



# GOP House will ignite reforms

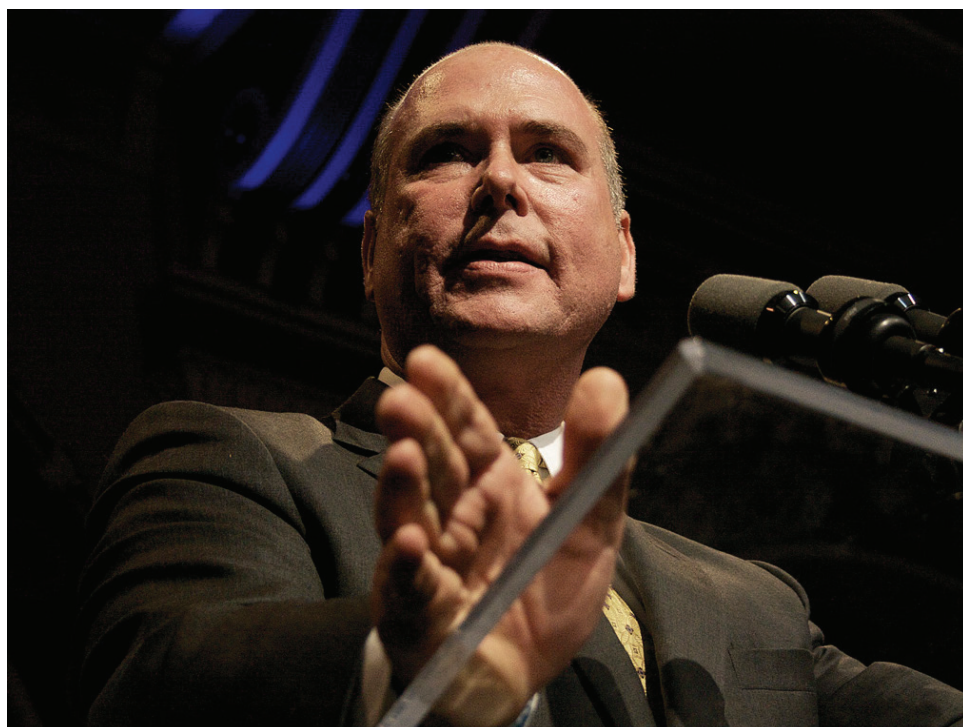
At least a 59-seat majority is a precursor to Daniels' plan to reshape Indiana

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

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana House Democrats suffered a stunning rebuke Tuesday as Republicans seized control of the lower chamber - and the 2011 redistricting process that will shape the next decade of Congressional and legislative maps - with at least 59 seats as Republican Ron Bacon picked up 600 votes today to defeat Democrat Mike Goebel. HPI had forecast a 54 to 62 seat majority on Monday. The GOP picked up 10 Democratic seats while one - HD76 where Sen. Bob Deig had a 30-vote lead over Republican Wendy McNamara - hangs in the balance with only two Gibson County precincts uncounted.

Not only losing their majority, the Democrats lost

**Continued on page 4**



Brian Bosma speaks to Republican faithful Tuesday night as he watched his party take at least 58 seats, which will return him to the speakership this week. Bosma is expected to help shepherd Gov. Daniels' education, government and business reforms. (HPI Photo by Isaac Daniel)

## Young climbs the hill

By **BRITTANY BROWNRIGG**

BLOOMINGTON - "Baron is off the hill," Todd Young supporters were heard saying at his campaign gathering here last night.

With the race ending in a 52-42 percent, 22,754 vote victory in a race national pundits viewed as a bellwether, Young will take over the seat that U.S. Rep. Baron Hill has been holding for the past five terms.

The gathering of Young's supporters remained positive throughout the night. They watched as Young called Hill just after 9 p.m. when the decision became clear. Young said that Hill agreed to work together for a smooth transition.

"He was gracious in defeat," Young said.



**"History will record that Indiana led the way."**

**- U.S. Rep. Mike Pence**



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Both Young and Ryan Burchfield, his campaign manager, credited Hoosiers for their victory. "I am pleased to report to you tonight that we get our Congress back and all of you took it back," Young said in a speech following the results. "We did it together."

**Burchfield credited** supporters across the state with the win.

"It has always been the grassroots support we have received across this district," Burchfield said. "Everywhere people stepped up. It was a big team win."

Since Friday college volunteers made over 20,000 phone calls to help raise support for Young, according to Burchfield.

Amanda Griffel, an intern for the campaign and senior at Indiana University, said early in the night that she was optimistic about the outcome.

"We've been working long, hard hours and hopefully it will pay off," she said. "Personally, I have a good feeling."

Young said in an interview following the results that he believes his win represents the feelings of frustration felt by Americans.

"Early indications seem to show we finished very strong and everyone else is finishing strong," he said. "I do think it demonstrates that people were unhappy with the big-spending agenda we've seen coming out of Washington and they want to respect the forces of free enterprise that have led to job creation and opportunity in this country for hundreds of years."

**Gail Jennings**, a 63 year-old Hoosier from New Albany, had never gotten involved in a campaign until this year. She felt the need to

help Young's campaign in order to do her part to improve the state of the country and was at Young's gathering in Bloomington last night. "We're very distressed at the direction the country is going," Jennings said. "We've been working so hard and praying he would win. I am delighted."

Jennifer Young, Todd Young's wife, credited her husband's success



Jennifer Young listens to her husband, Republican Todd Young make his 9th CD victory speech in Bloomington Tuesday night. (HPI Photo by Brittany Brownrigg)

to his positive demeanor throughout his campaign. "He's a remarkable man, he's a good man, he's an honest man and he always took the high road with all of the negative campaigning," she said. "It is just the man that he is. From the way he is to our kids and to me I had no doubt, no doubt."

**Young agrees with** his wife that his positive campaign helped him secure his victory, coming after five consecutive races between Hill and Republican Mike Sodrel, which became known for vitriol and mudslinging. Almost \$2 million in outside money spilled into the race with the DCCC and RNCC and other special interest groups waging negatives ads.

"A positive message works in this day and age, a positive message



focused on ideas not cheap shots (or) segments taken out of context," Young said. "We've proven that taking a high moral ground is the way to run a campaign."

**In moving forward, Young said** the way in which he ran his campaign will continue to be the way that he works while in office. "This was a positive campaign one based on the issues, one that all of us know was based on ideas and ideals and that is the sort of congressional office I would like to run," Young said.

In his acceptance speech Young directly addressed the people who did not vote for him - including Republican supporters of Sodrel and Travis Hankins, who Young defeated in the GOP primary - and pledged to work across party lines to help put the country back on track. There was speculation that Young's inability to close ranks with

his primary opponents might have cost him a victory. The wave, however, appears to have taken care of that. "I promise you I will work very hard to win your support, to defend your interests and to fight for our state and our country, you have this Marine's word on it," Young said.

Now is the time for different parties to work together to make things right, according to Young.

**"From the beginning, this campaign** has had kind of a broad message where we've talked about job creation and fiscal responsibility and preserving the American dream for our kids and grandkids," Young said. "All the Democrats I know and Independents I know support that agenda as well. So I think we have a real opportunity to bring people together in coming weeks and months and perhaps even years." ❖

## Hill cites 'good run' and said Dems 'saved country'

By **RENEE BRUCK**

SEYMOUR - U.S. Rep. Baron Hill entered to a room of cheers and support as he joined supporters gathered at his election night headquarters at Chateau de Pique in what would be his third losing Congressional campaign

Around 9 p.m., Hill addressed the crowd of his defeat to Republican newcomer Todd Young. "I just a few minutes ago called Todd Young and congratulated him on his win and wanted to make sure that he and I work well with one another over the next several weeks because the most important people is the people that I represent," Hill said after conceding to Young.

"It has been a good ride, and I believe strongly that I have represented the people of Southern Indiana the best way that I could possibly do," Hill said.

Hill cited many programs such as Cash for Clunkers, the stimulus package and other legislation as ways Democrats have strengthened the country's economy since

the previous election.

"Ladies and gentlemen, don't let anyone tell you any differently. The Democratic Party has saved this country," he said.

Hill called this campaign the most impressive he's had and said the win just wasn't in the cards this time. "We'll recover from this. We'll be just fine, all of us in this room. We'll be just fine," Hill said during his speech. "And there's always another election down the road." Hill lost to Mike Sodrel in 2004 and to Dan Coats in the 1990 U.S. Senate race, while winning five terms in the 9th.

Daniel Altman, a spokesman from Hill's campaign, called the loss disappointing, saying, "I've been making phone calls and calling up, and I thought he would get back in there."

I didn't think he'd get beat," supporter Shirley Shade said. "I think a lot of the Democrats are angry and a lot of them just didn't vote. Tim Molinari said he sees Hill's loss in this year's election as part of the ebb and flow of the political system. "It's just that the timing is not there for Baron right now," Molinari said. "I really think whoever's in office, if they do it for the right reasons with their heart, and not just to stay in office, we'll be fine as a country. I think our best days are still ahead." ❖



U.S. Rep. Baron Hill hugs his wife and his family surrounds him in Seymour Tuesday night following his defeat. (HPI Photo by Renee Bruck)



## **GOP majority,** from page 1

much of their leadership as Floor Leader Russ Stilwell, Speaker Pro Tempore Emeritus Bob Bischoff, Whip Paul Robertson and Assistant Whip Nancy Michael all went down in defeat. Assistant caucus chair Nancy Dembowski survived by a razor-thin margin while Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore Trent Van Haaften lost the 8th CD race. Democratic Floor Leader Dale Grubb inched out about a 100-vote win over Attica Clerk Sharon Negele, with Republicans in Covington and Veedersburg helping to put him barely over the top, GOP sources told HPI this morning. Voting machine problems in Warren County kept that race hanging throughout the night.

In taking the majority back while installing Brian Bosma as the new speaker later this week, a new core of reformers - Susan Ellspermann, Bob Heaton, Mike Karickhoff, Kevin Mahan, Cindy Kirchofer, Matt Ubelhor, Jim Baird and Rebecca Kubacki - are expected to form an emerging nucleus within the Republican caucus that has witnessed a steady migration of its top talent into the lobbying ranks.

Speaker B. Patrick Bauer vowed to "live to fight another day" in a brief statement.

Gov. Daniels personally recruited much of this class to challenge House Democrats, though former members of his administration - DLGF Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave and DNR Commissioner Kyle Hupfer lost their bids. "Clearly these are people who can grow into that reform role," Daniels told HPI last week. "Rebecca Kubacki is all idealism and real gutsy. Bob Heaton is going to be very influential."

Daniels will also find a 37-13 super majority in the Indiana Senate, which will give the governor emphatic control to push through education and local government reforms.

"Tonight, you have elected a new, pro-taxpayer majority to the Indiana House," Daniels told celebrating Republicans at Union Station Tuesday night. "We are going to bring Indiana a new wave of reform in state government, a new wave of reform in local government. And we are going to finally give the students of Indiana an educa-

tion system built around them. Indiana has stepped out ahead of the pack in the past two years, and we are going to extend that lead."

That was in reference to the passage of his constitutional property tax caps by a 72-percent vote.

Last week, Daniels told HPI that he would seek legislation to create teacher pay based on performance and the subjects they instruct. "Pure seniority doesn't work," Daniels said. "We have teachers of the year who get laid off."

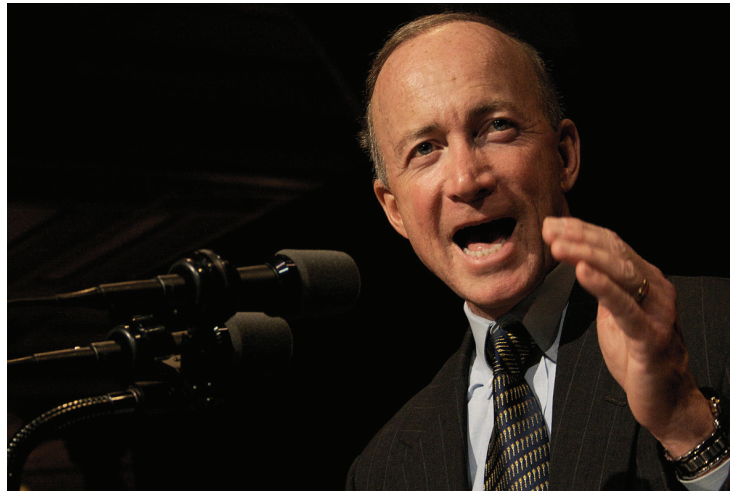
He vowed to "take the lid off charter schools," allow prep students to graduate early, allow the money to follow the student into charter and private schools, and give students the option to attend any public school they want thanks to the state's assumption of K-12 school funding. "We don't tell people where they have to buy their groceries," Daniels said, "but we tell them where they have to go to school."

Daniels has also promised to revive the four Kernan-Shepard reforms that passed the Senate. Those

include bills dealing with nepotism, conflict of interest, the elimination of township advisory boards and trustees, and a single county executive that would replace the current three commissioner system. Daniels is expected to unveil his agenda Thursday before his trip to Asia begins on Saturday.

"This was not about winning an election," Bosma said Tuesday night. "That's the easy part. Now, we are prepared to make the tough decisions to bring Indiana into the 21st Century all the way, to balance the budget without a tax increase, to prioritize the items that we're going to have to deal with in education and job creation."

"So many different areas that need our attention as Republicans to be innovative, reform-minded and conservative and that's what this team pledges to do and we're going to do it with you," Bosma said, noting that the Indiana House was the first to switch from a Democratic majority to Republican. He said it was the culmination of a yearlong coordinated campaign effort by Daniels, HRCC, the Republican State Committee and Hoosiers for Economic Growth.



**Gov. Mitch Daniels declares his reform agenda at Union Station in Indianapolis Tuesday night. (HPI Photo by Isaac Daniel)**

## **Wave sweeps the Dems out**

For weeks the Indiana House appeared to hang



in the balance with the Democrats clinging to a 52-48 margin. In September, HPI forecast the open HD46 seat vacated by State Rep. Vern Tincher and HD30 held by State Rep. Ron Herrell into the GOP column. The Herrell-Mike Karickhoff race actually went back into tossup for several weeks after Republicans and Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight told HPI that the Kokomo councilman hadn't closed the deal. But throughout most of September and October there were around 10 House seats - and only one Republican incumbent in State Rep. Ed Clere - in the "Tossup" zone. Neither party was willing to stake a claim on the looming majority.

That began to change last week when HRCC and Democratic sources conceded that the open HD73 seat vacated by the Oxley father and son team - and which went unrepresented for the entire 2010 legislative session - would flip to Salem pharmacist Steve Davisson. HPI also moved the Herrell-Karickhoff race into the GOP column, giving Republicans a projected 51-seat edge. Howard County GOP chairman Craig Dunn introduced Karickhoff as "No. 51," referring to the number needed for a Republican Party majority in the Indiana House. "He's driving the stake through Pat Bauer's heart," Dunn told the Kokomo Tribune.

"No one needs a conch shell against their ear to hear the wave coming," observed Eric Holcomb earlier this week. Holcomb is Gov. Daniels' deputy chief of staff who ran his 2008 reelection campaign. "The question that remains to be answered is how big and deep in the wave? How far down ticket will the national undertow drag some local Democrats who otherwise had no business losing."

By the end of last week supplemental money was spilling into not only the tossup races, but into newly contested seats held by Reps. Dale Grubb, Kreg Battles and Clyde Kersey where polling revealed tight races. Bosma and HRCC's Mike Gentry were



**Gov. Daniels stumped for Mike Karickhoff in Kokomo (top photo). Kevin Mahan, Rhonda Rhoads and Susan Ellspermann all upset House Democratic incumbents. (HPI Photos by Brian A. Howey and A. Walker Shaw)**

actually watching an expanding field. Over the weekend, a cluster of national generic polls showed why: Gallup projected a Congressional generic with a 15 percent margin favoring the GOP. Fox News had it at 13 percent, CNN had it at 10 percent and Rasmussen Reports at 9 percent. In the 1994 GOP tidal wave, the Republicans had just a 4 percent margin.

It was a replay of the 1980 wave election when a number of close races during the final weekend - including Dan Quayle's challenge to U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh (with Evan Bayh as his father's campaign manager) - saw undecideds move dramatically to the GOP.

What was becoming clear was that south of U.S. 50 and across the 8th CD - essentially the southern and western border river regions - had become toxic for Democratic incumbents.

On Monday, HPI moved Bischoff, Stilwell, Robertson, Clyde Kersey, Kreg Battles into the tossup zone where they joined Reps. Nancy Michael, Gail Riecken, Paul Robertson, Sandra Blanton and the open HD75 and 76. Of that group, only Battles and Riecken would survive.

But the wave engulfed several Democrat incumbents who were in our "Leans" Democrat tier - John Barnes, Dembowski, Shelli VanDenburgh, Scott Reske, Terry Goodin and Joe Pearson. Of this group, Barnes and Pearson went down to defeat.

"I think it's just that Democrats will have to huddle up and regroup and figure out where we are headed next," Stilwell told the Evansville Courier & Press. Ellspermann said, "We still do not have the final numbers so I can't tell you exactly, but it looks like we were within 800 votes with a handful of precincts left to report. But Rep. Stilwell did call and we believe I won tonight."

### **Political porn**

It wasn't just the national wave that did in Democrats. While Gov. Daniels' Aiming Higher PAC and other groups funded a series of positive TV ads with a relatively gentle contrast over the 2009 biennial bud-



get Democrats tried to pass - House Democrats conjured a series of personal assaults on the GOP challengers. Steve Davisson was a pharmacist who sold "abortion pills" and a mailer (pictured at left) showed a baby's hand taking a pharmacy receipt. Jud McMillin was characterized as a lawyer guilty of legal malpractice. Matt Ubelhor was a coal miner who "poisoned" the environment, an attack in the middle of Indiana coal country. Karickhoff was "Tax Hike Mike."

Mailers on behalf of Rep. Riecken and Mike Goebel lashed out at small businessman Ron Bacon and Vectren, a major employer in the Evansville area.

This is the definition of pornography: "The depiction of acts in a sensational manner so as to arouse a quick intense emotional reaction."

Hoosier Democrats used the tactic to try and arouse opposition to the GOP insurgency in the midst of a wave where people were openly hostile to politics as usual. To be fair, the attack ad with the child molester theme used by Republican Marion County prosecutor candidate Mark Massa fits this description and there are indications that ad backfired badly with Democrat Terry Curry pulling out a narrow 2 percent win.

Some candidates, like Ellspermann - who had to fight off a challenge to her candidacy due to a technicality last winter - refused to even use the issue contrast against Stilwell.

Riecken would survive, but Bischoff, Blanton, Mike Goebel and Davisson's opponent Ryan Bower would go down in defeat.

Curiously, Democrats didn't use the FSSA privatization that had become a big story in the Evansville area where the GOP contested a cluster of seats. Nor did they opt to tie Karickhoff to Treasurer Richard Mourdock's attempt to derail the Chrysler-Fiat merger. Mourdock not only won Howard County, but he lead the ticket there as well as being the state's top vote getter.

In fact, at both the Congressional and legislative levels, Democrats never used President Obama's revival of the American auto industry. The potency of that issue surfaced during the 2nd CD debate between U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly and Jackie Walorski in Rochester on Oct. 25. When Donnelly reminded the audience that 5,000 Chrysler workers were still employed in Kokomo, the auditorium erupted in applause. Later that week, Hoosiers watched Gov. Daniels travel to Columbus to celebrate new jobs coming to Cummins Engines (which supplies engines to Dodge Ram trucks).

HPI asked Donnelly why Indiana Democrats didn't remind voters of the revival of GM and Chrysler. "Who am I to question the state party?" Donnelly asked.

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## Steve Davisson Sells On-Demand Abortions.

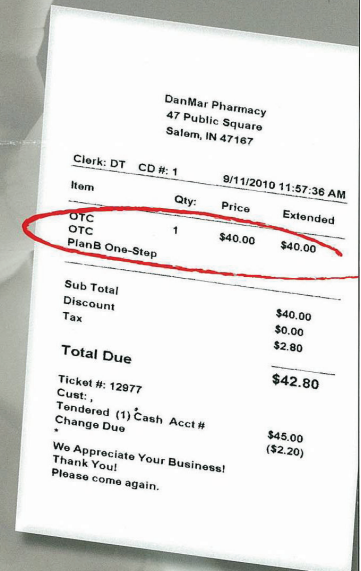
**No doctor, no counseling, just taking a life with a pill.  
They call it Plan B, but it is really just an abortion.**

Steve Davisson sold it in his pharmacy just a couple of weeks ago. This is the receipt.<sup>1</sup>

If you believe life is a miracle.  
If you believe life begins at conception.

**Then Steve Davisson  
doesn't share  
your values.**

**Steve Davisson helps women abort their babies.  
How can we vote for someone who sells  
abortions on demand?**



Check the Facts:  
1. DanMar Pharmacy Receipt

"The 2010 elections put on stage, front and center stage, just how different the two major political parties are today," Holcomb said. "The Democrats chose a two-front strategy: One, demonize job creators by attacking local employers, and two, smear their opponents. Even when the going got tough, Republicans stayed disciplined and stayed on message talking instead about jobs, spending, and taxes."

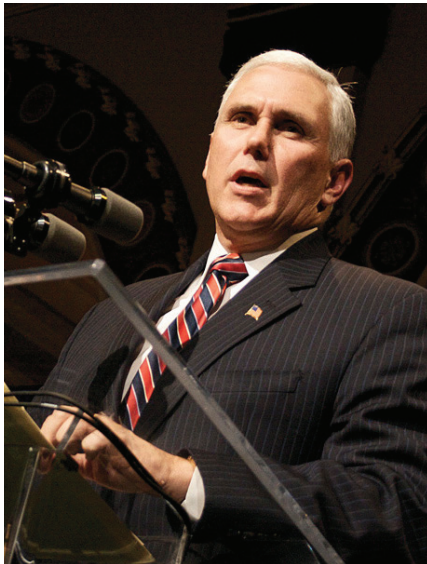
Holcomb added, "The Indiana Republican Party has become the Party of Purpose while the Democrats, both national and state parties, have drifted away from their founding principles. This will be the single biggest reason Reagan Democrats defect in droves." ❖



## Indiana House Spending

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

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



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

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



## Donnelly survives the wave with a little help from his Libertarian friends

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

ROCHESTER - After his debate with Republican Jackie Walorski eight days ago, U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly was asked where he stood with his internal polling.

"I'm about 10 points up," Donnelly said.

He might have been right. But the political world in Indiana on Monday and the one by the end of the week were two entirely different things.

The Congressional generic polls leaped from the 3 to 6 point range into the 10 to 15 range favoring Republicans.

By the end of the week, Indiana Democrats resorted to an unusual tactic: they produced mailers calling Libertarians in the 2nd and 9th CDs the "true conservatives."

It wasn't enough to save U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. But it might have bailed out Donnelly. Donnelly won with a 2,542 vote lead over Walorski. Republican Mark Vogel pulled 5 percent, or 9,445 votes.

Walorski called the tactic "the most dishonest thing I've ever seen."

**Longtime South Bend Tribune** columnist Jack Colwell sensed the race was closing. "I think that tide is really rolling," Colwell told HPI in an e-mail on Tuesday. "If it is as strong as some of polls and pundits now forecast - Democratic losses of 70 seats or so - it will be a miracle if Donnelly, in a swing district in a Republican leaning state can survive a tsunami." The GOP instead picked up 60 seats with Donnelly surviving.

Colwell said a Donnelly campaign aide told him, "We did the best that we can, and by definition we can't do

better than our best."

"I just put it in the hands of the voters of our district," Donnelly told the Elkhart Truth after a victory celebration at the West Side Democratic Club. "They have great wisdom. I've been extraordinarily blessed to represent them. I think the people of this district realize I don't worry about party politics. I just try to do what's right for our country and our district."

"**What I'm thrilled about,**" Donnelly added, "is the chance to put the campaign behind us."

An emotional Walorski told her supporters at St. Mary's College, "The reason the eyes of the nation are on this race is that this nation is on life support and in critical condition. If we don't stay plugged in with our eyes on this country, it's probably not going to recover. The reason the eyes of the nation are upon us is not about me, it's about

you the people standing up for what you believe in. We have a lot to look forward to in 2012. This country is worth fighting for" (Allen, South Bend Tribune).

Many expect Walorski to seek a rematch, with new maps in place that likely won't include Kokomo and its strong union base.

Walorski has told supporters that she entered the race in reaction to the health care reforms signed by President Obama

last March. But the political reality was that it would probably be a two-cycle process. It took John Brademas three times before he claimed the seat back in 1958. Democrat Tom Ward ran twice against U.S. Rep. John Hiler in 1986 and 1988, losing both times. Donnelly himself lost to U.S. Rep. Chris Chocoma in 2004 before claiming the seat during the Democratic wave year of 2006. It took Mike Pence and Phil Sharp multiple runs to win their congressional seats.

Of Donnelly's Class of '06, he's the only Democratic survivor. ❖



U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly celebrates after surviving an intense challenge to State Rep. Jackie Walorski. Expect a rematch in 2012, but with new maps drawn by a Republican Indiana General Assembly. (South Bend Tribune Photo)





## Hoosiers just didn't see Coats as a lobbyist

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

INDIANAPOLIS - Within minutes of Dan Coats' political resurfacing on Groundhog's Day, Indiana Democrats assessed and assigned a tag to him: Lobbyist.

Hoosiers didn't buy it. It simply didn't resonate.

By a resounding 55-40 percent, Coats defeated U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth on Tuesday, returning him to the U.S. Senate he left in 1998.

Coats went on to become ambassador to Germany, taking that office on Sept. 10, 2001. He had come within an eyelash of being President George W. Bush's defense secretary until he opted for Donald Rumsfeld.

Hoosier voters saw Coats after his ambassadorship helping to shepherd the U.S. Supreme Court nominations of Samuel Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts. They knew him as a U.S. Senator.

They obviously did not see a lobbyist.

Coats' victory completes an unusual circle in Hoosier politics where U.S. Senate races in modern times have been dominated by Lugars and Bayhs. Dan Coats and his patron Dan Quayle were the only two to break into the exclusive club since 1977. In 1998, Coats ducked a race with former Gov. Evan Bayh. Last February, sensing the tidal wave that would wipe out many of his allies and colleagues, Bayh returned the favor, opening up an unprecedented avenue for Coats to return to the Senate 18 years after last appearing on the ballot.

**In doing so, Coats successfully** carried favor with the Tea Party tribes of Indiana, winning a five-way primary that included Tea Party activist Richard Behney, former congressman John Hostettler and emerging congressman Marlin Stutzman.

"Hoosiers have every reason to be proud because with your help, we have done our part by turning a U.S. Senate seat from one that is fundamentally supportive of the Obama regime to one that firmly opposes it," Coats told Republicans at Union Station Tuesday night about 90 minutes after his victory became the first Congressional Democratic seat to flip to the GOP.

"Today our country is going through tough times

– the economy is weak, Hoosiers are out of jobs. And even in times of economic crisis we also have to remember that we still live in a dangerous world. A world where people want to kill us, take down our economy and our way of life. But the good news is that Americans and Hoosiers have always risen to the challenge, and we have risen to the challenge tonight."

**He said the key to getting** Hoosiers and Americans back on track is to do more than just say, "No." Coats said he will pursue Congressional restraint, earmark reform and a balanced national budget while in office. One of his greatest accomplishments was authoring legislation for a line item veto, which was signed by President Clinton before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional. Coats told HPI he intends to revive that issue. Asked about its chances with the judiciary, Coats responded, "It's a different court now."

"As conservatives, we believe that America's best days are ahead, but we also know that we need strong leadership and the right policies to unleash our can-do spirit to create jobs and hope and prosperity and keep America safe," Coats said.

Coats' wife, Marsha, helps run his campaign and the Foundation for American Renewal, a nonprofit they formed that assists faith-based initiatives looking to receive grants from the U.S. government. She said she and

Coats decided to get back in the political arena because they felt their generation was on the verge of dropping the ball when it came to solid leadership in Washington. "The bottom line on Dan's decision in February to run against Sen. Bayh was that Dan was deeply concerned about the kind of country we left for our children and grandchildren," she said. "Thank you for selecting a very good and decent man who will fight for you and the America that we all want."

**Ellsworth was philosophical** about his defeat, noting that some spend a lifetime planning a Senate race. "We did it in eight months," he said.

Ellsworth was one of the "Bayh dominoes" that fell on Tuesday. Democrats lost his Senate seat, the 8th CD Ellsworth vacated and possibly HD76 that Rep. Trent Van Haaften left to seek the 8th CD. Bob Deig had a 30-vote lead over Republican Wendy McNamara with 97 percent of the precincts reporting. Democrat Patty Avery was lagging 700 votes behind Republican Jim Tomes in the Senate seat Deig vacated, with 98 of 103 precincts reporting, according to the Evansville Courier & Press. ❖





## Where should Democrats go next?

By **EVAN BAYH**

INDIANAPOLIS - Democrats can recover from the disappointments of this election and set the stage for success in 2012. But to do so we must learn from Tuesday's results.

Many of our problems were foreseeable. A public unhappy about the economy will take it out on the party in power, even if the problems began under previous management. What's more, when one party controls everything — the House, the Senate, the White House — disgruntled voters have only one target for their ire. And the president's party almost always loses seats in midterm elections.

Nonetheless, recurring patterns of history, broad economic forces and the laws of politics don't entirely account for the Democrats' predicament. To a degree we are authors of our own misfortune, and we must chart a better path forward.

It is clear that Democrats over-interpreted our mandate. Talk of a "political realignment" and a "new progressive era" proved wishful thinking. Exit polls in 2008 showed that 22 percent of voters identified themselves as liberals, 32 percent as conservatives and 44 percent as moderates. An electorate that is 76 percent moderate to conservative was not crying out for a move to the left.

We also overreached by focusing on health care rather than job creation during a severe recession. It was a noble aspiration, but \$1 trillion in new spending and a major entitlement expansion are best attempted when the Treasury is flush and the economy strong, hardly our situation today.

**And we were too deferential** to our most zealous supporters. During election season, Congress sought to placate those on the extreme left and motivate the base — but that meant that our final efforts before the election focused on trying to allow gays in the military, change our immigration system and repeal the George W. Bush-era tax cuts. These are legitimate issues but unlikely to resonate with moderate swing voters in a season of economic discontent.

With these lessons in mind, Democrats can begin to rebuild. Where to start?

First, we have more than a communications problem — the public heard us but disagreed with our approach. Democrats need not reassess our goals for Ameri-

ca, but we need to seriously rethink how to reach them.

Second, don't blame the voters. They aren't stupid or addled by fear. They are skeptical about government efficacy, worried about the deficit and angry that Democrats placed other priorities above their main concern: economic growth.

So, in the near term, every policy must be viewed through a single prism: does it help the economy grow?

**A good place to start** would be tax reform. Get rates down to make American businesses globally competitive. Reward savings and investment. Simplify the code to reduce compliance costs and broaden the base. In 1986, this approach attracted bipartisan support and fostered growth.

The stereotype of Democrats as wild-eyed spenders and taxers has been resurrected. To regain our political footing, we must prove to moderates that Democrats can make tough choices. Democrats should ban earmarks until the budget is balanced. The amount saved would be modest — but with ordinary Americans sacrificing so much, the symbolic power of politicians cutting their own perks is huge.

Democrats should support a freeze on federal hiring and pay increases. Government isn't a privileged class and cannot be immune to the times.

The most important area for spending restraint is entitlement reform. Democrats should offer changes to the system that would save hundreds of billions of dollars while preserving the safety net for our neediest. For instance, we

could introduce "progressive indexation," which would provide lower cost-of-living increases for more affluent Social Security recipients, or devise a more accurate measure of inflation's effects on all recipients' income.

**Democrats should also improve** legislation already enacted. Health care reform, financial regulation and other initiatives were first attempts at solving complex problems, not holy writ. The administration's grant of sensible exemptions to the health care bill, permitting some employers to offer only basic coverage, is an example of common-sense, results-oriented fine-tuning.

If President Obama and Congressional Democrats were to take these and other moderate steps on tax reform, deficit reduction and energy security, they would confront Republicans with a quandary: cooperate to make America more prosperous and financially stable, running the risk that the president would likely receive the credit, or obstruct what voters perceive as sensible solutions.

Having seen so many moderates go down to defeat in this year's primaries, few Republicans in Congress will be likely to collaborate. And as the Republicans — including the party's 2012 presidential candidates — genuflect before





the Tea Party and other elements of the newly empowered right wing, President Obama can seize the center.

**I'm betting the president** and his advisers understand much of this. If so, assuming the economy recovers, President Obama can win re-election; Democrats

can set the stage for historic achievements in a second term. The extremes of both parties will be disappointed. But the vast center yearning for progress will applaud, and the country will benefit. ❖

## Unrest benefitted GOP; now time for adults

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

WASHINGTON - Voter attitudes toward government this campaign season have ranged from disenchantment to inchoate anger. On Tuesday night, Republicans were the beneficiaries of the unrest.

Now that the party has taken back the House and increased its Senate numbers to a level where they should have no problem sustaining a filibuster, the pressure is on the GOP to govern. The electorate essentially has put Republicans, whom they haven't embraced, and Democrats, with whom they're disappointed, on notice.



The first step Republicans should take to demonstrate they can lead is to begin adult conversations about the challenges the country faces. A quick pivot away from vacuous campaign rhetoric might begin the process of doing what voters really want – changing the atmosphere in Washington.

For instance, Republican Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin has failed to get traction for his edgy and substantive plan to address a yawning federal budget deficit by fundamentally reforming Social Security and Medicare.

Even his fellow Republicans have shied away from Ryan's plan. But Democrats used it as a cudgel against all Republicans, trying to scare voters with images of the GOP laying waste to Social Security. It was the typical, reflexive campaign broadside that prevents a thoughtful debate about ways to restructure entitlement spending.

**Republicans were no better** when it came to reducing issue discussion to school-yard taunting. They got a head start during the health care reform debate, when they decried the Medicare cuts that would be required to fund the massive overhaul.

Leaving aside the debate on whether health care reform was misguided, it was incongruous for a party whose comeback is based in large part on a pledge to cut the deficit to reject out of hand the notion of reducing Medicare spending.

Another area that suffered from a dearth of adult

conversation during the election was trade and globalization. Abby Joseph Cohen, a top Wall Street analyst at Goldman Sachs, points out that the export sector is the fastest growing in the economy at a 10 percent annual rate.

"We think exports will remain quite robust," Cohen told an audience at the annual conference of the Insured Retirement Institute in Chicago last week.

**In a speech at the National Press Club** in Washington in October, Bank of America chief executive Brian Moynihan said it's not just large companies like Coca-Cola, GM, Chrysler, Caterpillar and John Deere that generate the majority of their revenue internationally. Middle-market companies – those with \$500 million to \$1 billion in revenue – are becoming more global in their orientation.

"They sell into the global economy. They source their resources in from the global economy," Moynihan said. "We need to be there for our clients with large pools of capital."

Voters didn't get any hint of the importance of exports – and global engagement – during the election. Both parties were too busy cutting vapid ads accusing each other of sending jobs to China through the stimulus bill or encouraging U.S. companies to offshore them thanks to generous tax breaks. Cohen said that jobs are likely to grow in areas where U.S. companies export the most – information technology, industrial equipment, avionics and business services.

But it's increasingly difficult for them to find the talent they need in the United States because of this country's "education deficit," according to Cohen. Young adult men today are no more likely to have obtained a four-year college degree than they were 10 years ago, the first time that stagnation has been seen in generations.

Furthermore, the percentage of students studying science, engineering, math and technology in foreign countries is higher than the percentage in the United States.

This situation may force U.S. companies to look overseas when adding skilled workers to produce products and offer services for global markets.

**"U.S. companies may create** these jobs in other countries rather than here," Cohen said. "That is something we really need to focus on."

Doing so will require that new members of Congress and those who survived this raucous election engage in adult discourse that is worthy of the angry and frustrated Americans who put them in office.❖



## Self-employment gap endangers state future

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Simply lazier than other people," Bill Blatant says. "Your typical Hoosier is just not imaginative enough to do something different."

"Outrageous," I object. "That's both false and mean-spirited. Where do you get that?"

"Simple, look at the data," he says. "Hoosiers



Morton Marcus  
Column

are wage slaves. People earn money either by working for themselves or for someone else. Here only 9.4 percent of earnings come from self-employment compared with 11.6 percent nationally. It's all right there in the statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis."

"What?" I ask in confusion.

"It's a matter of fact,"

Bill blares, impatient with my failure to acknowledge what he knows to be truth. "Indiana ranks number one in percent of jobs receiving wages and salaries. Back in 1969, we were just about average among the 50 states with 86.1 percent of our earnings coming from wages and salaries. But since then, Americans have become less dependent on working for others and more self-reliant working for themselves.

"In 1969, nationally 86.5 percent worked for others; in 2008 the U.S. was down to 78.7 percent. Over that same period, Indiana crawled down from 86.1 percent to 81.8 percent. And that is how we got to be number one in the nation."

I don't know what to say. Bill has no such problem. "As for that silliness that we work for others more than other folks do because of higher paying jobs here in Indiana: It's totally false!" he exclaims. "The average earnings of a worker in the U.S. in '08 approached \$50,300; in Indiana the average was closer to \$44,100.

"The surprising part is that self-employment is not a faster growing part of the U.S. economy," he continues. "In bad times, when many folks are losing jobs, it makes sense for people to try supplementing their incomes with work they do in the open market."

"What do you mean?" I ask.

"Well now," Bill's chest puffs like some exotic bird, "In these hard time, I've become a consultant to attorneys who want to overwhelm the opposition with bluster. I'm

independent, work when I want, choose my cases from what's offered by the law guys."

"That's not a solution," I say piercing his buffoonery. "Unemployed people need income. If they go to work for themselves, they have to figure out where to get the start-up money, what to produce, where the market is, how to attract and keep customers. There's a lot to starting and running a small business before you can see income. Bluster isn't a career for everyone."

"Precisely what I was saying," Bill sneers. "Hoosiers are not cut out to start or run small businesses. Each year in this decade, the number of business proprietors in Indiana has failed to keep pace with national growth trends. Indiana is experiencing a "self-employment business gap" which I say is hurting our prospects for a robust recovery in this state. Know what our declining share of self-employment is costing us?"

"No," I admit.

"Six-hundred and twenty million dollars a year," he says with great emphasis.

"There's a real appeal to the idea of more Hoosiers owning their own businesses," I agree, "but it's not a simple matter. It takes time and planning, vision and courage."

"And," Bill beams, "since we have less self-employment than other states, it must mean that we are what I said originally: Hoosiers are either lazy or lacking in imagination."

"There might be other reasons," I say, looking for the door. "There are few quality resources to assist small businesses as they try to launch." ❖

**Disclaimer:** Mr. Marcus serves on the board of the Business Ownership Initiative of Indiana (BOI) which helps people starting or growing their own businesses. BOI does not endorse the views in this or any of his columns.

**Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.**



**Rachel Maddow, MSNBC:** It's important also to know what just happened in Indiana. Republicans had their first pickup in Indiana. Evan Bayh, probably the only Democrat who could've held that Senate seat right now. Evan Bayh knew that, resigned anyway, decided not to run again, held on to all his campaign money, and did not give any of that campaign money to any other Democrats in order for them to try and win their seats. And he is now essentially trying to reinvent himself as a pundit who talks smack about Democrats and how badly they are doing as a party and how that's seen in the seats that they lose--one of which he gave away. So the Democrats are going to miss Evan Bayh's Senate seat in Indiana--I cannot believe they are going to miss Evan Bayh. ❖

**Neil King, Wall Street Journal:** President Barack Obama plans a news conference Wednesday to discuss election results and offer an olive branch to the Republicans who delivered a drubbing to Democrats, according to his aides. Tuesday's outcome presented Mr. Obama with legislative and political challenges at least as complex as those he faced upon winning the presidency in 2008. Moving his agenda through Congress will be far more difficult with GOP leaders claiming control of the House and the Democrats' Senate majority greatly eroded. At the same time, Mr. Obama's party will need to move past assigning blame for the midterm lashing and settle on a strategy for regaining momentum and regrouping before the 2012 election. Some top Democrats resisted talk of compromise. "We have taken the country in a new direction and we are not going back to the failed policies of the past," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said to a room of election workers Tuesday. Republican leaders also have sent mixed signals about working with the White House. Some have hinted at potential compromises, while Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said his top priority would be to assure that Mr. Obama isn't re-elected. Tuesday's voting revealed a sharp drop in support for Mr. Obama among the swing voters who helped elect him in 2008. As he looks toward 2012, the president must decide whether to reach out to victorious Republicans in search of a middle ground, or hew to the left and placate his base of liberal voters, whose lack of enthusiasm was a big factor in Tuesday's results. Mr. Obama has nodded in both directions in recent days amid heated debate within his party over how to regroup. The president warned Tuesday that a Republican-led Congress would put "at risk" many of the changes Democrats passed over the past 18 months. But he had struck a different tone Saturday, promising in his weekly radio address "to seek out common ground" to create more jobs and help the private sector. ❖



**E.J. Dionne, Washington Post:** President Obama allowed Republicans to define the terms of the nation's political argument for the past two years and permitted them to draw battle lines the way they wanted. Neither he nor his party can let that happen again. Democrats would be foolish to turn in on themselves in a fruitless battle over whether their troubles owe to a failure to mobilize and excite their base or to win support from the political center. In fact, Democrats held onto moderate voters while losing independents. What hurt them most was this brute fact: Voters younger than 30 made up 18 percent of the electorate in 2008 but only about half that on Tuesday, according to network exit polls. This verdict was rendered by a much older and much more conservative electorate. Yes, there was an enthusiasm gap. This only underscored that Tuesday's results mark the beginning of the next round, not the end of the contest. Before the next election - which will be decided by a broader electorate - progressives, including Obama, have to be wiser about the fights they pick, more focused on the country's economic pain, and as shrewd as their adversaries have been in promoting debates that rally their troops and advance their goals. Obama was not wrong to fight for health care, to stimulate the economy when it was in deep peril, or to push for financial reform. But by failing to defend these achievements, the president and his allies opened the way for partisan critics, who shifted the conversation to airy language about "big government" and "bailouts." One result: Only a third of Tuesday's electorate, exit polls indicated, thought the stimulus had made the economy better. ❖

**Maureen Dowd, New York Times:** Talk about fired up and ready to go. At a Republican victory party suffused with vengeful glee, the man who body-surfed the anti-establishment wave to become the next Speaker of the House was looking very establishment. Even though it was predicted, it was still a shock to see voters humiliate a brilliant and spellbinding young president, who'd had such a Kennedy-like beginning, while electing a lot of conservative nuts and promoting this central-casting congressman as the face of the future: a Republican who had vowed in a written pledge to restore America to old-fashioned values, returning to a gauzy "Leave It to Beaver" image that never existed even on the set of "Leave It to Beaver." Republicans outcommunicated a silver-tongued president who was supposed to be Ronald Reagan's heir in the communications department. They were able to persuade a lot of Americans that the couple in the White House was not American enough, not quite "normal," too Communist, too radical, too Great Society. ❖



## Stutzman wins with 63%

FORT WAYNE - Northeast

Indiana is sending Congress a conservative Republican who has vowed to vote to repeal the health care overhaul, cut the budgets of almost all federal agencies by 10 percent and be more trustworthy than the politician he replaces (Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Marlin Stutzman will join a GOP House majority after Republicans across the country picked up seats once held by Democrats and ended Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi's four years as speaker. "Republicans have not just been given a new majority in Congress; Republicans have been given a second chance," said Rep. Mike Pence, R-6th, No. 3 in House Republican hierarchy. Stutzman, 34, a state legislator and Michiana farmer, won the race with 63 percent of the vote, beating Democrat Tom Hayhurst (33 percent) and Libertarian Scott Wise (4 percent). Stutzman won a majority in all eight counties in the 3rd District, including Hayhurst's home base, Allen County. Stutzman's race was part of a strong showing by Republican congressional candidates in Indiana. One incumbent Democrat was defeated, and a seat held by a Democrat who did not run for re-election was won by the Republican candidate. In all, Republicans won six of the state's nine House seats. Democrats previously held five seats. Stutzman will be sworn in Nov. 16 because in addition to winning a two-year term that begins in January, he won the election to fill out the remaining term of former Rep. Mark Souder. Souder resigned in May after owning up to an affair with a female congressional aide. Stutzman, who worked on Souder's congressional staff



for three years, said he was frequently admonished as he met with voters during the campaign that "you better have accountability around you." "People don't trust politicians right now, and rightly so," he said. "We have to rebuild trust. Not only trust from a governmental standpoint but also trust in a personal position, where people know you are who you say you are. ... They're tired of politicians taking advantage of the positions that they're in." His more than 54,000-vote win was the wide margin that the only districtwide public poll predicted. "It reflects the political environment across the country right now. I don't think the 3rd Congressional District is any different," Stutzman said.

## Rokita wins, vows to repeal reforms

INDIANAPOLIS - The race to replace District 4 U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Monticello, was decided shortly after the polls closed Tuesday (Lafayette Journal & Courier). Republican Todd Rokita jumped into an early lead and defeated Democrat David Sanders and Libertarian hopeful John Duncan. "I see it not so much as a celebration as a commitment to have the federal government live within our means," said Rokita, the two-term Indiana secretary of state, after declaring victory. Rokita expressed an interest in continuing to work, from Washington, D.C., with Gov. Mitch Daniels for the betterment of Indiana. He praised Buyer's military experience and explained that the new Congress, with additional Republicans, should work toward a repeal of the recently enacted health care legislation. "Even if (President Obama) doesn't sign it, we need to repeal it," he said.

## White won't talk about legal case

INDIANAPOLIS - Questions of

alleged voting irregularities didn't keep Republican Charlie White from winning election Tuesday as Indiana's next secretary of state, the state's chief elections official (Ritchie, Indianapolis Star). But questions will remain as he prepares to take office. Two special prosecutors are investigating White's voting records in Hamilton County, focusing on whether he broke the law by voting in the May 4 primary from a former address in Fishers. Intentionally voting in a precinct where you don't live can be a felony under Indiana law -- and if charged and convicted of a felony, White would have to give up the position that he won by a wide margin Tuesday. He declined to address the criminal investigation Tuesday night. "It wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment on current legal proceedings, and we are looking forward to dealing with that issue," he said. "But more importantly, we are looking forward to hitting the ground running on day one to start helping Hoosiers." With most Indiana precincts reporting, White had about 57 percent of the vote to Democrat Vop Osili's 37 percent and Libertarian Mike Wherry's 6 percent.

## Mourdock carried Howard County

KOKOMO - Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock, who fought the Chrysler-Fiat merger and lost the case in the U.S. Supreme Court, carried Howard County over Democrat Peter Buttigieg 15,631 to 9,677, leading the GOP ticket. Mourdock was the state's top vote getter, defeating Buttigieg statewide 62-38 percent with 1,042,758 votes.

## Bucshon calls for Obama's defeat

EVANSVILLE - Celebrating his victory at Casino Aztar on Tues-



day night, the Newburgh-based heart surgeon said he will begin immediately working with fellow House Republicans to whittle down the federal government (Evansville Courier & Press). Bucshon defeated State Rep. Trent Van Haaften 57-38 percent. "With the majority we're going to have, we have a mandate from the American people to get spending under control and downsize our federal government," Bucshon said. "The main thing is, we've got to do things right away that get people back to work and get the economy going." Bucshon, who publicly called for the 2012 defeat of Democratic President Barack Obama during the campaign, sounded conciliatory notes Tuesday night. "Balanced government is usually most successful, and I'm hoping to be able to work with the administration to move forward and get the work of the American people done," he said.

## **GOP upsets Lewis, wins Sipes' seat**

NEW ALBANY - Voters swept Republicans into area state legislative districts on Tuesday, unseating veteran incumbents Rep. Paul Robertson, D-Depauw, and Sen. Jim Lewis, D-Charlestown, and winning two open seats that had previously been represented by Democrats (Louisville Courier-Journal). Republican Ron Grooms defeated Democrat Chuck Freiberger in the open Senate District 46. Senate Republicans, who entered the election with a 33-17 majority, not only picked up three seats held by Democrats but also held onto one contested seat as five-term Rep. Jim Merritt of Indianapolis fended off a challenge by Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson.

## **Curry defeats Massa**

INDIANAPOLIS - Fresh from

his victory in the race for Marion County prosecutor, Democrat Terry Curry expressed a singular goal Tuesday night: to restore trust in the office he has won (McCleery, Indianapolis Star). "Come January 1st, we're taking down the For Sale sign," he said to loud cheers. Curry defeated Republican Mark Massa, who left his job as chief counsel to Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels to run for prosecutor. "We need to not only restore trust in the prosecutor's office, but our Police Department as well," Curry said. "We're going to take every step we can . . . to engage the community in a collective and collaborative effort to address public safety issues. The message is, we need a clean break from where we've been for the last eight years."

## **Hermann defeats Levco**

EVANSVILLE - In a hotly contested race Tuesday, Republican challenger Nicholas Hermann won more than 53 percent of the vote to beat Vanderburgh County Prosecutor Stan Levco, a five-term Democratic incumbent, winning by a vote of 26,479 to 22,977. "It was a very tough race," Hermann said. Levco declined to speculate on the vote, beyond the fact that Republicans were widely favored in the mid-term election. "Obviously, the Republican trend was a big factor," he said. "I called Nick Hermann and congratulated and told him I would give him any help I can in the transition," Levco said. "It really has been an honor for me to serve as a prosecutor for the last 20 years."

## **Historic gains for GOP in Clark Co.**

CLARKSVILLE - Republicans made important gains in Clark County's election Tuesday, winning three of the four County Council races, the

auditor's race and the treasurer's race. And they competed strongly against several other Democratic incumbents. Clark County Republican Chairman Jamey Noel said his party's strong showing in historically Democratic Clark County "is a combination of a good group of candidates who really, really, really worked hard, a national Republican trend and anti-incumbent sentiment. It was a big, big Republican win overall," Noel said, adding that he believes his party won some countywide races it has never held before.

## **Republican wins in Lake County**

CROWN POINT - Republican Hanks Adams declared himself the winner Tuesday night in the Lake County assessor's race. He is the first Republican in 60 years to win a countywide race (Times of Northwest Indiana). Adams beat Democrat Carol Ann Seaton by 668 votes with one precinct yet to be counted late Tuesday. But Lake officials reported Tuesday night that machine was not used, meaning Adams won with 100 percent of precincts counted. Adams said, "Even if everyone in that precinct votes against me, I still have enough votes to win. There will probably be a recount, but I expect to win that, too." He said that before learning that all precinct totals were in. Adams rode a wave of heavy voting among Republicans and disaffected Democrats in the county's suburban and rural south. Six decades ago, the lone Republican to be elected to a countywide office after decades of frustration was David P. Stanton, who defeated Democrat Ben Schwartz in 1950 to become prosecutor following a bribery scandal in that office.