



Potential mayoral race story lines

HPI previews top city races across Indiana

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - City Hoosiers who make up 71% of the population go to the polls next Tuesday, winding up campaigns that are driven predominantly on local issues.

However, the decisions voters make will color perceptions as we head into the critical 2012 elections with an electorate that has been swinging back and forth like an unlatched screen door in a squall line.

The key questions will be:

- Will there be an anti-incumbency trend? We'll get the answer to that in cities like Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Muncie, Terre Haute, Logansport, Portage and Jeffersonville where incumbent mayors like Greg Ballard and Duke Bennett appear to be



Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard campaigns at a rally with support from Gov. Mitch Daniels on Tuesday at the Indianapolis City Market. A WISH-TV/Franklin College Poll showed Ballard with a 44-33% lead Wednesday. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

in political dogfights, though the WISH-TV/Franklin College Poll showed Ballard with a 44-33% lead. While Pew Re-

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Howey-DePauw Poll in '12

GREENCASTLE, Ind. - In 2008, more than 30 media public opinion surveys were conducted during the historic presidential and gubernatorial elections. Two years later, there were just a handful of media polls during the contentious mid-term congressional elections. And in this year's mayoral races, only one media survey has been conducted in Indiana.

That will change in 2012 as Howey Politics Indiana and DePauw University will conduct four battleground polls using Republican pollster Christine Matthews of Bellwether Research and Fred Yang of Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group. Both Matthews and Yang have extensive polling backgrounds in Indiana. Matthews has polled for Gov. Mitch Daniels, the Indiana Republican Party and the Indiana



“This poll matters because it focuses attention on a part of the political equation that often gets overlooked - the voters.”

- John Krull, on the WISH-Franklin College Poll



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HPI Publisher Brian A. Howey (right) with Dr. Larry Sabato (middle) of the University of Virginia and Mark Schoeff Jr., HPI's Washington correspondent, in 2006.

Manufacturers Association. Yang has polled for Govs. Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan, as well as the Indiana Democratic Party, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson and Democratic mayoral nominee Melina Kennedy.

DePauw University will be the academic partner, with Matthews, Yang and HPI Publisher Brian A. Howey conducting seminars on campus for students, faculty and the news media in March. In November 2012, the trio will return to the DePauw campus to conduct an election postmortem, when they will compare the Howey-DePauw Battleground Polling with actual election results.

"Matthews and Yang not only have a national reputation when it comes to surveys, they know Indiana," Howey said of the coming Howey-DePauw polls that will be similar to the bipartisan battleground polling at George Washington University. "HPI subscribers and our media affiliates will have the best data and analysis available when it comes to understanding and forecasting the tremendously important 2012 election cycle," Howey said. "I can think of no better team to provide ahead-of-the-curve information and analysis."

During the 2008 election cycle, HPI teamed up with Michael Davis and Gauge Market Research to

provide four statewide polls, including the first public survey of the Barack Obama-Hillary Clinton presidential race that February. Davis has left Indiana for Washington, and that created the opening for Matthews and Yang to combine talents to provide bipartisan analysis of the presidential race, along with the Indiana gubernatorial, U.S. Senate and statewide races.

The team will conduct two Howey-DePauw Battleground Polls before the May 2012 primary, and then two more surveys in September and October leading into the general election in November. Matthews and Yang will provide analysis and commentary from their Republican and Democrat perspectives. HPI's Howey will also provide bipartisan analysis.

The Howey-DePauw polls will follow disclosure and transparency guidelines outlined by the American Association for Public Opinion Research. They will publish question sequences, then match primary and general election results with preelection samples.

"Most political observers are frustrated that despite riveting mayoral races in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Evansville, there has been only one independent media survey in 2011," Howey said. "We believe the 2012 elections are so crucial to the future of



Indiana and the nation that it is essential that we assemble the best statistical data and analysis to give our readers a comprehensive understanding of what is happening on the ground as it is happening."

"This partnership presents an incredible opportunity for our students to draw connections between their classroom experiences and the modern electoral process," said David T. Harvey, Vice President of Academic Affairs at DePauw University. "An election year brings a degree of energy and excitement to the study of politics and government, and adding the voices of Brian, Christine, and Fred to already existing campus conversations will make that energy and excitement more apparent."

Howey Politics Indiana has been publishing since

August 1994 and has a history of providing the top political forecasting in the state. Its pre-election edition in November 2010 accurately forecast that 60 seats would be won by Republicans in the Indiana House. It was able to forecast the Republican tidal waves of 1994 and 2010, the Democratic pick up of three congressional seats in 2006, and the Democratic House majorities in 1996 and 1998.

In 2008, based on the Howey-Gauge Polling, HPI was able to forecast that Republicans would likely help Clinton win the primary, and that the Obama ground organization would allow him to prevail over John McCain that November.



Lack of credible polling leads to Matthews-Yang

By **CHRISTINE MATTHEWS**

WASHINGTON - The absence of credible public polling in the state recently has been a source of some professional frustration for Brian Howey. It led him to spend the past year talking to various people and putting together what will be known as the Howey-DePauw Battleground Polling program. It has been impressive to see it come together.



As part of this program, I'm looking forward to teaming up with Democratic pollster Fred Yang, from Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group, to conduct bipartisan statewide polling for Howey Politics Indiana and DePauw University.

Fred is one of the best in the business and has polled for many of the top Democratic candidates in Indiana. The Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group, the political division of Peter D. Hart Research Associates, is one of the most respected and successful political polling firms in the country for Democratic candidates. The firm has assisted in more than 400 political campaigns and counts among its current clients 10 members of the U.S. Senate, 16 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and five sitting governors. Garin-Hart-Yang also has been the lead pollster on the influential Women's Monitor national polling projects for EMILY's List over the past four election cycles.

While Fred and I will continue to be partisan pollsters, neither of us is employed by Indiana candidates for governor or U.S. Senate for the 2012 election cycle.

Our hope is that by teaming up, we will provide credible statewide polling that can inform the public, media, and the politically interested.

Unlike so much polling these days, our methodology will be transparent (who we sampled, how we reached them, weighting) and we will publish the full questionnaire along with the results. There may be people or campaigns that are not happy with the results, but it will be clear how they were obtained.

If you're familiar with the national Battleground polls conducted for George Washington University by Democratic pollster Celinda Lake and Republican pollster Ed Goetas, you'll have a sense of how the Howey-DePauw Battleground will work. We would like to expand this bipartisan polling program into other key Midwestern states, but that may not happen in the 2012 election cycle.

We'll do some Republican primary polling in the spring of 2012 and move into general election polling in the fall. We may experiment with some social media research and other evolving methodologies, while keeping our traditional polling based on telephone interviews (landline and cell phone).

Beyond polling, we'll be doing a few seminars at DePauw University. Our spring seminar will focus on the changing nature of public opinion research, the challenges confronting the industry (cell phone only households, low response rates) and some of the ways polling might be conducted in the future (mobile, social, online).

One of the big topics we'll cover both for media and lay people is how to evaluate polling that is released, what questions should be asked in order to evaluate the credibility of a poll and what it purports to represent.

We'll go back in the fall to answer questions about the election outcome and what we saw in our final poll.

I'm already looking forward to getting started. ❖

Matthews is president of Bellwether Research



Mayors, from page 1

search and Gallup have released surveys showing Congress and the federal government have approval ratings in the single digits to low teens, state and local governments fare much better. However, if we see a number of incumbents defeated, a "throw all the bums out" dynamic could come into play. We saw this in 2007 when Indianapolis voters threw Mayor Bart Peterson out and 40 percent of mayors lost statewide. The poll in Indianapolis is the first statistical data that suggests there will be no wave of anti-incumbency.

■ Turnout, anectdotally, has been all over the map. Indianapolis is reporting early voting and absentees are up. But we're hearing just the opposite in places like Fort Wayne and Lafayette.

■ Will minority party mayors rule in big cities? If Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, Ballard in Indianapolis and Republican Lloyd Winnecke in Evansville win, it could represent a trend of mayors from the minority party claiming victory. Evansville Democrats are clearly divided, but we're not seeing fratricidal tendencies in the two biggest cities.

■ Will this be the year of the female? If Melina Kennedy in Indianapolis and Paula Hughes in Fort Wayne win, they will join Gary's Karen Freeman-Wilson as ceiling breakers. HPI will also be watching incumbents Sally Hutton in Richmond and Olga Velazquez in Portage to see if they are reelected. Columbus will have a female mayor with the race between Republican Kristen Brown and Democrat Priscilla Scalf. In 2007, 11 of the 14 female mayors elected in 2003 were defeated in either primary or general elections.

■ Will "nationalized" races win at the local level? Paula Hughes' challenger campaign in Fort Wayne, as well as those in Crown Point and Greenwood, feature Republicans who have made municipal debt a predominant issue, mirroring Republicans in Congress.

Another interesting twist could be what Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg calls the Republican "overreach" in the Indiana General Assembly on education and labor issues. Max Jones, editor of the Terre Haute Tribune-Star, told HPI that many Democrats there are motivated to go the polls next Tuesday "as a counter-balance

against the Republican legislature." They believe the new laws there were devastating to the party's key components. "This is the first chance they will have to vote since the General Assembly," Jones said.

In Indianapolis, Democrats have used the race card against Mayor Ballard, and they have sent out mailers with Ballard's picture on a milk carton, saying that he is "missing in action" on education.

Indianapolis

Republican: Mayor Greg Ballard. **Democrat:** Melina Kennedy. **Libertarian:** Chris Bowen. **2007 Results:** Ballard (R) 83,238, Peterson (D) 77,926, Peterson, Fred (L) 3,787.

2011 Forecast: The WISH-Franklin College Poll shows Ballard leading Kennedy 44-33% with 21% undecided. That undecided number seems large. Normally at this stage of the campaign it would be in the 5 to 10% range. The poll was also conducted with 400 "registered voters" as opposed to "likely" voters, which most independent surveys concentrate on.

The poll by EPIC-MRA out of Lansing, Mich., was conducted Oct. 29-31 and has a 4.9% margin of error. If that undecided number is correct, a standard rule is that 75% of the undecideds tend to break for the challenger. If that's the case, this race is a squeaker.

"I think the poll shows we are well positioned to win," said

Kennedy spokesman Jon Mills. "The 44% for the incumbent is very low and history says that this low of a number, this late leads to a loss, for the incumbent. Conversely, among those who voted, Melina has a 14-point lead - 44-30 - this shows the energy surrounding Melina and that the momentum is on our side. Early voting is at historic levels for a municipal election and this shows that voters are enthusiastic about Melina's campaign and that her message to move Indianapolis forward is resonating."

Ballard campaign spokeswoman Molly Deuberry reacted to the poll by saying, "Many voters recognize that Mayor Ballard has made a lot of progress for Indianapolis from lowering taxes to strengthening neighborhoods and reducing crime. We have come so far and we cannot afford to turn back now. The numbers are encouraging but there is more work to do to ensure we reelect Mayor Greg Ballard and keep Indianapolis moving forward."





Ballard campaign consultant Jennifer Hallowell told HPI this morning, "This poll is incredibly consistent with our poll, other than the undecideds. The right direction, fav/ unfav and job approval are similar to what we're seeing. They are not going to get 70% of the undecideds with people feeling the way they do on things like 'right track.' I wouldn't be shocked if we get 50 percent of the undecideds. Even if they break 2 to 1 for the challenger, we still win."

HPI has been skeptical that Kennedy's emphasis on early childhood education is enough of a motivating factor to toss out an incumbent mayor who many voters still view as relatively apolitical. The poll shows only 9 percent of Kennedy "supporters" view education as a top issue. "That suggests that her message is not connecting with voters," WISH-TV noted in its news reporting.

Our main question with the Kennedy campaign is this: While we understand the connection between early childhood education and job creation, most voters don't see that as a mayoral issue. If she wins, the tactic will be considered genius, but that is in serious doubt.

Ballard has consolidated the Marion County sheriff with IPD, merged three township fire departments into IFD, upgraded the parking meters in downtown and Broad Ripple, created miles of bike lanes, emphasized sustainability, launched the Broad Ripple parking garage, and paved the main Broad Ripple drag and other major thoroughfares. Throughout the city people are watching streets being repaved and sidewalks built as the city gears up for the Super Bowl in February. Thus, the poll shows that 55% see the city heading in the "right direction." Ballard also has a 65% favorability rating and 62% approval. Similar numbers were not provided for Kennedy.

How do we size this race up? Just about every reporter we talked to at the Daniels/Ballard City Market event on Tuesday thinks the race is a pure tossup, but this was before the WISH poll came out.

Kennedy has sought to portray Ballard as a crony politician, responsible for "aggravated assaults going up," while not emphasizing education. With Ballard leading at this stage, it may be that Indianapolis is still an election cycle or two away from a Democratic nominee winning with just the base, as happens in Gary, South Bend and East Chicago.

The Indiana Republican Party has pumped out a number of mailers calling Kennedy "just another politician" and that she supported a "43% increase in income taxes," lost 15,352 jobs, borrowed \$98 million to balance the city budget, and "violent crime increased by 16%" while she was deputy mayor under Peterson. Another state GOP mailer asks, "What does typical politician Melina Kennedy really know about fighting crime? Not much at all."

Another Indiana GOP mailer shows Ballard in his

Marine uniform and notes, "In combat, I never asked my fellow Marines if they were Republicans and Democrats. And as your mayor, I never let politics get in the way of progress."

"I don't ever expect to see a stunning underdog victory like the one Greg Ballard pulled off four years ago," Daniels said at the Ballard rally Tuesday. "But, gosh, has he ever earned a chance to continue. I just think it's absolutely right, it's absolutely justified, and it's absolutely necessary," he told the crowd, "that you keep Greg Ballard as mayor of Indianapolis."

Ballard appreciated the support (WISH-TV). "I think he adds a lot of credibility," the incumbent mayor said. "I think we have similar styles." The governor, he said, adds "credibility" to his appeal for reelection and "motivates the troops" to help get out the vote.

Daniels said mayoral elections are decided more on results and than on partisan leanings. "The question is, 'Who fixes the streets? Who gets crime down? Who keeps the books balanced? Who builds a good business climate?' I think people are going to make an individual choice," Daniels said. "If it weren't that way, he never would have won the first time."

Kennedy tried to soften her image after hammering Ballard with a relentless series of negative TV ads. She released her "Vision" ad on Wednesday. "It is time for a broader vision for a brighter future," the ad said.

Kennedy received the endorsement of the Indianapolis Star, and its news coverage, columns and editorials for the most part have been favorable toward the Democrat.

Kennedy continues to win the money race (WISH-TV). Totals of contributions of a \$1,000 or more since Oct. 15 show her with \$231,000 dollars coming in, compared to just over \$88,000 for Ballard, an advantage of close to 3 to 1. Ballard told reporters that most of his fundraising came early and added, "I believe we've got enough to get over the finish line."

Our bottom line: We still believe this is a turnout race and while we have it as "Tossup," we give Ballard a slight edge.
Horse Race Status: Tossup



Evansville Republican
Lloyd Winnecke

Evansville

Democrat: Vanderburgh County Treasurer Rick Davis. **Republi-**

can: Vanderburgh Commissioner Lloyd Winnecke. **2007 Results:**

Weinzapfel (D) 13,097, Nixon

(R) 2,268. **2011 Forecast:** We

believe this race is ripe to be a significant GOP pick up. The Evansville Democratic Party appears to



be split, evidenced by the endorsement of Democratic City Council members Curt John and Connie Robinson. "I have been asked how, as a Democrat, I can justify this support of a Republican. My response is and will continue to be, that I am for good government first and a Democrat second," John wrote (Evansville Courier & Press). "Sometimes the two do not go together."

Davis called At-large Councilman Curt John's endorsement another attempt to "keep the status quo" in the mayor's office, regardless of political affiliation. He used John's support to again blame Winnecke for the lost homestead tax credit for Vanderburgh County homeowners in 2009. John, who is not running for re-election and wrote in his letter that he never plans to seek office again, is finishing his fourth term on the council. "This endorsement is further proof that the political insiders are circling the wagons to try to ensure that one of their own succeeds," Davis said.

While Indiana Democrats have pumped more than \$140,000 into the race - used for the homestead tax credit ad - Winnecke has taken chunks of the coalition that Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel used to build his coalition from corporate leadership, some unions, and disaffected Democrats. Winnecke has also been endorsed by the Evansville Courier & Press and the African-American Our Times newspapers.

Weinzapfel has not only refused to endorse, but has worked behind the scenes on behalf of Winnecke, The Republican's internal polling reveals a growing separation from Davis. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Winnecke

Fort Wayne

Democrats: Mayor Tom Henry. **Republicans:** Paula Hughes. **2007 Results:** Henry 31,740, Kelty (R) 21,163. **2011 Forecast:** Mayor Henry seems to have gotten some traction on mailers dealing with the leaf/snow removal issue. Two more on Aqua Water and Hughes not paying her taxes could backfire. Hughes has her "Trust" ad that features U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, Sheriff Ken Fries and local Republican John Popp and appears to be an effective counter to the Henry media. Hughes is also running a radio ad featuring Gov. Daniels' endorsement. Local sources tell HPI that Republicans are likely to pick up council seats, and if that's the case, that may portend to a late surge for Hughes. We see this as a "tossup" right now, but remember that Hughes overcame a big poll deficit and won going away in the primary over Councilwoman Liz Brown. There could be that kind of momentum over the last several days of this rough and tumble campaign.

The Tom Henry for Mayor campaign released two new television advertisements: "Conservative" and "Headline News." "Conservative" focuses on Mayor Henry's fiscal accomplishments as well as his recent endorsement from the Journal Gazette. "Headline News" demonstrates that

Paula Hughes's recent attacks are misleading and highlights her record of supporting tax increases while cutting vital services like snow removal. Some observers believe that Hughes won the Tuesday night debate. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

Anderson

Democrat: Mayor Kris Ockomon. **Republican:** Kevin Smith. **2007 Results:** Ockomon (D) 7,757, Smith (R) 7,112, Jozwiak (I) 441, Bibbs (write-in) 350. **2011 Forecast:** This is one of the rematch races from 2007, and while Mayor Ockomon is seeking reelection in a Democratic city, former mayor Smith has been taking the incumbent to task over jobs and economic development. The campaign earlier this fall sparred over issues like The Farm, a baseball/softball complex. But this past week, when fledgling Bright Automotive announced that Mishawaka's AM General would be its assembly site, that appears to have upped the ante, possibly in Smith's favor. Ockomon said he was saddened that Bright Automotive chose Mishawaka, but said Anderson wasn't at fault for the decision. "Other than selling out to the company, we did everything we could do to keep it here," Ockomon said. "We developed labs at the Flagship, offered reduced rates for rent, traveled arm-in-arm with company executives to Washington many times asking the federal government for assistance. But it didn't work out." Smith said that when companies leave, close or choose not to locate in Anderson, like Bright Automotive, Anderson Tool and North Star Aerospace, it should be an alarm. "When you miss a deal, you have to bring all parties together who were involved, and I believe the city was involved, and assess strengths and weaknesses and why you lost it," he said. Ockomon has also been dogged by allegations of sexual harassment.

Our sense is that Ockomon appeared to have the advantage up until this past week. Given the closeness of this race in 2007, we see this as a tossup race, with a slight edge of Ockomon. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

Bloomington

Democrat: Mayor Mark Kruzan. **Republican:** Vacant. **2007 Results:** Kruzan (D) 5,937, Sabbagh (R) 3,729. **2011 Forecast:** Kruzan easily defeated John Hamilton in the primary and does not have a Republican opponent. Kruzan will easily win a third term. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Kruzan

Columbus

Democrat: Councilwoman Priscilla Scalf. **Republican:** Kristen Brown. **2007 Results:** Armstrong (D) 4,728, White (R) 1,498. **2011 Forecast:** Scalf accused Brown (pictured left) of defrauding the federal government when she



was an executive with Oracle. "Kristen Brown says her corporate leadership experience at Oracle qualifies her to be the next mayor," Democratic nominee for Columbus Mayor Priscilla Scalf said. "But she needs to answer these questions about her role in supervising this corporate misconduct, and if this is the type of behavior she intends to bring to City Hall."

Brown (pictured below) responded, "Priscilla Scalf issued a press release falsely and maliciously accusing me of 'supervising corporate misconduct' while I was at Oracle Corporation. I find it very unfortunate that Scalf has resorted to such outrageous and irresponsible lies in an effort



to change the results of the election. Scalf makes reference to a recent lawsuit in which Oracle allegedly failed to meet its contractual obligations in its sales to the federal government from 1998 to 2007. Oracle has over 100,000 employees. I was never involved in any of the activities described in the lawsuit against Oracle – in fact Scalf's press release was the first I learned of it. She claims that I 'supervised sales to the federal government' while at Oracle which is patently false. I was the Vice President of a division of Channel Sales at Oracle in 2004. I never worked in the Government Sales division and I never sold or managed sales to the federal government at Oracle – period. Scalf is making serious, libelous accusations and lying about my role at Oracle." While Columbus has been led by Democrat Mayor Fred Armstrong for the last three terms, we see this as a potential Republican pickup. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Brown

Crown Point

Democrat: Mayor Dave Uran. **Republican:** Center Township Trustee Eldon Strong. **2007 Results:** Uran (D) 3,190, Van Sessen (R) 2,792. **2011 Forecast:** The NWI Times endorsed Mayor Uran, saying: "In Crown Point's mayoral election, voters have to decide between an incumbent who has done much for the city and a challenger who wants to cut the city's spending. "With the spending, we have to take our foot off the gas pedal," Republican Eldon Strong said. Strong favors setting aside money over time and using it when needed. Uran has made a lot of progress in the city and has more projects in the pipeline. From Uran's perspective, the city's spending isn't excessive. He's investing money back into the city to protect the property values. He notes that Crown Point has the lowest municipal tax rate of any municipality in Northwest Indiana. Four years

ago, we didn't endorse Uran because we didn't believe he had the experience, but we have changed our minds since then. Uran has done much good for the city in the past four years and has good plans for the next four. We endorse Uran and encourage Crown Point's voters to re-elect him."

Horse Race Status: Leans Uran

East Chicago

Democrat: Mayor Anthony Copeland. **Independent:** John Aguilera. **2007 Democratic Primary Results:** Pabey 3,784, Anthony Copeland 2,736, Edward Williams 639, Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez 364 Willie B. McClain 10. **2011 Forecast:** Copeland will become the first elected African-American mayor of East Chicago after he was appointed following the conviction of Mayor George Pabey, who reported to federal prison on Wednesday. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Copeland

Elkhart

Democrat: Mayor Dick Moore. **Republican:** Councilman David Ashe. **2007 Results:** Moore (D) 4,050, Pettit (R) 2,046 Gibson (I) 137. **2011 Forecast:** Mayor Moore, having guided Elkhart through the shock of the Great Recession of 2009-10, is in a strong position for reelection. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Moore

Gary

Democrat: Karen Freeman-Wilson. **Republican:** Charles R. Smith Jr. **2007 Results:** Clay 8,529, Smith (R) 2,569. **2011 Forecast:** Former attorney general Freeman-Wilson will easily and become Indiana's first female African-American mayor. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Freeman-Wilson

Goshen

Democrat: Mayor Allan Kauffman. **Republican:** Councilman Donald Riegsecker. **2007 Results:** Kauffman (D), 2,903, Huser (R) 2,587. **2011 Forecast:** Kauffman appears to be in good shape for reelection. He was endorsed this past week by Republican Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold and Republican Ernie Wiggins of Warsaw. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Kauffman

Hammond

Democrat: Mayor Thomas McDermott. **Republican:** George Janiec. **2007 Results:** McDermott (D) 5,289, Janiec (R) 4,802. **2011 Forecast:** After a narrow reelection victory in 2007, Lake County Democratic Chairman McDermott has campaigned like a rookie, going door-to-door. He appears to be on his way to a third term. **Horse Race Status:** Likely McDermott



Hobart

Democrat: Mayor Brian K. Snedecor. **Independent:** Chip Greenberg. **2007 Results:** Snedecor (D) 3,639, Guthrie (R) 2,426. **2011 Forecast:** Snedecor defeated former mayor Linda Buzinec in a primary rematch by 1,300 votes. He will coast to a second term next week. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Snedecor

Jeffersonville

Democrat: Mayor Tom Galligan. **Republican:** Clark County Commissioner Mike Moore. **2007 Results:** Galligan (D) 4,102, Snelling (R) 2,406. **2011 Forecast:** Galligan easily defeated former mayor Rob Waiz by 1,000 votes in the Democratic primary. While there has been a GOP resurgence in Clark County, Jeffersonville is still heavily Democratic, but two events this fall have the potential of changing the dynamic here. The first was the closure of the Sherman Minton Bridge by Gov. Daniels, which has created traffic problems and might have helped Galligan. But then came "Marshallgate" - the Jennings County indictments of Mike Marshall, who managed the Galligan campaign until late last month. That has brought scrutiny to the Clark County absentee ballot process and might give Moore an opening. Former mayor Rob Waiz, who was defeated by Galligan in the primary, appeared with Indiana Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb last week, accenting potential divisions within the Democratic Party. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Galligan



Indiana Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb with former Democratic Jeffersonville Mayor Rob Waiz discussing election fraud.

Kokomo

Democrat: Mayor Greg Goodnight. **Republican:** Scott Kern. **2007 Results:** Goodnight (D) 6,721, Hamilton (R) 3,469. **2011 Forecast:** Goodnight faces former fire chief Kern, who was also a former Democrat. Goodnight has steered Kokomo through some of its toughest years and is in great shape for reelection, having raised more than \$300,000. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Goodnight

Logansport

Democrat: Mayor Michael Fincher. **Republican:** Ted

Franklin. **2007 Results:** Fincher (D) 2,539, Franklin (R) 1,598. **2011 Forecast:** This is a rematch from 2007. Fincher won a tight primary and rules in a city that hasn't normally returned mayors to third terms. Franklin has about a \$50,000 to \$20,000 money lead. Could be a pick up for Republicans. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

West Lafayette

Republican: Mayor John Dennis. **Democrat:** John Polles. **2007 Results:** Dennis (R) 2,601, Mills (D) 2,004. **2011 Forecast:** This is a potential Democratic pick up with Purdue Prof. Polles trying to recapture City Hall from Mayor Dennis. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

Marion

Republican: Mayor Wayne Seybold. **Democrat:** Lynn Strieb Johnson. **2007 Results:** Seybold (R) 3,779, Henry (R) 1,918. **2011 Forecast:** We believe Seybold will easily win another term. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Seybold

Michigan City

Democrat: Councilman Ron Meer. **Republican:** LaPorte County Republican Chairman Keith Harris. **2007 Results:** Oberlie (D) 2,153. **2011 Forecast:** Meer won a five-way primary with 1,445 votes, more than 400 over his closest opponent. Harris drew only 280 votes in an uncontested primary. Michigan City is a heavily Democratic city with retiring Mayor Chuck Oberlie winning unopposed in 2007. We see Meer as a heavy favorite. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Meer

Mishawaka

Democrat: State Rep. Craig Fry. **Republican:** Mayor Dave Wood. **2007 Results:** Rea (R) 5,254, Hayes (D) 4,720. **2011 Forecast:** The series of negative mailings, especially ones claiming that Wood had not acted promptly to fire a city employee accused of child molesting, have backfired big time. Some Mishawaka Democrats say privately that they expect Fry to lose big. Since the Indiana Democratic Party helped with the Fry mailing, some of them worry that this could hurt other Democrats on the city ticket. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Wood

Muncie

Republican: Mayor Sharon McShurley. **Democrat:** State



Rep. Dennis Tyler. **2007 Results:** McShurley 6,121, Mansfield (D) 6,108. **2011 Forecast:** On Tuesday, the Muncie City Council rejected the 2012 budget, further evidence of the problems McShurley has faced from almost Day One after winning in 2007 by just a handful of votes. A frustrated Council President Sam Marshall, a Democrat who isn't seeking reelection in next week's election, later called the failure to adopt a budget "one of the most embarrassing moments" of his 16-year council career. "I think the council tonight didn't do their job," he said. "The mayor didn't do her job." McShurley had urged council members to adopt the budget submitted by her administration, "a budget that we are confident does not need cut." Tyler outraised McShurley \$150,000 to \$130,000. We see a McShurley victory as an upset. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Tyler

New Castle

Democrat: Greg York. **Republican:** John Nipp. **2007 Results:** Small (R) 2,919, Boles (D) 2,504. **2011 Forecast:** York defeated former mayor Sherman Boles in the Democratic primary after Mayor Small retired. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

Portage

Democrat: Mayor Olga Velazquez. **Republican:** Jim Snyder. **2007 Results:** Velazquez (D) 3,585, Snyder (R) 3,283. **2011 Forecast:** This rematch campaign went negative, with Velazquez getting into trouble over fundraising and a flap over Jim Snyder wanting to undo the 911 dispatch consolidation and to not have the police patrol private roads inside big trailer parks and apartment complexes. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

Richmond

Democrat: Mayor Sally Hutton. **Republican:** Councilman Bob Goodwin. **2007 Results:** Hutton (D) 4,122, Thalls (R) 3,199. **2011 Forecast:** We believe this is Hutton's race to lose. She is seeking her third term. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Hutton.

South Bend

Democrats: Peter Buttigieg. **Republican:** Wayne Curry. **2007 Results:** Luecke (D) 12,355, Manigault (R) 7,471. **2011 Forecast:** Buttigieg will easily win his first term, after losing to Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock in 2010. Buttigieg will quickly become one of the rising stars in the Indiana Democratic Party. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Buttigieg

Terre Haute

Democrat: Fred Nation. **Republican:** Mayor Duke Bennett. **2007 Results:** Bennett (R) 6,055, Burke (D) 5,948.

2011 Forecast: Observers here expect this race to go down to the wire. Evan Bayh is expected to stump for Nation in the final days of the campaign. Nation served as Gov. Bayh's press secretary. Nation has done a superb job of consolidating the fractious Terre Haute Democratic Party. Many Democrats believe there is enough of a party structure left to get Nation over the top. There has been some concern expressed over the revolving door at City Hall. If Bennett wins reelection, he will be the first mayor to do so since Pete Chalos nearly 20 years ago. But most expressing those concerns are Republicans. Terre Haute voters have a propensity to throw out mayors. Nation tried to use the fire department - long a hotbed of unrest in city politics - against Bennett. It's not clear whether that worked, and Bennett seems to be in as good a shape as any recent incumbent has been. Another motivating factor for Democrats could be the anti-teacher and anti-union assaults waged by Republicans in the Indiana General Assembly. In the city of Eugene Debs, this could be a factor that benefits Nation. Nation said at Tuesday's final debate the main reason he is running for mayor is to "work on jobs" for Terre Haute. The city has lost jobs lately, including those at a Sherwin-Williams paint plant. While those job losses are not Mayor Bennett's fault, "what we do lack, though, is an aggressive response," Nation said. Bennett said companies looking to locate a new facility want a city with low taxes, low crime and the ability to deliver services. "We've got to live within our means," Bennett said. He also said he went early in his term to Indianapolis to ask economic development officials why the city had not been getting "looks" from companies seeking to relocate. Those officials said Terre Haute needed a "regional approach" to economic development so that is what Bennett said he has tried to bring about. We give Bennett a slight edge, though you can't under-estimate Bayh's influence in the family's native Terre Haute. **Horse Race Status:** Tossup



Vincennes

Democrat: Joseph Yochum. **Republican:** Terry Mooney. **2007 Results:** Baldwin (D) 2,456, Mooney (R) 1,663. **2011 Forecast:** Mooney has too many negatives coming from his previous tenure as mayor. We see Yochum as the favorite. **Horse Race Status:** Likely Yochum ❖



Election fraud from South Bend to North Vernon

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**
Indianapolis Business Journal

INDIANAPOLIS - The old joke about how mixed up Indiana can be is that South Bend is in the north and North Vernon is in the south.

It has been a generation since the disputed 1984 recount involving the late U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey down south and a similar event involving then-U.S. Rep. John Hiler in 1986 up north that cast a bright light on Indiana's questionable voting systems. Now there are controversial events occurring in South Bend and North Vernon that may be bringing to an end the stability of Indiana's elections systems.



When Todd Rokita was secretary of state between 2003-10, Indiana upgraded its statewide voter files and evolved from the patchwork of lever and punch card voting systems in the wake of the Bush vs. Gore Florida fiasco in the 2000 presidential election. But now we find Rokita's Republican successor, Charlie White, under indictment for voter fraud while claiming he is not the "state's chief elections officer."

And now we find that Barack Obama and, possibly, Hillary Clinton, did not actually qualify for the 2008 Indiana presidential primary due to alleged forged ballot petitions in St. Joseph County and the 2nd Congressional District.

The South Bend Tribune's Erin Blasko reported on Oct. 14 that Trent Deckard, Democratic co-director of the state Election Division, said Obama's 2008 petition for primary ballot placement in the state contained just 534 certified signatures in the 2nd Congressional District. Clinton's petition contained 704 certified signatures, he said. Presidential candidates must collect at least 500 signatures in each of the state's nine congressional districts to appear on the statewide primary ballot in Indiana. Dozens of people whose signatures appear on the Clinton petition have told The Tribune they did not sign the document, and Erich Speckin, a forensic document analyst hired by the paper and Howey Politics identified at least 19 suspected fake Obama petition pages. Those Obama pages account for more than 100 signatures, meaning that, minus the suspected fake signatures, the former senator likely failed to collect the required number needed to qualify for ballot placement in the state.

The Tribune continued to report: Whether Clinton,

a former senator and now secretary of state under Obama, would have collected enough signatures without the suspected fakes is harder to determine. The Tribune has identified 35 fake signatures on her petition in the district at this point. That said, Speckin identified a number of suspected fake Clinton petition pages as well.

The forged signatures include those of former Gov. Joe Kernan and St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael Dvorak.

Dan Parker, state Democratic chairman, told HPI, "Clearly someone did something wrong and they need to be found."

Indiana Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb said on Oct. 13, "There's a lot of who, why and when questions that need to be answered. Howey Politics and the South Bend Tribune deserve a lot of credit for uncovering this and it should have a lot of both Democrats and Republicans interested in the outcome. We all have a vested interest in this knowledge. I am interested in knowing how vast this operation was, whether it occurred across the state or whether it was just in one county. The sooner the better, for us to realize the facts of the case."

Holcomb noted that Dvorak's signature had been forged, and questioned why a special prosecutor is not investigating. "Typically it would be investigated by the county prosecutor. In this case, he is a participant in the wrongdoing that occurred, probably through no fault of his own. Because he is part of the investigation and because his signature was included, we think some other eyes besides his should be on this case. Because this may be the tip of the iceberg, I think the Department of Justice should be vested in the outcome of this as well," Holcomb said.

He's also concerned that the 2012 process will begin in just three months.

If all this isn't troubling enough, a Jennings County grand jury indicted three people, including long time Democratic consultant Mike Marshall. The North Vernon Plain Dealer & Sun is reporting that an absentee ballot had been requested for Ben Cook, who signed an affidavit stating he had never applied for such a ballot and was not even registered to vote in Jennings County. Cook, who is in his mid-20s, is the son of John Cook, a long time active Democrat in Jennings County, who was also indicted.

All of this raises troubling questions about the vulnerability of Indiana's election processes. During the midst of all this, the embattled and indicted Secretary of Hack Charlie White was firing off a bizarre complaint alleging that former U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh and his wife, Susan, committed voter fraud by using an Indianapolis condo as their official voting address.

No telling where north and south are in the scattered mind of our state's chief elections officer. ❖



Will we miss the man in the purple dress?

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE - Moammar Gadhafi did not make the best first impression. When I met him with the first group of Americans into Libya, his purple dress was likely a flowing striped purple robe. He was wearing enough makeup to have attended the Governor's Addams Family Halloween. His funny wig and hat overall left me with the impression of Michael Jackson in drag. If you think about that, it is not an easy thing to do.



The second visit he looked more like a normal military dictator but the location was even more strange. The first time we were toted around Tripoli to various events, eventually entering

his compound surrounded with a wall, barbed wire and machine guns so his admiring people didn't hug and kiss him too much. Inside was a sandy area, complete with camels and a tent, as if we were in the middle of the desert instead of inside Tripoli.

The second visit we landed in Tripoli, then they flew us four congressmen to his home base of Sirte on a Libyan Airlines plane. We were the only people on the plane. We were taken to a basically empty hotel in the middle of the afternoon and deposited in rooms. It is not like we could ask our embassy or military what was going on because they were not in Libya yet.

As darkness came, they loaded us into black SUVs and started driving perpendicular to the Mediterranean Sea toward the Sahara Desert. After a long drive into nowhere in the black darkness, they unloaded us and searched us. Then they put us into vehicles that could drive through sand with new guards. We unloaded at a tent pitched in the sand, with a few uncoordinated plastic chairs that you might find in the discount area of a Salvation Army store.

Once seated, what may have been the world's strangest man told us that we, the United States, needed to assassinate the Saud family. We patiently explained to him that we weren't exactly leaders of the Saudi fan club, but that if he seriously wanted better relations with our country, it would be wise to stop making his centerpiece the extermination of the House of Saud.

He proceeded to lecture us for 45 minutes that we

had the wrong enemy. It wasn't the Sunni. They weren't radical Islam. It was the Wahhabi schools and the fundamentalist extremist Shia that wanted to wipe us out (as opposed to, let's say, just terrorize us). The Saud family, in order to stay in power, funded this extremism around the world. He, Gadhafi, was not trying to wipe Israel off the face of the earth: that was the radical Shia.

He pointed out that the radical Islamic factions were trying to kill him. Many were based in Benghazi and wanted to bring Libya, Egypt and other more "moderate" countries under their control. After going round and round about how we weren't going to assassinate the Saud family, he finally waved his hands and said basically this: "Okay, okay. You'll see. I will survive. We Arab nations try to kill each other but present a united front to others. I am just trying to warn you."

Returning to my first visit, we landed with not an American present. What we did not expect as we pulled up, after Libyan jets "escorting" our military plane down (over the last-minute objections of our government, but at that point, most guns win), were dozens of mostly European press (no Americans) and a delegation of the anointed leaders under Gadhafi.

We were driven by Libyan soldiers with guns far too big to conceal to Tripoli's then fanciest hotel. Clearly tourism was down. Usually a first sign is rust rings around the faucet followed closely by a TV that can't even get "The Leader's" all-day speech channel clearly. Tired of waiting for instructions from The Leader, we decided to go over to the Old City market, just across the street. Tripoli is fairly old, as in 1400 B.C.

As we headed for the Old City walls, something dawned on me. We had no U.S. military escorts. In every nation they are with congressmen to protect them. And we weren't going to our local mall. We were in an Arab nation, not considered to exactly be our pals.

Every Middle Eastern market I had been to had been bustling, and basically merchants were sort of like a swarm of bees. Not in Tripoli. They mostly were sitting, drinking, chatting. If you were interested in anything, you had to interrupt them. One piece of art on the wall I wanted to see might have been the only time when I, not the salesman, got up on a chair to reach it. You see, Libya was the socialist dream. There weren't rich people to be envious of because everybody received the same classification wage. They were sort of Occupied.

Something else was interesting. When we first entered a young boy called out to me: "Are you British?"

"We're Americans," I replied. "Where have you been?" he asked. Hmm. Instead of hostility, people were excited to see us. People smiled and wanted to shake our hands. Not exactly the typical response in the Arab world.

Libya has major universities in Tripoli, the largest



of which is the American University. They have educated leaders. But what we have largely seen is this: Iran and Iraq, as well as Egypt, also had educated elites. However, ideological thugs with radical Islamic goals tend to prevail over enlightened, more moderate educated classes. In a battle for control, machine guns and be-headings over time are more effective than books and iPads. Not as romantic, but rather persuasive.

The nasty Shah fell, but the alternative has not

been better for Iranians, Americans, Israel or the world. Egypt was ruled by tyrants but seems to be headed to be ruled by tyrants who want to attack others as well. Gadhafi was a crazy man, who killed many. Still, the danger is that Arab Spring may not be Indiana April or May. It may be a March spring, headed the other direction on the calendar.

❖
Souder is a former Republican congressman.

One quarter of housing occupied by one person

By MORTON J. MARCUS

INDIANAPOLIS - The 2010 Census was a portrait of how Americans live. This week let's look in depth at how Hoosiers house themselves and the business opportunities those choices provide.

The Census reported 6.5 million Indiana residents of whom 6.3 million (97.1 percent) lived in households. Where were the other 200,000?

They lived in group quarters which include dormitories, nursing homes, and prison.

At the same time, 672,000 Hoosiers lived alone. That's 10.7 percent of the population living in 26.9 percent of the state's occupied housing units. Yes, nearly 27 percent of all the housing units we see as we drive the neighborhoods of our state are occupied by just one person. This is a significant increase from earlier census years.

Why is a larger portion of our population living alone? The

reasons are well-known: More people are living longer, more people are divorced, more people have more money and choose to live a separate life, and the social stigma of an independent life has diminished or disappeared.

Living alone is most common in Vanderburgh County (Evansville) where 13.4 percent of persons occupy 32.3 percent of all housing units in use. Close behind are Marion (Indianapolis) and Monroe (Bloomington) counties. In each of these three counties, nearly a third of all occupied dwellings have but one resident.

Who cares? Perceptive merchants care. They see the rising importance of household data along with population data. Some things are sold to people and some to households. For example, the size of a pizza may depend

on the number of persons in the household, but the left-over pizza (if any) gets stored in a refrigerator regardless of the number of persons in the household. Refrigerators, like newspapers, are sold to households.

With two or more persons in a household, chores can be allocated to the individual best fitted to do them. Who is the best electrician, cook, or car washer in the family? Mom, Dad, Junior? In a single person household there may be more dependence on the marketplace to provide services.

America's appetite for square footage has put more single persons in larger homes or apartments. A three bedroom house with one occupant is not a rarity. One bedroom is a bedroom, but another becomes an office and the third is a guest room.

Security is the downside of separate living. That is why many who live alone and recognize the risks choose to wear alarm buttons to call for help. To the best of my knowledge, no cell phone offers a single button to push for emergency assistance wherever you need it.

Another scene in our housing picture is the age of residents. One third of all Indiana households have a person under age 18. These households might be expected to care about the quality of education. Or they might put pressure on the school board only to buy new wrestling mats. Suburban Hamilton and Hendricks counties are the leaders with more than 40 percent of household having at least one person under age 18.

Nearly one quarter of households have a person over age 65. Here concern might focus on ease of shopping, access to medical services and friends. These are opportunities for businesses in rural Parke, Fountain, Wabash, Blackford and Newton counties where 30 percent of households host a person over age 65.

More scenes from the data in the 2010 Census will wait until a later column. ❖

Marcus is an economist, speaker and writer formerly with the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.





Mullen could make it a real race vs. Jackie

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - When neophyte Democratic candidate Brendan Mullen out-raised veteran Republican campaigner Jackie Walorski in quarterly funding for Congress in Indiana's 2nd District, it signaled that there could be a real race, despite Republican redistricting.

Another signal is the decision Thursday by the Cook Political Report, headed by Charlie Cook, the guru of House race handicapping, to change his listing of the district from "likely Republican" to "leans Republican."



David Wasserman, analyst and house editor for the report, who interviewed Mullen last week in Washington, said the Democratic candidate "made the case that the seat is not a lost cause."

But Wasserman said Walorski remains the favorite, with the rating change meaning that Cook now regards the race as "leaning" her way but not as "likely" as before.

The Cook analyst said the change wasn't based just on the fund-raising or the personal interview but more on "electoral evidence."

That includes voting patterns of areas in the district, both new Republican territory in redistricting and parts already in the 2nd, and on the past campaign performance of Walorski as well as the campaign potential of Mullen.

Wasserman said that Walorski has "negatives" remaining from her 2010 congressional campaign, in which she lost to Democratic incumbent Joe Donnelly, who now is running for the U.S. Senate rather than re-election to the House. The analyst said it also appears that the "field is far from clear" for Walorski to breeze to Republican nomination.

Of Mullen's successful start in fund-raising, Wasserman said it really means that both candidates will have adequate funding from their respective parties and outside groups.

He said Mullen's background as a West Point graduate and Army officer will be a plus. The fact that he played football for Army should also help in football-conscious Notre Dame territory, the analyst noted. While Mullen kicked field goals for Army, luckily for his political career, he never kicked one against Notre Dame.

Wasserman said an obvious opening for Republican

attack is that Mullen only recently returned to South Bend to run.

Those quarterly reports to the Federal Election Commission, reflecting contributions and expenditures up to Oct. 1, showed Walorski still ahead in cash on hand, \$333,000 to \$146,000. She had a head start from her 2010 race for Congress.

The surprise was in quarterly contributions through September: Mullen \$152,563, Walorski \$131,133.

The fact that Mullen, just getting started, topped \$100,000 and even topped Walorski, was impressive, likely a factor in Mullen also having an interview with the Rothenberg Political Report, another nationally known handicapper of congressional races. Rothenberg lists the race as "Republican favored."

The ratings by the respected handicappers, who come amazingly close in their forecasts, are important. National PACs and other sources of funding look at those ratings in determining where to "target" their efforts. Cook was accurate in early and continued forecasts of big Republican wins in 2010.

Brooks Kochvar, general consultant for the Walorski campaign, has been pleased with the preparation for the race, including fund-raising in the last quarter. He expresses confidence that Walorski, with experience from the 2010 race, is ready to keep Mullen from ever catching up in the new district. He says she will do well in the new Republican areas of the district and will avoid image problems that hurt her in some of the other parts in which she ran last time.

Walorski is aware that she sometimes got so passionate in explaining her conservative views that she seemed never to take a breath. Fast-talking is not a positive adjective for a candidate, no matter how sound the message.

Kochvar, who knows the territory well as a former campaign manager for former Republican Congressman Chris Chocola, now is a national consultant based in Boise, Idaho, a city he finds a better cultural fit than Washington. In 2010, he ran a successful U.S. Senate campaign in New Hampshire.

He says Walorski's support is solid, unshakable, and she needs only to expand it in the new areas and do a little better elsewhere.

Kochvar and Walorski both say they never have taken victory for granted and are prepared for a tough race. In fact, Walorski has said she thought Cook had rated the district too Republican. Cook now agrees. ❖

Colwell has reported on Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.



Europe poses biggest threat to U.S. economy

By **LARRY DeBOER**

WEST LAFAYETTE - The biggest threat to our economy these days comes from Europe. The Greek government borrowed a lot of money that it cannot repay. If Greece defaults the resulting financial crisis could plunge the world back into recession.

One of the reasons for the crisis is that Europe is caught in-between. European countries aren't independent. But there is no "United States of Europe."



There is a United States of America, so let's make a comparison. Suppose Indiana had made the same bad choices as Greece. Suppose our state ran huge budget deficits and borrowed a great deal of money for no productive purpose. Then one day lenders realize that we can't repay, and they stop renewing our loans.

Very quickly Indiana would stop running a deficit. We would cut spending and lay off workers. We would raise taxes. This would create hardships for taxpayers, public employees and business people who sell products and services to the government.

But Social Security payments would continue. So would Medicare, Medicaid and federal welfare. Our federal safety net would be untouched. This would support our economy and ease our hardships.

There is no European safety net for the people of Greece. Greek pensions and medical care are funded by the Greek government's budget. The budget-balancing threatens people's health care and income security. No wonder there are demonstrations and riots.

Suppose Indiana's economy dropped into recession while the rest of the country was doing fine. Unemployed people in Indiana could leave the state in search of jobs. Unemployment in Indiana would drop, reducing the economic hardships on migrants and remaining residents.

For the most part, the European Union allows free labor movement among its member countries. Unemployed Greeks can migrate to Germany in search of work. But Greeks speak Greek and Germans speak German. The language barrier is one reason that labor mobility in Europe is not what it is in the United States. This is one reason that unemployment in Greece stays high.

Now suppose that Greece was an independent

country with its own currency, the drachma. The economic crisis would cause the exchange rate of the drachma to fall, so each dollar would buy more drachmas. This would reduce the cost of visiting Greece. Tourism would boom.

But Greece uses the European euro. So does Germany. Germany is one of the world's biggest exporters. To buy German exports, the world must exchange their own currencies for euros. This keeps the demand for the euro high, so its value stays high. The economic troubles of little Greece don't have much effect on the euro's value. There is no tourism boom in Greece because Germany doesn't need a low-valued euro to sell its exports.

An independent Greece could use monetary policy to stimulate its economy. The Greek central bank could increase the supply of drachmas, reduce interest rates, and encourage borrowing and spending. This would help the economy recover.

There is no Greek monetary policy because there is no drachma. The European Central Bank sets monetary policy for Europe, based on the needs of the entire continent. Greece may be in recession but Germany isn't, and Germany is a much bigger economy. The bank doesn't expand the money supply to match the needs of Greece.

Further, had Greece been independent, lenders would have considered the possibility of drachma exchange devaluation or monetary inflation. Both risks would have discouraged lending to Greece. Lenders wouldn't want to be earning interest in drachma if the currency's value could fall. The scale of the Greek crisis might have been smaller. But Greece has the euro, and lenders knew that Germany wouldn't allow much devaluation or inflation.

The European financial crisis is partly the result of the in-between economic integration of Europe. It's not a United States of Europe. There is no continent-wide safety net, and cultural barriers inhibit labor mobility. Its members aren't independent countries either. They don't have their own currencies so they can't adopt independent exchange or monetary policies.

Europe will have to come up with a plan to prevent a more severe crisis. That may be a step toward more European integration. If the plan breaks down, though, the alternative might be European dis-integration. ❖

Prof. DeBoer teaches agricultural economics at Purdue University.



Eric Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press:

Because secret tax hikes have a way of being politically radioactive, that advertisement was inevitably going to air. The version you're seeing on television now, funded by the Indiana Democratic Party, goes after Evansville Republican mayoral candidate Lloyd Winnecke. It's about Winnecke's participation in – and silence after – the infamous April 1, 2008 meeting where a topic was allowing Vanderburgh County's local homestead tax credit to lapse. As long as anyone who was there has a political career, though, they could just as easily be the subject of the same ad. Any opponent they face could sponsor it. Outgoing Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel – the man who bears the most responsibility for the secretive decision – knows it. "It would be the first thirty-second ad run by any Republican I run against," he said in February, upon announcing that he would not run for governor. That's why Weinzapfel told Troy Tornatta, then a Democratic county commissioner, that the version he had readied last year against Republican Marsha Abell – another participant in the meeting – gave him, as Tornatta put it, "heartburn." Then, Tornatta kept it off the air. This time, Weinzapfel's old friend John Gregg, the 2012 Democratic gubernatorial candidate who helped raise money to pay for the new ad, and others at the state party refused to pull their punches. It's no wonder why. They decided that having a Democrat – that'd be Rick Davis – in the Evansville mayor's office is an opportunity too important to pass up headed into 2012, no matter the local-level personal squabbles. As for its impact on Weinzapfel, at some point the decision was made that it doesn't hurt the party too much to hurt him by having Democrats, rather than Republicans, land the "secret tax hike" blow. It's a divorce precipitated by a bitter personal history between Davis and Weinzapfel. As Davis tells the story, there are several reasons the two don't get along. One is natural in politics: Davis was tutored by local Democratic mainstay Betty Knight Smith, and the two of them have supported different candidates than Weinzapfel in a slew of intraparty contests over the years. Another is more personal. It's about Davis's brother, long a critic of Weinzapfel and his initiatives, whose vehicle once sported an anti-Weinzapfel bumper sticker – a fact known to the mayor. If the relationship wasn't bad enough, Davis's decision to run for mayor this year – regardless of whether Weinzapfel sought a third term – infuriated the mayor's strongest supporters in local party leadership who felt Davis should wait his turn. The county party's leadership put all its muscle behind Tornatta, who ran against Davis in May's mayoral primary, only to find that rank and file Democrats were behind Davis. Davis cruised past Tornatta, winning 59 percent of the vote. And still, some local party leaders won't get behind their nominee, despite what looks like a stern rebuke from



state Democrats and despite electoral proof that they're out of touch with their members. Weinzapfel, meanwhile, has publicly refused to endorse Davis, and many Democratic insiders believe he has worked actively behind the scenes to make known his preference for Winnecke. ❖

Doug Ross, NWI Times: Halloween has come and gone, but Nov. 23 could become scary, too. That's the deadline for the congressional "super committee" to report on how to trim the deficit by \$1.5 trillion in the next decade. What's so timely about this discussion of the federal government's finances is the fact that a week from today, Hoosier voters will elect a new group of municipal leaders who likely will look to Washington for handouts while decrying congressional spendthrifts. The Times Editorial Board spoke with U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., about the super committee's objectives and strategy. Coats said he has been talking to individual members of the committee just about daily. "This thing is bigger than politics," he said. Yes, but politics infuses everything in Washington, and our economy as well. "Uncertainty is probably the central word that I'm hearing from employers," Coats said. Employers are worried about regulations, health care costs and tax obligations that could affect their businesses. True enough, but when is there certainty about these things? An overhaul of the tax code could help, but don't expect the final product of any congressional action on the tax law to go unchanged for long. As for spending that should be cut, that's going to be harder than it might sound. Energy research is vital, and that requires federal resources -- meaning lots of money for basic research and providing incentives for the private sector to develop new technology. Coats and I agree with Sen. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., that energy security is vital for national security. ❖

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star: At the event, Ballard announced that Litebox Inc., an upstart California company, would hire 1,100 Hoosiers as part of a plan to build media screens at a Northwestside facility. As Gov. Mitch Daniels stood by his side, Ballard said the jobs announcement was another sign of the economic strength of the city under his administration. The immediate headlines were like gold for an incumbent mayor in the closing days of a re-election campaign. Recent headlines about the Litebox deal, of course, haven't been so good. Serious questions have been raised about the company's founder, his tax liens, his ability to pull off the deal and whether he would ever need close to 1,100 employees. Ballard now faces questions about whether the deal was rushed, and whether key questions were pushed aside, in an effort to score a last-minute election year boost. ❖



Dvorak refuses to recuse himself

SOUTH BEND - Should the St. Joseph County prosecutor give up his investigation into possible ballot petition fraud? The county's Republican Party says the answer to that question is "Yes," but Mike Dvorak is not backing down (Stopczynski, South Bend Tribune). It all started when the South Bend Tribune and Howey Politics first broke the story of possible forged signatures on 2008 gubernatorial and presidential primary petitions. Even though both state and county Republican Party leaders have asked Dvorak to appoint a special prosecutor in the matter, he's pushing on with his investigation. "The main [concern] is he's so close to the people involved and he's been involved in the Democratic Party and a leader in the party for years and years," said St. Joseph County Republican Party Chair Deb Fleming. "It's hard to investigate your own close friends and allies impartially." The fact that Dvorak is a victim - his name was apparently forged on at least one petition - should also prompt him to request a special prosecutor, Fleming added. In a statement to WSBT, Prosecutor Dvorak said he initiated a criminal investigation into the primary petition fraud allegations October 5. He later asked the United States attorney for the Northern District of Indiana if that office had resources to complete the investigation. On October 18, the U.S. attorney declined to accept jurisdiction of the investigation and prosecution of the matter. He also responded, in writing, to the state chairman of the Indiana Republican Party as to why his office would not undertake the investigation. On the same date, Dvorak said he formally contacted



the Indiana State Police and asked for their assistance in continuing the investigation. Indiana State Police Sgt. Trent Smith told WSBT anytime a case is government-related, investigators must get an "OK" from their superintendent before accepting the case. Last week, the superintendent agreed to provide three detectives to work the case full time. One of those detectives is from the Toll Road post, the other from the Bremen post and the third is from the organized crime and corruption unit. Dvorak said he'll continue to investigate the alleged 2008 primary petition fraud with Indiana State Police and where warranted, prosecute those responsible. "My office has a long history of prosecuting elected officials, both Democrats and Republicans," he said in the written statement. "Serving as the prosecutor of this county, I have prosecuted a town clerk, town treasurer, town council member, county council member, and a county investment officer all in separate unrelated matters." "There's nothing really apparently I can do at this time or anyone can do since he's in charge of this investigation and the federal people have decided not to investigate it," Fleming said.

Chris Wilson IDs Cain on harassment

WASHINGTON - A veteran Republican pollster who did work for the National Restaurant Association said Wednesday morning that Herman Cain sexually harassed a woman at an Arlington, Va., restaurant in the late 1990s. Chris Wilson, now the principal of an Oklahoma-based GOP consulting firm, said in an interview on Oklahoma City's KTOK radio station that the episode took place in the neighborhood where Cain kept an apartment when he headed the restaurant trade group. "This occurred at a restaurant in Crystal City (Virginia), and everybody

was aware of it," Wilson said on the station. "It was only a matter of time because so many people were aware of what took place, so many people were aware of her situation, the fact she left — everybody knew with the campaign that this would eventually come up." In an interview with POLITICO, Wilson said he was present for the episode and that it took place in the late '90s. Wilson declined to say specifically what Cain said or did to the woman, but that the CEO's actions made other individuals at the table uneasy. "It was very uncomfortable," said the pollster, recalling that other individuals present asked Cain to stop. Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn remembers Wilson from the 2007 election cycle. "The person who reportedly leaked the story to the press, Chris Wilson, the head of Rick Perry's super PAC polling, is the same guy who coordinated the heinous push polling during the 2007 Republican mayoral primary in Kokomo," Dunn told HPI. "It was the push poll that ended, 'Did you know Rick Hamilton's daughter had an abortion?' He is the lowest of the political lowlifes and you can quote me on that."

Bauer comments on Litebox

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana House Democratic Leader B. Patrick Bauer from South Bend today issued the following statement on the controversy swirling around the proposed Litebox economic development project in Indianapolis: "In the past, Indiana House Democrats have spoken out about the need for greater transparency in our economic development programs. When the people of this state are paying for the incentives sought by companies, then we need to make sure that the companies live up to their end of the bargain or give that money back. Stronger clawback provi-



sions, as proposed by House Democrats last session, should be required in all these state incentive contracts. These are the kinds of programs that need to be in place now. That way, we can clear away the smoke being blown by developers and state officials and give the taxpayers of Indiana a chance to know they are being protected now, rather than fleeced later. For those who have seen what has passed for economic development efforts in Indiana these past several years, the circumstances surrounding the plans to bring Litebox to our state have a sad, familiar ring. We hear the grand announcements about hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs to help a state where more than 266,000 are classified as unemployed and untold numbers more have given up hope of even finding a job. People fixate on the numbers of new jobs, and officials take credit for bringing them to Indiana. As time goes by, however, it turns out the numbers of jobs aren't anywhere close to being accurate. In some cases, there aren't any new jobs at all."

Tyler promises to reopen FD station

MUNCIE - Democrat Dennis Tyler made it official on Wednesday: If elected mayor in next Tuesday's election, he will reopen the Mock Avenue fire station when he takes office on Jan. 1 (Muncie Star Press). The south-eastside station was closed, along with the Muncie Fire Department's downtown station, by Republican Mayor Sharon McShurley's administration in the spring of 2009 in a cost-cutting move. "I didn't agree when they closed that fire station," Tyler said. "I thought that was a horrible move. If I'm elected mayor, I intend to reopen that fire station immediately. "We have the resources available, and we have the manpower available. We just

need to move them around, and we can do that." Tyler, a retired firefighter, noted the Mock Avenue station, when in operation, was the "first responding call" to three elementary schools, Southside High School and two government housing projects. "I believe the people out there deserve adequate fire protection," the Democrat said. "You're not talking about an exorbitant amount of resources to do that." Contacted Wednesday, McShurley said it was "unfortunate (Tyler is) resorting to scaring people with public safety issues that don't exist." "He signed a civility pledge, and it's uncivil to scare people," she added.

Chicago eyes easing marijuana laws

CHICAGO - A Chicago alderman says he's found a way for the city to raise desperately needed cash that will also keep more police officers on the street: Marijuana. Alderman Danny Solis introduced an ordinance to the City Council on Wednesday that would make possession of small amounts of marijuana a ticketable offense with a \$200 fine rather than a misdemeanor that carries jail time. He estimates the change would generate \$7 million a year and, since the vast majority of such cases are dismissed, would save police and courthouse workers money and time. "In these trying times of the economy, we could really use the revenue generated by fines versus arrests," Solis said. "And each (arrest) means police officers are spending an inordinate amount of time outside the neighborhoods, inside the district offices doing paperwork." Mayor Rahm Emanuel has not endorsed the ordinance, but said recently that a member of the police department's gang unit made a similar suggestion, and he had passed the idea on to Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy and his first deputy. "I asked them to look

into it and that's what they are doing right now," Emanuel told reporters.

White House cites Fort to Port

WASHINGTON - The White House is touting "Fort to Port" as it tries to build congressional support for part of the American Jobs Act (Associated Press). The widening of U.S. 24 between Fort Wayne and Toledo, a port city on Lake Erie, is among 17 projects nationwide the Obama administration cites as recent examples of transportation infrastructure improvements "that have substantial economic benefits." President Obama seeks \$50 billion for highway, rail and airport projects over the next decade, plus \$10 billion for an "infrastructure bank," as part of his job-creation proposal. During a speech in Washington on Wednesday, he said the criteria for funding future infrastructure projects will be "how badly they are needed and how much good they'll do for the economy."

Bucshon seeks transpo flex

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon is set to push a measure that would give states more flexibility to spend federal transportation dollars in emergencies (Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press). The freshman Republican from Newburgh said Wednesday that he plans to introduce a bill that would give states a way forward in situations like the Sherman Minton Bridge closure, without having to ask Congress for extra cash. He introduced what he's titled the "State Transportation Emergency Flexibility Act of 2011" on Tuesday, and said he hopes the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which he is Indiana's only member.