

# The Howey Political Report



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The way to defeat international terrorism is to focus on the most immediate threat. After Nov. 5, there will be a lot more understanding of what the future holds.”

- U.S. Rep. John Hostettler

## Dems gird for big White House guns

### Mild GOP wave prompts tossups

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in *Indianapolis*

Indiana Democrats girded for an onslaught of big Republican guns heading into next Tuesday’s elections as possibly four Congressional races were very much in doubt and another three Democratic legislative seats came into play.

Tuesday’s election seems to have come down to one where guns triumphed over butter. As *CBS News* reported last Tuesday night, “In any other campaign year, the economic news could have been disastrous. Seven days from the election, consumer confidence falls to its lowest level in almost a decade, but it made barely a ripple in Washington.”

Pew Research Center analyst Carroll Doherty noted that voters, “Don’t tend to blame anyone in particular, the President or Congress, necessarily for the economic downturn. They see it as either part of the business cycle or people still attribute it to the 911 attacks.”

Hoosiers across Indiana were greeted Thursday night and Friday morning to images of President Bush and Vice President Cheney stumping across the state. WTHR-TV’s John Stehr began Thursday’s newscast showing Air Force One on the South Bend tarmac and Kevin Rader reported, “President Bush asked Republicans to work and elect Chris Chocola.”

In Indianapolis this morning, Vice President Dick Cheney told 1,000 Republicans and all four network affiliates, “We know wars are not won on the defensive. The path to safety is action.” While that was in reference to the War on Terror, it will probably be seen as a clarion call to get out the vote for 7th CD challenger Brose McVey, who Cheney said “is on the course to a great victory on Tuesday.”

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# TICKER

## T A P E

**NETWORKS TO REFRAIN CALLING RACES UNTIL POLLS CLOSE:** While control of both houses of Congress is up for grabs in next week's elections, U.S. television networks' news divisions also have something vital at stake -- their credibility (Reuters). Still smarting from bungled coverage of the 2000 presidential race, when they predicted different outcomes three different times on Election Night, the networks are pledging greater caution in reporting House and Senate races that could alter the balance of power in Washington. In one historic departure from past election coverage, news executives at broadcast networks ABC, CBS and NBC and the cable outlets Fox News Channel and CNN have pledged to refrain from calling the winners of any race next Tuesday until all the polls in that state have closed.

**ROKITA, FERNANDEZ HAMMER EACH OTHER IN TV DEBATE:** Indiana's secretary of state candidates squared off Thursday night on who's more capable of tackling "corporate crime" (John Martin, Evansville Courier & Press). Democrat John Fernandez, the mayor of Bloomington, Republican Todd Rokita, deputy secretary of state; and Libertarian Rebecca Sink-Burris, a businesswoman and former

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In South Bend, the president delivered a 25-minute speech to a friendly crowd of more than 5,000 at an airport rally, seeking to win political support at home in his role of party leader and talking tough about Saddam Hussein in his role as the nation's leader (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). The partisan crowd cheered for both messages. Chants of "USA, USA" broke out when the president declared: "Our No. 1 priority will be to protect you because there is an enemy out there which hates America. They hate what we stand for. And we're not changing what we stand for. We love freedom." In introducing the president, Chocola remarked: "Aren't we fortunate that he is here today?"

The scenes are expected to play out again today as Bush journeys to Louisville to campaign for 9th CD Republican Mike Sodrel, who appears to have narrowed the gap against U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. The Democrat's campaign tried to stem the unprecedented tide, with spokesman Scott Downes saying, "The president was never coming to southern Indiana, the White House made that clear to us, and he certainly was never focused

on campaigning for Mike Sodrel. It looks like Mike Sodrel is the candidate who will say anything to get elected."

### Taut races

Across Indiana, several polls released over the past two days show a number of dead heats. An *Indianapolis Star*/WTHR-TV poll shows U.S. Rep. Julia Carson leading McVey 43-42 (Oct. 29-30), and an HPR/TeleResearch Poll (Oct. 26-29) had McVey leading 46-42. But both polls were taken prior to Carson's walkout on a Meridian Hills Kiwanis Club debate Wednesday.

A *South Bend Tribune*-WSBT Poll released this morning showed Chocola leading Democrat Jill Long Thompson for the first time, 49-46 percent.

All three surveys were within the margin of error and statistical ties.

In two races that appear on the surface to have tightened, the Hill-Sodrel race in the 9th CD and the Bryan Hartke challenge to U.S. Rep. John Hostettler in the Bloody 8th CD, there is no reliable polling available. National and state Democrats rushed resources into the 8th to pump up the previously anemically

funded Hartke, with national Republicans sources spinning HPR that Hostettler still had a double-digit lead. In the 9th CD, the presumption was that the White House and the RNCC saw enough vulnerability in Hill's status to commit the highest of resources -- President Bush.

On the legislative level, three new races appear to have come into play -- Democratically held HD30 between Rep. Ron Herrell and Republican Lynn Rudolph, HD37 between Rep. Scott Reske and Republican Rob Steele, and HD72 between Rep. William Cochran and Republican Ryan Bergman, who claims he will have the support of the NRA and Right to Life organizations.

When HPR ran into House Minority Leader Brian Bosma on Tuesday, he smiled and said he agreed with HPR's Indiana House assessment last week -- 52-48 -- but added, "It's just in the other direction."

With the guns appearing to have won out over the butter in the issues dynamic, the tightening races involving Congressional and legislative Democrats, and the commitment of the big White House guns that will dominate media coverage through Sunday, the best guess is that there is at least a mild GOP wave beginning to break in Indiana.

## The bizarre 7th

While Chocola and Thompson have been walloping each other for months and every indication is that race is an utter dead heat, the most bizarre political theater took place in Indianapolis.

Democratic sources told HPR that at a strategy meeting Monday night, Rep. Carson vowed to walk out of a Wednesday debate with McVey. Her current media campaign -- the "Winston Churchill ad" where she said, "Actions speak louder than words" -- appears to have prefaced what happened Wednesday. When she showed up at the Kiwanis Club, Carson had a larger than usual entourage.

"If I seem rather upset, you are looking at somebody who is extremely hurt by this campaign," Carson told the stunned audience as McVey and Libertarian Andrew Horning looked on. "I don't think I have ever in my life seen the political decay, the lowest common denominator, that has been applied by my Republican opponent in this particular race. I don't feel comfortable being in the same room with him. If you will pardon me, I'm now leaving."

With polls suggesting a dead heat, the assumption was that Carson was seeking to motivate her legendary ground organization that has won 23 elections. But the speculation was that in seeking to dramatically activate her base, Carson risked alienating critical undecided independents.

HPR/TeleResearch polling had shown over the past two weeks that Carson was losing significant support of Democratic males (thus, the USS Indianapolis TV ad). It also noted that among African-Americans, President Bush's approval rating was at 34 percent, when normally a Republican president would have been in the single digits. The *Star* reported, "But 10 percent remain undecided -- and that, pollster Nick Panagakis said, could mean trouble for Carson." TeleResearch pollster Jeff Lewis observed of Carson's tactic, "It certainly isn't positive. It cuts both ways. It will incense much of her base, but it also cuts against her with undecideds and independents. How much remains to be seen, but my guess is it hurt her more than it helped her."

The McVey campaign, brilliantly executed up until the NRCC "taxes" ad, can either cite the ad for exposing Carson's emotional vulnerabilities or awakening the giant ground organization if he loses. McVey vowed that while much was spent preparing his media plan, even more resources have gone in to a countering GOTV.

An epically interesting Tuesday awaits. ❖

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teacher, appeared on "Shively & Shoulders" on WNIN-PBS9. Fernandez and Rokita have hammered away at one another in recent television ads. Fernandez accuses the secretary of state office of "dragging its feet" into the investigation of the merger of IPALCO Enterprises Inc., an Indianapolis utility company, and AES Corp. of Arlington, Va. Several IPALCO employees say they lost savings, but said the company made millions because of the merger. "We need to be asking some very serious questions," Fernandez said Thursday. Rokita said Fernandez should not politicize the IPALCO matter. The current secretary of state, Republican Sue Anne Gilroy, opened an investigation July 31. "One of us is falling down in the polls and needs an issue to run on, and it's not me," Rokita said. Fernandez said the IPALCO matter is an example of why the secretary of state's office needs more power to investigate claims of securities fraud and bring charges. Rokita called for "a team approach" in probing fraud allegations. He rejected Fernandez's charge that Rokita's approach amounts to "deferring to the federal government" on such investigations. "We're working as a team, giving people the most bang for their buck to put corporate criminals in

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jail," Rokita said. Fernandez attacked Rokita for having Mitch Daniels, President Bush's budget director and a former board member of IPALCO, speak at one of his campaign fund-raisers. Rokita said the event was "certainly not a conflict of interest." He said Daniels has not contributed to his campaign and noted that Daniels no longer serves on the IPALCO board. Fernandez responded, "It's not about whether Mitch Daniels is a good man, it's about whether that is a good judgment call. Appearances of impropriety are important."

**WHO'S RUNNING DELAWARE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY?** Phil Nichols resigned as Delaware County Democratic Party chairman in December 1998. But Republican Party Chairman Kaye Whitehead thinks Nichols, and not current Democratic Chairman Dennis Tyle, is still calling the shots (Keith Roysdon, Muncie Star Press). During an interview this week, Whitehead was talking about telephone surveys conducted to gauge voter intent in Tuesday's election. "Phil has run polls as well as we've run polls," Whitehead said. She paused, then added, "I say Phil because if there is any doubt in your mind who is running the Democrat Party, let me extinguish it." Tyler scoffed at Whitehead's com-

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## Specter of recounts looms large

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON -- Three factors central to several Hoosier congressional campaigns this year -- close races, a lack of national issues, and low voter turnout -- could combine to produce an election night that stretches on for days before the outcome is determined. But Indiana officials say the state will avoid a scenario similar to the Florida presidential election of 2000.

"I'm very confident in the foresight the legislature demonstrated over the years to give us a strong blueprint on how to do recounts," said Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy. "We will have a plan of attack that will go into effect as quickly as election night if ballots need to be impounded. The election division and recount commission will bring all resources to bear to ensure that every vote is treated with respect and care -- as well as the candidates themselves."

In Indianapolis Thursday, the Marion County prosecutor's office seized dozens of suspicious absentee ballot applications as it launched a criminal probe into possible election fraud. "If people are forging signatures on absentee ballots, that's a crime, and it is our job to investigate it," Prosecutor Scott Newman said in a written statement (Indianapolis Star). Workers in the Marion County clerk's office reported irregularities on 78 absentee ballot applications for Tuesday's election.

Although experts say it is impossible to predict which races will fall into the recount margin, the open-seat CD 2 contest between Republican Chris Choccola and Democrat Jill Long Thompson and the fiercely competitive tilt between incumbent Democrat Julia Carson and Republican challenger Brose McVey in CD 7 are two Hoosier races likely to come down to the wire.

Indiana is a step ahead of most states when it comes to recounting votes.

In fact, Indiana was held up as a model by Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer when that body was sorting out the victor in the presidential campaign between then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore in 2000. After a recount in the 1984 CD 8 race between Democrat Frank McCloskey and Republican Rick McIntyre, Indiana moved from a system like Florida's, in which each county was responsible for its own recount procedures, to one in which recounts are conducted by a state commission. That panel includes the secretary of state and representatives chosen by the directors of each state party. Following a recount in the 1986 Republican primary in the current CD 3, the state enacted a law that includes a one-page, single-spaced statute promulgating precisely how votes are to be counted from each type of system in use at Indiana polling places -- paper, computer, optical scans, and lever machines. In a recount, Indiana state police impound the ballots and the state board of accounts has sole responsibility for handling election material. Candidates can request a recount between Nov. 5 and Nov. 17. The state parties have until Nov. 15 to make a request.

Indiana has not had a recount since the 1998 state House primary race between Jerry Bales and Jeff Ellington in HD 60. But history can't predict the future. Said Brad King, co-director of the Indiana election division, "The fact that we've gone this long without a state-level recount makes you wonder whether that particular run will continue."

### Campaigns Prepared

If Indiana's luck runs out next week, campaigns are prepared for recount scenarios. "We will have the full contingent of poll workers and get-out-the-vote personnel on election day," said Laura Zuckerman, spokeswoman for the

Chocola campaign. "If needed, we'll have available the appropriate legal representation. (In the case of a recount) we'll have the participation of state and national operations."

On the other side of the CD 2 contest, Democratic consultant Chris Sautter, a nationally recognized recount expert, is on board the Long Thompson campaign. Sautter was involved in the 1984 McCloskey-McIntyre recount, a race that McCloskey won by four votes. Sautter also helped lead the Democratic recount team in Florida in 2000. Florida was like a recounting school, producing graduates who are ready to be deployed this year to tight races. "Attorneys and activists experienced in recounts from Florida are being identified so that they can be dispatched to wherever the closest elections are," said Sautter.

### What's Ahead for Election Integrity

Before votes are recounted, they have to be cast. To combat election fraud and civil rights violations, Gilroy announced this week that she is teaming with the northern and southern U.S. district attorneys to respond promptly to allegations of suppressed voting. The effort will be conducted in cooperation with the Department of Justice and the FBI. The voter fraud hotline is 1-800-622-4941. After this election cycle, Indiana stands to gain up to \$83 million in federal funds for election reforms through legislation President Bush signed this week. Indiana already meets several criteria, including having a fraud hotline and maintaining a single statewide list of eligible voters, that are required for a state to obtain the funding. ❖

## COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Stuart Rothenberg**, *Roll Call* - As these early stars faded, they've been replaced by the likes of Tim Bishop (D-N.Y.), Brose McVey (R-Ind.), Max Burns (R-Ga.) and former state Sen. Darryl Roberts (D-Okla.). McVey, the GOP nominee in what is now Indiana's 7th district, has pulled even with Democratic Rep. Julia Carson, according to Republican polls. A veteran Indiana GOP operative, McVey is taking advantage of redistricting, which cut the Democratic advantage in the Indianapolis-based district by about 4 points and lowered the black percentage of the voting age public to just over 27 percent. Still, Al Gore carried the district with 56 percent over George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential race. While Carson was re-elected with 58 percent each of the last two times, she isn't regarded as a particularly energetic campaigner, and even Democrats worry that she has come to take it for granted that late-deciding voters will break heavily her way. Energetic and

likable, McVey could well be regarded by district voters as an appealing alternative to Carson. ❖

### Amos Brown, *Indianapolis Recorder*

- I did seriously consider whether Brose McVey would do a better job than Congresswoman Carson. McVey is a principled man, who could represent Indianapolis well in Congress. But, after eight years of Goldsmithism, years of political mismanagement and cronyism in the sheriff's office, and the increasing racial insensitivity of Indy's Republican Neanderthals, our growing African-American community still doesn't fully trust McVey's brand of pragmatic, responsible Republicanism. I laud McVey for reaching out to our Black community, more than any Republican congressional candidate since Virginia Blankenbaker and the late Mike Carroll. I'd much rather see McVey remain in Indianapolis to rebuild and reinvigorate the local GOP. ❖

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ments. "I don't know what Kaye is alluding to," Tyler said. "I've always tried to give Kaye the benefit of the doubt that she's speaking on behalf of her and her party."

**19 MEMBERS KILLED IN PLANE CRASHES:** The death a week ago of Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.), his wife and their daughter is just the latest sad chapter in a string of Congressional deaths due to airplane crashes going back more than 70 years. The grim toll has now reached 19 with the loss of Wellstone. But the list of Capitol Hill victims from such accidents is actually much longer and includes numerous staffers in addition to the lawmakers themselves. In fact, Wellstone wasn't even the first Minnesota senator to lose his life in such a manner. Sen. Ernest Lundeen (R-Minn.) died in a plane crash on Aug. 31, 1940, near Lovettsville, Va. Two other sitting senators -- Bronson Cutting (R-N.M.) and John Heinz (R-Pa.) -- also perished in plane accidents, while former Sen. John Tower (R-Texas) was killed in the crash of an Atlantic Southeast Airlines flight near Brunswick, Ga., on April 5, 1991 the day after Heinz died. According to a recent study by the Congressional Research Service, 19 Members have been killed in plane crashes

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since 1928, when Rep. Thaddeus Sweet (R-N.Y.) was lost as a result of injuries suffered in an airplane accident near Whitney Point, N.Y. Several lawmakers, such as Sens. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), have survived serious plane crashes. Stevens' wife of 26 years, Ann, and five others were killed in a December 1978 accident. Kennedy, who was in Minnesota last Friday to campaign with Wellstone, was saved by former Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), father of Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.). The elder Bayh dragged the gravely injured Kennedy from the site of the 1964 accident. Two passengers died in that mishap.

**HOSTETTLER BELIEVES IRAN, NORTH KOREA BIGGER THREATS THAN IRAQ:** Eighth District Rep. John Hostettler on Tuesday said there is more evidence indicating North Korea and Iran pose an imminent threat to Americans than Iraq, the likely next stop in the country's war on terrorism (Dave Hosick, Evansville Courier & Press). In a speech to the Rotary Club of Evansville, the Republican incumbent reiterated why he was one of six Republicans to vote in opposition to giving President Bush the authority to use military force if needed to battle Iraq or other nations that reported-

# Indiana 2002 Racing Form

## Indiana Statewide Races

**Secretary of State 2002: Republican:** Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita

**Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **Libertarian:** Rebecca Sink-Burris. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Results:** Gilroy 828,557, Little (D) 652,565,

Dillon (L) 51,775. **2002 Forecast:** Fernandez has the money lead; Rokita has had leads in internal GOP polling, and the big White House guns invading the state in the last week. We sense an edge

for the Republican because the rest of the statewide GOPs are expected to prevail and a number of national polls have revealed that the corporate scandal issue just doesn't have the legs it was expected to, and that has been Fernandez's biggest issue. This contest is a party GOTV deal, and going into Tuesday, Rokita seems to have the tailwind. **Status:** LEANS R.

# HORSE RACE

## Indiana Congressional Races

**Congressional District 2: Republican:** Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Jill Long

Thompson. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **Websites:** www.jilllongthompson.com; www.chocolaforcongress.com **2000 Result:** Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Outlook:** This race is trending toward Chocola, with the latest *South Bend Tribune*/WSBT poll showing Chocola with his first lead, 49-46 percent and President Bush coming into South Bend for the second time this fall. The press conference with JLT's husband accusing Chocola of dirty campaign tricks revealed a Democratic campaign that has gotten emotional, which often signals vulnerability. This race has been the ugliest, nastiest CD race we've ever witnessed (and when it invaded the Indianapolis TV market a couple of weeks ago because South Bend market time was bought up -- ugh) and will probably break all Hoosier spending records on the federal level. It's still a statistical tie and both campaigns will have more than 300 people rounding up voters on Tuesday. **Status:** *Tossup.*

**Congressional District 6: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Melina

Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **Websites:** www.foxforcongress.com; mikepence.house.gov/ **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,070. **2002 Forecast:** With Fox never getting up on TV and Pence running feel-good ads, the incumbent will win. **Status:** *Likely Pence.*

**Congressional District 7: Republican:** Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia

Carson. **Libertarian:** Andy Horning. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **Websites:** www.juliacarson.org; www.broseforcongress.org **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** Did Carson have a debate meltdown on Wednesday? Or was that a calculated move to try to energize her base? HPR/TeleResearch Poll had McVey leading 46-42 (Oct. 26-29, +/-5.2), up from a 45-42 percent lead last week. Dr. Vargus's IUPUI Poll had Carson leading 46-37 percent on Monday. Today's *Star* gave Carson a 43-42 lead. The Carson debate tactic is a dangerous use of the race card, one in which McVey countered by appearing Thursday with U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige at the Madame Walker Theatre. Many observers just don't believe that Carson will lose, pointing to her legendary GOTV network. Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy said the RNCC "late

taxes" ad may backfire, riling up the Carson partisans. The fact that Carson blamed paying her taxes late from 1997 to 2001 because of her dying mother (who passed away in 1987) seems silly. McVey campaign manager Tim Searcy says his campaign has placed extraordinary resources in its GOTV. On another ominous note for Carson, the HPR/TeleResearch poll showed President Bush's fav/unfav at 34 percent, probably at a historic high for this district. With Vice President Cheney here today, and President Bush in the state Thursday and Friday, a mild GOP wave could counter the Carson machine. This race is a pure ... **Status: TOSSUP.**

**Congressional District 8: Republican:** U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Bryan Hartke. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Websites:** www.bryan-hartke.com; www.house.gov/hostettler/ **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **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 Results:** Hostettler 116,860, Perry 100,461. **2002 Outlook:** Democrats say polling shows Hartke leading and they've rushed in personnel and \$200,000 in TV money with an ad featuring U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh. However, they've never released the polling. Why? With the rest of the state appearing to trend Republican, the Bloody 8th seems to be a bit of an anomaly until you consider that Hostettler seems to have gone out of his way to stir up controversy, be it his lecture to breast cancer survivors, to his running feud with the *Evansville Courier & Press*, to his no vote on the Iraq war resolution. If Hostettler loses, it will be his own fault. But like Julia Carson in the 7th CD, Hostettler has a prolific ground organization that Republicans expect he'll kick in. If Hostettler prevails, this will be seen as a huge lost opportunity for Democrats. If Hostettler loses, it's because he took successful target practice at himself. **Status: LEANS R.**

**Congressional District 9: Republican:** Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **Websites:** www.house.gov/baronhill/, www.mikesodrel.com **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Results:** Hill 125,978, Bailey (R) 101,790, Chambers (L) 4,634. **2002 Forecast:** The Hill campaign insisted a week ago that Sodrel's polling showing a tight race was lunacy. But President Bush wouldn't be coming here to stump for Sodrel unless the White House saw an opportunity. Hill is running a new ad featuring his wife, Betty, a Seymour school teacher. The lack of RNCC involvement in this race represents a major miscalculation. The 9th CD voted 58 percent for George W. Bush in 2000, so his visit on behalf of Sodrel could have a major impact. Hill can't use the unpopular Gov. O'Bannon to help bolster him this year. The conditions are right here for a major upset. **Status: TOSSUP.**

## Indiana House Races

**Trend Line:** We've added three races to the list -- seats held by Democrat Reps. Ron Herrell (HD30), Scott Reske (HD37) and William Cochran (HD72). It suggests at least a mild GOP wave developing. Our heart tells us to expect a 51-49 Democratic House. Our gut says a 50/50 is a real possibility, and our brain is saying, "Who in the hell really knows?" After the three Bush/Cheney visits this week, some of these races could be influenced by the big White House guns.

**House District 8: Republican:** Carl Baxmeyer. **Democrat:** Ryan Dvorak. **Geography:** St. Joseph County. **1998 Results:** M. Dvorak 11,613, Sulok (R) 6,715. **2000 Results:** M. Dvorak 15,660, Zirkle (R) 9,768. **2002 Forecast:** As Chocoma picks up steam and Dvorak's father is locked in a deadheat with St. Joe Prosecutor Chris Toth, we see this race as too close. St. Joe Demo Chief Butch Morgan "guarantees" a Dvorak victory. **Status: Tossup.**

**House District 15: Republican:** Don Lehe. **Democrat:** George Baranowski.

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ly harbor terrorists. "I'm concerned we might be losing sight of where our priorities lie," Hostettler said, adding that had the threat level of Iraq been more clearly defined he would have supported the resolution. Hostettler also said the struggling economy may not be able to bear the increased costs of a war on Iraq, a country he described as a threat, but not an imminent threat. "I do not believe we should turn our backs on the history of just warfare and send our sons and daughters in to fight a threat of what might be," he said. Hostettler, who faces Democratic challenger Bryan Hartke in Tuesday's election, said a stronger case can be made against North Korea being an imminent threat to the United States. In addition, Iran "meets or exceeds the president's criteria for war," he said. The war authorization "represents the beginning of a war, a long war or long series of wars, against several nations," Hostettler said. "The way to defeat international terrorism is to focus on the most immediate threat. After Nov. 5, there will be a lot more understanding of what the future holds."

**ESPICH OPPONENT CONCEDES:** Although Rep. Jeff Espich has an official opponent on the ballot, the race for the House District 82 seat

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has been in name only. The Uniondale Republican hasn't seen much of Democrat Mike Wallin - largely because Wallin is vice president of United Steelworkers of America Local 14, and has been busy ratifying a contract for Slater Steel. "I'm sort of writing this campaign off," Wallin said. "It would be real surprising if I won. We figure it's a wash this time and (Espich) gets a pass" (Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette).

**LONG THOMPSON TO CAMPAIGN 24 HOURS TODAY:** 2ND CD Democrat Jill Long Thompson announced her 24-hour campaign schedule on Wednesday. Long Thompson's schedule will take her from fire station to grocery stores to plant gates to Halloween parties.

**ATTORNEYS MAINTAIN REPS. BROWN, SMITH HAD IMMUNITY:** The lawyer for state Reps. Vernon Smith and Charlie Brown presented court documents Wednesday stating the two should never have been arrested because they were protected by legislative immunity (Post-Tribune). The legal problems with the arrests were compounded with a four-month delay in the filing of charges against them, attorney Hilbert Bradley states in motions filed on behalf of his clients. "Senators and representatives, in cases expect (sic) treason, felony and breach of the peace, shall be privileged from arrest, during

**Geography:** Schereville, Merrillville, Lake County. **1998 Results:** Fesko (R) 9,914, Blacklund (L) 986. **2000 Results:** Domezich (R) 15,134, Duda (D) 8,753, Backlund (L) 439. **2002 Forecast:** Democrats detest Lehe over his nasty 2000 campaign, but he'll win. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

**House District 17: Republican:** Steven Heim. **Democrat:** Ralph Winters.

**Geography:** Plymouth, Culver, Marshall. **1998 results:** Cook 10,448, Beck 5,596. **2000 Results:** Cook 13,428, Roush 5,859. **2002 Forecast:** Heim seemed to have the upper hand, 5th CD Chair and State Rep. Bill Friend believes it's too close to call. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**District 19: Republican:** Crown Point Councilwoman Pamela Roth. **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 Results:** Kuzman 13,879, Johnson (R) 12,177. **2002 Forecast:** Kuzman appears to have weathered a challenge. **Status:** *LIKELY D.*

**House District 26: Republican:** State Rep. Sue Scholer. **Democrat:** Joe Micon. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1998 results:** Scholer 5,750, Clapper 4,655. **2000 Results:** Scholer 9,086, Windler 5,186. **2002 Forecast:** *Journal & Courier* endorsed Micon on Thursday, so this race might be in play. **Status:** *Leans R.*

**House District 27: Republican:** Bob Hicks. **Democrat:** State Rep. Sheila Klinker. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1998 Results:** Klinker 10,553, Julian (R) 5,512, Rumps (L) 287. **2000 Results:** Klinker (D) 12,544, O'Brien (R) 8,095. **2002 Forecast:** We believe Klinker will return. **Status:** *Leans D.*

**House District 30: Republican:** Lynn Rudolph. **Democrat:** State Rep. Ron Herrell. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **1998 Results:** Herrell 7,711, Burkhardt 7,520. **2000 Results:** Herrell (D) 11,442, Burkhardt (R) 9,351. **2002 Forecast:** Former Democratic Kokomo Mayor Bob Sargent endorsed Rudolph and that has been featured in a late GOP ad. This race has been close in the past two cycles, but didn't seem to be on anyone's radar screen until the last two weeks. Jill Long Thompson is expected to do well here in the 2nd CD race, and that might help Herrell. But if a big GOP wave develops, Rudolph could pull an upset. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**House District 36: Republican:** Andy Kincaid. **Democrat:** Terri Austin. **Geography:** Madison and Delaware counties. **2000 Results:** Jack Lutz (R) 12,397, Austin 11,487. **2002 Forecast:** We think this race has tightened up. With U.S. Rep. Mike Pence running strong and a mild GOP wave developing, Austin's election is tenuous. **Status:** *Tossup.*

**House District 37: Republican:** Rob Steele. **Democrat:** State Rep. Scott Reske. **Geography:** Southern Madison County. **1998 Results:** Mellinger (D) 9,826, Steele (R) 5,625. **2000 Results:** Mellinger (D) 15,380. **2002 Forecast:** This is another late developing race in what is virtually an open seat (Reske is filling out the term of Scott Mellinger). GOP has been running TV for Steele, stressing his Lapel roots and family issues. Reske responded with a TV ad that began late this week featuring his Marine pilot and firefighting roles. Republicans see this as an opportunity and if a big enough wave develops, it could be. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**House District 42: Republican:** Fountain County Auditor Patti Smith. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Grubb. **Geography:** Parke, Warren, Vermillion counties. **2000 Results:** Grubb 13,669, Andrews (R) 7,774, Stevenson (L) 454. **2002 Forecast:** Smith is a good candidate who has had some traction, but probably not enough to top Grubb. **Status:** *Leans D.*

**House District 44: Republican:** Andrew P. Thomas. **Democrat:** Putnam County Councilwoman Lana Schimpf. **Geography:** Brazil, Clay and Putnam counties. **1998 Results:** Crosby 13,224. **2000 Results:** Crosby 16,132. **2002 Forecast:** Virtually everyone believes Thomas will win and be a critical GOP pickup. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

**House District 45: Republican:** Jasonville Mayor Bruce Borders. **Democrat:** Alan Chowning. **Geography:** Sullivan, Daviess, Greene, Knox and Vigo counties. **1998 Results:** Gregg 14,351. **2000 Results:** Gregg 16,554, Hood 5,187. **2002 Forecast:** Republicans say Borders is poised for an epic upset. John Gregg says "No way" and that Borders is nothin' but a hounddog. We'll give the Democrat the edge, particularly with the 8th CD's Hartke picking up steam, but this is closer than expected. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 48: Republican:** Elkhart City Councilman Timothy Neese.



**Democrat:** Bruce D. Carter. **Geography:** Elkhart, Elkhart County. **1998 Results:** Mock 16,833. **2000 Results:** Mock 14,876, Crabtree 6,777. **2002 Forecast:** Neese will win. **Status:** *Safe*.

**House District 52: Republican:** Marlon Stutzman. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Sturtz.

**Geography:** LaGrange, Noble, DeKalb 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 Results:** Sturtz 9,536, Wonderly 7,825. **2002 Forecast:** Conventional wisdom is that Sturtz will return for one last term, but an upset here wouldn't be hugely surprising. **Status:** *LEANS D*.

**House District 56: Republican:** Richard Hamm **Democrat:** Phillip Pflum.

**Geography:** Richmond, Wayne County. **1994 Results:** Bodiker 7,142, Hamm 7,087. **1996 Results:** Bodiker 10,772, Hamm 8,159. **1998 Results:** Bodiker 8,152, Paust 5,947. **2000 Results:** Bodiker 9,508, Pappin 8,882. **2002 Forecast:** House caucus has run a pretty heavy TV buy for Hamm and a Democratic mailer has received some negative reaction, but this one is too close to call. **Status:** *Tossup*.

**House District 57: Republican:** Roland Stine. **Democrat:** John R. Wheeler.

**Geography:** Shelbyville, Shelby and Bartholomew counties. **1996 Results:** Linder 13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Results:** Herndon 10,903, Lux 9,745. **2002 Forecast:** We expect Stine to prevail. **Status:** *LIKELY R*.

**House District 60: Republican:** Bloomington Councilman L. David Sabbagh.

**Democrat:** Peggy Welch. **Geography:** Bloomington, Greene, Lawrence and Monroe Counties. **1994 results:** Bales (R) 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Results:** Welch (D) 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Results:** Welch 13,961, Shean (R) 10,495. **Forecast:** Republicans have taken a pass on this one and Welch is expected to return. She is a potential LG nominee in 2004. **Status:** *LIKELY D*.

**House District 68: Republican:** John Keeton. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Bischoff.

**Geography:** Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, Dearborn, Switzerland counties. **1998 Results:** Bischoff 11,881, Kristoff (L) 1,742. **2000 Results:** Bischoff 11,746, Leising 11,544. **2002 Forecast:** Republicans thought they could pick off one of the Ohio River Dems between Lawrenceburg and New Albany, but this isn't likely to be the one. **Status:** *Leans D*.

**House District 72: Republican:** Ryan Bergman. **Democrat:** Rep. William Cochran.

**Geography:** Floyd County. **1998 Results:** Cochran (D) 10,746, Beal (R) 7,361. **2000 Results:** Cochran 14,267, White (R) 10,017. **2002 Forecast:** Another late developing race, Bergman will out-spend Cochran \$50,000 to \$30,000. Bergman is active in Right to Life and the NRA, and with 9th CD Republican Mike Sodrel pushing Rep. Baron Hill and running stronger in Clark and Floyd counties, this race is grounds for a possible upset. **Status:** *LEANS D*.

**House District 75: Republican:** Vanderburgh County Clerk Marsha Abell.

**Democrat:** Rep. Dennis Avery. **Geography:** Evansville, Vanderburgh and Gibson counties. **1998 Results:** Avery 11,714, Spurling (L) 1,250. **2000 Results:** Avery 14,850. **2002 Forecast:** Avery is expected to win. **Status:** *LIKELY D*.

**House District 81: Republican:** Matt Kelty. **Democrat:** Rep. Winfield Moses Jr.

**Geography:** Fort Wayne, Allen County. **2000 Results:** Moses 8,573, Conley (R) 4,794. **2002 Forecast:** Kelty has out-raised Moses, but the Democrat has been pumping money into the House Democratic caucus. We expect Moses to return, but with a closer victory than he's used to. **Status:** *LEANS D*.

**House District 86: Republican:** State Rep. Jim Atterholt. **Democrat:** Dr. David

Orentlicher. **Geography:** Indianapolis, Hamilton county. **1998 Results:** Atterholt 13,085, Griesey (D) 6,942. **2000 Results:** Atterholt 17,320, Goodloe-Coe (D) 9,708, Perry (L) 1,178. **2002 Forecast:** Republicans have been running a heavy TV buy for Atterholt, stressing his family, health care and education. Orentlicher has come up with probably the most controversial legislative TV ad of the cycle -- a commercial showing terrorists with guns that portrays Atterholt as against gun control. It's obviously aimed at the female voter horrified at Columbine. What will be interesting is if it stokes up Atterholt's 2nd Amendment/NRA base. **Status:** *Tossup*.

Brian A. Howey ❖

# TICKER

## T A P E

the session of the General Assembly and in going to and returning from the same," Bradley wrote, quoting from the Indiana Constitution.

**GOV. VENTURA WON'T NAME DEMOCRAT TO SENATE:** Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura has ruled out naming a Democrat to finish out the term of the late Sen. Paul Wellstone. "I felt very used and abused at that thing," Ventura said Thursday, referring to Tuesday night's memorial service for Wellstone. Ventura felt it became overly political and mean-spirited. "I'll return the favor now. Always remember, we SEALS, we don't get mad -- we get even."

