



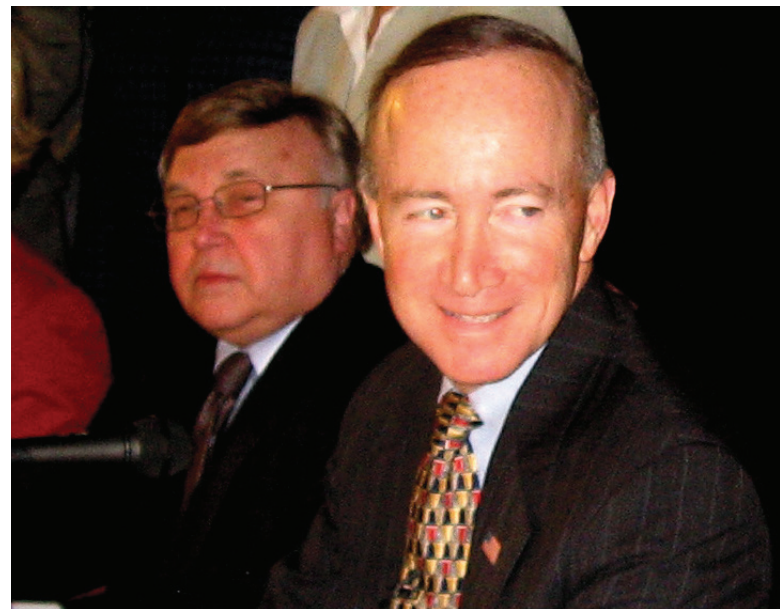
# HPI's 'Hot 25' House races in '10

*Gov. Daniels highly 'motivated' to retake House as GOP recruitment surges*

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRENCH LICK - The entry of challenger Republican Kyle Huffer and Democrat Brett Voorhies into Indiana House races begins the ratcheting up process for what will be the battle supreme during the 2010 election cycle.

The stakes are known to most Howey Politics Indiana readers, but are worth restating: The winning party will be in a commanding position to rewrite the Congressional and legislative maps in 2011. The ultimate reform success of Gov. Mitch Daniels rests on whether the Republicans can retake the House. Otherwise, six of his eight years will have come and gone



Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration is already taking an active role in preparation to wrest control of the Indiana House from Speaker B. Patrick Bauer. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

with Democrats taking huge bites out of his progressive agenda.

"The governor is very motivated," said Mike Gentry of the House Republican Campaign Committee. "It will be very important for him to have a Republican House for his reform agenda. The support we've been getting from state

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## Epic politics & policy

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** and **KATIE COFFIN**

BLOOMINGTON - Indiana experienced the most sensational political year in 2008 with the Hillary Clinton-Barack Obama Democratic primary, before the nominated Democrat won the state for the first time in 40 years. Howey Politics Indiana estimated that around 500,000 Hoosiers attended the 56 campaign rallies or town halls featuring either Obama, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, Sarah Palin or John McCain.

**What has followed has been** one of the most intense and dramatic policy years in memory with three Indiana visits by President Obama. The stimulus plan, health care reform, auto industry rescue, energy and carbon cap-and-trade issues are playing out vividly in the state; we



"This is a moment in time that Democrats must seize. I love the Blue Dogs, but now we have to support the progressive movement. This is about courage."

- MSNBC's ED SHULTZ, speaking at IDEA at French Lick



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have had long and special sessions of the Indiana General Assembly.

Just in the last week, perhaps as many as 4,000 Hoosiers turned out for town hall meetings conducted by U.S. Reps. Baron Hill, Joe Donnelly, Mark Souder, Mike Pence, Dan Burton and 9th CD Republican challenger Todd Young in places like Anderson, Richmond, Columbus, Brownstown, New Albany, Middlebury, Fort Wayne, Michigan City and Bloomington. On Wednesday, hundreds of dueling pro and anti reform citizens gathered in Valparaiso and Lafayette for Moveon.org candlelight vigils.

When this fascinating town hall sequence ends this month, the number of citizens approaching 10,000 will have turned out in public forums - either physically at town halls, Rotary Clubs or in telephone conference calls - to discuss health care reforms.

"The people elected me understanding what my position was on health care," Rep. Souder told the Elkhart Truth after more than 600 people turned out in Middlebury for a marathon three-hour meeting. "The goal of this is, people want to speak."

**Souder appeared** before a packed auditorium at Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne last Friday. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette's Becky Manley described that town hall this way: An immediate rumble followed Souder's invitation (to ask questions) as lines of about 10 people each quickly formed at each microphone. Those lines remained about the same length for hours, replenished by more audience members. Through most of the session, Souder listened to several questions before making comments. When he did comment, he referred to past efforts by Republicans to change health care to reflect free-market principles, including the tort system, that were blocked by

Democrats and some liberal Republicans.

**Absent were** the explosive antics seen in places like Phoenix, New Hampshire, Missouri and Pennsylvania where extremists showed

up bearing arms, or people got into shoving or shouting matches.

In Bloomington last night, U.S. Rep. Baron Hill appeared at North High School and attempted to dispel misinformation about H.R. 3200. "The proposal out there is not socialized medicine. It is not a government takeover,"

Hill said to a crowd of more than 800.

He addressed conservative fears about the public option, saying that if a person has insurance now, "nothing changes for you." He pointed out the benefits of foreign medicine and said that, contrary to boisterous conservative assertions, the U.S. does not have the best health care in the world. "[There is] no rationing in this bill," he said. "Insurance companies are rationing care."

While Hill met with a great amount of support, he heard from many dissenters. Ashley Freije, Lafayette, told Hill that she was concerned about the "massive spending" from Congress.

"It's not fair for me as a hard-working person to pay for somebody else's health care," Freije said.

**At Richmond** Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence suggested President Obama scrap all the bills and start over. "That would be the best thing he could do," he said at Richmond's Reid Hospital. "It would be wrong for the Democratic Congress to pass a partisan bill. The wild card in the equation is you, all of you and tens of thousands of Americans



**U.S. Rep. Baron Hill conducted a town hall that drew 800 citizens in Bloomington Wednesday night. (HPI Photo by Katie Coffin)**



who came out in the month of August."

A man who described himself as a Christian asked Pence if he could "imagine a compromise position where the government plays a role? I'd like to hear your response as a Christian."

Pence said the issue is "fraught with moral issues." He said he supported Medicare and significant increases. He suggested allowing insurance companies to sell across state lines, increasing Medicaid for people above the poverty level, and transferable tax credits that would amount to \$1,000 for an individual, \$2,000 for couples and \$3,000 for families. "I'm not folding my arms and saying good luck there," Pence said.

**U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh** and Dick Lugar have not held town halls, though the future of health care reform that might be headed to President Obama's desk will take shape in the U.S. Senate. We've seen no hosting of town halls by U.S. Reps. Brad Ellsworth, Pete Visclosky and Andre Carson either. At the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association convention last weekend, one county party chairman thought Ellsworth was wise not to conduct a town hall. To which HPI responded, "You can't be afraid of the people. Otherwise you probably don't belong in Congress."

The critical question at this point is what does it all mean and where do we go from here?

Much focus has centered on President Obama's diving poll numbers and analyst Charlie Cook's forecast that Democrats could lose 20 House seats in the 2010 elections.

Some suggest that Obama has turned into "Obambi" - suffering the proverbial "deer in the headlines" naivete. In order to believe this, it would mean that the candidate who presided over what was one of the great presidential campaigns in history - who used technology, soaring rhetoric, strategic alliances and an audacious strategy to defeat the Clinton dynasty and forged the best November percentage of any Democrat since LBJ - has lost his way.

**On Wednesday, the White House** announced that President Obama will address a joint session of Congress next Wednesday. That morning The Politico reported: Aides to President Obama are putting the final touches on a new strategy to help Democrats recover from a brutal August recess by specifying what Obama wants to see in a compromise health care deal and directly confronting other trouble spots.

"We're entering a new season," senior adviser David Axelrod said in a telephone interview with Politico. "It's time to synthesize and harmonize these strands and get this done. We're confident that we can do that. But obviously it is a different phase. We're going to approach it in a different way. The president is going to be very active."

Politico added: Some administration officials

welcome a showdown with liberal lawmakers if they argue they would rather have no health care law than an incremental one. The confrontation would allow Obama to show he is willing to stare down his own party to get things done.

**Or, as conservative New York Times** columnist David Brooks opined on Tuesday, "If he doesn't proceed in a manner consistent with the spirit of the nation and the times, voters will find a way to stop him. The president's challenge now is to halt the slide (in the polls). That doesn't mean giving up his goals. It means he has to align his proposals to the values of the political center: fiscal responsibility, individual choice and decentralized authority. Events have pushed Barack Obama off to the left. Time to rebalance."

As for Democratic House losses in the 2010 mid-terms, historically, the party of the new president loses 24 House seats in a first mid-term. The question for Democrats is this: Is individual political survival more important than forging a generational policy shift that matches the party's long-stated goals?

Some Members of Congress are only interested in their own power and will make decisions in their own best interest. Others will realize the historic opportunity at hand and vote accordingly, figuring that wise policy decisions make for good politics.

As for Republicans, they've aligned themselves with insurance companies. If the GOP can forge big gains in 2010 as the defender of the insurance companies, that will break new ground. We see it as a strategy with considerable risk.

**Some of the scare tactics** pressed by special interests and Obama haters are beginning to or have lost credibility, like the so-called "death panels."

And then there are the doubters who believe the whole thrust will come crashing down. It's easy to find this type of conventional wisdom as any major initiative courses through Congress or the Indiana General Assembly. We heard it with Major Moves and the 2002 tax reforms.

The much debated H.R. 3200 will not be the bill that lands on Obama's desk. There will be twists in the story line, and many changes to come, but the historic moment realized in the end is a better bet than business as usual.

The beautiful part about this exercise in democracy is that so many people entered the public square and weighed in. Thus, 2008 and 2009 will likely be years when epic politics and policy are linked. ❖

**Katie Coffin of TheFranklinonline.com contributed to this report.**







## Hot House 25, from page 1

party and the governor's political wing is significant. The governor's political people have been making recruiting calls. They are all very active."

Gentry said that HRCC, the governor's office and the state party talk weekly about the "focus 30" seats the GOP plans to contest.

Whether Daniels breaks out RV1 from the mothballs or not, the governor will almost certainly be a driving force. The Republicans already have between 10 and 15 "quality" candidates with more lining up, sources tell HPI. Plus, the GOP is building a cluster strategy that includes the Marion/Pendleton/Anderson and Evansville areas where they will press seats that have long been in the Democratic fold and often uncontested, or in the case of HD31, has been a barnburner over the past two cycles. In the Evansville area, where Republicans will contest four seats - half of which are usually unopposed - Gov. Daniels polled around 65 percent in 2008.



The GOP is aggressively active with Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn placing a "Stop Blocking Progress in Indiana" billboard on U.S. 31 where, he says, Speaker B. Patrick Bauer and State Rep. Ron Herrell will see it every time they drive that highway (see page 7).

Howey Politics Indiana is identifying 25 House seats that are expected to come into play. Some are obviously outlier races that probably will fall by the wayside unless a considerable wave takes shape and favors a particular party. And there always seems to be a surprise race - as HD97 turned out to be in 2006 - that ruins lobby bets and creates an Election Night and Organization Day buzz.

Here's our Horse Race Hot 25 at this early stage:

**HD4:** Republican State Rep. Ed Soliday squeaked out a 10,175 to 9,084 victory in 2006 over current Porter County Councilwoman Sylvia Graham in a very Democratic year. The party had high hopes for the challenger in a year when the Democrats picked up three congressional seats. Graham is not expected to run. Soliday had an easier 5,500 vote plurality against Larry Chubb in 2008 despite the Obama tide. We need to weigh the credentials of a potential challenger before we take this race seriously. Watch for this candidate to emerge early this fall. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Soliday

**HD5:** Democrat Craig Fry fended off former Elkhart mayor Dave Miller in 2008, 13,823 to 10,627 in a race

some Republicans thought they had a fighting chance to win. But Fry benefited from the massive turnout in the Barack Obama victory in St. Joseph County. In 2006, he comfortably defeated Jeremy Hiler, nephew of former Congressman John Hiler. This is an outlier race. If President Obama's political stature has slipped significantly a year from now, this seat could come into play, but the early money is firmly on Fry. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Fry

**HD19:** State Rep. Rochelle VanDenburgh defeated Republican Bill Johnson 15,505 to 12,256 in 2008. But this time she faces Luke Abbott, an Iraq vet with two Purple Hearts. He's also a union pipe fitter and at his campaign kickoff, a number of his pipe fitter brothers were present. In 2006, then State Rep. Bob Kuzman won the seat by 4,200 votes. **Horse Race Status:** Leans VanDenburgh

**HD20:** Republican State Rep. Tom Dermody easily defeated Jerry Cooley in 2008 after winning the nomination in the 2006 Republican primary before taking the seat in the general. "There is definitely someone who has expressed interest," said Democratic House Campaign coordinator

Kristen Self. Watch for this candidate to emerge early this fall. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Dermody

**HD26:** Freshman State Rep. Randy Truitt withstood the Obama wave at Purdue University to nip Purdue Prof. John Polles by 26 votes in 2008. In 2006, then State Rep. Joe Micon held the seat for the Democrats with a 7,646 to 5,489 win over Republican Tippecanoe Councilwoman Connie Basham. Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker doesn't expect either Polles or Micon to challenge Truitt. But there will likely be a top tier challenger emerge. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

**HD30:** State Rep. Ron Herrell coasted to a 6,500 vote victory over Republican Jason Miller in 2008. Miller was not widely seen as a credible candidate. In 2006, Herrell reclaimed the seat by taking advantage of the Democratic wave and defeating State Rep. John Smith by 2,200 votes. Kokomo Councilman Mike Karickhoff is planning a challenge. But this is one city where the Republican brand is deeply tainted, thanks to State Treasurer Richard Mourdock's attempt to kill the Chrysler-Fiat merger as more than 5,000 local jobs hung in the balance. With Mourdock also facing re-election, his name will certainly be invoked in this race. Karickhoff must turn this race on local issues or make the race a referendum on Bauer, as GOP Chairman Dunn is doing. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Herrell

**HD31:** Just witness recent history: In 2008, Democrat Joe Pearson upset State Rep. Tim Harris 10,508



to 10,040. In 2006, Harris defeated Larry Hile 7,492 to 7,473 in a race where the challenger refused to go negative. Republican sources say that former two-term Blackford County Sheriff Kevin Mahan is expected to run. Two or three others, including a Grant County councilman and a Marion city councilman are also looking at the race for the Republicans, though Gentry believes the consensus candidate will likely be the sheriff. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

**HD33:** Republican State Rep. Bill Davis eked out a narrow 500-vote win over Charles Schemenauer in 2008 after defeating Ron Liggett by about 1,200 votes in 2006. So this is a competitive seat that the Democrats expect to contest this cycle. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Davis

**HD36:** State Rep. Teri Austin glided to an easy 13,808 to 8,156 over Republican Frank Burrows in 2008. Her efforts to raid the Major Moves trust didn't settle well with Gov. Daniels earlier this year. This time she will face a challenge from Kim Bulta, who works at Rolland Title Company in Anderson and knows every courthouse in the district. In 2006, Austin defeated Francie Metzger by 4,000 votes in one of the shrillest challenger campaigns of the cycle with the immigration issue failing to dent the incumbent. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Austin

**HD37:** Former DNR Commissioner Kyle Hupfer is expected to move back into the Pendleton area to take on Democrat State Rep. Scott Reske. This will clearly be a targeted seat for House Republicans and Gov. Daniels after Reske barely defeated Kelly Gaskill 13,846 to 12,066 in 2008. In 2006, Reske ran unopposed. This and HD36 represent one cluster in the GOP strategy to retake the House. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

**HD43:** State Rep. Clyde Kersey defeated Republican Ryan Cummins by 3,000 votes in 2008 and easily won in 2006. "We are actively recruiting out there," said Mike Gentry of the HRCC. This is an outlier race. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Kersey

**HD44:** State Rep. Nancy Michael defeated Republican incumbent Amos Thomas 12,451 to 11,295. Thomas won by only 1,200 votes in 2006. So this race will be on everybody's radar. The Republicans just have to find a challenger. Is there another Thomas over in Brazil? **Horse Race Status:** Leans Michael

**HD45:** State Rep. Bruce "Elvis" Borders is expected to face a Democrat from Sullivan County, Self said. Borders won narrowly in 2008 by a 12,700 to 11,608 margin over Democrat Richard Marshall. In 2006, Borders defeated Mike Bledsoe by 3,500 votes. Given Borders' ability to hang on to this seat once held by former Democratic House Speaker John Gregg, we're skeptical that he's ready to leave the building. **Horse Race Status:**

### Likely Borders

**HD46:** Just about every cycle we put Democratic State Rep. Vern Tincher on the list and he is most susceptible in mid-term elections. Former Indiana State basketball star Bob Heaton will seek a rematch. He lost to Tincher 12,488 to 12,076 in 2008. In 2006 Tincher easily threw back a Republican challenger by 2,500 votes, but he has lost races, including 1994 when he lost to David Lohr by 126 votes. A similar dynamic is shaping up for the 2010 race with health care reform and a new president's first mid-term. He also lost in 2002 to Brooks LaPlante. We see this as a real close one. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

**HD51:** This hasn't been a truly competitive district for a generation, but Democrats are talking up the challenger candidacy of Codie Ross, an Auburn attorney who is taking aim at Republican State Rep. Dick Dodge. "He's a real go-getter," said Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker. Dodge defeated Lon Keyes 14,734 to 10,186 in 2008. In 2006, Dodge defeated Democrat Joseph Rauen 9,013 to 7,217 in a race nobody talked about at the campaign committee level. The district isn't an absolute GOP juggernaut, but we're a bit skeptical whether Ross can close the gap. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Dodge

**HD62:** Democratic State Rep. Sandra Blanton doesn't have to worry about former State Rep. Jerry Denbo trying to take her seat. Our rival newsletter reported that Denbo was thinking about running as a Republican. "I would never do that," Denbo told HPI over the weekend in French Lick. GOP sources say that four or five challengers are looking at the race, but there is not a consensus, though Gentry said that one candidate announcement could come after Labor Day. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Blanton

**HD68:** In 2006, Democratic State Rep. Bob Bischoff won in a blowout by more than 5,000 votes. In 2008, he barely survived a challenge from Republican attorney Jud McMillin by a little less than 500 votes. Republicans see that race as blood in the water and McMillin will be back for the rematch. If there's an anti-Obama/anti-Baron Hill sentiment building, this race could be in play. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

**HD74:** House Majority Leader Russ Stilwell coasted to a 7,000-vote victory over Republican William Marcrum in 2008. In 2006, he won by 8,000 votes. This time he will face Republican challenger Susan Ellspermann, a University of Southern Indiana PhD. who works on economic development research. This is an enhanced resume race for Republicans, who hope to at least draw Democratic resources into this and three other races in the Evansville TV market. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Stilwell

**HD75:** In this Evansville cluster, Democrat State



REP. BISCHOFF



Rep. Dennis Avery had the closest race, defeating J.D. Strouth 13,274 to 10,496 after running uncontested in 2006. Cueing up in 2010 is Warrick County Coroner Ron Bacon, who the Republicans describe as a "proven vote getter." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Avery

**HD76:** For the last two election cycles, State Rep. Trent Van Haaften, D-Mount Vernon, has run unopposed. In 2010, he will face Republican Wendy McNamara, who is director of Evansville Schools early college program. She holds degrees from the University of Indianapolis and Valparaiso University and has taught at Bosse and Harrison High Schools and was assistant principal at Evansville North High School. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Evansville. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Van Haaften

**HD77:** Former DLGF commissioner and Vanderburgh County Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave is weighing a run against Democrat State Rep. Gail Riecken, according to the Evansville Courier & Press. "I would be running to change the way business is done in the state, to continue the tax reforms of 2008, to put the current property tax caps in the state constitution and to bring jobs here," Musgrave said Tuesday in response to reports that she is considering running. But Musgrave, who declined a request by national Republicans to challenge U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth next year, stressed that she hasn't made up her mind about a campaign. She acknowledged many Republicans have asked her to consider running for Evansville mayor in 2011. "I think I would be an electable mayor and a good mayor," she said. "The question is which one I would rather devote my time and talent to, and that's what I'm struggling with." House District 77, however, poses a stern challenge to Musgrave, according to University of Evansville Prof. Bob Dion. The district, formerly represented by Democrats Phil Hoy and Brian Hasler, comprises areas of Downtown, where Musgrave lives, and sections of Newburgh to the east. It is one of the area's more Democratic districts. Riecken ran unopposed to win her freshman term in 2008. In 2006, State Rep. Phil Hoy defeated Andrew Smith 9,276 to 7,389 in what was a strong Democratic year that saw Ellsworth defeat U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Musgrave, also a former assessor, has never lost a race. "I think my record and my support of the issues important to people in Evansville will stand," Riecken, a former 8th CD challenger, told the Courier & Press. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Riecken

**HD72:** State Rep. Ed Clere upset longtime Democrat Bill Cochran by 108 votes in 2008. The Democrats will certainly seek to get this seat back. Cochran is not expected to seek a rematch, but Self explained, "We'll get a quality candidate down there." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Clere



REP. BARNES

**HD89:** 7th CD challenger Gabrielle Campo had indicated she would challenge freshman State Rep. John Barnes, who won this open seat over Christopher Swatts in 2008 by a 13,442 to 12,182 margin. But on Wednesday Campo told Republicans she would not run. This will be a Republican priority in 2010 when the massive Obama vote won't be there. The district ran close in 2006 with former State Rep. Larry Buell fending off Barnes by a little more than 500 votes. Campo ran 3,000 votes ahead of U.S. Rep. Andre Carson in this district in 2008 and she may have been the GOP's best option. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

**HD92:** State Rep. Phil Hinkle already has a challenger in labor activist Brett Voorhies, who announced last month. Hinkle defeated Democrat Stephanie DeKemper 15,907 to 12,957 in 2008 and she is weighing a rematch. So there could be a Democratic primary brewing before the really big show. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Hinkle

**HD97:** This was the true shocker of 2006 when Republican Jon Elrod upset State Rep. Ed Mahern by 8 votes in a district that was on nobody's radar screen until the very end. That Mahern drew the maps and the Democrats took three Congressional seats made this the "who'd a thunk it" race of the new century. Mary Ann Sullivan reclaimed it for the Democrats 9,430 to 7,552, benefiting from the Obama turnout. Elrod is signaling to party elders that he will not run again. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Sullivan

### Primaries

**HD38:** Former State Rep. Heath Van Natter - who at this point is a historical curiosity having held this seat only while the House was not in session - will challenge State Rep. Jacquie Clements in the Republican primary. Clements has been sued by the Clinton County commissioners for her conduct when she was a former county auditor. The lawsuit contends that Clements committed fraud and intentional interference with a contract by a software vendor based on reports in the Frankfort Times. Clements worked for Manatron, a software vendor for the auditor's office when she was chosen at a Republican caucus to fill the vacant office in 2004 and never disclosed that relationship on her statement of economic interest, according to the lawsuit. Howard County Chairman Dunn said that Van Natter is "picking up quite a few key supporters in Clinton County. A core group of office holders and GOP faithful in Clinton County are hosting fundraisers in the near future." However, GOP sources warn not to "underestimate" Clements' core Clinton County support. And there is also the possibility of a third candidate emerging in the primary. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Van Natter ❖





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**STOP!**

**BLOCKING PROGRESS IN INDIANA**

REP. HERRELL

SPEAKER BAUER

Paid for by Howard County Republicans, Craig Dunn - Chairman

## Billboards first shot in battle for the House

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

KOKOMO - Call it the opening shot of the 2010 Indiana House campaign.

Folks driving on U.S. 31 in Kokomo can see a billboard with the photos of House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer and State Rep. Ron Herrell with this message: "Stop Blocking Progress in Indiana." He's the second South Bender to be on the pointed end of a billboard, as Notre Dame football Coach Charlie Weis can see one near campus that reads, "Best wishes to Charlie Weis in the fifth year of his college coaching internship."

Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn (pictured at right) told HPI, "The Howard County Republican Party decided to put up the board on our own. We believe that Pat Bauer blocks virtually any effort to reform government. He is a traditional tax and spend, play to the special interests, old-school politician. If Indiana is to thrive in these difficult times, we will need to reform how government operates on all levels. We need to improve our schools. We need fiscal discipline. Pat Bauer stands in the way of all of these."

During the 2009 Indiana General Assembly, Bauer instructed House Government & Regulatory Reform

Chairman John Bartlett, D-Indianapolis, to spike all of the reform legislation that came from the Kernan-Shepard Commission. At one point, Bartlett forgot to take a vote and had to recall the committee. Bauer maintained from the earliest days of the session that the House could only focus on the biennial budget.

"Speaker Bauer is only made possible by the complicity of representatives like Ron Herrell," Dunn charged. "In the last two years, Ron Herrell has received contributions from only three individuals totaling \$75. All of the rest of his funds have come from special interests. Over 96 percent of his campaign funding over the last three years has come from outside his district. Ron Herrell must go and with him Speaker Bauer."

House Democrats find themselves in an interesting dilemma. While Gov. Daniels is intent on pressing local government reforms, and President Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan (along with Daniels and Supt. Tony Bennett) are pushing dramatic changes in education, Bauer and much of his caucus are out of step. At one point last session, the Democrats tried to cap the number of charter schools in the state, which would have left Indiana out of Obama's and Duncan's "Race to the Top" funding.

Dunn said he is sharing his billboard design with other county GOP. "I have had inquiries from other interested parties," said Dunn. "We intend to leave the board up all the way through the next session. I want Speaker Bauer and Ron Herrell to have to look at it every time they make the trip to Indianapolis. Highway 31 has one of the biggest traffic counts in the country. A lot of people are going to see that board over the next year." ❖





## Shultz conjures IDEA echoes of Hamilton

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRENCH LICK - Fifteen years ago, with President Clinton facing a developing tidal wave that would end four decades of Democratic control on Capitol Hill, it was Lee Hamilton who stood before the Indiana Democratic Editorial Convention pleading with party activists to not abandon their chief executive.

Last Saturday, with U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth sitting in the room, MSNBC's Ed Shultz delivered a noon Saturday stemwinder, calling on the Blue Dogs to support President Obama's health care initiative. At stake could ultimately be the Obama presidency. Some Democrats, like former State Rep. Dave Crooks, were calling it one of the best speeches in IDEA history, eclipsing even Doug Leatherbury.

"The truth is we now have to recognize the moment," Shultz said. "There comes a time in every game where there is a sudden change; a momentum shift. We have the president. We don't have the 60 (Senate) votes anymore. We have reconciliation. We have to make sure Nancy Pelosi and the president are on the same page. This opportunity could spin off into outer space. We may not have the majority after 2010."

Shultz spoke literally as President Obama was delivering his eulogy to U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy a thousand miles away in Boston.

Shultz directly addressed the Blue Dogs, who include Ellsworth and U.S. Reps. Baron Hill and Joe Donnelly among their 51 members, and his remarks might as well have been aimed at U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh. "This is a moment in time that Democrats must seize," Shultz said. "I love the Blue Dogs, but now we have to support the progressive movement. We have to support the public option. This is about courage. This is a courageous vote."

**The attending Democrats** exploded with applause following the remarks. After the speech, Ellsworth was seen talking to the commentator.

Shultz was blunt about what's at stake politically. "Barack Obama stands the very distinct possibility of being a one-term president if we don't rally around as Democrats," Shultz said. "Barack Obama needs us. He doesn't need a co-op. We don't need any of that right-wing garbage. What we need is health care for every American which would be the biggest break for small business in the

country."

The remarks came as Obama's polling numbers dipped into the mid 40th percentile in several polls after a month of sometimes explosive town hall meetings across the country. Special interests have castigated the health reforms.

**The echoes from a 1994** keynote then congressman Lee Hamilton gave were eerie. In that address, Hamilton talked about attending a state party function and none of the other 10 speakers mentioned President Clinton or Vice President Gore. "And then I got up, and I was just mad," Hamilton said. "Just plain mad. So I spoke up.

'All politics is local,' Tip O'Neill used to say. But I'll tell you something else. All politics is presidential. Don't think, my friends, that Lee Hamilton or anyone on this state ticket or anyone running from Congress can run away from the president of the United States. You can't do it and we ought not to try."

Hamilton continued, "I know the president's name is not on the ballot in 1994 but his standing in this country is the single most important fact about this 1994 election.

All politics is local. All politics is presidential."

Bayh wasn't present at this IDEA convention, though Hill and Ellsworth were. The House members were in the midst of an intense August town hall schedule that was drawing thousands of Hoosiers in a debate on the health reforms. Bayh has yet to take a position or hold a town hall. His comments have been murky and ultimately his vote in the Senate could be catalytic.

The Blue Dogs have been consistent on their calls for a "revenue neutral" final bill and - something Bayh has also stressed - for an end to pre-existing conditions.

**Shultz blasted the notion** that competition for insurance companies via a public option would be bad. "Blue Cross/Blue Shield has 92 percent of the market in North Dakota," Shultz said of his home state. "They need a public option. I will tell you this and it's a fact: there is an insurance executive that may get between you and your doctor and you may die. We hear it every day."

Indiana Democrats find themselves at a crossroads. The party was evenly split during the Obama showdown with Hillary Clinton during the 2008 campaign, with Bayh's organization playing for the vice presidency on a Clinton ticket. Since he was passed up for the vice presidency, Bayh has formed a bloc of 14 Senate moderates who could hold the key to the health reforms. An Obama failure on health reforms - his oft stated No. 1 priority during the 2008 campaign - would likely cripple his presidency.

Complicating the scenario are Bayh's and the Blue



MSNBC's Ed Shultz





Dogs' 2010 re-election bids. There was a strong sentiment at IDEA that if they can't bring themselves to vote for issues like health reform and card check, then what does it mean to be a Democrat? Many of the union activists HPI talked with quietly (and off the record) grumbled at Bayh's vacillations on card check.

And many Democrats were quick to applaud Shultz when he said, "I'm sick of all this talk of bipartisanship. It doesn't work. It's time to fish or cut bait."

### **New faces**

On the horizon for the 2010 elections were some new faces. Peter Buttigieg, a Harvard and Oxford graduate from South Bend, initiated his bid to take on Treasurer Richard Mourdock. Buttigieg, 27, holds a first-class honors degree in politics, philosophy, and economics from Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and a bachelors in history and literature from Harvard, where he was student president of the Institute of Politics and led the Institute's annual study of youth attitudes on politics. He is the co-founder of the Democratic Renaissance Project.



**BUTTIGIEG**

On the secretary of state front, Vop Osili and Tom McKenna were the nomination seekers working the halls and hospitality suites. McKenna is an ally of former Gov. Joe Kernan. Osili owns an Indianapolis architecture firm and has close ties with U.S. Rep. Andre Carson. Osili told HPI that the late U.S. Rep. Julia Carson had talked to him about running for secretary of state, where he could play a pivotal role in voter protection issues. South Bend controller and former Vanderburgh County commissioner Catherine Fanello has decided to not seek the secretary of state nomination due to family issues, Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker said.

### **Gubernatorial front**

Potential 2012 gubernatorial hopefuls included Reps. Hill and Ellsworth, Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez and Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. All four had well-attended hospitality suites. Jeff Harris, a former aide to State Sen. Vi Simpson, told HPI that she will also consider a gubernatorial bid after the 2010 elections. Simpson briefly pursued the 2004 gubernatorial nomination in 2003 until Gov. Kernan returned to the race.

### **Indianapolis mayoral front**

IDEA also had former Indianapolis deputy mayor Melina Kennedy, former secretary of state Joe Hogsett and former 7th CD candidate Woody Myers making the rounds in that developing race. ❖

## **EMK was monogram that never took off**

**By DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - A hushed rustling at the back of the small auditorium where I was watching a school play in Boston back in 1983 made me think how rude some people in the back rows were being.



I thought that until whispers cascaded to the front of the room, and the name "Kennedy" was the one word I could clearly understand. It was on that day at Fessenden School, a private school, when Sen. Ted Kennedy showed up inconspicuously to watch his son Patrick perform in a school play. Just as inconspicuously, he left before I could catch a glimpse, but there would be other brushes with him.

Just a few years ago, I was among the media on

a nationwide conference call press conference about Head Start. I was among the few who asked Sen. Kennedy a direct question about one of his favorite causes, earlyhood childhood development.

**Then just a few months** ago on Jan. 20, our paths crossed again just after the inaugural. An ambulance drove past us just as Kennedy was wheeled out of an inaugural luncheon where a moment of silence was held for him.

It's maybe a little unusual that someone who has lived in Indiana virtually all his life and somebody who has lived in Massachusetts or Washington during that same time should have even those encounters, but it speaks to the long life that the late Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy lived and the many lives he touched.

His death this week was expected, but the life he lived could not have been expected. If John F. Kennedy was the personification of Camelot and Robert F. Kennedy was the brother-in-waiting incarnate in 1968 who probably would have been president had he not been assassinated, Ted Kennedy was cast in an unfortunate light. He was "the other brother politician," the one with a marriage that was not perfect, the one who had to follow in footsteps and be



the good soldier who would become the boilerplate of a political dynasty and the lion in the Senate who would serve nearly a half century.

Ironically the only race he ever lost was one both his brothers either did or would have won – the presidency. JFK became an acronym so well known, most Americans recognize it as the name of an airport. RFK was so well known, most Americans would recognize it as the name of a stadium that once was home to the Washington Redskins. But EMK never had the status that either of the other two did.

Maybe that will change if Congress finally passes a health care bill, the likes of which Kennedy championed, though others from Harry Truman to Richard Nixon tried to pass. For a member of the leading political family in the country, it would be fitting considering he served longer in public office than either of his brothers, and served both their families for decades after their deaths.

It would be ironic because when NASA finally put a man on the moon in 1969 after the bold challenge issued by JFK eight years earlier, headlines carried news that Ted Kennedy had been in an accident that claimed the life of one of his female staffers. He survived that scandal and the allegations that followed, years of being in minorities and a stiff challenge from Mitt Romney.

But maybe the death of Ted Kennedy is just the end of a long chapter. Expect to see the dynasty continue, if not through Patrick's appointment to his seat, then the possible election of Chris Kennedy to the seat formerly held by Barack Obama in Illinois.

The monogams of our memories may never be as prominent as JFK and RFK, but the Kennedy name is the closest thing America has to a royal one. ❖

**David Brooks, New York Times:** David Brooks, New York Times: By force of circumstances and by design, the president has promoted one policy after another that increases spending and centralizes power in Washington. The result is the Obama slide, the most important feature of the current moment. The number of Americans who trust President Obama to make the right decisions has fallen by roughly 17 percentage points. Obama's job approval is down to about 50 percent. All presidents fall from their honeymoon highs, but in the history of polling, no newly elected American president has fallen this far this fast. Amazingly, some liberals are now lashing out at Obama because the entire country doesn't agree with The Huffington Post. Some now argue that the administration should just ignore the ignorant masses and ram health care through using reconciliation, the legislative maneuver that would reduce the need for moderate votes. This would

be suicidal. You can't pass the most important domestic reform in a generation when the majority of voters think you are on the wrong path. To do so would be a sign of unmitigated arrogance. If Obama agrees to use reconciliation, he will permanently affix himself to the liberal wing of his party and permanently alienate independents. He will be president of 35 percent of the country — and good luck getting anything done after that. This is a country that has always been suspicious of centralized government. This is a country that has just lived through an economic trauma caused by excessive spending and debt. Most Americans still admire Obama and want him to succeed. But if he doesn't proceed in a manner consistent with the spirit of the nation and the times, voters will find a way to stop him. The president's challenge now is to halt the slide.

That doesn't mean giving up his goals. It means he has to align his proposals to the values of the political center: fiscal responsibility, individual choice and decentralized authority. Events have pushed Barack Obama off to the left. Time to rebalance. ❖



**Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union:**

Back when John Kerry ran for president in 2004, they were a bit concerned because Mitt Romney, a Republican, was governor. See, if Kerry, a U.S. senator from Massachusetts, won, Romney - according to the laws of the state - would appoint Kerry's replacement. Romney likely would have appointed a Republican. Well, that's no good. Can't have that. So the Demo-controlled legislature amended the state law to strip Romney of the authority to appoint Kerry's would-be replacement. Turns out Kerry lost and it was moot, but nonetheless, they changed the law. Now, instead of a gubernatorial appointment, the law in Massachusetts prescribes a special election to fill a mid-term U.S. Senate vacancy. You can imagine the rationale at the time. The arguments were that the people must be involved in the selection of a U.S. senator and it shouldn't be left to one man to fill the vacancy of such a high office. And you know what? I agree with that. Of course, a special election takes time - five months to be exact, based on the Demos handiwork in the amendment they crafted. Comes now the untimely death of U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy. This raises the very significant concern that a five-month vacancy might leave Kennedy's Democratic colleagues in the Senate a critical vote short in their quest to pass health care legislation. Sixty votes are required to halt a Republican filibuster, you see. So Sen. Kennedy, in his last days, appealed to Massachusetts lawmakers to give Deval Patrick, the Democrat governor of Massachusetts, the authority to appoint an interim replacement. Of course, none of this would have been necessary if they hadn't fiddled with the law back in 2004 to their perceived advantage. ❖

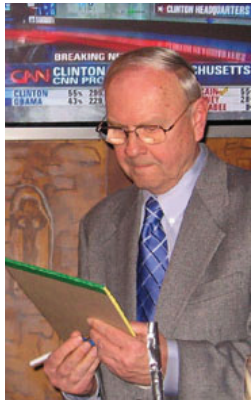


## Ted Kennedy and Dan Quayle

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Even back when Ted Kennedy was savaged in Republican fund-raising appeals as the quintessence of evil, he was regarded in a different way by Republican colleagues in the Senate. They liked him.

Kennedy's ability to reach across the aisle to join in a common cause, often through reasonable compromise to make passage of legislation possible, is why he now is described in tributes as such an effective senator.



The liberal lion of the Senate knew when to roar, as he did to defend causes he held sacred, and when quietly to let a Republican colleague get credit for something that could have been jeopardized by Kennedy being too far out front.

Some Republican colleagues became personal friends. Some, though in disagreement on political philosophy, found they could trust his

word and his work on legislation, much of which didn't need to be fought out in partisan battle.

Kennedy could work with a Republican president, as he did in his instrumental role in passage of President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind Act.

But his ability to work with Republicans in the Senate, where rules make it difficult to pass anything substantial without some bipartisanship, began long before that. He learned how to get things done.

One example of a political odd couple working together was when Kennedy joined in 1981 with a young conservative Republican senator from Indiana named Dan Quayle in sponsoring a major jobs training bill.

Hoosier Republicans were surprised - really aghast - that their freshman senator was with Kennedy on a jobs bill. After all, those fund-raising letters had warned about Kennedy as evil.

**Democrats were puzzled,** too. Quayle had just defeated Sen. Birch Bayh, a close Kennedy friend who had pulled Kennedy from the wreckage after a plane crash. Shouldn't Kennedy be trying to sabotage rather than work with Quayle?

The Reagan administration initially opposed the jobs bill. But compromises and a year of hard work by Quayle and Kennedy resulted in the Job Training Partner-

ship Act of 1982. Remarkably, the bill passed 95-0 in the Senate.

Kennedy and Quayle developed mutual respect. Tribune Managing Editor Tim Harmon recalls how that respect was shown at an Associated Press Managing Editors meeting in Boston during the 1988 campaign, coming at a time when Quayle, as a vice presidential nominee, had become the target of jokes and ridicule. Kennedy, a speaker at the meeting, was asked what he thought of Quayle.

**The audience, Harmon knew,** expected Kennedy "to tee off on him (Quayle) as everybody else did."

Surprise. "He had nothing but good things to say about him," Harmon recalled. "He said he was a good senator, good to work with."

That's the key: Good to work with. Senators don't have to agree on everything in order to work together.

When Kennedy campaigned for president in the 1980 Indiana primary, seeking to duplicate the triumph of his brother Bobby in the state's 1968 primary, something was missing. A lot was missing.



Many Democrats, unhappy with President Carter and fearing that Carter would drag the party down to defeat - as he did - hoped that the Democratic nominee would be another Kennedy, with soaring rhetoric and telling issues to stir crowds the way that Jack and Bobby Kennedy had.

Ted's presidential campaign was terrible, disorganized and with a candidate who didn't seem actually to want the awesome task of president thrust upon him.



When asked in a CBS television interview why he wanted to be president, Kennedy wasn't able to provide an answer. It may well have been because he didn't really want to be president.

**With his 1980 presidential**

chances gone, Kennedy found anew the voice, the oratory for which he and his brothers were famed. At the Democratic National Convention at which Carter was renominated, Kennedy electrified the crowd at Madison Square Garden in New York. He made clear with these words that the end of his presidential bid was not the end of his efforts: "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die." ❖

**Colwell has been covering Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.**





## **Ketzenberger to head Fiscal Policy Institute**

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute (IFPI) today named John Ketzenberger as president of the non-profit, governmental research organization which for more than two decades has been the only independent statewide source of innovative research regarding state taxing and spending policies in Indiana. For the past four years, Ketzenberger has served as the lead business columnist for The Indianapolis Star, the state's largest newspaper. The award-winning journalist has covered business and politics in Indiana for 23 years and is known for his strong understanding of the major issues facing the state. "We are thrilled to have John lead our organization. His vast experience and knowledge of both the political and budget processes will not only serve the Institute well, but also the taxpayers of Indiana," said Steve Rahn, chairman of the IFPI Board of Directors. "For 22 years, the Institute's work has touched the lives of Indiana citizens with its nonpartisan approach to providing information on emerging issues impacting Indiana's fiscal health."

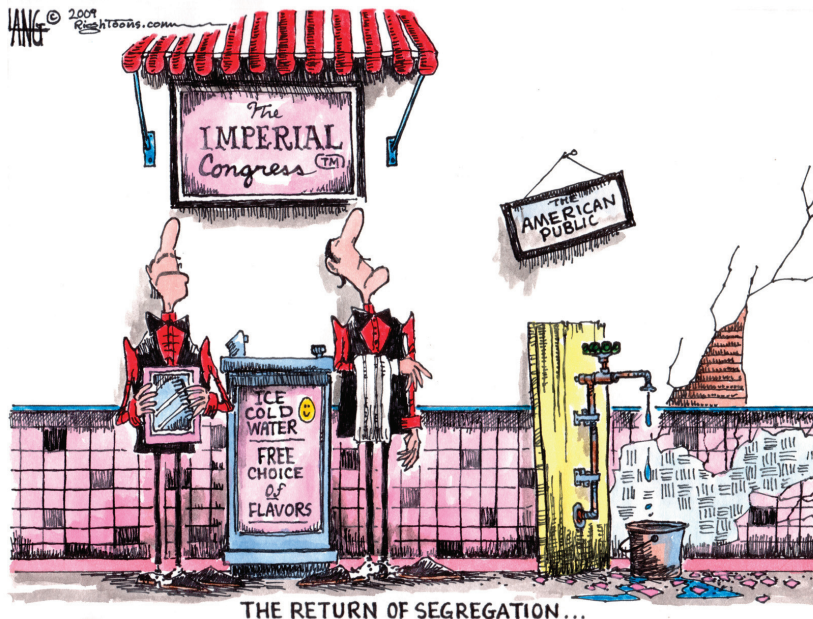


change the way school accountability is evaluated, with more emphasis on how students improve over the years instead of focusing mostly on how schools perform on a yearly basis (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett discussed in vague terms an outline of a model Wednesday before the Indiana Education Roundtable, an advisory group that includes lawmakers, educators and business leaders. Gov. Mitch Daniels co-chaired the meeting and said Indiana should adopt some major educational changes that were pushed through in Florida under former Gov. Jeb Bush. Bush detailed some of the changes during the meeting, including a new accountability system that places more emphasis on struggling students, more charter schools and requiring most third-graders to read before they can move to the fourth grade. It also gives schools

al Assessment of Educational Progress, and according to Education Week's Quality Counts Report, now ranks 10th among the states based on such areas as standards, accountability and teacher quality. "If we had progressed at the same rate Florida did, we would be national leaders instead of muddling around in the middle of the pack still," Daniels said after the meeting. "We cannot wait another day in this state to begin achieving the kind of progress our kids are going to need to win in life."

## **Daniels reluctant to take jobless funds**

INDIANAPOLIS - Should Indiana take \$148.5 million in federal stimulus money for its state unemployment fund, making about 24,000 more Hoosiers eligible for weekly payments? Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican, says no, because once the federal money runs out, the state will have to come up with \$88 million each year to pay for expanded benefits, and the money would come from increasing taxes on businesses (Indianapolis Star). House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, a Democrat, disagrees, saying the state badly needs the extra money and that broadening eligibility is the right thing to do. Indiana is among 22 states that haven't yet decided to take a share of the \$7 billion



THE RETURN OF SEGREGATION ...

## **Jeb Bush tells Indiana how to reform schools**

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Department of Education wants to

letter grades from A to F, which those behind the system say is easier for the public and schools to understand and has increased community involvement in many failing schools. Florida now outperforms most states in fourth-grade reading results from the Nation-

Congress set aside to help states re-vamp and expand their unemployment insurance programs, according to the National Employment Law Project, a liberal advocacy group for workers. About half of the federal stimulus money -- \$3.1 billion -- has been claimed, but to get its share, Indiana



has to permanently change some of its unemployment eligibility guidelines, making at least two of these groups eligible: Workers who quit their jobs to enroll in job-training programs. Laid-off workers who have dependent children.

## **Governor names**

### **Kossack to public access**

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels has named an Indianapolis attorney as Indiana's new public access counselor (Indianapolis Star). Andrew J. Kossack will assume the post Monday, succeeding Heather Willis Neal, the governor's office announced Wednesday. Neal resigned Aug. 21 after two years to become deputy chief of staff with the Indiana Department of Education. The office advises and assists the public, officials and media on issues regarding the state's Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act. Kossack, a Carmel resident, is a labor and employment law associate at Barnes & Thornburg.

### **Daniels names Mills to Financial Institutions**

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels named former bank executive David Mills as director of the Indiana Department of Financial Institutions. Mills, of Zionsville, previously worked in corporate banking for more than 37 years with National City Bank, retiring in 2007 as senior vice president and deputy chief credit officer. Mills will replace Judith Ripley, who has served as DFI director since July 2005. She is leaving her post and will join Capitol Assets, LLC in Indianapolis.

### **John Taylor joins Baker & Daniels**

INDIANAPOLIS - John Taylor has joined the business and corporate finance practice and litigation groups at Baker & Daniels LLP. As counsel,

he will practice from the law firm's 96th Street office. Taylor, who has been named to Indiana Super Lawyers from 2004 through 2009, has served on the Rules Committee for the Marion County Circuit Court and Superior Court and is a member of the Indiana Commission on Autism. Taylor will continue to serve as Parliamentarian for the Indiana House of Representatives under Speaker Pat Bauer. Since January 2008, he has practiced law in his own firm. Taylor is a former partner at Bingham McHale. Taylor counsels clients on a broad spectrum of issues, including litigation strategy, acquisition planning and execution, market strategy, regulatory compliance, and government relationships. His clients are from diverse fields — from Internet banking to the printing industry to commercial construction to Information Technology. "John has been with me since the start as my general counsel and confidante," said David Becker, founder and chairman of First Internet Bank and other companies and a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for TechPoint. "I've become familiar with and impressed by several Baker & Daniels attorneys, and John will be a perfect fit with them." National

### **EPA chief keeps eye on BP**

WHITING - The BP Whiting Refinery has been closely monitored by the U.S. EPA since the uproar two years ago over its plans to release increased amounts of ammonia and suspended solids into Lake Michigan, U.S. EPA chief Lisa Jackson told The Times of Northwest Indiana in an exclusive interview Tuesday. "We certainly heard the call from citizens and elected officials to constantly monitor the facility, and we have committed to doing that," Jackson said just after meeting with public officials, environmentalists and businesses at Purdue University Calumet.

### **GOP's Steele coming to Hill's district**

FLOYDS KNOBS - Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Michael Steele will make four stops on Thursday in Indiana and Ohio targeting the health care positions of Democrat Representatives Baron Hill (IN-09), Steve Driehaus (OH-01), Zach Space (OH-18), and Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15).

### **Chrysler gives \$94k to Kokomo UWay**

KOKOMO - Last week, the United Way of Howard County kicked off its annual campaign. The Live United campaign's 2009 goal is \$1.5 million — \$500,000 less than 2008's campaign — and Tuesday afternoon, the campaign received an unexpected boost toward its goal (Kokomo Tribune). Chrysler Group LLC, which was formed in an alliance with Fiat SpA, is donating \$525,000 to United Way agencies in 12 Chrysler cities. The money comes from closed Political Action Committee funds. The money is being divided up using a formula on the number of Chrysler employees there are in a city. Kokomo's received \$94,000.

### **Early voting cuts in Vanderburgh**

EVANSVILLE - Early voting in libraries in Vanderburgh County is dead unless the County Council reverses course on a budget cut it made today, County Clerk Susan Kirk said (Evansville Courier & Press). Making good on plans to cut the county's proposed 2010 election budget, the council sliced \$30,000 from Kirk's \$60,000 request to hire 20 part-time election staffers.