



Daniels to GOP: 'We cannot fail'

Governor challenges party as Waterman, Zoeller subplots fly

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - As political director in the Reagan White House, Mitch Daniels knows political stagecraft: how the visuals can be more important than words. So there he stood on the stage of the Indiana Republican Convention Monday afternoon, in front of a three-story-tall green backdrop filled with headlines from his now widely lauded TV commercial. Gov. Daniels writes all his own speeches, plays a dominant role in plotting campaign strategy and TV ads. So here he had the visuals and the words all together as he began a stirring defense of his record while exhorting embattled Republican delegates to not let the Hoosier State down.

"We are the party of hope, the party of change," Daniels said, calling Indiana an island of prosperity in the Midwest. Daniels said that while other states "want to be



like us, our opponents say we should be like them" - places of "high taxes and red ink." And he challenged the Republicans, to whom he delivered the first Republican occupancy of the governor's office in 16 years back in 2004, "We're not going back if the people in this room are determined." He added, "They are as important and real as the people whom we have visited in their homes." Daniels said, "We are the party of hope, the party of change and we cannot fail this state."

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Recount redux

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - There continues to be great fascination with the 2000 Florida recount, notwithstanding Supreme Court Justice Antoine Scalia's admonishment to Americans to "get over it." Partly, the interest stems from the fact that the Florida recount brought the bizarre world of "chads," "butterfly ballots," and illegal voter purges into the country's living rooms. And partly, it is that the botched 2000 election produced a President who has waged an unnecessary and divisive war in Iraq. There is an inevitable "what if" factor hovering over the body politic these days.



"Is everybody safe? OK?"

- U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy as he lay mortally wounded in Los Angeles, 40 years ago today



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The new HBO movie "Recount" goes behind the scenes of that strange world as it looks back at the daily drama of those 36 days in Florida in late 2000. "Recount" is essentially a thriller in the mold of "All the President's Men," except truth is never fully revealed in Florida. Screenwriter Danny Strong recreates a compelling story and Jay Roach skillfully directs the all-too-familiar drama with an all-star cast starring Kevin Spacey interspliced with news clips from the real recount. Laura Dern's over-the-top portrayal of Katherine Harris, the Cruella De Vil of the Florida recount, is especially a treat.

But the release of the HBO film also begs the question of whether much has improved in our elections since the country witnessed the electoral horrors of the 2000 Florida recount. Several "lessons" emerged from the Florida debacle. The first lesson of the Florida recount is that America's way of conducting elections has deep flaws which can in rare instances allow the results in a close election to be manipulated. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) was passed to remedy some of the problems showcased in Florida. Congress poured billions into new voting systems, which have proven to be as vulnerable to errors as the equipment they replaced. Worse, there is growing evidence that the new electronic voting devices are vulnerable to voter theft in ways never possible with the old voting machines. Meanwhile, legislation in Congress designed to rectify problems generated by HAVA has stalled. Heading into the 2008 presidential election, there is just as much chance -- perhaps more -- of an electoral meltdown as there was eight years ago.

Second, the 2000 Florida recount demonstrated that the courts can and sometimes do act in a political way, tossing aside legal precedent and simple justice in the process. Not only did the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion in Bush v. Gore

decide an election before all the votes were counted, but the decision has exasperated rather than resolved a long-standing partisan divide over election administration. Republicans believe more laws are needed to prevent old-fashioned voter fraud (real or imagined), while Democrats want protections against voter intimidation and to remove barriers to voting. The Supreme Court's decision this spring in Indiana's voter ID law case again came down on the Republican side and is likely to encourage other states to pass similar laws making access to voting even more difficult since Florida 2000. In spite of the declaration that Bush v. Gore should not serve as precedent, voters are losing battles to politicians who push a partisan agenda which is protected by a Supreme Court with little respect for voting rights.

Finally, Florida 2000 convinced many Americans that Republicans have a greater will to win campaigns and they simply out-maneuvered Democrats during the 36-day drama. "Recount" reinforces that view with a portrayal of Gore recount leader Warren Christopher as weak, while his Bush counterpart James Baker comes across as a master of hard-ball politics. The myth of Republican campaign superiority began in the Nixon years when White House "plumbers" led by the insanely fearless G. Gordon Liddy used "dirty tricks" to discredit leading Democrats. The Republican reputation for hardball was solidified in the Reagan years when ideologues ran the government and operatives such as Lee Atwater gleefully destroyed their opposition. Democrats were confident in 2004 they had the votes to carry Ohio only to be outdone by Karl Rove. Today, even many Democrats believe Republicans are just better at winning campaigns.

The truth is that before Florida 2000 Democrats dominated in the field of recounts for more than 20 years. The manual "The Recount Primer (1994)" written by three experienced Democratic recount special-



ists was required reading not only for Democratic lawyers working in the trenches, but also passed around by Republicans. One of the maxims from "The Recount Primer" is that candidates who are behind in a recount should seek a complete hand-count of all ballots cast.

Baker may have gotten the better of Christopher in "Recount," but in real life the difference was Ben Ginsberg, the chief recount strategist for Bush. Or rather, the difference was the Gore team had no counterpart to Ginsberg in a decision-making role. Ginsberg was the veteran of dozens of recounts, usually on the losing end. But true to the adage that one learns more by losing than winning, Ginsberg brought wisdom to the Bush team which the Gore leaders deprived its own team. Rather than allow an experienced recount lawyer to act as the Gore team's chief recount strategist, Ron Klain assumed the role. Klain had extensive experience in Washington, but as the movie shows had never even heard the word "chad" before Florida. The result was predictable. The Gore team elected not to seek statewide hand-counts, a decision which was a public relations disaster and prevented Gore from obtaining the lead, which a post-recount analysis by a consortium of

major news organizations showed he would have achieved. The strategic blunder was compounded when super-lawyer David Bois, in his first oral argument before the Florida Supreme Court, inexplicably told the state court justices that a statewide hand-count was not necessary.

All of this may seem like water under the bridge, except Democratic activists are more determined than ever to prove they are better at protecting votes than their Republican counterparts are at preventing them from being cast or counted. Meanwhile, Republicans are acting like, well, Republicans. Combine this dynamic with another presidential election in which voters seem to be evenly divided and we may soon witness new material for a sequel to "Recount." Or as Yogi Berra used to say, "it's déjà vu all over again." ❖

Chris Sautter is a Democratic attorney, political consultant, and documentary filmmaker. He is co-author with Washington lawyers Timothy Downs and Jack Young of "The Recount Primer (1994)." He served as one of Al Gore's lawyers in Florida 2000.

Daniels, from page 1

Deep in the cavernous Indiana Convention Center, beyond scurrying attorney general candidates Greg Zoeller and Jon Costas, stood two mostly ignored figures: State Sen. John Waterman and Indianapolis attorney John R. Price. Waterman, wearing a green Hawaiian shirt, was there because his wife was a Sullivan County delegate. But he is the guy who, as Rex Early might put it, is poised to throw up in the punch bowl. Waterman is expected to move out of exploratory committee mode next week and launch an independent bid for governor. He said there were two potential lieutenant governor candidates in the very convention hall. It wasn't quite as conspiratorial as Abraham Lincoln sneaking into Washington just before his first inaugural. But for a Grand Old Party facing, at best, a challenging fall election sequence and quite possibly an epic disaster, there were all sorts of subplots and dramas percolating in the cave.

This governor, every bit as much a change agent as Barack Obama, began a spirited

defense of his record at the Indiana Republican Convention Monday afternoon, asking the 2,000 Indiana Republican delegates to applaud themselves for making his 2004 call for a "freight train of change" more than a slogan. "You were the corps of change" and reform, he said. "I can't thank you enough for it." Daniels cited a drop in highway fatalities at 10 percent, a high BMV approval rate, an improved U.S. 31, Fort-to-Port, Hoosier Heartland and I-69 highway projects as evidence that his administration has forged change that had stalled in some cases for 50 years. "The choice this year is as clear as it's ever been," Daniels said. "This is the year Indiana decides: do we really want change or not."

To pose the question as a gigantic national tidal wave was poised over the proceedings seemed risky. Within each Indiana political party, there are what Daniels would call the "stasists" seeking to protect the inertia and status quo and the "dynamists" willing to look beyond the rut in the road. Having instigated the Kernan-Shepard Commission a little less than a year before, and now having placed spending caps above the heads of county commissioners, mayors and councilmen, having wiped away all but 44



State Sen. John Waterman (left) plots with Indianapolis attorney John R. Price at Monday's GOP convention. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



township assessors, having the notion that county sheriffs might soon be appointed and not elected, Daniels had kindled the reactionary elements lurking in the shadows. The kind of change Daniels had forged almost guaranteed that reactionary forces would push back. The potential Waterman candidacy on the right and Democrat Shaw Friedman's Howey Politics Indiana column last month calling out former Gov. Joe Kernan for playing into the conqueror's hands on the reform front had the governor under attack from within and outside his own party.

The fact that a little more than an hour after he finished speaking, delegates dealt him an embarrassing blow by nominating Greg Zoeller over the annointed Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas by a 300-vote margin seemed to be the percusory assemblage of the circular firing squad that could make a bad Republican year a disaster. The Daniels hierarchy, retreating to the Columbia Club, were angry and chastened by the defeat, perhaps fearing the wrath of the boss himself at such a loss.

Daniels put on a calm, brave face, praising Zoeller after he posed for pictures with the ticket that included Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and Clark Schools Supt. Tony Bennett (whose use of the song "San Francisco" and Michael Jackson's singing of "ABC" lent a strange twist to a strange day). "Greg earned it," Daniels said. "He got out there early and got a lot of support locked up. It was very positive on both sides. Competitiion is healthy." Asked why he even got involved, Daniels said, "You've heard me say often, including today, that we've tried to be inclusive to every part of the state. I've worked especially hard on the northwest corner. It's been too often ignored. I've made 60 trips to Lake County alone and created the RDA. We want to make that part of the state feel fully part of the Indiana family. In contest between two excellent people, I made the argument for a little more geographic balance."



Gov. Mitch Daniels is joined by the 2008 Republican ticket that included attorney general nominee Greg Zoeller, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and Clark Schools Supt. Tony Bennett (far right). (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Asked if he was worried about ramifications of a candidate he backed losing, Daniels said, "If we had won, they would have said we were power crazy and if we lost, they'd say the opposite. I was just expressing a point of view." Indeed, most party leaders and delegates HPI talked to thought it was a one- or two-day news cycle story. Yes, there probably were some town-

ship assessors and sheriffs looking for a little pay back. Yes, they wondered why the governor decided to enter a battle he need not fight. No, he didn't spend hours seeking out delegate votes for Costas, who had defended the governor on Major Moves two years ago. Many said that Zoeller had the experience, as Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi emphasized, and is one of the more likable guys in the party, who had served as Attorney General Steve Carter's deputy for seven years after enduring his own defeat at the 2000 convention.

There were other mitigating notions. The Waterman challenge? WRTV veteran reporter Norm Cox noted that his station's archives had no B-roll of the former Sullivan County sheriff because of his deep, backbench status with virtually no hallmark legislation to distinguish his 14-year Senate career. Price, who ran for the 1998 Republican Senate nomination, said that Gov. Daniels has the "Triple T" problem: "Toll road in the north, time in the south and taxes across the state." Price said he would have his organization, the Indiana Property Tax Repeal Alliance with 13 chapters across the state, work to get signatures for Waterman. He said he would not join a ticket with Waterman.

Price said that despite the fact that Daniels has been advertising on TV in April and May, "he can't get his numbers above 41 percent" (the April 23-24 Howey Gauge Poll had the governor's re-elect at 47 percent, up from 41 percent in February). He said the Democratic nominee will not do well in Southern Indiana and added that "Waterman has excellent potential as a third party candidate to win." When told of Daniels' remark enroute to Tipton in 2007



that he had been the "most pro-life governor," Price didn't disagree, saying, "We've never had a pro-life governor before" and then blasted Daniels for staying on the sidelines during the same-sex marriage amendment last session. The far right is still angered about Daniels' rejection of red and blue "wedge issues" the day before he kicked off his campaign last summer.

As Frugal

Hoosiers, a pro-Daniels blog noted, "We hope Price called Pat Bauer before he stole his 'tolls, time, and taxes' motto. It's interesting that Price would pick Waterman for a third party run if he's trying to make a point on these three issues. Waterman voted against DST in 2005, but most of the problems in southern Indiana with the time issue have been caused by those counties that have spent the past three years petitioning the federal government to switch back and forth between the Eastern and Central time zones. They did it twice before the federal government had enough of their games and rejected their latest petition. On the more relevant toll road and tax issues, Waterman has been a supporter of Governor Daniels. He supported the toll road lease in 2006 when he voted in favor of HEA 1008. Price didn't specify which "taxes across the state" he was referring to but given his advocacy for the abolishment of property taxes we can assume that he means Gov. Daniels' property tax relief legislation. This legislation passed in 2008 with Sen. Waterman's support. But just in case he meant the legislation that Gov. Daniels passed to fund the new stadium, which authorized Marion and the donut counties to raise county food and beverage taxes, Sen. Waterman supported that legislation too. Anyone who knows Sen. Waterman knows that he's a maverick and a colorful character around the statehouse. But when it comes to Gov. Daniels' legislative agenda, Waterman has been a strong supporter. Besides the toll road lease and various tax issues, Waterman joined Governor Daniels in support of such legislative priorities as tax amnesty, the formation of the IEDC, BMW reform, campaign finance reform,

National Guard tuition benefits, judicial pay increase, the bio-diesel and ethanol investment bill, and telecom deregulation. He even supported the Commerce Connector and Illiana Expressway legislation, which was highly controversial.



Deputy Attorney General Greg Zoeller accepts the nomination as Marion County Prosecutor (far right) looks on.. Brizzi made a convincing pitch for Zoeller, saying experience mattered the most. Zoeller ended up carrying most counties, including Northern Indiana, which was the pitch Mayor Jon Costas and Gov. Daniels made in support of his candidacy. (HPI Photo by

Republicans were delighting in the fact that two of the biggest names on Jill Long Thompson's short list - Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and former House Speaker John Gregg - took their names out of contention. They noted that Thompson hadn't sutured up the fractured Democratic Party when she dumped the establishment candidate in the primary, with party fingerprints all over Jim Schellinger's political corpse.L

Listening to Daniels' speech a day afterward was to find an active response from the 1,700 delegates who showed up (2,000 were anticipated). He boasted of his two balanced budgets and the "intolerable" state of fiscal affairs when he took the

oath of office. "We have a balanced budget with no tax increases and that's what a Republican governor can bring to the state," he reminded delegates. The applause after that line lasted nearly 10 seconds. That's when he called Republicans a "great political party" and these delegates the "corps of political change. You are the corps of the movement of reform. Let's tackle our problems; try something new. Let's get up and go. You did this and I am grateful for it."

He acknowledged the arrival and passing of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, who rushed in and left quickly after the May 6 primary, nestled in "their cocoons." Daniels confronted the very national tide that threatens to swamp him. "It's too bad they didn't look long enough or closely enough to realize if they want to see some change, this is the state where you made it real." He reminded Republicans that four years ago, he invited them to "listen closely for the freight train of change" and said, "For us that was not a mere figure of speech. That's not just some empty slogan." He noted that going from bankruptcy to four years of balanced budgets and not tax increases,



"That is real change. BMV visit times in less than 10 minutes, that is real change. When you provide 225,000 Hoosiers enormous reductions in their prescription drugs ... that was no accident."

Democrats found fodder in the proceedings, with Chairman Dan Parker chiding the governor for being "out of touch" in the Costas loss (though he didn't mention his own rebuke, Schellinger's loss). Thompson said in a statement the next day that Daniels had failed to live up to his own standards. "At this critical time in our state's history, when so many families are facing economic uncertainty, results matter now more than ever before," she said. "While the governor criticizes anyone who sees things differently than he does and labels them 'negative,' Hoosiers deserve more. They need more than election year promises; they need leadership that understands the challenges they face each and every day, and leadership that will fight for them. As Democrats head to our state convention later this month, we will continue our call for wholesale change. We will talk about the problems facing Hoosier families, whether the governor likes it or not. And we will continue to offer new leadership, new ideas and a fresh start. By his own standards, Governor Daniels' administration has failed - and it is time for new leadership that will put our state back on track and restore Indiana's promise."

If the fractures in the GOP are aggravated, if Indiana Democrats can unite, and if Waterman qualifies for the ballot and taps into the Ron Paul voter and other malcontents, the picture will be bleak for Daniels and Indiana Republicans. The consolation prize will be a Thompson gubernatorial tenure that would satisfy only the most recalcitrant GOP stasist. In watching this Republican spectacle, a remark Daniels made aboard his touring governor's office from Lafayette to Tipton last summer kept resurfacing: "If I lose, it will be a long time before this state takes reform seriously."

The question following Monday will be whether Indiana Republicans can rally themselves to see the bigger picture, heed the governor's words, accept the challenge in this difficult environment, or sink back into the rut they wallowed in for 16 years. ❖



Gov. Daniels, Chairman Clark and Muncie Mayor Sharon McShurley after his speech Monday. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Parsing the gubernatorial, congressional races

Indiana Governor: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels. **Democrat:** Jill Long Thompson. **Libertarian:** Andy Horning. 2004 Results: Daniels 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,664. **2008 Outlook:** The national environment clearly favors



Thompson. Yet, the Daniels campaign believes that voters will "compartmentalize" this election similar to 2006 when they tossed out three Republican congressmen while all the Indiana Toll Road Republican legislators were returned to office. We've long

said that Daniels has a lot of things in the pipeline - new Colts Stadium, Honda and other economic gems coming on line, construction beginning on I-69, U.S. 31, Fort-to-Port, Hoosier Heartland - that will become evident between now and Nov. 4. But a single issue could overwhelm his positive metrics. A class example: if GM had closed the Fort Wayne truck assembly plant idling 2,800 good paying jobs instead of say, Janesville, Wis. That could have been beyond his control, but would have had significant reverberations on this race.

There is also some metrics that the governor used in his second nomination acceptance speech: high BMV customer satisfaction (remember what a hot issue that was three years ago?), a 10 percent dip in traffic fatalities, investment due to telecom reform, full-day kindergarten gradually becoming a reality, more child protective case-workers and state troopers, etc. etc. (see the TV commercial) - that will be in play. In the two Howey-Gauge Polls we've seen his re-elect numbers go from 41 percent to 47 percent, which correspond with the passage of his property tax reforms. However, Democrats believe those reforms are flawed and could come back to haunt the Daniels campaign.

There are other clouds on the horizon. If Sen. John Waterman qualifies for the ballot, that makes what could be a close race problematic. We're certainly not convinced he can, though Indianapolis attorney John R. Price will use his tax repeal organization chapters to try and reach that goal. If enough sheriffs kick in on the signature drive, that could have an impact. We see the Waterman candidacy as a backlash of county sheriffs and local elected officials like township assessors chafing under the Kernan-Shepard reforms. We've long said that the city and county budget hearings in August and September could provoke chaos as a direct result of the property tax caps. If you want a



sneak preview of this, look at Muncie where Mayor Sharon McShurley (who shared the stage of Daniels at the convention) is talking about a privatized or volunteer fire department and finding much opposition on the Muncie City Council. Voters want change this cycle; they want it now. We're not so sure they'll react kindly to chaos. Daniels will likely get no help from John McCain's campaign, or any congressional races. He must stand alone.

Daniels talks of Indiana as an island of economic development in a dour Midwest and has a bunch of national stories and statistics that will augment that case. Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell - a Democrat who just privatized the Pennsylvania Turnpike - could neutralize any continued fallout from the Major Moves lease, particularly if Rendell ended up as Obama's veep. During his first term, Daniels carried out his public policy initiatives without his finger in the wind.

He must now navigate extremely choppy waters to reach a second term in what he calls his final campaign.

Thompson, too, has problems. When her campaign signalled a short lieutenant governor list to WTHR-TV's Kevin Rader and then the top two names (Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and former Speaker John Gregg) publicly take their names off the list, that's a problem and a poor way to handle that process. Many believe she needs a Southern Indiana legislator, but the remaining names - State Reps. Dennie Oxley II and Trent Van Haaften - are not top tier names. If she selects Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez, that leaves her southern flank vulnerable. For the record, in dropping off the list on Monday, Gregg insisted to HPI, "She can win."

In the MSNBC May primary exit polling, 16 percent said that gender was a problem for them, including 5 percent of men and 11 percent females. Thompson could have a problem on that front, even though it is the 21st Century, particularly in Southern Indiana, an area that has produced few female mayors or legislators with much power. There will be dueling statistics about job loss and personal income, of which the latter is more important.

But Daniels will make the case that Honda, Med-venture, Crane, and the two big power plants to be build in Southern Indiana will create good paying jobs. Daniels promises to talk about education and government reform. Thompson appears at this point to be content to roll back much of what Daniels has done. While some Democrats have said the right things since Thompson defeated the establishment candidate (Jim Schellinger), she didn't move her headquarters into the Indiana Democratic Party, which is a troubling signal. Thompson faces two critical weeks which will produce an LG candidate while getting the imprimatur from the establishment who were offended by her

candidacy and shocked by her win. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Daniels

Indiana Congressional

1ST CD: Democrat: U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky. **Republican:** Mark Leyva. **2006 Results:** Visclosky 104,195, Leyva 40,146, Barman (I) 5,266. **2008 Outlook:** There is no way that this is a race. Visclosky will return in Indiana's mostly reliably Democratic district. **Horse Race Status:** SAFE VISCLOSKY

2ND CD: Democrat: U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly. **Republican:** Luke Puckett. **2006 Results:** Donnelly 103,561, Chocola (R) 88,300. **2008 Outlook:** Donnelly has compiled one of the best terms we've seen from a freshman. Given the national environment and Puckett's late entry into the race, along with a huge fundraising lead (\$1,108,492 to \$5,000 at the last FEC reporting period), Donnelly looks like a sophomore to us. **Horse Race Status:** LIKELY DONNELLY

3RD CD: Democrat: Michael Montagano. **Republican:** U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **2006 Results:** Souder 95,421, Hayhurst (D) 80,357. **2008 Outlook:** As was the case in 2006, we're keeping an eye on this district. If it's in play in September or October, it will be a precursor to a significant national Democratic wave, just as it was in 2006 when three Indiana Republican congressmen lost. Souder understands this. After his narrow (for him) win over Dr. Hayhurst two years ago, he has stoked his fundraising machine far earlier than ever. Prior, Souder would raise what he thought

he needed. This year, he has to have a bulwark warchest, given that Montagano raised \$205,000 (compared to \$315,000 for Souder) during the first FEC reporting period. Montagano is young and attractive and embodies the notion of "change". Having said that, the 3rd is a deeply Republican district and the biggest threat to Souder could be GOP base suppression or, if McCain bombs, a continued crossover by Democrats and independents that we witnessed during the May primary. **Horse Race Status:** LEANS SOUDER

4TH CD: Democrat: Nels Ackerson. **Republican:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **2006 Results:** Buyer 111,057, Sanders (D) 66,986. **2008 Outlook:** This is another overwhelming GOP district, but Ackerson has raised more money at this point ((\$201,000 at the first FEC reporting period) than any other Buyer challenger. That compared to \$209,000 for Buyer during the same time period. There is some chatter on the blogs that Buyer is vulnerable. We're not convinced, given the fact that the 4th





CD - or Frankendistrict as we call it - is so geographically strung out and served by five media markets (Indianapolis, Evansville, Terre Haute, Lafayette and Chicago) making it tough territory for any challenger. One thing to watch: if there's another Walter Reed type scandal, that could hurt Buyer who has been a watchdog over the VA system. **Horse Race Status:** LIKELY BUYER.

5TH CD: Democrat: Mary Etta Ruley. **Republican:** U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. **2006 Results:** Burton 133,118, Carr (D) 64,362, Sharlow (L) 7,431. **2008 Outlook:** The congressman's narrow win over Dr. John McGoff in the May primary shows some vulnerability, but not in this general election. The best shot at toppling Burton will be in the May 2010 primary when McGoff is expected to wage a rematch (and without the GOP crossover for Obama). That's a race that should deeply, deeply concern Burton. **Horse Race Status:** SAFE BURTON

6TH CD: Democrat: Rev. Barry Welsh. **Republican:** U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **2006 Results:** Pence 115,266, Welsh (D) 76,812. **2008 Outlook:** Pence had \$811,000 going into this cycle and that will certainly increase during the next FEC reporting period. Welsh began with \$12,000. If he can't get in the money game, this race won't ignite. Even if it does, it would be an absolute stunner to see Pence lose. **Horse Race Status:** LIKELY PENCE

7TH CD: Democrat: U.S. Rep. Andre Carson. **Republican:** State Rep. Jon Elrod. **2006 Results:** Rep. Julia Carson (D) 74,750, Dickerson (R) 64,304. **2008 Special Election Results:** Carson 45,668, Elrod 36,415, Shepard (L) 2,430. **2008 Outlook:** It is hard to see how Elrod overcomes what will be a huge turnout in this district for Barack Obama. The NRCC won't invest in this race (it didn't during the March 11 special). Rep. Carson returns to Washington to continue this Democratic family dynasty. **Horse Race Status:** SAFE CARSON

8TH CD: Democrat: U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth. **Republican:** Greg Goode. **2006 Results:** Ellsworth 131,019, Hostettler (R) 83,704. **2008 Outlook:** At the last FEC reporting period, Ellsworth had \$761,000 and Goode had \$79,000. Ellsworth has compiled a solid first term and is widely seen as a lock for re-election. However, many Democrats in his district were reluctant to pull the lever for Obama and may also be wary of the female gubernatorial candidate. Jill Long Thompson carried only Warrick County in the 8th CD. These factors may mitigate the strong national Democratic trend that will help other Hoosier Democrats. Goode's problem is not only money, but how Gov. Mitch Daniels performs in this part of the state. If Goode doesn't show robust money totals later this month, he's as good as a cooked goose. There's a lot of unanswered questions in this district. **Horse Race Status:** LEANS ELLSWORTH

9TH CD: Democrat: U.S. Rep. Baron Hill.

Republican: Mike Sodrel. **Libertarian:** Eric Schansberg. **2006 Results:** Hill 110,454, Sodrel 100,469, Schansberg 9,893. **2008 Outlook:** Hill enters this 4th race with Sodrel with \$1.13 million and he won't have the Hillary Clinton millstone he feared around his neck. We don't believe Hill's endorsement of Obama (who carried only one district county, though he lost Brown County by only 18 votes) will present much of a problem. Like the 8th, how Obama plays in a district where many Democrats aren't comfortable voting for a black man for president is a wild card. Sodrel, who served one term, began the sequence with \$200,000. He should have the money assets along with almost 100 percent name ID. But will the national wave swamp him? And what if Sodrel kept his campaign positive, while Hill goes negative? We sense 9th CD voters are wary of the mud oozing from their TV sets. The national dynamic favors Hill, but there are mine fields here for both candidates. Rep. Hill goes in as a slight favorite. **Horse Race Status:** LEANS HILL

Barack Obama completes a great American upset

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Barack Obama completed one of the greatest upsets in American political history Tuesday night, securing the presumptive Democratic presidential nomination while fending off and, finally, embracing his chief rival in Hillary Clinton. Obama's finely organized campaign with a penchant for great photo ops brought the candidate to St. Paul, Minnesota on the very spot where U.S. Sen. John McCain will accept the Republican nomination late this summer.



Brian Howey's Column

"Tonight, I can stand before you and say that I will be the Democratic nominee for president of the United States," Obama told a frenetic crowd of more than 20,000 people. "At this defining moment for our nation, we should be proud that our party put forth one of the most talented, qualified field of individuals ever to run for this office. I have not just competed with them as rivals, I have learned from them as friends, as public servants, and as patriots who love America and are willing to work tirelessly to make this country better."

Obama's remarks came on the same day that General Motors announced it was closing four big pickup truck and SUV plants while a number of American airlines have cancelled hundreds of routes due to skyrocketing jet fuel costs. It came on a day where gas in Indianapolis was \$3.89 and food bills have been inflationary. In times that



will likely be as emphatically tough as the last oil shock of 1979 and the brutal economy that followed for three years, Americans are facing dramatic lifestyle changes. "We cannot afford to keep doing what we've been doing," Obama said. "We owe our children a better future. We owe our country a better future. And for all those who dream of that future tonight, I say - let us begin the work together. Let us unite in common effort to chart a new course for America."

Despite Obama's loss in the Indiana primary on May 6 by a mere 14,000 votes as voter turnout surged to more than 1.7 million, his win that night in North Carolina while running so close to Clinton here seemed to be the final pivot point that ended as dozens of super delegates cascaded to his side on Tuesday, along with a primary win in Montana and six additional delegates from South Dakota, where he lost. It was an improbable political feat: defeating a former First Lady while former President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea triple-teamed the freshman Illinois senator as they attempted to forge a true Clinton dynasty. Hillary Clinton, who will suspend her campaign on Saturday, drew votes from a pool of female voters - many who believed it was time for a gender change at the White House - as well as blue-collar Democrats and Republicans who resisted the notion of a black man as the American president. MSNBC exit polling from Indiana revealed that 15 percent said that race was important in their decision - including 10 percent of white voters, who backed Clinton 78-22 percent.

While McCain denied in Kenner, La., Tuesday night that he would provide the "third Bush administration" and said, "I will bring the right kind of change," Obama took aim at the GOP jugular and the war in Iraq. "It's not change when he promises to continue a policy in Iraq that asks everything of our brave men and women in uniform and nothing of Iraqi politicians - a policy where all we look for are reasons to stay in Iraq, while we spend billions of dollars a month on a war that isn't making the American people any safer," Obama said. "So I'll say this - there are many words to describe John McCain's attempt to pass off his embrace of George Bush's policies as bipartisan and new. But change is not one of them."

"Change," Obama continued, "is a foreign policy that doesn't begin and end with a war that should've never been authorized and never been waged. I won't stand here and pretend that there are many good options left in Iraq, but what's not an option is leaving our troops in that country for the next hundred years - especially at a time when our military is overstretched, our nation is isolated, and nearly every other threat to America is being

ignored. We must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in - but start leaving we must."

Howey Politics Indiana's analysis of the coming Obama-McCain battle maintains that the Iraq War will likely be a definitive issue between the two senators. The contrast will have a generational context - as viewers of the Obama and McCain speeches Tuesday night saw - perhaps as dramatic as the passing of the torch between President Dwight Eisenhower to young John F. Kennedy in 1961. More profoundly, it has the potential of placing a face of color on the American facade at a time when much of the world sees the U.S. as a source of villainy.

Obama's quest against what the media claimed would be Hillary Clinton's "inevitable" nomination can be appropriately compared to another Illinois politician. Heading into the 1860 Republican National Convention in Chicago, former congressman Abraham Lincoln was a distinct underdog against William Seward, Salmon Chase and Edward Bates. One-hundred-forty years later, it was Obama who has come closest to closing the circle with Lincoln in becoming the first minority presidential nominee.

Tuesday night, Obama said, "The other side will come here in September and offer a very different set of policies and positions, and that is a debate I look forward to. It is a debate the American people deserve. But what you don't deserve is another election that's governed by fear, and innuendo, and division. What you won't hear from this campaign or this party is the kind of politics that uses religion as a wedge, and patriotism as a bludgeon - that sees our opponents not as competitors to challenge, but enemies to demonize. Because we may call ourselves Democrats and Republicans, but we are Americans first. We are always Americans first."

It is that talk of unity and a change from the way federal politics is conducted in Washington that is the driving force behind the huge crowds that Obama drew from Des Moines, through Kokomo, Evansville and South Bend, and finally in St. Paul where he drew 20,000. A similar gathering occurred on his final Indiana appearance on May 5 at the American Legion Mall in Indianapolis. His speech there came in a state that currently has more military personnel in Iraq than any other in the union. It is also a state that he is unlikely to carry in November, though if it is in play next October, would signal a wave of historic proportion.

"The journey will be difficult," Obama said in the final moments of his speech Tuesday. "The road will be long. I face this challenge with profound humility, and knowledge of my own limitations. But I also face it with limitless faith in the capacity of the American people." ❖





How will history treat President (G.W.) Bush?

By **JACK COLWELL**

SOUTH BEND - The outcome of his invasion of Iraq will be the most significant factor as historians rate his presidency. Only the most partisan admirers would claim that he will go down in history as a great president. Detractors say he will rate well below Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon, Warren Harding and Millard Fillmore. Still, despite criticism of his

Long-time South Bend Tribune columnist Jack Colwell, shown here on Super Tuesday, joins *Howey Politics Indiana* as a regularly featured contributor. Look for his column on Mondays. decisions on Iraq after clear military victory over the forces of Saddam Hussein, President Bush actually had it right. He made the right decisions for Middle East stability, for countering Iran, for preserving this nation's military might and for retaining leadership of the Free World.

Disagree? Well, hear the words of President Bush in explanation of his decisions after defeat of Iraq's military. "We certainly had the military capability to go on to Baghdad," he said. "But for what purpose?" He noted that the artillery, tanks and air power so effective in desert warfare "would not have been very useful inside a major city" and that urban battles "would have cost us dearly in terms of additional casualties."

President Bush added: "And I'm not sure what we would have done with Baghdad once we had it." After toppling Saddam Hussein's government, he said, the United States "presumably would have had to stay there and put another government in place. And what would that have been: a Sunni government, a Shia government, a Kurdish government or another Baathist regime?"

How long would U.S. forces have been required to stay in to prop the government up? And how effective could it have been if the government we put in had been perceived as a puppet of the U.S. military? "My guess is that if we had gone to Baghdad, we'd still have U.S. forces there today. And to involve American forces in a civil war inside Iraq would have been a quagmire, because we would have gone in there with no clear-cut military objective. It's just as important to know when not to use force as it is to know when to use it."

President Bush said that?

Yes he did.

President George H.W. Bush. On March 30, 1992.

The first President Bush was aware of the danger of sinking the U.S. military in a quagmire, while seeking to prop up a puppet government amid civil war inside Iraq, and with no clear-cut military objective. He avoided the quagmire. He and then President Clinton left Saddam in weakened condition, with enforced no-fly zones preventing any military excursions. As we now know, Saddam also was left without any weapons of mass destruction.

And Saddam, blustering as though he still had such weapons, served as a check on the ambitions of Iran, a country posing more of a danger than Iraq. Saddam, hated by Osama bin Laden for opposition to the religious zealotry of the 9/11 terrorist, also kept al Qaeda from getting established in Iraq.

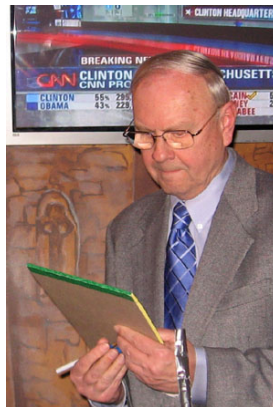
The first President Bush subscribed to the Powell Doctrine, named for the strategy for decisive military action expounded by Colin Powell as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Powell said military action should be a last resort and come only if there is a clear national security threat. He said force, if it is to be used, should have strong support by the American public, should be overwhelming and should involve a clear exit strategy from conflict. The second President Bush instead subscribed to the Rummy Doctrine, an opposite theory named for the views of his too-long-time defense secretary, Donald Rumsfeld.

President Bush found a way to pay his bills for the invasion of Iraq. He was serious about trying to balance the budget and avoid horrendous hikes in the national debt. We're talking again about the first President Bush. He formed an impressive international coalition before battle and retained world respect for the United States by achieving clearly established goals and then bringing the troops home. Still talking about the first President Bush. He was willing to seek political compromise when needed at home, even when he sometimes had to stand up to members of his own party. You know which one we're talking about.

The first President Bush lost in his bid for a second term because of an economic downturn. It actually wasn't that bad, and he handed off an improving economy as he left office.

The second President Bush, though he won two terms, seems unlikely now to be able to hand off an improving economy, a strong dollar, a favorable trade situation, a secure energy supply, a respected role internationally or a more battle-ready military to his successor. What will be the legacy of President Bush? Will he be remembered kindly in history? Or not? The answer will depend on which President Bush the historians are evaluating. ❖

Jack Colwell has reported and commented on Indiana politics for the South Bend Tribune since 1962. He joins HPI as a featured columnist on Mondays.





Paul Weyrich, *Townhall.com* - The Reason Foundation estimates that States of the Union are facing a \$9 billion a year shortfall to deal with infrastructure, mainly roads. Governors aren't sure what to do about the problem. The public is intolerant when it comes to raising taxes. From the public's point of view, tolls are taxes, so raising tolls is also politically radioactive. As a consequence more and more Governors are turning to so-called private/public investments. The latest to turn to this "solution" is Pennsylvania's Governor Edward G. (Ed) Rendell. If a private/public partnership owns the toll road it can raise tolls any time without public hearings and without being subject to the political pressure that any current plan to raise tolls would have. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels got in hot water for leasing portions of the Indiana Turnpike to a foreign entity. His opponent this November is making that lease an issue. Only Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, who leased the Chicago Skyway for \$1.8 billion to a consortium consisting of Macquarie and Cintra from Spain, may have survived politically. Governor Rendell claims that his \$12.8 billion deal will bring in 13% more revenue than the State is able to collect. He said without the tolls that the private/public partnership will bring in the toll revenue from State ownership would be only \$450 million annually compared with \$1.7 billion needed for infrastructure expenditures over the next ten years. It now costs \$22.75 to cross Pennsylvania. Next year there will be a 25% increase in tolls. And inflation increases will be permitted at 2.5% per year. My father always said when a deal appears too good to be true it probably is. Foreign money for infrastructure looks tempting but it may not be worth the political grief to those who propose it and put it through. ❖

Mark Bennett, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*: Criticizing a president's war rationale would have been far more perilous if Scott McClellan lived in Eugene Debs' day. In a new book released last week, McClellan, a former White House press secretary, wrote that President Bush and his administration created a "political propaganda campaign to sell the war to the American people." From 2003 to 2006, McClellan often drew the assignment of explaining the administration's decisions on executing the Iraq war. Now, he writes, the president's staff made the "[weapons of mass destruction] threat and the Iraqi connection to terrorism appear just a little more certain, a little less questionable than they were." The Bush team also, in McClellan's words, downplayed any talk of "the possible unpleasant consequences of war — casualties, economic effects, geopolitical risks, diplomatic repercussions." The Iraq war, which of course is still raging, "was not necessary," McClellan wrote. Turn the clock back 90 years. In sweltering heat on June 16, 1918, in Canton, Ohio, Debs lashed out at

the U.S. government for arresting thousands of Americans for speaking out against World War I. Corporate capitalism sparked that conflict, Debs claimed that day. He added that in war it is "the working class who fights the battles, the working class who shed the blood, the working class who furnish the corpses. The working class have never yet had a voice in declaring war. ... If war is right, let it be declared by the people — you who have your lives to lose; you certainly ought to declare war, if you consider a war necessary." Debs was soon arrested for violating the federal espionage act. The Terre Haute native was tried, convicted and imprisoned in a federal penitentiary at Atlanta until President Warren Harding, under pressure, commuted Debs' 10-year sentence in 1921. That pivotal moment in American history altered the government's control of free speech during wartime. "It's really a shocking story, and it does make you realize how our protection of free speech has evolved," Ernest Freeberg, associate professor of history at the University of Tennessee, said by telephone last week. Freeberg recounts the saga in a new book, "Democracy's Prisoner: Eugene V. Debs, the Great War, and the Right to Dissent" (Harvard University Press). American public opinion evolved even during Debs' three-year prison stay. While still incarcerated, Debs ran for president for the fifth time atop the Socialist Party ticket in 1920 and drew nearly 1 million votes. A large percentage came as protest votes, rather than an endorsement of Debs' socialist ideals. ❖

Leslie Stedman Weidenbener, *Louisville Courier-Journal*: Since Gov. Mitch Daniels started advertising for re-election on television this spring, he hasn't stopped. Democrats say that's because the Republican's approval rating needs work. But Daniels' supporters say it's a luxury he's enjoying because of strong fundraising resulting from a successful first term. Regardless of the reason, the Daniels campaign is now taking the next step. Welcome back MitchTV. Four years ago, when Daniels was a first-time candidate, his campaign followed him around with a video camera, turning his RV tour and diner visits into a sort of reality show, broken up into 30-minute segments played across the state. The show is back. Starting yesterday, new episodes began playing all over Indiana and will continue through the end of June. Yesterday's episode featured video taken on Election Night in 2004, offering a behind-the-scenes look at Daniels, his supporters and his family as they waited for results. Viewers got to see Daniels' emotional reaction to a congratulatory call from U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and hear the conversation when then-Gov. Joe Kernan, a Democrat, called to concede. "He couldn't have been nicer," Daniels tells his family after finishing the call with Kernan. ❖ "He said all the right things." ❖





After 2 Howey-Gauge Polls and 2 elections, how did we do?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Howey Politics Indiana and Gauge Market Research teamed up and conducted the first pair of a four-sequence polling program in 2008. So, after the March 11 7th CD special election and the May 6 primary, how did we do?

The first Howey-Gauge Poll was conducted on Feb. 17-18 and in the 7th CD it had Democrat Andre Carson leading Republican State Rep. Jon Elrod 54 to 36 percent. Carson won the election March 11 election 54-45 percent. Gauge Pollster Michael Davis said the poll accurately captured the level of support for Carson. In the final three weeks of the campaign, Elrod utilized an extensive mailing and phone program with the help of Sen. Richard Lugar's organization that helped close the margin.

Howey-Gauge had Barack Obama with a 40-25 percent lead over Hillary Clinton in what was the first head-to-head matchup in the Indiana presidential primary. There wasn't another presidential poll taken in Indiana until March 31-April 1 when Research 2000 had Clinton leading 49-46 percent. Howey-Gauge was conducted after the Feb. 5 Super Tuesday and in the midst of Clinton's 12-state losing streak. Neither candidate had appeared in the state, which some assumed would favor Obama because it bordered his home state of Illinois. The organization of U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh had yet to begin what he called a "seamless" coordination with the Clinton campaign.

The February Howey-Gauge Survey posted an important marker in the gubernatorial race. It showed Democrat Jim Schellinger had only 21 percent total awareness and only 8 percent hard opinion recognition, compared to 42/22 for Jill Long Thompson. It was a precursor to Schellinger's eventual defeat in the May primary. Also in the gubernatorial race, it had Gov. Mitch Daniels' re-elect at 41 percent, with 43 percent saying they would elect someone else. This occurred a month before the Indiana General Assembly passed and Daniels signed the property tax reforms. In this poll, respondents supported the Daniels' property tax reform proposals 61-25 percent. In February, 38 percent said property taxes were the top issue, followed by jobs/wages at 14 percent, education at 11 percent, and

the economy at 8 percent. Gasoline prices stood at 1 percent.

April 23-24 poll

The April 23-24 Howey Gauge Poll was one of the first conducted after the Pennsylvania primary, where Clinton won by 10 percent. It was actually two separate statewide surveys designed to reflect not only the Democratic turnout and demographics, but the Republican and independent crossover that, in our analysis, predicted that it would likely be Republican voters who would determine the outcome.

In this second poll, Howey-Gauge had Obama leading Clinton 47-45 percent. While Clinton won the Indiana primary by 1.14 percent (or 14,000 votes), it was within the margin of error. In our April 29 briefing at the Barnes & Thornberg Auditorium, HPI Publisher Brian A. Howey noted, "Whatever you want to call it - within the margin of error, too-close-to-call, or a good ol' fashioned Hoosier barn burner - the fact is that we may be up pretty late next Tuesday night to see who wins this fascinating primary." Based on this data and the roller-coaster ride over the following two weeks of the campaign, HPI's Horse Race status had Clinton-Obama as a "tossup." We didn't learn the winner until

after 1 a.m., thanks in part to Gary Mayor Rudy Clay.

Our analysis was prophetic: "The Democratic primary is going to be decided by non-Democrats," said Gauge Market Research pollster Holly Davis. "To be determined is which group - Republicans or independents - are going to decide this race." An indicator as to the kind of havoc Republican voters could create comes on the Iraq War issue. Those favoring immediate withdrawal favor Obama 49-46 percent. Those favoring the current troop levels favor Clinton 58-39 percent, but, Davis notes, "That number is strongly influenced by Republican crossovers." At the briefing, we cited two groups of Republicans: the "Obamacans" that truly supported the Illinois senator, and the Rush Limbaugh hellraisers. On the day after the election, Obama campaign director David Plouffe said the Limbaugh impact was "a clear factor on the outcome." Howey-Gauge shows that self-identified Republicans favored Clinton 50-44 percent, while independents favored



Michael Davis (right) of Gauge Market Research at the February Howey-Gauge Poll Briefing as HPI Publisher Brian A. Howey looks on. (HPI Photo by A. Walker Shaw)



Obama 54-38 percent.

As for the gas prices, Howey-Gauge Briefing analysis on April 29 explained: Sen. Clinton leads 48-43 percent on the top issue - jobs and wages. Gasoline prices rocketed from just 1 percent in the Feb. 17-18 Howey-Gauge survey to 12 percent on April 23-24, a huge statistical leap. Sen. Clinton had a 46-45 percent lead with voters on that issue. That's why Sen. Obama held a press conference at Joe's Junction, a Phillips 66 station in Indianapolis.

The April 23-24 Howey-Gauge Poll also was closer than most on African-American turnout. Of the 10 polls tracked by Real Clear Politics, most were in the 12-14 percent range in potential African-American turnout, though TeleResearch had it at 10 percent, Zogby had it at 17 percent and Howey-Gauge at 20 percent. It ended up at 17 percent.

Gubernatorial numbers

In the Indiana gubernatorial race, Howey-Gauge had Thompson leading Schellinger 45-27 percent. Howey-Gauge had Thompson leading among Democrats 48-24 percent. Like the presidential race, Thompson won by a scant 1.14 percent, or 13,000 votes. In our April 29 briefing analysis, we noted that "it would take a misstatement or some late issue development to significantly alter the dynamic." In our analysis, we noted that Schellinger had a lead in only one category: among Republicans. Schellinger had only 50 percent name ID and fav/unfavs at 15/8 percent. His campaign clearly paid for terrible media relations, a lack of earned media, and disorganization. However, HPI noted in its May 1 edition that the Schellinger campaign had made more than 300,000 out-calls, many to female voters. That can account for how Schellinger was able to close the gap, along with the influx of Republican crossovers. Both campaigns were rattled on Election Day by the size of the Republican turnout and had few clues as to how it would alter the outcome. In retrospect, it clearly helped Schellinger close the gap in the final two weeks.

Howey-Gauge predicted wide African-American support for Obama, Thompson and U.S. Rep. Andre Carson. We've often been asked how many Hoosier voters would not vote for a black candidate. HPI's answer was in the 2 to 5 percent range. MSNBC's Indiana primary exit polling revealed that 15 percent said that a candidate's race was important in making their decision, including 10 percent of whites and 5 percent of blacks. Of the 10 percent of whites, 78 to 22 percent ended up voting for Hillary Clinton. MSNBC exit data had similar data on the gender question, with 5 percent of men and 11 percent of women saying it mattered. And in the case of females, it wasn't necessarily women saying they wanted to vote for women. In the 1999 Indianapolis mayoral race, Sue Anne Gilroy lost significant support of female Republicans in her race

against Bart Peterson. This data lends credence to the fact that Schellinger was able to significantly close the gap on Thompson due to Republican crossover and inroads in the final two weeks with female voters.

Congressional numbers

In the two congressional elections, Howey-Gauge pegged the 7th CD race. In the April 23-24 survey, we had U.S. Rep. Andre Carson leading Dr. Woodrow Myers 45-28 percent, with State Rep. David Orentlicher at 8 percent. Carson won with 46.1 percent. In our April 29 analysis, we said that Carson enjoyed favorable name ID of 80 percent among African-Americans and 45 percent among white voters. We said that for Myers to get into the race, someone needed to attack Carson to drive his negatives up. In the final 10 days, Orentlicher did just that, but he also attacked Myers.

In the 5th CD, Howey-Gauge had U.S. Rep. Dan Burton leading Dr. John McGoff 57-22 percent. Burton ended up winning 51-45 percent. In our analysis we said that if McGoff could get some TV and raise his name ID, he could close the gap. He did just that, though the GOP crossover to the presidential race probably hurt McGoff more than any other candidate.

Publisher's Notes: Howey-Gauge believes in full disclosure. In our polling program, you can access the "Indiana Polling Center" at www.howeypolitics.com and read the complete toplines from the February and April polling sequences.

Howey-Gauge will conduct its final two surveys in late August and late October. The next Howey-Gauge Poll Briefing will take place during the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce's Annual Hobnob on Sept. 4, which will be open to the general public. ❖

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Hillary to suspend campaign on Saturday

WASHINGTON - Hillary Clinton has decided to end her historic presidential campaign while leaving her options open to retain her delegates and promote her issue agenda, a campaign official says (**Associated Press**).

The former first lady told House Democrats during a private conference call Wednesday she will express support for Barack Obama's candidacy and congratulate him for gathering the necessary delegates to be the party's nominee. "Senator Clinton will be hosting an event in Washington, D.C., to thank her supporters and express her support for Senator Obama and party unity. This event will be held on Saturday to accommodate more of Senator Clinton's supporters who want to attend," her communications director Howard Wolfson said.



Indiana mayors will back Obama

CROWN POINT - Hillary Clinton's local mayoral backers expressed disappointment in her crushed presidential campaign, but said this week they will support a Democratic White House bid by Barack Obama. "If I had to list my top three candidates in order, it would be Senator Clinton, Senator Obama ... and it would stop there," Crown Point Mayor David Uran said (Times of Northwest Indiana). "We need to go in a different direction." Portage Mayor Olga Velazquez said she was disappointed that Clinton did not land the nomination. Velazquez hosted the New York senator in her Portage campaign stop and attended several other events for the campaign. "I'm disappointed, but

I'm happy Senator Obama has the support he generated throughout the country. Absolutely, I will support him," Velazquez said Tuesday night. Whiting Mayor Joe Stahura said he will back the Democratic candidate, "whoever that is." East Chicago Mayor George Pabey said his loyalty remains with the Democratic Party. "The primaries have brought a great energy and enthusiasm for the party and that passion must continue through the general election because our Democratic values and ideals do not change," Pabey said. "I feel strongly that people will unite and the Democratic Party will be victorious in the general election." Hobart Mayor Brian Snedecor said he will back Obama.

Linda Pence kicks off AG campaign today

INDIANAPOLIS - Democratic Indianapolis attorney Linda Pence officially kicks off her campaign for attorney general today. "I am running for Attorney General because Hoosiers need an independent voice to stand up for them," said Pence, a practicing attorney for 34 years. "Whether it's fighting mortgage and consumer fraud, or battling the scourge of methamphetamine in our communities, Hoosiers deserve an Attorney General who is tireless and relentless. I am ready for the challenge." A 1971 graduate of Indiana University, Linda Pence worked her way through IU's law school, taking night classes while holding down two jobs. She began her legal career with the U.S. Department of Justice where she took on big oil companies when gasoline price gouging was a common practice. During her nearly ten years at the DOJ, Pence also investigated corporations for bribery, mbezzlement and tax fraud. Pence is perhaps best known for winning a record settlement of more than \$14 million for Hoosiers against a corporation whose illegal practices killed tons of fish in the White River. She

also successfully stood up for Central Indiana mom-and-pop gas station owners against Shell Oil in a complex case that involved claims of unlawful price discrimination, violation of the Indiana Deceptive Franchise Practices Act, breach of contract and fraud.

Zoeller thank you tour

CROWN POINT - Republican attorney general nominee Greg Zoeller will meet with GOP leaders in Crown Point on Friday as part of a tour to thank party regulars for helping him gain the nomination over Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas (**Post-Tribune**).

Indiana Dems want Obama to come back

FORT WAYNE - Hoosier Republicans hope Barack Obama will look at a 44-year string of GOP presidential victories in Indiana and decide to focus his campaign in other states (Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Democratic contenders - from governor to township trustee - are crossing their fingers that Obama's campaign will bring some of the same juice from last month's primary. The reason: turnout. "Jill would love it if Barack Obama would put substantial resources into the state because it would drive up Democratic voter turnout by record numbers," said Chris Sautter, a senior adviser to Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jill Long Thompson. Turnout revved up by in-state campaigning by presidential candidates can result in an increase of a few percentage points for down-ticket candidates, said Joe Andrew, former chairman of the national and Indiana Democratic parties. "There's a tremendous upside for Democrats running in Indiana to have Barack Obama's presidential campaign target the state," he said. "That means you'll see the candidate more, you'll have television ads, you'll have other interest groups show up and want people to vote Democratic."