



Democrats brace for a wipeout

GOP House challenger field expanding in Southern Indiana, 8th CD

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FRANKLIN - The specter of the "Wave" has been in our scope since last Spring and in the next 36 hours the answers will come in a likely dramatic GOP flourish. The Gallup congressional generic has Republicans with a 15-point lead, which would project out to a 77-seat Republican gain.

Fox News has the GOP up 13 percent. CNN is at 10 percent. Rasmussen Reports is at 9 percent. CBS/New York Times, NBC/Wall Street Journal and Pew Research gives Republicans a 6 percent edge. Politico/Battlegrounds is at 5 percent.

If the wave is in that 15 to 6 percent range - it was 4 percent favoring the Republicans in 1994 - we're looking at a Democratic base collapse and wipe out of the 2nd and 9th CDs for Baron Hill

Continued on page 3

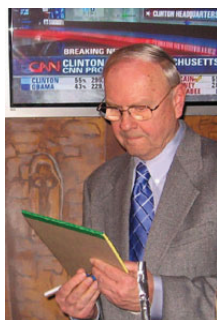


HD76 Republican Wendy McNamara is now favored to win the open seat vacated by State Rep. Trent Van Haaften as Democrats brace for a GOP surge, particularly in Southern Indiana and in the 8th CD.

Ground game time

By **JACK COLWELL**

INDIANAPOLIS - Even as the air war still rages, the ground war looms large.



Outside conservative groups, targeting Congressman Joe Donnelly with well over a million dollars already spent, continue their TV attacks on the Democratic incumbent in Indiana's 2nd District. American Crossroads GPS, inspired by Karl Rove, is the latest with a big TV buy seeking to convince voters that Donnelly really is Nancy Pelosi in disguise.

Knowing that negative TV works,



"You blew it, President Obama. We gave you two years to fulfill your promise of making sure that our economy starts roaring back to life again."

- Sarah Palin



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despite what viewers say, the national analysts who forecast House race results have tended to downgrade _ but certainly not write off _ Donnelly's chances for re-election.

Meanwhile, Donnelly and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee use their TV spots to cast Republican challenger Jackie Walorski in a negative light, particularly on whether she favors a risky privatization of Social Security.

Walorski says she doesn't want to destroy Social Security.

Donnelly says he doesn't march to orders of House Speaker Pelosi.

But do denials and even detailed explanations counter the negative impressions hammered home in the air wars on TV?

While Donnelly has raised a little more than Walorski in their own campaign funding, outside liberal groups have not poured money into congressional campaigns, in the 2nd or elsewhere, as have the conservative groups.

Democrats complain that the deluge on the conservative side, much through anonymous contributions, is the unfair result of a decision by Republican appointees on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tough, say Republicans, it's fair because outside groups interested in a Democratic House could have launched coordinated TV attacks, too, but didn't.

In the final stages of the air wars, Walorski has bought Indianapolis TV time, much more expensive than ads on South Bend area channels, in order to reach the southern part of the 2nd District, where she is not as well known.

If her campaigning had not convinced the outside conservative groups that she can win, Walorski would not have had their support and would not now be able to spend some of her own funds for Indianapolis television. Those outside groups aren't

just tossing money aimlessly. They are targeting races where they believe they can make a difference.

The Crossroads group was reported last week to be spending \$3 million in the final days on a dozen key House races - one of them the 2nd.

The highly acclaimed New York Times political blog FiveThirtyEight, which keeps track of campaign funding and polling and projects election chances in all the congressional races, reports that independent groups had spent \$1,483,035 to attack Donnelly as of Oct. 13. He likely will be hit with \$2 million in independent group negative advertising by the end of the race.

Walorski had been hit with \$729,651 in negative advertising by independent groups through Oct. 13.

The difference in amounts could be taking a toll on Donnelly. A poll conducted for WSBT-TV and WISH-TV in Indianapolis showed Donnelly still ahead, 48 to 43 in percentages, down from 48 to 39 in a prior poll.

Polling, reports of big expenditures to trash Donnelly and continuing signs of a Republican tide no doubt were all factors in FiveThirtyEight on Thursday dropping Donnelly's chances of winning to 63.1 percent, down from 82.9 percent back on Oct. 1. The percentage for Donnelly was back up to 64.5 on Sunday and likely will not change much, if at all, in that blog's estimate as voters go to the polls.

In other words, he's still ahead but not by as much as just a few weeks earlier.

As the TV ads end, saddening station owners and delighting viewers, the ground war on Tuesday looms large.

The ground war is the effort to get out the vote, not voters in general but the voters supporting your candidate. It will involve final weekend door-to-door efforts in key neighborhoods, calls with reminders to vote and even providing rides to the polls.



Actually, the ground preparations started long ago. Before you can launch an effective effort to get supporters to the polls you must first identify them.

Both campaigns have been calling for months to identify who's on their side.

Each side says it has a superb get-out-the-vote

effort in place. Walorski will need it if she is to catch up and prevail on Election Day. Donnelly will need it if he is to overcome both the battering on TV and any Democratic "energy gap" and keep his lead in the polls at the polling places. ❖

Battle for House, from page 1

and Joe Donnelly and Democratic House candidates south of U.S. 50 and within the 8th CD, which runs as far north as Warren County. This scenario grips not only the four tossup seats that include State Rep. Nancy Michael, Bob Bischoff and Gail Riecken, with Wendy McNamara apparently surging in the open HD76 - but possible late targeted seats involving State Reps. Kreg Battles in Vincennes, Clyde Kersey in Terre Haute as well as two Democratic leaders in Russ Stilwell and Dale Grubb.

Republican sources began throwing late money at Battles and Kersey after polling showed Republicans Ken Beckerman and Al Morrison within five points of the Democrats.

The way Indiana Democrats have been acting also hints at desperation. Democrats sent out mailers targeting Republican voters calling 2nd and 9th CD Libertarians Gregg Knott and Mark Vogel "true conservatives" in a divide and conquer scheme.

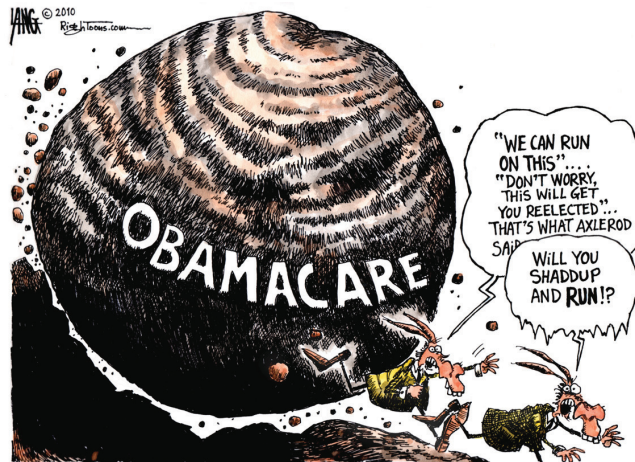
In HD72, Democratic challenger Shane Gibson denounced a mailing from the House Democratic caucus that says that State Rep. Ed Clere "voted to let sex offenders out of jail early." Gibson posted this on his Facebook page over the weekend: "I just saw negative mailers relating to a sex offender vote by Ed Clere. I don't know the legislative history behind it but these are the type of material I do not like. I don't like the tone, language or appearance of them. They offer no constructive information to the voter. After seeing these mailers, I requested that those individuals interested in sending this type message refrain from such activity."

While Republican House candidates kept their messages upbeat - though taking Democrats to task over the 2009 biennial budget "that would have bankrupted the state" - Democrats have been sending mailers with personal attacks that slimed their opponents and fueled the

perception desperation.

Based on the overlapping Congressional generic polling, the late supplemental House money activity (See pages 4 and 5), the history of wave election years and the negative campaign tactics Democrats have employed during the homestretch, HPI is projecting at least a six-seat GOP pickup - translating to 54 seats with the potential for up to 62 seats if there is a base collapse and eight tossup seats go to the GOP, particularly in Southern Indiana and the 8th CD.

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh predicted huge losses on MSNBC's Morning Joe this morning. "We can save ourselves — the president can save himself — but we have to step back and learn from this," Bayh said. "We have to listen to what the public is saying. ... As painful as it will be for people I care about, [Tuesday] will be a wake-up call against business as usual." Bayh forecast Democrats could lose as many as 60 seats in the House but keep control of the Senate by a slim margin. Bayh said Democrats have lost independents, especially in places such as his home state, because of a lack of focus on cutting the deficit.



Such an event appears to be bearing out on the latest supplemental funding activities. Big bumps:

- ❑ \$161,943 for Jim Baird in HD44 in his challenge to State Rep. Nancy Michael. This brings his total supplemental to \$296,452.
- ❑ \$131,044 for Matt Ubelhor in his challenge to State Rep. Sandra Blanton. His total supplemental is now is \$301,088.
- ❑ \$109,910 for Jud McMillin challenging State Rep. Bob Bischoff. His total supplemental is \$338,075.
- ❑ House Republicans have begun moving money away from apparently safe seats to marginal seats. The Steve Davison campaign gave \$53,887 to the Rhonda Rhoads campaign in HD70 as the GOP tries to unseat Rep. Paul Robertson. The Bob Heaton campaign in HD46 gave



\$21,787 to the Baird campaign.

HRCC's Mike Gentry, speaking from Vincennes this morning in Rep. Battles district, told HPI that they are seeing "really good trends developing" in voter ID calls.

"I don't hang my hat on voter ID numbers, but we are getting very good responses," Gentry said. "Wendy McNamara is definitely surging" in the open HD76.

As for a potential base collapse, he said, "Any where in the 8th Congressional District we're seeing that potential."

Indiana State University Prof. Carl Klarner is projecting a 58-42 Republican House. "All signs point to large Democratic losses this year. Historically, the tendency of the party of the president to lose U.S. House and Senate seats in the midterm elections has extended to state legislatures," said Klarner (Greninger, Terre Haute Tribune-Star). Klarner uses a forecast model that includes 2,141 state legislative elections conducted between 1950 and 2008.

The model takes into account that Indiana is one of only 15 states that give voters the option to vote a straight-ticket option, down from 27 states at the end of World War II. However, 31.6 percent of the nation's population lives in those straight-ticket option states, Klarner said, and in a straight-ticket option state, Democrats will lose in the midterm election as a Democrat is president. Other factors such as a low presidential approval (at 38 percent in a recent WISH-TV poll) and a down economy do not bode well for

Dist.	Candidate	Total Pre-Elect Supplemental	Pre-election Contributions Year to Date	Pre-election Cash on Hand
17	Nancy Dembowski	131,490	242,411	30,077
	Francis Ellert	24,050	155,103	34,693
19	Shelli VanDenburgh	191,673	134,145	24,448
	Dan Klein	16,800	159,012	2,565
26	Paul Roales	24,560	72,439	19,130
	Randy Truitt	13,650	161,031	62,291
30	Ron Herrell	210,130	161,074	17,781
	Michael Karickhoff	160,118	72,725	36,449
31	Joe Pearson	55,698	132,656	80,436
	Kevin Mahan	57,505	77,619	25,358
37	Scott Reske	32,192	125,679	26,291
	Kyle Hupfer	190,187	205,080	13,091
42	Dale Grubb	4,000	74,719	20,066
	Sharon Negele	67,873	89,217	786
44	Nancy Michael	93,588	150,299	39,115
	Jim Baird	296,452	59,193	49,225
46	Bionca Gambil	70,480	355,487	16,502
	Bob Heaton	258,666	198,576	52,945
51	Codie Ross	204,006	217,317	61,719
	Dick Dodge	78,100	105,424	3,528
62	Sandy Blanton	52,956	135,541	18,295
	Matt Ubelhor	301,088	186,160	18,539
68	Bob Bischoff	167,325	240,593	89,675
	Jud McMillin	338,075	63,340	7,499
70	Paul Robertson	249,571	283,679	34,263
	Rhonda Rhoads	207,120	270,796	4,250
72	Shane Gibson	168,913	296,207	68,765
	Ed Clere	200,957	78,793	4,259
73	Ryan Bower	33,278	148,745	22,690
	Steve Davisson	154,459	250,100	17,031
75	Mike Goebel	74,060	105,349	22,612
	Ron Bacon	66,841	101,715	13,223
76	Bob Deig	26,290	77,234	19,093
	Wendy McNamara	75,938	51,876	20,984
77	Gail Riecken	61,520	99,659	64,694
	Cheryl Musgrave	85,119	107,562	46,323
89	John Barnes	58,838	100,022	32,149
	Cindy Kirchofer	12,526	54,623	7,127
	Incumbent			
	Open Seat			

Source: Indiana Secretary of State



Democratic candidates, Klarner said. "In 2006, Republican state Senate seats were 5 percent greater in population on average than those held by Democrats. Republican state House seats were 7.8 percent greater in population on average than those held by Democrats," Klarner said.

"If history holds, then this is the prediction of a Republican wave of genuinely historical proportions, possibly beyond the 1994 election," said Charles Franklin, a political scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA Today).

The New York Times FiveThirtyEight blogger Nate Silver explained, "Tonight, our forecast shows Republicans gaining 53 seats — the same as in recent days, and exactly the same answer you get if you plug the generic ballot average into the simple formula. Our model also thinks the spread of potential outcomes is exceptionally wide: its 95 percent confidence interval runs from a 23-seat Republican gain to an 81-seat one."

The Cook Political Report reports is projecting a 50 to 60 seat Republican U.S. House pickup and the Rothenberg Political Report puts it in the 55 to 65 seat range.

Silver projects Republican Larry Buchson defeating Democrat Trent Van Haften 53.6 to 41.5 in the 8th CD, with Buchson's chance of winning at 93.6 percent. In the 9th CD, he is projecting Republican Todd Young to defeat U.S. Rep. Baron Hill 50.3 to 47.7 percent and a 64.3 percent chance of Young winning. This leaves only 2 percent for Libertarian Knott, which runs against recent trends that had Libertarian Eric Schansberg winning 4 percent of the vote in 2006 and 3.8 percent in 2008. This is why Hill and state Democrats are employing the "divide and conquer" tactic in the 9th CD.

In the 2nd CD, Silver projects a 50.3 to 47.4 percent victory for U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly over Republican Jackie Walorski. He gives Donnelly a 67.1 percent chance of winning. Clearly, all eyes will be on Donnelly as the classic canary in the coalmine on a historic GOP gain, and to a lesser extent Hill, particularly since Indiana's polls are the first to close in the nation.

Top 5 Key Race Late Money Donors to House Republican Candidates		
1	Aiming Higher PAC	898,018
2	Hoosiers for Economic Growth	386,969
3	Indiana Republican State Committee	172,956
4	Indiana Business for Responsive Government	169,450
5	House Republican Campaign Committee	136,552

Top 5 Key Race Late Money Donors to House Democratic Candidates		
1	Indiana House Democratic Caucus	967,132
2	Indiana Democratic Party	346,960
3	Labor Union Affiliated PACs	56,200
4	I-PACE Affiliated PACs	52,183
5	Victory 2010 Committee	16,000

Politicians Giving Late Money To Politicians		
1	Mike Pence Committee	28,500
2	Committee to Elect Terri Austin	11,500
3	Friends of Karen Buyer Burkhart	8,060
4	Weinzapfel for Mayor	6,500
5	Niezgodski for State Rep.	6,500

Real Clear Politics lists the 8th and 9th as "Leans" GOP and the 2nd as a "Tossup."

"This is a devastating set of data for the incumbent party," says GOP pollster Bill McInturff, who conducted the NBC/WSJ survey with Democratic pollster Peter D. Hart showing the GOP with a 49-43 percent generic edge. "It is a rebuke to the last two years." On Election Day, Hart adds, "The Democrats are about to feel the force of hurricane winds."

The Democrats' firewall - Organizing for America's attempts to reconnect to the 333,000 first time Obama voters of 2008 - could be a mitigating factor in Indiana House and Congressional races. Absentee and early voting turnout in Democratic trending Marion County already has surpassed 2006 figures. By Sunday, 21,125 absentee ballots had been cast, compared with 13,245 in the 2006 general election.

Gallup's Oct. 28-31 survey of 1,539 likely voters, which was conducted with USA Today, documented an increase in the "enthusiasm gap" between the two parties. The survey found that 75 percent of Republicans and independents who lean Republican are "absolutely certain" they will vote in the 2010 midterms, compared with 68 percent of Democrats.

In recent years, the turnout gap between the two parties has been 2 or 3 points. In 1994, when Republicans gained 54 House seats, Gallup's final pre-election poll showed a 67 percent to 62 percent "enthusiasm" lead for Republicans.

The House GOP's 56-seat gain in 1946 was its largest since World War II. Democrats rebounded in 1948 with a 75-seat House gain, which was the largest pick-up by either party since the New Deal win in 1932.

In its Oct. 28 listing of competitive House races, the Cook Political Report showed that 49 Democratic-held seats were toss-ups, 25 were a "lean" or "likely" tilt to Republicans, and another 25 seats were a Democratic "lean." Cook listed three Republican-held seats as likely to change hands. If past practices hold—reinforced by the Gallup tide—at least two-thirds of the toss-up seats could flip to the GOP, as would at least a handful of the "lean" Democratic seats. ❖



Democrats Republicans

52 48

Republican Pickup

- HD46: (Open, Tincher) Bionca Gambill (D) vs. Bob Heaton (R)
- HD73: (Open, Oxley) Ryan Bowers (D) vs. Steve Davisson (R)
- HD30: Rep. Ron Herrell (D) vs. Mike Karickhoff (R)
- HD70: Rep. Paul Robertson (D) vs. Rhonda Rhoads (R)**
- HD62: Rep. Sandra Blanton (D) v. Matt Ubelhor (R)**
- HD76: Sen. Bob Deig (D) vs. Wendy McNamara (R)**

Tossup

- HD42: Rep. Dale Grubb (D) vs. Sharon Negele**
- HD44 Rep. Nancy Michael (D) vs. Jim Baird (R)**
- HD77: Rep. Gail Riecken (D) vs. Cheryl Musgrave
- HD74: Rep. Russ Stilwell (D) vs. Susan Ellspermann**
- HD43: Rep. Clyde Kersey (D) vs. Alan Morrison**
- HD64: Rep. Kreg Battles (D) vs. Ken Beckerman**
- HD68: Rep. Bob Bischoff (D) vs. Jud McMillin (R)**
- HD75: (Open, Avery) Mike Goebel (D) vs. R. Bacon**

Leans D

- HD17: Rep. Nancy Dembowski (D) vs. Frances Elert**
- HD31: Rep. Joe Pearson (D) vs. Kevin Mahan (R)**
- HD66: Rep. Terry Goodin (D) vs. Jim Lucas (R)
- HD19: Dan Klein (R) v. Rep. Shelli VanDenBurgh**
- HD37: Rep. Scott Reske (D) vs. Kyle Hupfer**
- HD89: Rep. John Barnes (D) vs. Cindy Kirchhofer**

Leans R

- HD15: Timothy Downs (D) vs. Rep. Don Lehe (R)
- HD72: Shane Gibson (D) vs. Rep. Ed Clere (R)
- HD51: Cody Ross (D) vs. Rep. Dick Dodge (R)
- HD92: Brett Voorhies (D) vs. Rep. Phil Hinkle (R)

Likely D

- HD27: Rep. Sheila Klinker (D) vs. Don Brown (R)
- HD86: Rep. Ed DeLaney (D) vs. Kurt Webber
- HD36: State Rep. Terri Austin (D) vs. Kim Builtla
- HD97: Rep. Mary Ann Sullivan (D) vs. Wes Robinson

Likely R

- HD4: Thomas Webber vs. State Rep. Ed Soliday
- HD21: (Open, Walorski) Dwight Fish vs. Tim Wesco
- HD26: Paul Roales (D) vs. Rep. Randy Truitt (R)
- HD24: State Rep. Rich McClain vs. Tim Banter (D)

Safe

Democrats: Fry, Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Cheatham, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Pelath, Stevenson, Reardon, Dobis, V. Smith, Bardon, Tyler, Moseley, Pflum, Pierce, Welch, Stemler, GiaQuinta, Moses, Pryor, Bartlett, Porter, Crawford, Summers, Day.

Republicans: Open-Borrer (Morris), Open-Bell (Heuer), Open-Ruppel (Kubacki), Open-Clements (Van Natter), Open-Duncan (Frye), Open-Murphy (Speedy), Yarde, Dermody, Messmer, Neese, Gutwein, Wolkins, Friend, J. Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Davis, Lutz, Torr, Steuerwald, T. Brown, Borders, Foley, Culver, Leonard, Cherry, Saunders, Knollman, Eberhart, Burton, M. Smith, Koch, Crouch, Lehman, Espich, Pond, Noe, Bosma, Behning, Frizzell. ❖



Hill, Young finish campaign swings

PAOLI - Acknowledging there's little left to do to sway voters, Democratic Rep. Baron Hill and his 9th District Republican challenger, Todd Young, nonetheless hit the campaign trail Sunday seeking to make sure their supporters vote in Tuesday's election (Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal). Hill, a five-term incumbent from Seymour, continued an RV tour of the district, starting in Scottsburg early in the afternoon before swinging through Salem, Paoli and Jasper. He'll hit the road again today, with plans to stop in Bloomington, Nashville, Columbus and Jeffersonville. At Paoli, Hill rallied excited volunteers who have made thousands of calls to voters urging support for Democratic candidates, encouraging early voting and offering rides to the polls. He told them their hard work could mean the difference in a race considered a tossup. "I'm very encouraged by what I see here," Hill said to cheering volunteers that included high school students and retirees. "Let's get 'em. Let's do it." In Bloomington, Young spent the afternoon going door to door with his friend Brad Wisler, the only Republican city officeholder there. The pair focused on homes where the occupants were expected to vote Republican, the goal less to change minds than to ensure Young supporters go to the polls. They talked with Therese Maderak, who said she was already backing Young and planned to vote Tuesday. She promised to try to get her husband to the polls as well. "We're so concerned about the stimulus bill," she said, making quote marks in the air when she said "stimulus."



JFK speechwriter Sorenson dies

TERRE HAUTE - Theodore C. Sorensen, the studious, star-struck aide to President John F. Kennedy whose crisp, poetic turns of phrase helped idealize and immortalize a tragically brief administration, died Sunday. He was 82. He died at noon at Manhattan's New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center from complications of a stroke, his widow, Gillian Sorensen, said. Sorensen had been in poor health in recent years, and a stroke in 2001 left him with such poor eyesight that he was unable to write his memoir, "Counselor," published in 2008. Instead, he had to dictate it to an assistant. President Obama issued a statement saying he was saddened to learn of Sorensen's death. "I know his legacy will live on in the words he wrote, the causes he advanced, and the hearts of anyone who is inspired by the promise of a new frontier," Obama said.

Clinton, Palin make final push

WASHINGTON - Former president Bill Clinton, still a popular and energetic campaigner, stumped for Democrats Sunday in Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. "I'm pleading with you," Clinton told an audience in Nashua, N.H., "give John Lynch a massive victory." Lynch, the three-term governor, faces a strong challenge from Republican John Stephen. Republicans went to their own rallies and talk shows, almost giddy with the expectation of regaining the House majority, and not ruling out claiming the Senate against long odds. Sarah Palin, the 2008 GOP vice presidential nominee, told "Fox News Sunday" that voters will say: "You blew it, President Obama."

We gave you the two years to fulfill your promise of making sure that our economy starts roaring back to life again."

Consolidation vote set for 2014

EVANSVILLE - Vanderburgh County voters approve a consolidated city-county government in 2012, they could wait another two years to elect its first mayor and Common Council (Evansville Courier & Press). A draft proposal for Evansville-Vanderburgh County consolidation recommends the elections be held "at the first general election occurring after the approval of the (referendum)," which would be 2014. The new government would then take office in January 2015, under the name "Evansville-Vanderburgh Combined Government." The government would be informally known as the city of Evansville. "The primary motivation behind that was, we didn't want to be called the Evansville Metro Government or the Evansville-Vanderburgh Metro Government," said Rebecca Kasha, chairwoman of the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Reorganization Committee.

Mixed economic picture emerges

WASHINGTON - A mixed picture of the economy emerged one day before key midterm elections that have focused on the nation's financial health (CNN). Spending by Americans slowed in September and their incomes fell for the first time in more than a year. At the same time, manufacturing activity grew by the most in five months and the weak construction industry showed a little life. The new data suggests the economy is growing, albeit at an anemic pace. "It is encouraging that economic growth no longer appears to be slowing."