



# Susan Brooks: 20 pts down to victory

### 5th CD victory over McIntosh came in final two weeks

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Susan Brooks' 5th CD campaign conducted internal polling in mid-April and the news was disheartening. She trailed the frontrunner - former congressman David McIntosh - by 20 points.

Twenty points?

"We conducted two polls," Brooks said, "one in February and one in mid-April. Both showed David McIntosh with significant leads. But in the February poll - the informed ballot - I won." Half of her April poll occurred hours after New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie came to Fishers for a campaign stop that was covered by local TV that evening.

And she won with the poll that counted most, on May 8 Election Day, defeating McIntosh by about 800 votes while carrying Marion, Hamilton and Boone counties. The April poll showed a huge set of undecideds. It was some-



5th CD Republican nominee Susan Brooks showing off her phone bank, operated here by Jenna Knepper. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

thing Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll picked up in a very limited sample in the 5th CD. It was too small to be scientifically significant and was not part of the pub-

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# Indiana Roy's big fall

By **RICH JAMES**

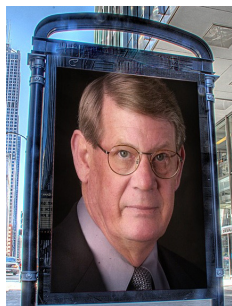
MERRILLVILLE - There are winners and losers in every election. But in Northwest Indiana there often is a whole lot more. Such was the case last week.

Then, again, what do you expect when area Democrats go to the polls.

There was a political death, although the corpse hasn't been buried.

Nevertheless, rest assured that former Lake County sheriff Roy Dominguez's political career is over. His fall from grace was fast. The impact was thunderous.

Dominguez a few short years ago



**"In the next few days, I'll be choosing my running mate. Experience in the private sector and an understanding of state government are critical to bringing jobs to Hoosiers."**

- Mike Pence, on choosing his running mate 'in the next few days'



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was on top of the Lake County political world. He was viewed as the nice guy who could get things done. So high was his stock that he spent a year traveling the state to build support for a 2012 run for governor.

While wandering Indiana, he apparently found out what the voters told him last week – his days as an elected official are over.

Just after leaving the sheriff's post in January 2011, Dominguez launched a bid for 2nd District county commissioner against four-term incumbent Gerry Scheub.

Scheub, at 76, is the oldest public official in Lake County. Interesting, he is four years younger than Sen. Richard Lugar, who was ousted, in part, because of his age. This is one of those rare elections where you can say that yard signs vote. Scheub, whose name dotted lawns across the district, pulled 6,013 votes, more than double the 2,715 received by Dominguez.

Politicians often can survive a narrow loss, but an embarrassment is fatal.

That wasn't the only race in Lake County that had politicos talking after the results were tabulated.

**County Recorder** Michelle Fajman lost to political unknown Mike Brown by just under 700 votes. The Lake County clerk is Mike Brown, who is a very popular guy. But no one knew the Mike Brown who defeated Fajman, although I'm sure many people voted for the Mike Brown they thought they knew instead of the one running for recorder. Brown, the clerk, by the way, is black. The one who is headed to become county recorder is white.

Brown didn't campaign much, didn't seek endorsements and spent little more than chump change. Yet he won with just 29 percent of the

primary vote. Ironically, Fajman spent years as elections chief in the county Voter Registration office, but failed when it came to her first run for office.

**The county** recorder's position opened a year or so ago when the other Mike Brown left that office to become county clerk. Fajman, who is a county Democratic official, fairly easily won a county precinct caucus to become the recorder.

The county recorder's race had similarities to the county assessor's contest of 2010. In that Democratic primary, Carol Ann Seaton, a political unknown from Gary, defeated Randall Guernsey, a township assessor, in the primary. When

Seaton's sordid past came to light, Republican Hank Adams was elected county assessor. He was the first Republican to win a countywide office in Lake County since the 1940s.

**There is a lesson** to be learned from the defeat of Fajman and Guernsey. First of all, voters don't take the time to find out who is running for county recorder or assessor. And, frankly, they don't really care.

A county recorder is a keeper of deeds, not a policy maker. An assessor evaluates property using state-mandated guidelines. Indiana doesn't need to be electing recorders or assessors. When you think about it, we also shouldn't be electing surveyors, treasurers, coroners or auditors.

That thinking is in line with the Kernan/Shepard recommendations on how to improve local government.

Here are a couple of examples as to why Kernan and Shepard – and Gov. Mitch Daniels – are right.

Perhaps the Legislature should take notice. ❖

**Rich James is the former editorial page editor and columnist for the Post-Tribune in Merrillville.**





## Brooks, from page 1

lished polling information in the May 4 edition of HPI. But it confirmed what Brooks' internal polling showed: there was a significant pool of undecided voters.

On Election Day, many Republicans crossed polling place parking lots undecided and Brooks picked up most of them.

What happened in the final two to three weeks?

Brooks believes her "town hall" strategy paid off. She conducted 80 of meet and greets across the district, with anywhere from 10 to 40 people at each one. "It was our version of door-to-door," she said. That exposure had a cumulative effect. The campaign made 68,000 calls from its phone bank. But it wouldn't have been enough without the residency issue.

Was that the silver bullet?

"It certainly was," Brooks said. "The Anderson Herald-Bulletin did a pretty direct and powerful editorial about David and (Madison County) Prosecutor Rodney Cummings. We showed that to our supporters." Cummings had brushed off the residency attacks as "political."

Then came the Kokomo Perspective news reports and editorials on May 1 where Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn called on Secretary of State Connie Lawson to make a ruling on McIntosh's residency. Dunn's concern was that the party would end up with a potentially tainted nominee (i.e. Charlie White). Then came Jim Shella's WISH-TV interview with McIntosh following a Right to Life press conference at the Statehouse when McIntosh

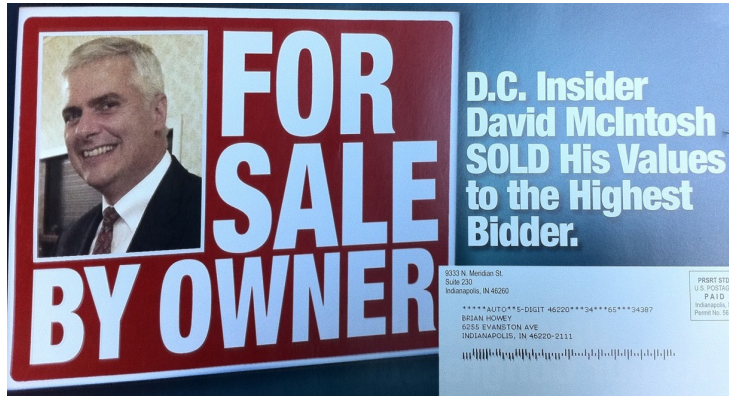
took off. That became the "walk away" interview.

The residency issue had virtually no impact in 2010 when Sen. Dan Coats had moved back to the state, but it was devastating to Sen. Dick Lugar and McIntosh. What changed? Possibly it was the 10% congressional approval rating Howey/DePauw found in its March 26-27 survey. It fit into a carpetbagger "out of touch" narrative their opponents used to devastating effect. Both McIntosh and Lugar saw leads dissipate in the final weeks of the campaign.

Brooks also launched withering direct mail at McIntosh. Brooks said the campaign discovered that most voters didn't know McIntosh lived in Arlington, Va., voted in Indiana, and was a Washington lobbyist. They also conjured up an element from the 2000 O'Bannon-Kernan playbook, attacking McIntosh's attendance level while he was a congressman. Brooks mailers assailed McIntosh for lobbying for a "client that received billions of dollars from the Wall Street bailout." The flyer read, "DC insider David McIntosh sold his values to the highest bidder."

It forced McIntosh to go on the offensive with rebukes to Brooks and third-place finisher John McGoff. Devin Anderson, campaign chairman for McIntosh, told HPI, "We've been disappointed that John and Susan have chosen to not focus on fixing Washington but rather on politics of personal destruction. Both know their views are not conservative and in step with a majority of this district. They feel their only choice is to personally attack the true conservative."

Then there was Indianapolis Star columnist Matt Tully's excoriating tome on April 28. "Seeking to score a cheap political point as he seeks the 5th District nomination, McIntosh took callous aim at the Women's Fund of Central Indiana, an inspiring nonprofit group that has tackled issues such as domestic violence, job training and child care for low-income mothers," Tully wrote. "With only his political fortunes in mind, McIntosh sought to tarnish an



A Brooks campaign mailer (top) that exploited the residency issue of David McIntosh. Below, Brooks with a board detailing each of the 80 meet and greets she conducted across the district. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



organization that has worked hard in recent years to help many of the region's most vulnerable residents rise from their circumstances. Now that's what you call ambition -- of the worst kind."

Brooks campaigned on Election Day, making her final appearance 10 minutes before polls closed. She had a good feeling that the race had tightened. Not until five late precincts came in from Hamilton County did Brooks know she had won the nomination and, with the new 5th CD overwhelmingly Republican, very likely the congressional seat. She faces Democratic State Rep. Scott Reske in November and enters the race as a big favorite.

What kind of congresswoman will Brooks be?

She says her coming constituency wants her to go to Washington and solve problems. She cited her background that includes six years as U.S. attorney when she worked with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies on domestic terrorism, and IVY Tech, where she

worked on Indiana's nagging unemployment rate.

"I did talk about how ineffective Congress is," she said. "I talked about how polarized and partisan it has become. I talked about that at 80 town meetings and that's not what people want. I'm into governing. I think most of Congress has gotten away from governing."

She said she will reach out to various Republican groups in Washington, as well as Democrats. "I heard people voice concerns about the Republican Party and its inability to get things done."

John Hammond III, Republican chairman in the neighboring 7th CD, believes Brooks will be an immediate rising star when she gets to Washington. Not only has she broken the gender barrier, she brings a vast resume of municipal government, education, law enforcement and counter terrorism. On May 8, Hoosiers watched a star launch. ❖

## Mourdock sets off a national debate on partisanship & purity

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - Indiana Republican senatorial nominee Richard Mourdock's assault on "bipartisanship" played well to 61% of the 19% of Hoosier voters who showed up at the polls on May 8. That's a mighty slim sliver of voters. In essence, about 12% of voting Hoosiers made the decision on the U.S. Senate nomination.

And despite Gov. Mitch Daniels' assertion that Mourdock is from the "mainstream" of the Indiana GOP, the notion of polarization and purity has become part of the national debate this past week and it is taking arrows from all sides.

Greg Fetting, co-founder of Hoosiers for a Conservative Senate, wrote a May 11 op-ed piece for USA Today, in which he said, "Tuesday's defeat of six-term Republican Sen. Richard Lugar in Indiana's primary by constitutional

conservatives was in large part fueled by anger over Lugar's willingness to work with Democrats. The proverbial last straw for the Indiana Tea Party movement came with Lugar's vote for the nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court in the summer of 2010. The days of both political parties genuinely working toward preserving America in the visions of our Founders has long passed."

Fetting continued, "Democrats and Republicans had at one time worked toward this end, albeit in slightly different approaches. Today's political environment finds the



two national parties embracing diametrically opposed and irreconcilable philosophies. The differences are so great that compromise by either side means a surrendering of principle. The heart and soul of the nation and the GOP are at stake. Before conservatives can re-establish the constitutional birthright of the nation, they must first purge the



party of non-conservatives. Polarization is intentionally perpetrated by Reid and others. The Democrat Party is steering the country toward socialism, while true conservatives embrace limited government and free market capitalism. Until one side achieves absolute victory, or the Democrats genuinely reach across the aisle, there cannot be compromise."

**At his May 9 "unity" press conference** with Gov. Daniels and other statewide GOP officials, Mourdock explained, "My idea of bipartisanship going forward is to make sure that we have such a Republican majority in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate and in the White House, that if there's going to be bipartisanship, it's going to be Democrats coming our way, instead of them trying to pull Republicans their way."

It was a defiant comment given that Sen. Dick Lugar's statement following his landslide loss the night before took issue with Mourdock's approach. To be an effective senator, Lugar advised, "will require him to revise his stated goal of bringing more partisanship to Washington. He and I share many positions, but his embrace of an unrelenting partisan mindset is irreconcilable with my philosophy of governance and my experience of what brings results for Hoosiers in the Senate. This is not conducive to problem-solving and governance. And he will find that unless he modifies his approach, he will achieve little as a legislator. Worse, he will help delay solutions that are totally beyond the capacity of partisan majorities to achieve."

**While Fettig and Mourdock** cite "polarization," what will likely occur is a polarized Republican Party in Indiana, let alone how that message won't play with independents and most Democrats. Lugarites will not be able to reconcile Mourdock's approach because it is complete anathema to how he conducted himself and projected power in Congress.

When Politico approached Lugar on Capitol Hill on Monday to ask him about whether he will support Mourdock, Lugar issued a terse "no comment." During his Election Night concession speech, Lugar said, "I hope my opponent prevails in November to contribute to a Republi-

can majority."

The notion of the kind of sustained "purity" movement it would take to command the U.S. Senate as well as the House of Representatives is a pipe dream. For the past decade, the electorate has swung like an unlatched screen door in a severe thunderstorm. President Bush was reelected in 2004, the Democrats retook the House in 2006 and President Obama won in 2008, followed by the GOP retaking the House in 2010. In a polarized environment, the electorate only sees festering problems, the approval of Congress plummets or wallows in the ditch, and voters swing back and forth between the two parties (unless, at some point, this frustration leads to the emergence of a credible third party).

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican, was asked by moderator Judy Woodruff about Mourdock's stance on purity and partisanship. "I just don't agree with that," said Ryan.

Mourdock is also taking arrows from Democrats.

Former President Bill Clinton observed, "The Republican position that tends to prevail in these primaries as expressed by the gentleman

who beat Sen. Lugar, who says, 'I'm just against compromise, we need to stop it, it's weak, it's foolish, our views are irreconcilable, we have to force the American people to choose which one of us is right' – if that prevails, we're toast. We'll look like a bush league country."

Clinton added, quoting Mourdock, "He said, 'I am totally against any compromise, our world views are irreconcilable'... If that were the view, there never would have been a Constitution."

**Former Sen. Evan Bayh**, writing in a Chicago Tribune op-ed on Tuesday, agreed, suggesting that Mourdock's contribution to partisanship would come when it's least needed. "This intransigent approach is a great one for primary electorates that demand more combativeness and ideological purity from candidates than ever before," Bayh said. "And if we had a parliamentary form of government with no checks and balances where the majority always rules, it might work. Solving any of these big challenges will require at least some support from both parties. No matter what happens in 2012, neither party will likely have the power to unilaterally ram through its agenda in the



**Greg Fettig and Monica Boyer at a Tea Party meeting.**



near future, but both parties will retain enough power to obstruct the other side – especially with 60 votes becoming the de facto threshold for most anything passing the Senate.”

**But the most compelling** observations came from 5th CD Republican nominee Susan Brooks, who told HPI on Tuesday, “I’m into governing. I actually believe part of why Congress is broken is they’ve gotten away from what it really means to govern and to help state and local governments govern. I’m into good government and good government isn’t about having predisposed notions on every issue as to how you’re going to vote. I’d say I’d like to read the bill before I tell you how I’m going to vote on that. I like to understand both sides. Instead of talking about compromising, I want to talk about achieving and advocating.

“It means instead of giving up your conservative principles, it means finding resolution and solution to problems,” Brooks said.

Asked about the cornerstone of Mourdock’s campaign and his attack on bipartisanship, Brooks explained, “I haven’t had a chance to sit down with Richard. We saw each other out on the campaign trail on occasion and he was friendly. I actually look forward to asking him if he has that position, how does he expect to govern in a two-party system? The people of the 5th I listened to said they want people to attack the serious problems and not dig in. I am not certain how Richard Mourdock will reconcile that with what I experienced in the 5th.”

**Brooks added, “It seems** to me the debt and jobs, getting the economy back on track, will take business principles in government. It will take reducing government spending, reforming the big entitlement programs, and those difficult problems are going to have to require a lot more people sitting down and figuring out what we can agree upon. I heard extreme frustration from the voters. At the meet and greets I attended, with mostly Republicans and independents, there was concern about the Republican Party and its inability to get things done. I really do believe they were looking for practical, problem-solving oriented individuals.”

On the day of Fettig’s op-ed, USA Today editorialized: “The problem will never be solved without bipartisan compromise. But the true-believers continue to hold out for a day when their party can get its way by capturing control of the White House, the House of Representatives, and the 60 or more votes in the Senate needed to break filibusters. Never mind that the likelihood of that happening anytime soon is the same as that of Ron Paul winning the presidential election. And so the nation continues toward a fiscal cliff.” ❖

## Election analysts trot out the old myths

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE - It has always perplexed me how so much analysis can be so wrong. Here are a few common analysis errors about the recent Indiana primary.

### **1. Over-simplified analysis of first tier of numbers:**

“In 2010 Dan Coats’ opponents combined received the same number of votes as Mourdock.” Yeah, so what? Let’s take this apart for a minute. The core assumption is that opponents against the “incumbent” or “chosen candidate” would combine if there was just one opponent is a myth.

a. Dan Coats received 50% in Allen County; Richard Mourdock received 68%. This was also true for Lake and St. Joe, among other counties. In other words, even a simple glance at the numbers would show distribution changes.

b. Had Marlin Stutzman not been in the race, Coats’ margin in Allen would have been larger and his percentage in northern and northeastern Indiana would have been greater because that was his political base.

c. The donut counties did run at 60% non-Coats and non-Lugar. But to argue that they were the same people means that Lugar had no larger Indy base than Coats. If so, none of us saw this coming.

d. Dan Coats filed a few days before the primary, had not represented Indiana since the turn of the century, was a lobbyist, and had a zero campaign balance. Senator Lugar was an incumbent with years to prepare, lots of cash, and had started his campaign long before the filing date. Not to mention that he had a warning from the 2010 election. If Lugar’s defeat was shocking, then Coats’ win was astounding. While Coats did not have an opponent close to as strong a candidate as Mourdock, his victory was more astounding than Lugar’s defeat.

e. 2010 was a much more intensely driven ideological primary; 2012 had over 100,000 more Republican primary voters. Supposedly more voters means more who are less ideologically driven. So if the voters were less driven, and more of them, why would the 60% be transferable?

f. Having no other competitor helped Mourdock primarily because it unified the opposition and brought a combined focus to outside help.

### **2. Undecided voters go to the challenger:**

a. Sometimes. But do you notice how few commentators say “sometimes”?





b. When Lugar was at 42% people legitimately warned that he was "in trouble." If I had accepted that being under 50% meant that I was going to lose I would have served one term. With controversial views on impeachment, TARP, cash for clunkers, GM, "Corpus Christi" and maybe one hundred other things, every election was an adventure. I was written off yet my closest elections were 8.13 and 15 point wins and I won 16 of 16 races (primary and general) averaging more than 20-point margins.

c. Undecided voters give the challenger a "chance" to win them because they are not locked down. If the incumbent is just not loved but not disliked, the undecided voters break almost exactly like the decided voters. If the challenger is weak, the same holds true or, since the voters know the incumbent, break even greater for the incumbent. If both the challenger and the incumbent are well known (like my primary against long-time Fort Wayne mayor and senatorial nominee Paul Helmke, where both of our name IDs were above 95%) the undecided are, well, undecided.

d. The Howey/DePauw poll clearly blew apart the myth, yet the underneath numbers were widely ignored so people could trot out old theories because Lugar's "hard yes" voters remained stuck at 42%. The poll clearly showed that it was not inevitable that it stayed at 42%. At first, Mourdock's favorable and vote rose as his name ID rose. Before the debate, Mourdock's numbers had stalled in every poll. In other words, he was no longer rising as his name ID rose and "true undecided" were rising. After the debate, each poll showed "undecided" moving toward Mourdock.

e. Lugar also was developing some problems. Lugar only needed to gain 8%. But his unfavorable percentage rose to one point higher than his favorable (that is almost always the final bell tolling) and approximately one-third of the voters said that they had grown more unfavorable to Lugar post-debate. This trend was obvious to

anyone listening on the ground.

f. Any candidate will get some of the undecided voters, even incumbents, for name ID reasons alone. Yet Lugar's vote dropped below the number who said they were voting for him. I would argue that he did, in fact, get some undecided but saw some meltdown of his own voters just as the Howey poll suggested.

**3. GOTV (get out the vote) can be the difference in a close race, but gets much too much emphasis.**

a. Lugar probably turned out many voters who once were his but had switched.

b. When funds are limited, persuade the voters first and then with extra money, turn your voters out. Market positioning is more important than getting out your voters. My goal was to win no matter who voted.

ter who voted.

c. The extra non-counted people polled by the Howey poll proved this point. Mourdock won among voters and non-voters. It didn't matter who voted.

**4. If you are behind and aren't especially popular, spend all your money trying to destroy your opponent.**

a. A nice, positive race by Lugar would probably have netted him a respectable loss of 45-48% given the effectiveness of Mourdock's campaign, but he would have had a better chance of winning. He went for broke by trying to personally destroy his opponent. Generally, when you "go for broke" you wind up broke. In political terms, that means getting plastered 60-40.

b. The alternative – to lay a solid base, explain your views and mix with some but not constant hard, effective issue-based negatives – leads to different results. Debra Fischer just did that in the Republican Nebraska Senate primary on Tuesday. Richard Mourdock, in his own ads and in the debate, did the same thing. So did Mitch Daniels. It is likely that Mike Pence will as well. Winners usually do. ❖

**Souder is a former Republican Member of Congress.**





## Mitch's ads for Lugar no substitute for ground game

By **SHAW R. FRIEDMAN**

LAPORTE - By most accounts, the race between Richard Mourdock and Dick Lugar was fairly close up to just three weeks ago. Yet a strategic decision was made to saturate with commercials featuring Gov. Mitch Daniels and it seemed as if the Lugar campaign was in free-fall in the following three weeks.

I've talked to a half dozen Republican friends last night and into this morning as we do post-mortems and the consensus is not that this represents a victory for the Tea Party so much as the defeat of a candidate who utterly lost touch with the Republican grassroots. The national news this morning is, of course, full of simplistic analysis by



Washington, D.C., pundits featuring obsequious and utterly detestable turncoats like Chris Chocola who now wave the carcass of their once-praised colleague. Mind you, Chocola had been the beneficiary of Lugar largesse and support during his congressional campaigns and never once passed by an opportunity to pose for a photo with the internationally recognized Senator when it suited his purpose.

But Chocola's Club for Growth shows no sentimentality when it decides to turn on someone and turn it did. It's a corporate funded group of entities that in shark-like fashion brooks no dissent when it comes to supporting scofflaw multinationals eager to avoid their U.S. tax obligations or gut the social services safety net this country has built since the Great Depression. Knowing that these outside PACs and Super PACs were coming after his mentor, what did Mitch Daniels really do to stem the tide?

Why not call in any favor to keep some of these guys at bay? Why not tap that national reputation to make the call to guys like Dick Armey and Chris Chocola to say "hey, I need you guys taking a pass on this one." Nah. No indication that Daniels was willing to put his hide on the line.

**In typical ego-centric fashion**, he figured cutting a couple of TV ads for his old boss would carry the day. Daniels failed to understand that the ads only reinforced the increasing image of a statesman whose best days were behind him. The ads were not particularly effective in that they represented more an ode to Lugar's past service rather than a tangible, forward-looking projection of what Dick Lugar could do for Indiana. Don't tell

me that age is a disqualifier. Daniels had worked with one of the oldest politicians ever to serve as President, Ronald Reagan, and was able to effectively help shape an image of a forward-looking President engaged in the future.

There was nothing in the Daniels ads for Lugar that projected progress or someone forward looking. The ads – written, produced and starring Mitch Daniels – did nothing other than reinforce a perception of the Senator's prior achievements. Hoosiers who are struggling want forward-thinking, pragmatic representatives in Washington who can get things done for them and their communities.

**The millions spent running** those ads featuring Mitch could and should have been better spent developing an effective ground game. The Republicans I've talked with said they received at best a single phone call from the Lugar operation in the days leading up to the election! Can you imagine not spending money on targeting moderate and mainstream Republicans with identification, persuasion and GOTV phone calls in the days and weeks leading up to May 8th? Even mail that was sent to Republicans was described to me as "uninspiring" "not very memorable" and certainly not capable of keeping Republicans on the reservation.

So much for the vaunted Daniels political brain trust. In the course of visiting some two dozen precincts in LaPorte County yesterday as part of my efforts on behalf of various Democratic candidates, I took note of the absolute lack of any kind of Lugar presence at the polls. Mourdock had a presence at most of those polling places even resorting to bringing in young, conservatively dressed individuals from evangelical churches outside of Indiana. (I noted one Ohio license plate and one Michigan plate on the cars of different Mourdock volunteers.) Not a single precinct featured an individual out palm-carding for the Senator in this most critical election.

**As the history is written** of this election, let's not let the Tea Party and their affiliated groups grab too much of the credit. Much of the blame rightly belongs to folks like Gov. Mitch Daniels whose once vaunted political instincts failed him badly as he sought vainly to support his old boss. Not only did he fail to keep the Republican super-PACs from attacking Lugar, his own ads did little to help cast the Senator in a forward looking light. Mitch's ads diverted resources that were desperately needed for a viable phone and mail program to identify supporters, persuade them to stick with the Senator and then get them out to vote. The election day operation at the polls was nonexistent on behalf of Dick Lugar. This man who built the modern Republican party in Indiana deserved a helluva more from Mitch and those many who have benefited by his larger-than-life presence over the decades. ❖

**Shaw R. Friedman is a LaPorte attorney.**





## Pence to announce LG choice in next ‘few days’; HPI short lists

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - Mike Pence’s gubernatorial campaign emailed supporters this morning that he will be choosing his running mate “in the next few days,” suggesting a selection is already in the works.

What we do know is that it won’t be Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman. While many Hoosier Republicans had expressed a desire for her to stay into a second administration, and Pence was attuned to that sentiment, it’s not going to happen.

“She and Pence crossed that bridge some time ago,” said Danielle Chrysler, Skillman’s chief of staff. “While she declined to remain on as lieutenant governor, she pledged her help in any way.”

The ticket decision will be made by Pence, his wife Karen, and Pence’s longtime chief of staff Bill Smith, informed and reliable GOP sources tell HPI. Pence said in his email, “Experience in the private sector and an understanding of state government are critical to bringing jobs to Hoosiers.”

The speculation – and that is what it is at this point – says that Pence will need a Statehouse hand. He’s been in Congress for a dozen years and like Mitch Daniels discovered, a seasoned veteran of the legislature will help him navigate the process. Unlike Daniels, Pence has maintained significant contact with Republican legislators over the years. He was the catalyst in the legislation that cut off state funding to Planned Parenthood during the 2011 session.

The next level of speculation is that after Skillman and Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis, a modern precedent has been established similar to how county and state political parties are set up: the ticket needs gender equality.

With that in mind, here is HPI’s speculation list for the Republican and Democratic tickets:

**House Speaker Brian C. Bosma:** He’s on some lists, but it just doesn’t make sense that Bosma would jump from the most important legislative position to be Pence’s second banana. Republican sources cite his ability to raise money and he would certainly be helpful to the legislative process, but he can do those things as speaker.

**Auditor Tim Berry:** The current auditor and former treasurer from Fort Wayne would provide some geographic balance, probably the least important criterion. Pence will do well in Fort Wayne and northeast Indiana, so Berry would have little impact.

**State Sen. Jim Banks:** He is the rising star of the conservative wing, hails from Columbia City and has been active in recruiting legislative candidates, establishing himself as an early career kingmaker. Many in the GOP see him playing at the gubernatorial level in the not-so-distant future. If Pence decides to go with youth, Banks would fit that bill. But as one Republican veteran observed, “It may be a little too early, but you can’t rule out any of the young turks.”

**Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas:** Gov. Daniels wanted him to be attorney general, but he lost a GOP convention floor fight to Greg Zoeller. The Times of Northwest Indiana has been pushing his candidacy on the ticket, but sources tell HPI that family considerations may keep him in Valpo.

**State Sen. Mike Delph:** The Carmel Republican has been very active with the Tea Party wing, and many are peeved at Pence’s debt ceiling vote last August. Delph would be a shout out to them.

**Dan Dumezich:** The former state representative from Schererville is a powerful Chicago tax attorney and a



**State Rep. Sue Ellspermann appears to fit many criteria that might make her a good running mate for Republican gubernatorial nominee Mike Pence: gender, geography, education.**

major GOP fundraiser, playing a critical role in Mitt Romney’s Indiana operations. He pondered a 2010 challenge to then U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh and opted out, otherwise he could be in the Senate right now. He serves on the Indiana Election Commission. Dumezich is tight with former congressman David McIntosh, a Pence confidant. Dumezich brings geography, money, a tax portfolio, legislative experience and has vivid relationships with GOP rainmakers like Dean White.

**State Rep. Sue Ellspermann:** The freshman



from Ferdinand was part of the 2010 GOP wave, so she is not the “seasoned veteran” some envision. But Ellspermann’s resume shouts for inclusion. She has a background in academia with University of Southern Indiana as well as business development. Ellspermann is the founding director of the Center for Applied Research at the University of Southern Indiana which mobilizes staff and students to assist regional businesses and organizations with applied research, consulting projects and internships. She also serves on Indiana’s Home Town Competitiveness Resource Team

heritage would be a plus for a Pence ticket, which has to be concerned about GOP relations with the fastest growing voter block in the state. Kubacki is the daughter of Raul and Christina Espinoza, and at a young age she moved to Indiana where her parents were hired to pick tomatoes in Oswego. Rep. Pence has spent considerable time and political capital trying to forge immigration reform on Capitol Hill. She has been a community activist on children’s issues and Latino affairs, and has served on the Riley Foundation and presidential advisory boards for Manchester College, Ivy Tech and the Indiana Historical Museum.



Potential Republican lieutenant governor short-listers include (from left) Mark Miles, Rep. Kubacki, Cathy Langham, Sen. Banks, Rep. McNamara, and Prosecutor Hill.

hosted in the Office of Community and Rural Affairs facilitating communities in their revitalization efforts through a deliberate, organic process. She holds a BSIE from Purdue and MSIE and Ph.D from the University of Louisville. She has published research in Omega, the International Journal of Management Science and Engineering Management Journal. Her client organizations ranged from Fortune 500 to rural communities supporting innovation, problem solving, strategic planning, facilitation, team building and interpersonal skills development. She has previous engineering and management experience with General Motors, Michelin and Frito-Lay. When you look at what Ellspermann has to offer – education, business innovation, rural development, geography, gender – it’s not hard to envision a “Pence-Ellspermann” ticket.

**Elkhart County Prosecutor Curtis Hill:** He is a three-term prosecutor, first elected in 2002. Hill has testified before Congress on “Methamphetamine in the Heartland” and was a presenter for the 2004 Northern Indiana Methamphetamine Summit sponsored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy Executive Office of the President of the United States. He chairs the Governor’s Council on Impaired Dangerous Driving.

**State Rep. Rebecca Kubacki:** Another freshman Republican from Syracuse, the diminutive Kubacki campaigned under the slogan “too small to fail.” Her Latino

**Cathy Langham:** She was co-founder of Indianapolis-based Langham Logistics Inc. in 1988 and functions as its president and chief executive officer. She offers two decades of logistics expertise to business leaders in a wide spectrum of industries including pharmaceutical, food and beverage, automotive, and other industries with complex supply chains. She splits her time among three key areas, company presidency, customer relations, and civic leadership. Langham’s visibility as CEO of a fast-growing business enterprise earned her firm a visit from President George W. Bush. In 2005, she accepted a role on the Indiana Economic Development Corporation Board at the invitation of Governor Mitch Daniels. Langham would offer Pence gender and economic development elements.

**State Rep. Wendy McNamara:** Yet another freshman from Mount Vernon in Posey County, she offers gender, geographical, business development and educational portfolios for the Pence campaign. She received her undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Indianapolis, teacher certification from Valparaiso University and masters in Education and Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Indiana. Her educational career spans over 16 years with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, where she served as a teacher and department chair at Benjamin Bosse and Harrison high schools, as the supervisor of social studies and as the assistant principal at Evansville North High School.



She is currently director of Early College High School, an innovative school developing a model for high school students who simultaneously earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or two years of college credit toward a bachelor's degree. She has served as an adjunct professor for world history at the University of Southern Indiana and has taught political science and social studies methods at the University of Evansville. In her freshman years in the legislature, she was author of laws to have inmate correspondence courses approved in advance by the Department of Correction, a streamlining of the Department of Child Services, and the lowering of the corporate tax from 8.5% to 6.5%. And on the purely political front, McNamara's elevation to the ticket might prompt the GOP to lose HD76 against former Democratic State Rep. Trent Van Haften. But if Van Haften were to return to the House, many Democrats would urge him to take on Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer, and as Gov. Daniels would advise his predecessor, a deposed Bauer would be a good development for a rookie governor.

**Mark Miles:** He headed the Indianapolis Super Bowl, is a business leader who headed the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership and is a GOP stalwart. He would be a new face with no legislative record. As one county chair put it, "Mark would be a safe choice, if interested." Some of his political friends, however, have trouble seeing him presiding over the Senate for three to four months a year and he doesn't have the agricultural background that's part of the LG portfolio.

**Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold:** Some view his 5th CD run where he finished fourth as "damaged goods" even though he entered the race late. But Seybold has been a good mayor, steering Marion through the near liquidation of the domestic auto industry. That will be an issue in the fall campaign and Seybold could be useful to Pence on that front. Seybold also worked with Democratic Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight on regional economic development issues. And he's an Olympic skater, and after watching Pence's first TV ad where Mike and Karen are seen skating at the Pepsi Coliseum, a First Couple might want to have that type of expertise on the team.

Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn observed, "Follow the money. If history has served us, then I think we should keep our eyes on Jim Kittle, Fred Klipsch, Bob Grand and Dean White. They are the Republican rainmakers and their vote counts a little extra. I think that the final candidate will be one who is non-threatening to the Marion County and donut county interests. I just have a hunch that Miles may be the one."

**HPI's take:** Our early money is on Ellspermann. She has great credentials across the spectrum and would put a dent in Democratic intentions to regain traction in the

southern river counties that used to generate gubernatorial victories.

### The Gregg ticket

Informed and reliable sources tell HPI that Democratic gubernatorial nominee John Gregg is thinking geography and gender. With this in mind, here's a speculative list for the Gregg ticket:

**State Rep. Terri Austin:** When she rose in the House chamber in the opening minutes of the 2011 session wearing a red dress, her declaration was the first salvo in the Right to Work wars. The Anderson Democrat entered the House in 2002 after Gregg's exit. She is the ranking minority member of the Rules & Legislative Procedures Committee. In addition, she is a member of the Financial Institutions Committee, the Public Policy Committee, and the Joint House-Senate Rules Committee. During her time in the House, she has championed legislation to help improve the lives of Hoosiers and to advance the state's economic climate through transportation, technology, education, small business, and workforce development. In 2005, she was author of Indiana's landmark law to protect small business from burdensome regulations, earning her the Guardian of Small Business award from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). In 2009, she was awarded the Friend of Economic Development citation by the Indiana Economic Development Association.



**Democratic LG short-listers include Rep. Austin and Mayors McDermott and Goodnight.**

### Kokomo Mayor Greg

**Goodnight:** The two-term mayor has been innovative, cutting Kokomo's city employees and helped steer the city through the auto crisis of 2008-10. He is

a former union president at Haynes International, helping that company recover from bankruptcy. He ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1996 before serving on the Kokomo City Council. He has been active in regional economic



development. On the weekend Gregg officially kicked off his campaign, one of the first stops was to pay a visit to Mayor Goodnight. A good fundraiser, Goodnight is sitting on a considerable war chest.

**Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry:** The two-term mayor would help the Gregg ticket in the GOP-dominated northeastern Indiana. He is a businessman and a former member of the Fort Wayne City Council.

**State Rep. Linda Lawson:** The Hammond Democrat is a powerful lieutenant to House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer. She was the first female captain on the Hammond Police Department. As a police officer, she worked as a patrol officer and with the sex crimes and domestic violence divisions. Lawson (pictured, left) has also served as a member of the Hammond School Board for 12 years. In 1998, Lawson was elected to the Indiana House to represent District 1, which encompasses most of Hammond, Munster and parts of Whiting. She has served as the chair of the Judiciary Committee and on such legislative committees as Environmental Affairs, Courts & Criminal Code, Family Affairs, Educa-



tion, and Labor. She currently is a member of the Statutory Committee on Ethics, Judiciary, Public Policy, and the Select Committee on Government Reduction. Lawson has been involved in many pieces of crucial domestic violence legislation in her career at the Statehouse. She has served on numerous boards such as Haven House, a women's shelter in Lake County, and the Boys and Girls Club.

**Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr.:** The three-term mayor has been a significant innovator, using the city's casino money to fund college scholarships for students there. He has reached out to neighboring cities such as Whiting to consolidate government functions. McDermott is Lake County Democratic chairman and has been a proponent of government reform. Thus, he is a powerful player among the largest pool of Democratic voters in Indiana. A shot at the ticket could help Gregg maximize turnout in The Region.

**Woody Myers:** We hear he's not interested. That's too bad. The former Indiana and New York City health commissioner has a fabulous resume, was a hero in the Ryan White saga, knows emergency rooms and board rooms, and is an extremely successful venture capitalist who could do wonders for Gregg's paltry warchest.

There is much less speculation in Democratic circles about the developing Gregg ticket. If Republicans go gender, then Austin and Lawson will come under critical consideration. Our early bet is a Gregg/Austin ticket. ♦

## RGA pumps \$1 million into Pence campaign as TV ad sequence begins

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS -Republican gubernatorial nominee Mike Pence's gubernatorial campaign received a huge financial boost in the wake of the Indiana primary last week when the Republican Governors Association dumped \$1 million into his warchest.

It comes atop the \$5 million Pence reported in 2011 and the record \$1.8 million he raised in the first quarter of this year. He reported \$4.929 million cash on hand as of March 31. "The Republican Governors Association is very committed to this race," said campaign spokeswoman Christy Denault. She said it was the first cash infusion by the RGA. And it lengthens Pence's money lead over Democrat nominee John Gregg, who raised

just \$584,570 for the first quarter, \$2.3 million total for the cycle, and reported \$1.5 million cash on hand. The big money lead has allowed Pence to go up on TV Tuesday in what Denault called "a significant buy" statewide. Pence is shown here at his campaign kickoff in Columbus in June 2011.

The Pence ad features wife Karen Pence describing the couple's first date - skating at the Pepsi Coliseum at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The ad follows the story of Pence's life, from his boyhood in Columbus, Indiana, to his time at Hanover College and the Indiana University School of Law, to his career at the Indiana Policy Review and the syndicated radio show he hosted. She describes Pence as a loving husband and father who also loves Indiana and "has a servant's heart." Pence campaign manger Kyle Robertson explains, "Along with Mike's jobs tour, his visits to all 92 counties and all of our grassroots efforts, this is just another way for us to take our message directly to Hoosiers all across the state."

Democratic nominee John Gregg made news on Monday, calling for a "fast track audit" of state finances. Gregg, a former House speaker, cited a recent news report on WISH-TV in which a state field auditor, Cathy Luff, said the state is sitting on overpaid taxes by businesses rather than returning the money. "Who is minding the shop?" Gregg said as he stood in front of the Statehouse today. "This is the fourth error in just a matter of days, a matter





Mike and Karen Pence pick up a cue from Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold and ice skate in the campaign's first TV ad that began airing on Tuesday.

of less than half a year. We've to have a complete audit of all state government and see where the moneys are, what's missing, who has overpaid, how this continues to happen." Gregg said that combined with earlier incidents it demonstrates the need to speed up a state audit, and to spread it beyond just the state Department of Revenue. In December, the state disclosed it had let \$320 million in business taxes paid by e-check accumulate and in a holding fund. In April, the state Department of Revenue said a software error had resulted in counties being shortchanged \$206 million. A third error was discovered at the end of April, when a clerical mistake in the auditor's office resulted in 34 counties being underpaid by about \$536,000.

On Wednesday, Gregg called for eliminating the state's corporate income tax on Indiana-based businesses Wednesday as he continued to roll out his policy ideas ahead of November's election. The former Indiana House speaker also said he'll push for targeted tax credits for Indiana businesses as a way to create high-paying jobs, and plans to cover the \$350 million cost by taxing online sales by retailers such as Amazon.com. "That's what I believe this campaign is about, it's about jobs, and to do this we've got to create a level playing field for Hoosier businesses," Gregg said. Gregg has previously said he would like to abolish the sales tax on gasoline and cover the loss in revenue through routine audits of state spending. He cites the \$526 million in mistakes discovered by the state Department of Revenue in the last six months and other states' experiences conducting external audits. Indiana Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Chairman Brandt Hershman called the Gregg proposal "laudable" but said the unintended consequences of narrowly focused tax cuts would affect major out-of-state employers like Subaru, which announced plans to expand this week. "I think it's a valuable discussion to have, but the devil is in the details in the impact of a suggestion like this," he said. **Gubernatorial Horse Race**

**Status:** Likely Pence

The USA Super PAC's Jim Bopp Jr. announced the ad against Donnelly. Bopp, a Republican national committeeman from Terre Haute, says the ad will run for the next week. It features voice over of "President Obama" making a phone call to Donnelly: "Joe Donnelly, this is President Obama. I hear you want to stay in Washington as a US Senator. That's a great idea. With all the bailout and stimulus money we gave the unions and government workers you can count on them for campaign cash. The last thing I need is another Hoosier conservative blocking my agenda."

The TV ad comes as Donnelly released a Global Strategy Group poll, showing Donnelly and Tea Party candidate Mourdock locked in a tie at 40-40, with 20 percent of voters undecided. The survey of 602 likely voters was conducted May 10-13 and the margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 4.0. It follows a March 26-27 survey of 503 general election voters in the Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll that showed Donnelly and Mourdock tied at 35%. In addition to the race being tied, key data points from the GSG show Donnelly in a strong position for November. They include: Mourdock's favorability rating is upside down. Hoosier voters have an unfavorable view of Tea Party candidate Richard Mourdock; those surveyed viewed him more unfavorably than favorably by a 37-36 margin, including 22 percent of respondents holding a strongly unfavorable view of the Tea Party candidate. The Tea Party as a whole is very unpopular. Hoosier voters view the group unfavorably by a 10 point margin, 44-34, clearly showing that Mourdock's Tea Party candidacy will be dragged down by the group's unpopularity. **Senate Horse Race Status:** Tossup

**Romney posts \$40 million in April; Obama leads in Fox News Poll**

Mitt Romney almost matched President Obama in fund-raising during April after securing his party's presidential nomination and joining forces with the Republican National Committee, the campaign will announce on Thursday (New York Times). Mr. Romney and the R.N.C. raised \$40.1 million in April, just shy of the \$43.6 million that Mr. Obama and the Democratic National Committee raised.

A new poll from Fox News has President Obama leading Mitt Romney by 7 percentage points. The poll -- which put Obama ahead 46 percent to 39 -- paints a rosier picture for Obama than several others this week, including surveys from Rasmussen and the Washington Times that showed Romney leading by a single percentage point and one from Gallup that had the candidates in a dead heat. The Real Clear Politics polling average has Obama ahead by 2.5 points. ❖



## Tie between output and jobs loosened

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Crusty Crawford joined our lunch table with a pronouncement. "We've always assumed a close tie between output and employment," he said. No one responded.

"Yes, sir," he continued, speaking to our blank faces, "used to be folks could count on sort of a direct link between the amount of stuff we made as a nation and the number of jobs it took to make that stuff. More carburetors, more cars, more auto workers. Why, some of the best economic observers would just sit on their porches and count the trucks going by. More trucks, more drivers, a better economy."

His listeners looked at their meals as Crusty carried forth. "But I'm here to tell you, that tie is getting looser, that link is not as snug as before. Indeed, just consider what's happened over the past few years."

Here it came. Crusty had spent the morning playing with some statistics, and we were about to be regaled with the story they told. There was no avoiding it.

Crusty said, "Between 2007 and 2010 our Gross Domestic Product or GDP, the value of all we make and do in this country, fell by just 0.3 percent. Oh, you may look surprised, but I'm right. The recovery had brought us back from the low of the recession to where we were just about even with our pre-recession high."

As he looked from face to face, Crusty said as an aside, "Did you know there are folks who still talk of the recession as if it was still going on? Well the truth is, not only is the recession over, the recovery itself was ending in 2010. We were, as we are now, in the expansion phase of the business cycle."

**To break the silence,** I said, "Is that so?"

"Darn right," Crusty offered. "But even with the recession over, that is, with output back on the growth track (and it has been for 11 quarters now), we were producing with 3.4 percent fewer people. That's 6.1 million fewer jobs spread across the nation."

"So how is Indiana doing?" I asked as if inquiring after a distant aunt.

Crusty's normally stoic face softened as he said, "Not as good I'm afraid. Our output in 2010 was still down

by 1.4 percent and our employment off by 4.9 percent, about 181,000 people.

"But here's the good part of all this: our productivity has climbed," Crusty boasted like a proud grandparent. "In the nation, productivity (GDP per job) climbed by 3.2 percent while Indiana did even better, going up by 3.6 percent."

**"That's perverse," I growled,** energized to speak. "You focus on a statistical sliver of silver in the gray cloud while millions of Americans go unemployed."

"Now wait just one minute," Crusty protested. "I too am disturbed by the unemployment, but as a nation we have to see the current conditions as opportunities. The country is out of the recession and enjoying higher productivity. This gives us the chance to find jobs for the unemployed doing useful things rather than going from place to place looking for jobs. Higher value per job means more capability to support other jobs.

"Yes, yes, I know," Crusty looked at each of us individually, "it means creating jobs to meet national and local needs. However, you sit here and decry unemployment, but you do not support employing the jobless. That's plain hypocrisy!"

Crusty left us at that point. No one had anything to say. ❖

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



When Sen. Dick Lugar ran his 30th consecutive ACLI Capital Challenge last year, the celebration was a modest one. Everyone just assumed there'd be a few more milestones ahead. But the Indiana Republican lost his primary last week. Next year, he will no longer be eligible to run the annual three-miler, which pits teams of Capitol Hill folks, agency staffers and journalists against one another. So it was his 31st race Wednesday in Anacostia Park that turned into a bittersweet victory lap. What kept him running all these years? "I thought it was a beautiful opportunity," Lugar told the *Washington Post*. (Washington Post Photo)



**Larry Sabato & Kyle Kondik, University of Virginia:** In the beginning, there was the Etch A Sketch. After the Illinois primary on March 20, which signaled the beginning of the end of the Republican presidential nominating process, Mitt Romney adviser Eric Fehrnstrom discussed how his candidate would pivot toward the general election: "It's almost like an Etch A Sketch. You can kind of shake it up and restart all over again." Several days later, there was President Obama, who told Russian President Dmitri Medvedev that he would have "flexibility" to negotiate on missile defense after the election. Then there were the comments from Hilary Rosen, a Democratic strategist, who said that Ann Romney (wife of Mitt) "never worked a day in her life." And last week, after his vice president pushed him into a corner, Obama surprised no one by endorsing gay marriage, a Darwinian evolution from his earlier position of supporting just civil unions. The very next day -- in a bit of timing we'll simply call curiously coincidental -- the Washington Post reported that Mitt Romney, as a prep school boy, cut the hair of a purportedly gay classmate in an act of bullying at his elite boarding school. What do all of these things have in common? They are all, to at least some degree, "feeding frenzies." Candidates beware: With the presidential silly season upon us, you are entering what can be described, contra Bill O'Reilly, as the "All-Spin Zone." Without actual news, the press will fixate on any gaffe, big or small. But how many of these frenzies actually matter? Not all feeding frenzies are the same, but they generally can be classified into three levels of severity: **Mega Frenzy:** The infrequent "black hole" frenzy that sucks in most available media light and dominates the news for weeks or months. It is remembered as the dominant story of a particular election or era: Watergate, the Iran-Contra Affair, and Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky all qualify. **Full Frenzy:** A major event that connects to a candidate's existing subtext -- that is, the way journalists think the real person underneath the public exterior is defined. An example is Gary Hart's reckless extramarital relationship with Donna Rice, which he was pursuing even as the candidate invited reporters to "follow me around. You'll be very bored." The revelation effectively knocked Hart out of the 1988 Democratic presidential nominating contest and confirmed lingering suspicions about his character. **Frenziette:** The summer squall of feeding frenzies, which seems important at the moment but fades quickly and has no real impact. A New York Times article about John McCain's interactions with a lobbyist in 2008 is an example. The story, which seemed to suggest far more than it proved, didn't appear to hurt McCain in the slightest. So far at least, all the examples listed above from the 2012 campaign season probably belong in the "frenziette" category. But that doesn't mean they are



meaningless. If you like significant media frenzies that can have an impact on the election, you may have to wait for Mitt Romney's running-mate unveiling. Until then, you'll have plenty of frenziettes to occupy your time and attention. ❖

**Mark Kiesling, NWI Times:** One of the things I think did in veteran U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar was that no one was quite sure where he lives. Some critics of Lugar said he was too old at 80 to be seeking re-election. I remember having a "Lugar for Senate" bumper sticker on my first car, a 1966 Ford Mustang. But I'm not buying it. State Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, is 74 and still sharp as a tack. He knocked off a 45-year-old opponent, Tony Walker, with ease. Lake County Commissioner Gerry Scheub, D-Crown Point, is 76 and squashed his opponent, former Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez, who is 58. But much was made of where Lugar and his family really live. He has a home in Virginia, which is not unusual for a guy who has served for 36 years in the U.S. Senate. You need a place to lay your head close to the U.S. Capitol. I mean, it would be kind of counter-productive for him to fly to Washington every day from Indianapolis, where he was mayor before running for the Senate in 1976. He might well have been the victim of Charlie White syndrome where residency becomes an issue in the campaign and eventually results in a candidate's downfall. ❖

**Andrea Neal, Indiana Policy Review:** Congratulations and best of luck to the Class of 2012. Even with a degree in hand, they'll need it. A college diploma just doesn't mean what it used to. Consider the following: At 85 percent of colleges, students can graduate without taking an intermediate level foreign language course. "A pervasive lack of knowledge about foreign cultures and foreign languages threatens the security of the United States as well as its ability to compete in the global marketplace and produce an informed citizenry" (National Research Council 2007). At 80 percent of schools, students don't have to take a class in U.S. history. "Part of historical study is learning how to locate, evaluate and employ evidence to support argument. History is thus both a way of thinking about the world and a systematic process of analyzing evidence. As such, it should be central to any institution's academic programs" (Liberal Learning and the History Major, Michael Galgano, 2007). At 34 percent, students need not enroll in a single college-level math class. Forgive the generalization, but many have earned diplomas without learning much in core subjects that require critical thinking essential to a successful career. ❖



## Hoosier Lottery to go private

INDIANAPOLIS - The state will take steps to privatize the operations of the Hoosier Lottery in an effort to improve the performance of the games – a move that is under consideration in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and other states as well (Evansville Courier & Press). The Indiana State Lottery Commission announced Wednesday that it is seeking information from companies that would be willing to operate the lottery. Then in September, the state plans to accept actual bids. "Gov. Mitch Daniels has consistently challenged all of us to identify and implement

changes that promote more effective and more efficient state government," said Hoosier Lottery

Executive Director Karl Browning. "The goal is to become more strategic in our business approach in an effort to increase revenue for the State of Indiana." The move comes about six months after the Kathryn Densborn – then the executive director of the Hoosier Lottery – resigned the post amid accusations that the agency overspent on new offices and lavish furniture as it moved from one downtown Indianapolis location to another.



## State GOP hears voter vault case

CROWN POINT - State Republican Party officials heard testimony and evidence related to allegations the Lake County party's database was used to miscast two party candidates as Democrats in the recent primary election (NWI Times). The complaint was filed by Michael Neal, chairman of

Lake County's Young Republicans. Pete Seat, spokesman for the state Republican Party, said Wednesday the hearing board is composed of three members of the 18-member state central committee. Seat declined to identify the three members of the board but said they are from various parts of the state. "They will hear both sides, and they will make a recommendation to the state committee at a later time," Seat said prior to the meeting. Lake County GOP Chairman Kim Krull could not be reached for comment Wednesday. "Kim Krull is a very intelligent person," Lake County Assessor Hank Adams said Wednesday in her defense. "Doing something like they're accusing her of is simply ridiculous."

## Dems file FOIA to Mourdock

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Democratic Party this morning filed a Freedom Of Information request with Treasurer Richard Mourdock, seeking all emails, legal invoices and other bills from his pursuit of a legal case to kill the Chrysler bankruptcy settlement (Schneider, Indianapolis Star). Donnelly, as did Lugar, supported the help given to Chrysler and GM under President George W. Bush. That was built on later by President Barack Obama. When Chrysler and GM filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy to reorganize their debts, Mourdock was the only public official in the nation to challenge the deal, but lost at each step, including the U.S. Supreme Court. The Democrats this morning took two letters to Mourdock's Statehouse office. One seeks all email correspondence between Mourdock and the treasurer's office staff about the Chrysler legal challenge. The second seeks all legal invoices, bills and expense receipts from the litigation. Mourdock hired a New York law firm to handle the challenge.

## Budget leaders to call for state audit

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana budget leaders are issuing a formal call to companies interested in auditing the state's tax agency following a series of big errors (Associated Press). The state is looking for an external auditor to review the Department of Revenue after workers discovered \$526 million in errors recently. The state issued the formal request last week and has set next Wednesday as the deadline for responses. The state budget committee is set to meet June 4 to consider the responses. Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Gregg called on the state to speed up the audit earlier in the week.

## Welfare withdrawal prompts probe

INDIANAPOLIS - Reaction is building at the Indiana Statehouse to an I-Team 8 investigation that showed your tax dollars being withdrawn as cash in liquor stores, strip clubs and casinos across the state and even across the country. One lawmaker who saw what I-Team 8 uncovered is now demanding immediate action and an investigation into why one potential fix to the problem is being ignored. Following more than four months of research, I-Team 8 unveiled its findings Tuesday. In total, our investigation found at least \$120,000 in questionable withdrawals made by Indiana welfare recipients. At least \$68,000 of that money was withdrawn from locations currently banned under Indiana law. The money comes from a federally funded program called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF. Each month, the cash is loaded onto electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, also known as Hoosier Works cards.