consistently attracted 8 percent of the Democratic vote.

O'Bannon is maintaining a 20-percent lead among independent voters. Among independent women, O'Bannon still holds a 2 to 1 lead. There was a similarity there with the HPR/TeleResearch Poll and the *South Bend Tribune*/WSBT poll. In the latter survey, the pollster was suprised to see so many independent women undecided. We picked up on that trend, also. It remains the largest undecided voting bloc at 22 percent. "They have traditionally been the latest bloc of voters to decide," said TeleResearch pollster Jeff Lewis.

Perhaps the best news for O'Bannon comes in the fav/unfavs. Despite three weeks of McIntosh assaults on the "mismanagement" issue, O'Bannon's fav/unfavs stand at 58/33. In June, his unfavs stood at 36 percent, so they've actually gone down.

McIntosh's fav/unfav stand at 53/35. But McIntosh's "very unfavorable" rating jumped from 13 percent in June to 22 percent in this poll. "That's huge," Lewis said. "The trending in this race is clearly headed for O'Bannon."

Finally, Al Gore's numbers have

him trailing Bush, 50 to 42 percent in the HPR/ TeleResearch Poll and he trailed Bush by a 49 to 42 percent margin in the *South Bend Tribune*/WSBT poll. Research 2000 pollster Del Ali cited Gore's "astromonical" unfavs in the latter poll, something we saw in dramatic fashion in our polls in June when Gore's fav/unfavs stood at 25/75 percent in Indiana. In our June poll, Gore trailed Bush 54 to 33 percent. We are probably witnessing Gore's high-water mark in Indiana, given his high unfavorable ratings due to his tough environmental stances that don't play very well in a state where thousands of workers churn out internal combustion engines and coal.

"Gore has obviously reigned in the Democratic base," Lewis said. "That 11-point swing for him is huge. That takes a lot of pressure off O'Bannon and the House Democrats. Their biggest fear was that Gore was going to drag them down."

HPR/TeleResearch is the only Indiana-based poll entity that lists its polling history of final surveys taken prior to an election since 1996, comparing them to actual election results. Check out our track record: [www.howeypolitics.com](http://www.howeypolitics.com) . ❖

# TICKER T A P E

tracking (Sept. 26-28) had Bush tied with Gore at 46 percent. Among gender groups, Bush led Gore among men (Sept. 24-26), 55 to 35 percent, and Gore led among women, 52 to 38 percent.

**INDIANA RIGHT TO LIFE REACTS TO RU-486:**  
Indiana Right to Life Executive Director Mike Fichter was sharply critical of the FDA decision. "The FDA, under direction of the Clinton-Gore Administration, has now joined America's abortion industry in expanding the ways of killing unborn children," Fichter said on Thursday. "This is an obvious political payback from the most pro-abortion administration our nation has ever seen." Fichter notes that the RU-486 drug-induced abortion is not a contraceptive, but an abortifacient. "A living, human child is chemically destroyed by this procedure," said Fichter. "It is completely accurate to refer to RU-486 as human pesticide."

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD LAUDS RU-486:** As would be expected, Planned Parenthood of Central Indiana lauded the recent FDA approval of RU-486. "Planned Parenthood believes in women's ability and right to make choices," the organization said in a press release by Sylvia

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Johnson. "The women who will soon come to us for medical abortion using mifepristone will join the thousands of other women every year who come to us for family planning services that prevent the need for abortion." RU-486 is not the first non-surgical abortion method available in Indiana. Methotrexate abortions - a similar procedure to mifepristone - have been available in Indiana for more than a year and were featured in a March NUVO Newsweekly cover story by HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey. Planned Parenthood noted that, "In spite of its demonstrated effectiveness, safety and acceptability, anti-choice political extremists targeted mifepristone and its approval process was delayed. In the end, science, not politics, was the basis for the FDA's decision."

**CHAIN OF LIFE RALLIES TAKE PLACE IN VALPARAISO, SOUTH BEND:** More than 100 right-to-life supporters took part in a "chain of life" rally last Sunday in Valparaiso, and dozens more participated in a similar event in South Bend. Demonstrators carried signs reading "It's not just a pill" in reaction to the FDA approval of RU-486 (South Bend Tribune). In Porter County, Christopher Hedges, president of the local Right to Life organization, said, "Each year we come out here and do this,

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## Two distinct halves in the Bush, Gore debate

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**  
*The Howey Political Report*

Tuesday night's critical presidential debate between George W. Bush and Al Gore was almost like a recent Indiana Hoosier or Indianapolis Colt football game where the home team would roll up big leads only to end up scrambling. There were two distinctive halves to this debate. Bush seemed to be on his heels in the early moments when Gore continually pushed him on whether the wealthiest 1 percent would get more money than programs dealing with health care, prescription drugs and defense.

Gore also appeared to score when he repeatedly pushed the Texas governor over whether people making more than \$25,000 would qualify for prescription drug benefits during the early years of a Bush administration. Bush responded by talking about "fuzzy numbers" without much elaboration, although he seemed to score by saying that Gore had "eight years to get prescription drugs for seniors" and "they can't get it done."

During the latter stages of the debate, it was Bush that seemed to be gaining credibility in the "beating the expectations game" and his ability to govern, while Gore's stance became more arrogant and then elusive when it came to campaign finance reform.

Bush was more willing to throw a barb Gore's way, saying at one point that not only did Gore "invent the Internet, but the calculator." Bush raised Gore's hiding behind the "no controlling legal authority" claims over the 1996 Clinton/Gore fundraising controversies. And he noted that the "Buck stops here" sign had moved from the "Oval Office to the Lincoln Bedroom."

Gore responded by saying that Bush had "attacked my character and credibility and I will not respond in kind." Gore repeated a convention speech theme when he said, "I will never let you down."

He vowed to make the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill the first he would send to Congress, with Bush conjuring images of Gore at the Buddhist Temple, adding, "The man has no credibility."

There were fascinating exchanges on the RU-486, Supreme Court nominees and energy policy issues.

Bush said he would not try to overturn last week's FDA ruling on RU-486. He denied there would be a "lithmus test" for pro-life Supreme Court nominees, saying he would favor "strict constructionists." Gore said those were "code words" for appointing justices like Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas who would "overturn Roe vs. Wade."

Gore vowed to uphold Roe vs. Wade and that may have earned him additional support in this election's key swing group - independent women who tend to be pro-choice.

On energy policy, Gore accentuated reducing consumption by creating more efficient autos, furnaces and plants, and using cleaner coal technology. Bush said he would forge ahead on tapping the Arctic oil fields. He echoed a frequent criticism made by U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar on the Clinton administration and energy policy, saying, "This is an administration that has had no plan."

Gore thematically took on big oil, big drug companies, HMOs and at one point said in a populist fashion, "I cast my lot with the people." Bush kidded about taking on "Big Hollywood, big trial lawyers," then had to ask what the question was.

Gore controlled the issues better than Bush and often interrupted to convinced moderator Jim Lehrer to go beyond specified time limits. As Gore became more abrasive, Bush became more conversational and appeared to head off the "stature gap."

This game is headed to overtime. ❖

## Abortion pill issue lies dormant

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

*The Howey Political Report*

WASHINGTON - Last week's federal approval of an abortion pill has so far failed to foment political backlash on the campaign trail. On Wednesday, the Food and Drug Administration gave its imprimatur to RU-486, an oral drug that ends pregnancies and can be administered in a physician's office. Pro-life activists fear that the pill, also known by its chemical name mifepristone, will increase the number of abortions by making them more widely available.

"There's still a lot of uncertainty about how the FDA will regulate RU-486," said Mike Fichter, executive director of Indiana Right to Life. "There seems to be a wait-and-see attitude."

**A Hoosier race that** may be affected by the FDA ruling is the one involving Fichter's home area - the 8th CD. While both incumbent GOP Rep. John Hostettler and his Democratic challenger, Paul Perry, are pro-life, Hostettler might try to take advantage of the RU-486 opening.

"He's consistently been opposed to all forms of abortion," said Rob Krieg, Hostettler's campaign spokesman. But he pointed to a February Bloomington Herald-Times article to argue that Perry is not as stridently pro-life as Hostettler. The piece paraphrased Perry as being ambivalent about voting for a constitutional amendment to ban abortion.

"What kind of answer you get might depend on where you ask him," Krieg said, claiming Perry is more pro-life in Evansville than in Bloomington.

The Perry campaign said its candidate hews to his pro-life stance. "In the end, Perry and Hostettler are pro-life. They both know it and so does the public," said Jordan Matyas, Perry's spokesman. "He feels strongly about this as a Catholic, a family man, and as a doctor. He's sworn to protect life." Matyas said that Perry, an orthopedic surgeon, would not prescribe RU-486 if he were a general

practitioner or a gynecologist. Over the summer, Hostettler voted in favor of an amendment that would restrict the use and distribution of RU-486.

If Hostettler pushes the abortion issue, it's because he knows he's vulnerable on health care, said Matyas. Perry has focused almost exclusively on prescription

**CONGRESS** drug benefits  
**W A T C H** and the patients' bill of rights during his campaign.

But abortion does fire up Hostettler's ground troops. Democrats and Republicans give him credit for putting together a formidable grass-roots organization that relies in large part on pro-lifers.

"In the eighth district, loyalty to John Hostettler runs very deep," said Fichter. "He has refused to buckle to party politics." Fichter said Hoosier Right to Life chapters are trying to produce record turnouts this year.

**The 9th CD race**, which features anti-abortion activist Michael Bailey as the GOP nominee, might also be moved by the RU-486 controversy. "This makes abortion a high-profile issue, and that's a winner for Mike Bailey," said Fichter.

Bailey, whose campaign is formally entitled Bailey for Life 2000, agrees. "I am the pro-life candidate. People in our district are pro-life, our polling shows us that." Bailey, who is running against the heavily favored Democrat Rep. Baron Hill, makes an emotional argument against RU-486. "There's a lot of mental and physical pain associated with it. The baby dies and the mother is wounded."

The Statehouse may be the next battleground over RU-486, said Fichter. Next year, the legislature will consider a "pharmacists' conscience" measure that would prohibit employer retaliation against pharmacists who refuse to dispense RU-486. "Pharmacists have been put at the front lines of the abortion debate," said Fichter. ❖

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and RU-486 is just another reason for us to be here" (Times of Northwest Indiana).

### HORNING TO BOX:

Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Andrew "The Brain" Horning was set to get into the boxing ring Tuesday at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Horning was to be the special guest of F&F Berns Boxing and has challenged Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Republican David McIntosh to enter the ring with him to "defend Big Government." It comes on the heels of a whirlwind editorial board tour last week that took Horning to Chicago, Lafayette, Munster, Michigan City, LaPorte, South Bend, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Seymour, Louisville, Clarksville and New Albany.

### CARTER AIMS AT TELE-

**MARKETERS:** Republican Attorney General candidate Steve Carter has begun his television ad campaign, showing his family at the dinner table being interrupted by a telemarketer. "Am I calling at a bad time?" the salesperson asks as Carter's 9-year-old daughter knocks over a glass of milk. Carter says he has a plan to end the harassment of telemarketers. The 30-second ad began running Monday in the Indianapolis, Evansville, Fort Wayne and South Bend media markets. Attorney General Karen

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Freeman-Wilson is expected to begin her television campaign next week.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON COMING TO CARMEL:** President Clinton will be in Carmel to raise money for his wife's New York Senate race. After a rally at the Colts Complex in Indianapolis at 4 p.m. Oct. 7, Clinton will appear at a reception at the home of Cindy Simon Skjodt and her husband, Paul, in Carmel. The disclaimer on reception invitations says it is being sponsored by New York Senate 2000, a joint-fundraising committee authorized by the campaign of Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic Senatorial Committee, and New York Democratic Committee, HPR has learned. That type of arrangement means that attendees could give more than the \$1,000 individual limit at the fundraiser. In effect, they can make a soft-money contribution to New York Senate 2000 that will ultimately benefit Hillary Clinton. How that squares with the recent Hillary Clinton/Rick Lazio agreement to forego soft money is unknown.

**BUSH/GORE TIED AT 45 PERCENT:** Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore were tied at 45 percent apiece in the latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup rolling tracking (Sept. 28-30, +/- 4 percent)

# Indiana 2000 Racing Form

**TRENDLINES:** House Democrats are using cable TV on a widespread basis for the first time. "I just like multiple mediums," said Bill Stuart of the House Democratic caucus. "I'm not saying we're going to rely on it, but it's a nice complementary medium and it's not that expensive." Because of that, Stuart states, "Our incumbents are in pretty good shape." Brad Tracy of the House Republican caucus observed, "I bet they'll outspend us 2 to 1. I wouldn't be surprised if they spend \$2 million."

## GOVERNOR, congressional races

**Governor: Republican:** U.S. Rep.

David McIntosh. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:**

HPR/TeleResearch shows this race is narrowing, but still trending toward O'Bannon. O'Bannon has a 46 to 38 point lead. The O'Bannon campaign released a Garin-Hart-Yang Poll (Sept. 23-24) showing the governor leading 56 to 34 percent. McIntosh will be mixing a new education TV ad in with his attack ads on O'Bannon administration "mismanagement" in an effort to soften the blow for the key swing voter bloc - independent women. The next two debates - Oct. 10 in Fort Wayne and Oct. 12 in South Bend - are vital for McIntosh. Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst believes O'Bannon's third suspension of the state sales tax on gasoline was strictly political (Mike Smith, Associated Press). Borst said it was political the first time he did it and "I think it's more political right now." Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus, said O'Bannon's initial action was a "stretch" under state law and now "he's doing it over and over again." O'Bannon gave shortfalls of crude oil as a primary reason to continue suspension of the 5 percent sales tax. The statutory limit of the tax abeyance is Oct. 25, shortly before the Nov. 7 election. Bill Styring of the Hudson Institute told HPR on Thursday that he recently read the 1991 law and observed that it was "intended" for events like the 1973 Arab oil embargo and "not because gas prices are too high." Styring added, "It is not clear that Gov. O'Bannon even has the authority do suspend these taxes." **General Status: LEANS O'BANNON.**

**U.S. Senate: Republican:** U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. **Democrat:** David L. Johnson.

**1988 results:** Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes (D) 668,778. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Forecast:** HPR/TeleResearch Poll further confirms what we suspected all along - this race is all but over. Lugar leads 60 to 23 percent. Lugar is using his peacekeeper role in new TV ads, pointing out the Nunn-Lugar Act has resulted in the scrapping of 5,014 Soviet nuclear warheads, 62 bombers and 12 submarines. Lugar used the second Lincoln/Douglas style Senate debate with Johnson to tout the results of the Lugar-Nunn Act. "One of those warheads could have totally obliterated Evansville, Indiana," Lugar said at the Friday debate taped at WNIN-TV in Evansville and shown on various PBS stations around the state. "I think we need to talk about foreign policy in this campaign." But Johnson ignored foreign policy and focused his attention on such domestic issues as health care, tax cuts and Social Security. "Those are the issues brought by hard-working Hoosiers," Johnson said. The most interesting exchange between the two candidates occurred over energy policy. Lugar said that skyrocketing fuel prices have been created because "the Clinton-Gore policy has been to ignore the issue." Johnson responded that it has been Gov. Frank O'Bannon who has led the way on reaction to energy concerns. "I'm not Bill Clinton and I'm not Al Gore," Johnson said. "I'll confess there are some days I'd like to be Frank O'Bannon." The two Senate candi-

# HORSE RACE

dates will have their final debate on Oct. 22 in South Bend. **Status:** *Safe Lugar.*

**Attorney General: Republican:** Steven Carter. **Democrat:** Karen Freeman-Wilson. **2000 Forecast:** Carter has a nice TV ad out showing a Hoosier family at the dinner table being interrupted by telemarketers. Carter says he has a plan to deal with these companies. Freeman-Wilson is to come up on TV within the week. She has been active getting earned media on her public policy initiatives over the past year. How is this race likely to go? Carter lost narrowly to Jeff Modisett in 1996. Some believe it will swing the same direction as the governors race. Some believe Carter is a familiar name (i.e., Pam Carter won the office in 1992) and he could be pulled in with Lugar. But that's all conjecture at this point. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**Congressional District 2: Republican:** Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Robert Rock Jr. **Independent:** Bill Frazier. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 Results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:** Second debate occurred Tuesday night, going up against the presidential debate. Good planning. **Status:** *Likely Pence.*

**Congressional District 3: Republican:** Chris Choccola. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Results:** Roemer 84,625, Holtz 61,041. **2000 Forecast:** Roemer criticized President Clinton's tapping of the Strategic Petroleum Reserves (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). Roemer also called for a \$1 hike in the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour. **Status:** *Leans Roemer.*

**Congressional District 8: Republican:** U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Dr. Paul Perry. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Forecast:** A poll shopped around by the NRCC by the Anderson Group of 300 likely 8th CD voters has Republican U.S. Rep. John Hostettler leading Democrat Paul Perry, 52.3 to 32 percent (White House Bulletin). HPR's Brian Howey told the Bulletin that if true, the poll would be "astounding." Perry unveiled his TV ad campaign Monday in the Terre Haute and Evansville commercial TV markets and on Indianapolis cable. Perry ran TV ads during the primary season. The ad features Perry speaking, saying, "Being a physician is about taking care of people's problems. But health care has been taken over by special interests - the insurance industry, the pharmaceutical industry. Their interest is in making money, not in taking care of patients. I decided to run for Congress because I saw that the politicians in Washington seemed more interested in bickering and scoring political points than solving problems." A narrator then intones, "Put a Doctor in the House. Dr. Paul Perry for Congress." **Status:** *Tossup.*

## INDIANA HOUSE races

**House District 4: Republican:** Rep. Ralph Ayres. **Democrat:** Mike Bucko. **Geography:** Porter, LaPorte counties. **1994 Results:** Ayres (R) 14,672. **1996 Results:** Ayres 20,986. **1998 Results:** Ayres 14,207. **2000 Forecast:** This is a long-shot for the Democrats. **Status:** *Leans R.*

**House District 19: Republican:** Ron Johnson. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman. **Geography:** Crown Point, south Lake County. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Results:** Kuzman 9,130, Gasparovic (R) 6,917. **2000 Forecast:** Kuzman running radio and cable TV. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**House District 24: Republican:** Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Bob Sabatini. **Geography:** Logansport, Cass, Carroll, Miami counties. **1994 results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz

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released on Sunday. Bush had a 46 to 44 percent lead in CNN's Saturday polling. The tracking has yet to fully gauge the impact of last Thursday's FDA decision to legalize the abortion drug RU-486, which could do two things: ignite the pro-life activists for Bush and Congressional Republicans and/or push independent women - the key swing voting bloc - into the Gore and Congressional Democrat camp. The deadlocked presidential race has dramatically upped the stakes in Tuesday's first primetime presidential debate in Boston. CNN noted, "How close is the race between Bush and Gore? Not only do both the major-party candidates have the same share of the vote, but both men have identical favorable and unfavorable ratings." The two candidates' fav/unfavs stood at 59/36 percent. Meanwhile, Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson said on CBS's Face the Nation on Sunday that Bush has "blown a major lead" and risks defeat unless he "comes out swinging like a fighter." Robertson also complained that Bush did not appear at the coalition's weekend convention, sending a videotaped message instead. "They figure they've got the conservative base locked up and they don't have to worry about it," Robertson complained. "So the play is to the indepen-

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# TICKER

## T A P E

dents, the swing voters. It's a dangerous strategy just to ignore your base, especially to play like something you're not." On ABC's Good Morning America today, analyst George Stephanopolous reported that Bush, who normally goes to bed at 9:30 p.m., has been practicing for the 90-minute debate during the time of the day it will air to "adjust his internal clock." Also, Ohio Gov. Robert Taft told the Washington Post's David Broder that, "It is an extremely tight race" in that key Midwestern battleground state and that "it could go either way. That is ominous in its implications, for no Republican in this century has won the presidency without carrying Ohio."

**ABOUT THOSE POLLS.....:** George Gallup Jr., one of the nation's leading pollsters, told Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce members last Wednesday that people still trying to decide who to vote for should give no weight to political polls (Susan Taylor, Evansville Courier & Press). Gallup also said that if a candidate is ahead in a poll people should not change their minds to jump on the side of the leader.

Read Brian Howey's profiles of David McIntosh and Frank O'Bannon in the October edition of Indianapolis Monthly magazine, on newstands now. ❖

(D) 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538. **1998 Results:** McClain 10,281, Fincher (D) 7,345. **2000 Forecast:** Sabatini began his radio on Sept. 11 on crime and education issues. McClain has not dropped mail or run ads. **Status:** *Tossup*.

**House District 32: Republican:** State Rep. Eric Turner. **Democrat:** Bart Herriman. **Geography:** Madison, Grant and Miami counties. **1994 results:** Turner (R) 9,496, Beck (D) 7,722. **1996 Results:** Turner 13,188, Stanley (D) 8,981. **1998 Results:** Turner 10,006, Schmidt (D) 6,607. **2000 Forecast:** Herriman has begun his radio and cable TV. **Status:** *Leans R*.

**House District 30: Republican:** Karen Buyer Burkhardt. **Democrat:** State Rep. Ron Herrell. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,660. **1998 Results:** Herrell 7,711, Burkhardt (R) 7,520. **2000 Forecast:** Herrel began radio ads a couple of weeks ago and started cable TV last Monday. There has been no Democratic tracking. **Status:** *Tossup*.

**House District 52: Republican:** Ken Wonderly. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Sturtz. **Geography:** LaGrange, Noble counties. **1994 Results:** Sturtz (D) 6,837, LeCount (R) 5,789. **1996 Results:** Sturtz 10,049, Hanneman (R) 6,258. **1998 Results:** Sturtz 6,677, Wonderly 6,385. **2000 Forecast:** Democrats are talking confidently about holding on to this seat. Nothing has changed our mind, either. **Status:** *Leans D*.

**House District 57: Republican:** Mike Herndon. **Democrat:** J.D. Lux. **Geography:** Shelbyville, Shelby, Bartholomew and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Linder (R) 12,626. **1996 Results:** Linder 13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Forecast:** Democratic tracking shows O'Bannon's lead in the district going from 6 to 16 points. Lux is advertising on Indianapolis radio. **Status:** *Tossup*.

**House District 60: Republican:** John Shean. **Democrat:** State Rep. Peggy Welch. **Geography:** Bloomington, Bloomfield, Lawrence. Greene and Monroe Counties. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Results:** Welch 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Forecast:** *Behind Closed Doors* catches on to the state Chamber's abandonment of Shean (something we told you about a month ago). Pat Kiely gets in his licks on the poor Chamber. Hard to say how LaMothe's neat TV ad will help Shean, either. **Status:** *Leans Welch*.

**House District 64: Republican:** Eric Holcomb. **Democrat:** Rep. John Frenz. **Geography:** Knox, Pike, Davies and Gibson counties. **1994 results:** McConnell (D) 10,741, Marshall (R) 7,672. **1996 Results:** Frenz (D) 11,414, Krieg (R) 9,853. **1998 Results:** Frenz (D) 12,623. **2000 Forecast:** Frenz ran a week of TV in order to get in before the Bloody 8th CD fireworks begin. Democrats say this is theirs' to lose. **Status:** *LEANS FRENZ*.

**House District 68: Republican:** Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Bischoff. **Geography:** Lawrenceburg. **1994 results:** Bischoff 9,427, Ketcham (R) 8,993. **1996 Results:** Bischoff (D) 12,088, Fehrman (R) 8,968. **1998 Results:** Bischoff 11,881, Kristoff (L) 1,742. **2000 Forecast:** Leising has dropped two mailings and went up on radio last Monday. Democrats seem optimistic. Bischoff running cable TV in Lawrenceburg and Brookville. **Status:** *Tossup*.

**House District 89: Republican:** State Rep. Larry Buell. **Democrat:** Brian Sims. **Geography:** SW Indianapolis, Irvington, Beech Grove. **1994 Results:** Buell (R) 9,583, Feeny (D) 5,770. **1996 Results:** Buell 11,281, Osborn (D) 7,872. **1998 Results:** Buell 8,235, Jeffers (D) 5,761, Hubertz (L) 230. **2000 Forecast:** *Indianapolis Star* featured this race and noted what we've been telling you since last winter: The district has changed, Bayh, O'Bannon and Peterson all carried it in their last elections, and the energetic Sims has a credible shot at it. Buell told the Star, "There are some people who say the Republican organization's dead. But I don't think that's true." We'll find out soon. **Status:** *Tossup*.

**House District 94: Republican:** Paul Ogden. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jeb Bardon. **Geography:** NW Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Results:** Bardon 8,411, Marendt 6,834. **2000 Forecast:** Ogden tells the *Indianapolis Star* that help from the House caucus has "been more tactical than financial." We believe Bardon is in good shape to win a second term. **Status:** *LEANS BARDON*. ❖





## HPR Pre-Election 2000 Briefing Series

The second annual HPR Pre-Election Briefing Series will take place on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 in Indianapolis and South Bend. The briefings will feature statewide polling and analysis by HPR's Brian Howey and Mark Schoeff Jr., TeleResearch Pollster Jeff Lewis, Ron Gifford of Baker & Daniels, and Jack Colwell of the *South Bend Tribune*. Join us for lunch and analysis of the fascinating 2000 election. Here are the details:

**Indianapolis:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1 at the Columbia Club. Sponsors include Baker & Daniels, DLZ, Vectren and National Graphics. Cost: \$20. **South Bend:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Holiday Inn in downtown South Bend. Sponsors include Baker & Daniels, DLZ, the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce. Cost: \$15.

To register, call 317-254-0535 or 317-254-1533 or e-mail us at: [brianhowey@earthlink.net](mailto:brianhowey@earthlink.net)




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# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

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**Sylvia Smith**, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Sen. Richard Lugar thinks Uncle Sam ought to make it more attractive for Bruick to donate those extra apples and pumpkins to a food bank or soup kitchen than to let them rot. The rest of the Senate does, too; it voted unanimously in July to expand a tax break for businesses that donate surplus food. But the legislation was added as rider to the estate tax repeal, which was vetoed and doesn't have enough congressional support to override the veto. It's not all that expensive. At a cost estimate of \$150 million a year in lost income to the national treasury, the legislation is one of the cheapest tax-cut proposals around. It's for a good cause. Republicans are always making the case that cutting taxes for rich people helps poor people because the rich people will use

tax breaks to invest, which will create more jobs, which will benefit the poor. It's tapping into private resources to help the common good. Despite the full employment and expanding economy, there's evidence that a growing number of people aren't benefiting. The number of low-income seniors in Allen County who get groceries from Community Harvest Food Bank in Fort Wayne has increased 10 percent since the beginning of the year. The number of poor families referred to Community Harvest's on-site grocery by social service groups such as Catholic Charities has grown from 13 to 231 since 1999. Merit, however, is not the basis on which this bill will be judged. At this stage of the legislative process merit is, in fact, irrelevant. The best Lugar can hope for is that this provision will be added to a larger bill that also

includes tax breaks. ❖

**Jack Colwell**, *South Bend Tribune* - If you gave to conservative candidates or subscribed to some conservative publications, you could recently have received a letter from the Emergency Committee To Stop Hillary Rodham Clinton. Rick Lazio, the Republican nominee for the Senate in New York, tried a different approach. In a letter to an area resident -- and many thousands of others around the nation -- Lazio wrote: "It won't take me six pages to convince you to send me an urgently needed contribution for my United States Senate campaign in New York. It will take only six words: I'm running against Hillary Rodham Clinton." ❖

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