



Upset City: Ballard's shock wave

15 incumbent mayors fall across the state, sending a defiant message to Statehouse

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Republican mayor-elect Greg Ballard took the stage at the Murat on Election night and told a frenzied crowd, "Welcome to the biggest upset in Indiana political history! This is a classic, if not the ultimate, example of grassroots politics."

Ballard's upset of Mayor Bart Peterson was one of at least 15 incumbents who were defeated Tuesday. This will jolt the Indiana political establishment and send a shudder through the Indiana Statehouse which must come up with a property tax solution in 2008 or face a similar scenario a year from now.

Incumbent mayors in Terre Haute, Anderson, LaPorte, Delphi, West Lafayette, Tell City, Franklin, Madison, Charlestown, Plymouth, Vincennes,



Republican Greg Ballard forged what he called the "biggest upset" in Hoosier history when he deposed Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson Tuesday. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Washington, Huntingburg and Frankfort were upset as vot-

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Hoosiers are changing

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - My competitor at Indiana Legislative Insight likes to propagate the notion that Hoosiers are "resistant to all change."

Allow me to retort.

Since May 2004, Hoosiers have voted out Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, Gov. Joe Kernan, and Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton. The Indiana House has switched hands, meaning we've had two speakers in that time span. In fact, Hoosiers have swapped out their entire executive and legislative branch leaders who make policy.



Brian Howey's Column



"Ballard shouldn't have an inaugural ball. He should have an amnesty ball."

- **Former Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel on the lack of GOP support for the mayor-elect**



Hoosiers have retired four congressmen - Baron Hill, John Hostettler, Chris Chocola and Mike Sodrel (obviously bringing Hill back). They defeated five incumbent legislators.

And now, Bloody Tuesday, where perhaps at least 15 mayors went down to defeat, following the 11 that were retired in last May's primary. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson's defeat stands to send a storm surge through the Indiana Statehouse this morning. It will have both political parties re-examining their conduct and priorities.

A persistent notion I heard during the Greg Ballard celebration last night was that many Republicans didn't think Gov. Mitch Daniels property tax plan goes far enough. Several key Statehouse players think the 35 percent property tax cut for homeowners isn't nearly enough.

There were a number of victorious mayoral candidates, like independent Fred Paris of Franklin and Republican Tim Armstrong of Madison who favor Eric Miller's approach of repealing all property taxes.

The message city voters were sending Tuesday is that folks are pissed off with the status quo. They are not talking about going back to the pre-Mitch days. Many want him to go even further than he did with his Oct. 23 proposed property tax reforms.

Then there's the Kernan-Shepard Blue Ribbon Commission that will issue a report sometime in the next seven weeks. Our sources are telling us that some of the commission's recommendations will be bold, though perhaps not as far as seeking to combine tiny counties like Ohio and Switzerland or forcing significant school corporation consolidations.

Hoosiers are upset about property taxes and the opportunity

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here is that if Kernan-Shepard do go bold, Gov. Daniels may find a very receptive audience across the state if he can underscore the costly layers of government and how they relate to your mortgage payment.

The political parties have some soul-searching to do. Many Bal-

Coroner Kenneth Ackles. There was the ethically-challenged Councilman Monroe Gray. There is the missing-in-action congresswoman whose party leadership pledged blind fealty. Mayor Peterson was abandoned by House Democrats as he tried to steer his Indy Works proposal through the House.

He failed to admonish the antics of Gray. Perhaps he felt that if he did, he would lose vital support on the street.

But it was a double-edged sword. Not only did the Democrats not turn out because Rep. Julia Carson wasn't there to push the vote, Peterson lost many of the Republicans and independents who supported him in his two victories.

Ballard observers told me last night that scores of Democrats scatched Peterson off their straight party votes.

If Marion County Democrats are to regain their majority role, they've got to recruit a higher caliber of candidates and public servants.

If Bloody Tuesday in Upset City doesn't convince you that the spirit of change is sweeping the Hoosier state, then only God can save those who seek to defend the status quo or descend back into the old ways that created the atmosphere of widespread discontent we find today. ❖



lard supporters told me they believed that Gov. Daniels and Mayor Peterson cut a deal. That's why the Indiana GOP made resources available to the indicted Matt Kelty in Fort Wayne weeks before it came in with \$55,000 for Ballard's GOTV. Whether this is true or not is something that Daniels and GOP Chairman Murray Clark are going to have to address in the coming days.

For Indianapolis Democrats, this is a colossal rebuke. During the same period they became the party of the coming demographic majority, they gave us public servants like



ers lashed out at the first politicians on the ballot after a summer of property tax crisis, high gas prices and the perception that we are on the wrong track. Independent candidates defeated incumbent Republicans in Franklin and Frankfort. Fred Paris of Franklin told WIBC that people had had it with the two political parties. He said that on the issue of property taxes, he was more aligned with Eric Miller's push to repeal that tax altogether.

In one of the more dramatic races during this mayoral election year, Fort Wayne Democrat Tom Henry easily defeated Republican Matt Kelty in a landslide. Kelty was indicted on nine counts - including two perjury charges - in August on campaign finance violations.

Terre Haute Mayor Kevin Burke, Anderson Mayor Kevin Smith, LaPorte's Leigh Morris, former State Rep. Gary Cook in Plymouth, Al Huntington in Madison and Terry Mooney in Vincennes were all upset, some by large margins.

Democrat James Mansfield in Muncie won by 9 votes. At Mishawaka, Mayor Jeff Rea batted back an intense challenge from Mike Hayes. Democrats reclaimed mayoral seats in Elkhart with former fire chief Dick Moore and Councilman Greg Goodnight in Kokomo.

Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke, Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard, Gary Mayor Rudy Clay and Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski all cruised to easy victories. A pair of former mayors - Doug England in New Albany and Jim Galligan in Jeffersonville - reclaimed their offices. Former New Castle mayor Sherman Boles lost his attempt to reclaim that seat.

Pristine Ballard owes no one

But the most dramatic upset came in Indianapolis, where a number of prominent Republicans passed on the race, figuring Mayor Bart Peterson was simply too strong and well financed. Peterson had been a potential



Greg Ballard is congratulated by State Sen. Brent Waltz just moments after Mayor Peterson issued his concession. Waltz began the string of epic upsets in 2004 when he defeated Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst. Gov. Joe Kernan lost later that year, followed by Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton in 2006, and now Mayor Peterson. Ballard's victory defies the notion of Indiana Legislative Insight's Ed Feighenbaum that "Indiana is resistant to all change." (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

2008 gubernatorial candidate and many figured that after serving a full third term, he would be poised for a future gubernatorial or U.S. Senate campaign.

Several prominent Republicans at Ballard's victory celebration said they believed that Gov. Mitch Daniels was in collusion with Peterson as he did not endorse or donate to the Ballard campaign. The Indiana GOP only began putting resources into the Ballard campaign in the final weeks.

There were no Lugars, Daniels, Hudnuts, Goldsmiths, Bosmas or Borsts who openly endorsed the Ballard campaign. State Sen.

James Merritt, who passed on the race, chaired Ballard's committee. State Sen. Mike Young said that he gave the campaign \$7,000. Conservative Sens. Brent Waltz and Mike Delph were in the audience and said the message was unmistakable. "The people want Ronald Reagan, Goldwater and Jeffersonian styled limited government," Delph said. "Anything else will be met with resistance."

Waltz explained, "Property taxes aren't the third rail. It's the only rail."

'Can everybody hear me?'

"Can everybody hear me?" Ballard asked as he thanked his grassroots supporters Tuesday night. "This is unbelievable. Six months ago, I was the only one who believed. But now everybody believes. This is the ultimate example of grass-root politics. The Beatles used to sing, 'money can't buy you love.' But it can't buy you elections, either."

Former Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel said that Ballard shouldn't have an inaugural ball. "He should have an amnesty ball," McDaniel said, noting the many establishment Republicans who didn't come to Ballard's cause. One legislator - among several in the crowd - told HPR, "This is the death knell of country club Republicans."



Ballard emerges from this campaign as perhaps one of the most pristine political figures ever. Throughout the year, the former Marine led what seemed to be a solitary campaign to upset the political establishment while virtually the entire GOP establishment remained on the sidelines. Even when people began appearing outside the Governor's Mansion, at the Statehouse, at Monument Circle, few of them embraced Ballard.

He has now won without saying a mean word about his opponent. He didn't run a negative, scary TV ad. He didn't have to sell his soul to raise money. He finds himself in one of the most unique circumstances in the history of modern Indiana politics: he can define himself ... after ... he won office.

The homestretch of the campaign was fought with both Peterson and Ballard attempting to define Ballard. But, like Greg Walker's stunning upset of Garton last year, he did it with meager resources and an issue of utmost volatility that it rendered Peterson's millions moot.

Peterson's base collapsed

Peterson was gracious in his concession, telling somber Democrats at the Westin, "I want to tell you what I told him. I'm going to give him my full support. And I want to ask all of you to do the same. It's time to rally around the new mayor and to give him and to give as much to the city as you always have. Because at the end of the day, it isn't about one individual or one administration, it's about the great city of Indianapolis."

Turnout in Indianapolis was a mere 23 percent. Like 1994, this election wasn't won by the incumbent's party getting out-performed by its opponents. It was defeated by base suppression.

Former Republican Chairman Rex Early said that he ended up in the 6th Ward on Tuesday afternoon and saw very little activity in what should have been a Peterson stronghold, suggesting that the Democratic base didn't turn out due to the property tax crisis. But Indianapolis Democrats were nagged by ethical lapses with Council President Monroe Gray and Coroner Kenneth Ackles, neither of whom were rebuked by Peterson or the party. As a result, the GOP reclaimed the City-County Council.

Early, who backed similar insurgent challenger campaigns against Larry Borst in 2004 and Garton in 2006, called Ballard's win the biggest upset since Richard Lugar won the 1967 mayoral race. That year, Democratic Chairman Jim Beatty challenged incumbent Mayor John Barton in the primary and the party never recovered from the fracture. Within two years, Lugar and L. Keith Bulen got the Unigov reforms passed and the GOP controlled the city for the next 32 years.

It was Peterson who ended that domination in 1999. Noting the GOP attack ads against him that year, Peterson said that when political machines seize up, they

2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels, La Ron Keith. Democrat: Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Results:** Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644.



2008 Forecast: How does Tuesday's Upset City impact the governor's race. If you're Schellinger, you've seen two legs of the endorsement stool - Peterson and Rep. Carson - kicked away. Peterson is defeated. Carson was too ill to get her machine mo-

tivated to get to the polls. As the **Frugal Hoosiers** blog observed this morning, "Sleepless nights await Evan Bayh and Jim Schellinger as their plans for the future are fatally challenged. Tuesday's election didn't just upset a powerhouse incumbent mayor, it upset an Indiana Democratic Party hinging their hopes of recapturing the governor's office, and possibly the vice presidency, on his inner circle and the influence that cascades around him. Jim Schellinger was only a candidate because of his support for Bart Peterson and the hundreds of thousands of dollars he spent on Bart's cause. When Peterson passed on a shot at the governor's office, Schellinger asked and received a shot of his own thanks to the support of the Mayor and Julia Carson. The absence of both gives Jill Long Thompson the opportunity to put him away early, further damaging the ability of democrats statewide to retain, much less gain, political ground in 2008. For his part, Evan Bayh has spent a year trying to convince America he can deliver the Midwest for Hillary Clinton. But his former chief of staff couldn't even hold on to the mayor's office in a city that was thought to be invincible for Democrats."

For Gov. Daniels, this is the second time he has completely misplayed Indianapolis politics. When State Sen. Murray Clark resigned, Daniels backed Councilman Ike Randolph who subsequently lost to Mike Delph, moving an Indianapolis Senate seat out of Marion County to Carmel. This time, Daniels stayed out of the fray altogether, drawing questions from the press about why he wasn't supporting Ballard and essentially saying that he wasn't asked to help. **Democratic Primary Status:** LEANS LONG THOMPSON. **General Status:** Leans Daniels. ❖



make a terrible sound. History seemed to repeat itself when the Peterson campaign resorted to attack ads, then did little to soften the final image of the mayor. The Peterson campaign ads seemed out of sync with what was happening on the streets. The sunny, feel good ads of the summer gave way to Peterson looking into the camera and telling the people he felt their pain. There were people with first names like "Vop" telling the people this fall about all the good things Peterson had done. On several occasions when HPR witnessed these ads in local pubs, the reaction from the people was that of hisses and sneers.

Peterson attacked Ballard in the final 10 days with TV ads. But, as one Republican noted, "He never asked people for their vote" in the final media buys.

Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell told WTRV Tuesday night, "Shock is probably the wrong word. We knew this was a volatile political year. It was just a strange year. I've been through a lot of campaigns and this one was unlike any I've ever seen. People were really concerned about property taxes, even though it wasn't really the mayor's fault."

Voters not only embraced change on Tuesday, as the following stories from around the state will reveal, but they were lashing out at the first politicians they could find on the ballot.

That is a message that will be heard loud and clear today at the Statehouse. Indianapolis Star columnist Matt Tully wrote in today's paper, "In the most stunning way possible, in perhaps the most stunning Election Day in the city's history, Marion County voters on Tuesday sent a message so loud that it will echo throughout Indianapolis for the next four years."

Or as Barry Fox of Elkhart wrote in an e-mail to HPR, "This election, a prelude to the 2008 election, was about hope, hope that somebody, anybody would listen to

the average Joe. If things don't change in Indiana soon, the 2007 elections will be looked at as a cleansing of the process prior to an all out assault and blood bath for incumbents seeing reelection in 2008."

Henry landslide in Fort Wayne

Tom Henry won the race to succeed Mayor Graham Richard by taking 60 percent of the vote. Republican Matt Kelty took 40 percent of the vote, according to unofficial election results with 97 percent of the precincts reporting (Lanka & Kelly, **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Though quietly confident throughout the evening, the crowd at Grand Wayne Center was happily surprised when Allen County Democratic Party Chairman Kevin Knuth announced at 8:40 p.m. that Kelty conceded the election. When Henry arrived moments later, he made the long walk to the podium while being mobbed by well-wishers and cameras. Meanwhile, Kelty's official concession speech played live – but muted – on TV sets at the front of the room. Mayor Graham Richard was among the loudest cheerleaders, and many partygoers chanted, "It's mayor time." "What a day, what a day," Henry said after grabbing a prepared speech from his pocket and joking that he didn't want to read the wrong one. He thanked volunteers and supporters for being the "unsung heroes of this election," and then gave special recognition to "those who stepped forward at great political risk" to support his candidacy. Henry also gave the glowing audience a glimpse into his new administration – his credo: "Risk more than others think is safe. Care more than others think is wise. Dream more than others think is practical. Expect more than others think is possible."

Kelty held a separate election function at the Park Place Grill before taking a walk to Allen County Republican Party Headquarters on Main Street to deliver his concession speech. It mirrored the march on headquarters his supporters made after winning the primary over heavily favored Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters, but this time, the mood was somber. Kelty was gracious in defeat and thanked his throng of supporters for working hard on his campaign, and he said Henry will make a good mayor for the city. "Tom is one of the finest men I know," Kelty said. "I wish him all the best."

Mayor Burke shocked in Terre Haute

The vote was too close for comfort, but in the end, Duke Bennett won the race for mayor of Terre Haute, becoming the first Republican to win since Leland Larrison in 1967. Mayor Kevin Burke became the fourth consecutive mayor to be defeated. His three predecessors all lost



Former GOP Chairman Rex Early (left) and WIBC's Greg Garrison revel in Ballard's victory Tuesday (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



in the Democratic primary (**Terre Haute Tribune-Star**). Burke, who was seeking a second term, said Tuesday night he had not yet decided if he would seek a recount. Unofficial results from the Vigo County Clerk's office had Bennett winning with 6,054 votes to Burke's 5,947. Bennett had 50.45 percent of the vote, while Burke had 49.55 percent. Reacting to his victory, Bennett said, "It's unbelievable. I'm really just surprised, shocked — I don't even know what word to use to describe it. I'm very excited and very thankful to the people who decided that I would be a good mayor and backed me." Some voters might be surprised, he said. "It's been long time since a Republican has been mayor of this town, but it happened tonight." Mayor Burke told his supporters, "Unfortunately, there's 50 percent that still believes, when they're told, they can get something for nothing," Burke said, "and they can have the jobs, and they can have the prosperity, they can have all that and lower the cost."



BENNETT

Ockomon stuns Smith in Anderson

Kris Ockomon pumped his fist as the final results were read (Schneider, **Anderson Herald-Bulletin**). The Democratic challenger landed a knockout punch, unseating incumbent Republican Kevin Smith to win the Anderson mayor's seat on Tuesday. "We're hard-working, we've proved it to them," Ockomon said. "Now we're going to work to make this the best place in Indiana to live, work, play, breathe." State Sen. Tim Lanane said, "It's an indication that the city was ready for a change in leadership style and philosophy. For the Democrat Party, it just shows a lot of hard work at a grassroots level." Smith's term was preceded by 16 years under Democratic Mayor J. Mark Lawler. To opponents of that administration, Lawler represented the dark side of Anderson's "Democratic machine." Ockomon grabbed 5,514 voters on straight-



Democrat Kris Ockomon upset Anderson Mayor Kevin Smith. (Anderson Herald-Bulletin Photo)

party tickets compared to 2,910 for Smith. But Lanane said Ockomon's victory marks something different altogether. "Mark Lawler was an incumbent who won repeatedly and had the power of the incumbency behind him," Lanane said. "We were coming at this election from the position of a non-incumbent and it's much more difficult as a challenger. It really was a lot of people who firmly believed in Kris Ockomon and what he was willing to do."

LaPorte mayor trounced

Former LaPorte mayor Kathy Chroback returns to the helm, trouncing the current mayor by more than 700 votes (**Post-Tribune**). Chroback, a Democrat, collected 2,499 votes to 1,750 for Leigh Morris, a former president and chief executive officer of LaPorte Hospital. "We got a new mayor," screamed her campaign manager Jack Rosenberg before exhilarated supporters at the packed Democratic headquarters in the city's downtown. Chroback, 54, said the major key was a feeling among citizens their voices weren't being heard and the City Council was being side-stepped. Only two GOP candidates for the seven open City Council seats won, a contrast to the existing makeup of six Republicans and one Democrat. "We're going to come in and straighten up city government. We're going to give it back to the people," Chroback said. Morris, 72, said he felt Chroback's unwillingness to debate and resistance by the community to the rapid change he was trying to bring about were the biggest reasons for his defeat.

Mayor Mills upset at W. Lafayette

John Dennis' first task as West Lafayette mayor will be to reduce waste by auditing city departments (**Lafayette Journal & Courier**). It was a key issue in the Republican's campaign to oust Democratic incumbent Jan Mills, whom he defeated by nearly 600 votes. "I plan to stick to all of the promises from my campaign," said Dennis, the first Republican chosen to run the city since 1979. Mills would not comment before the final results came in.

Not ready for a 'lady mayor'

Democrat David Uran yanked Crown Point from the grasp of a divided city Republican Party on Tuesday. The 39-year-old former city police officer secured Crown Point's top job with slightly more than half of the votes, according to unofficial election results (Kwaitkowski, **Times of Northwest Indiana**). His opponent, Republican Gayle Van Sessen, conceded at 8:16 p.m. "It's unbelievable," Uran shouted, standing atop a chair at White Hawk Country Club to address the crowd of well-wishers. He said enthusiasm is what endeared him to voters. "We did a lot of things that weren't done before," Uran said, citing his DVD campaign message, airplane advertising and other ideas. "We've gone from a family of six to a family of 24,000 now. ... I



won't let them down." He will be only the second Democratic leader in the city's history. Sixteen years ago, former Democratic Mayor Jim Metros snatched victory from a split Republican Party to become the first. Metros served three terms. History appeared to repeat itself Tuesday night. Van Sessen said her campaign was eroded by party dissension. Longtime Republican City Councilman Bob Corbin openly supported Uran, and current Mayor Dan Klein refused to endorse Van Sessen after he was defeated in a volatile May 8 primary. "I'm somewhat disappointed in the Republicans in this community," Van Sessen said quietly. "Maybe this community just is not ready for a lady mayor."

Slim 487 win for Hammond's McDermott

With 60 percent of precincts in, Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. led challenger George Janiec by only 125 votes, and the mood in the Hammond Civic Center was muted (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). At 80 and 90 percent, things looked up for the incumbent, with the mayor leading by 402 votes and gaining another 208. Early Wednesday morning, the final -- but not certified -- results showed McDermott winning the election by a margin of 487 votes. He drew 5,289 votes while Janiec brought in 4,802. McDermott thanked his team for winning him another four years, but not without acknowledging the numbers. "Maybe we took a little too much for granted," McDermott said.

Recount looms in Muncie

For the first time in 20 years, Muncie voters elected a Democratic mayor Tuesday -- probably (**Muncie Star Press**). James Mansfield, a Democrat, led Republican Sharon McShurley by nine votes after all the counting was done Tuesday night. Thirteen provisional ballots, however, remained uncounted and McShurley promised supporters a recount. "It's not over yet," McShurley said in an interview. "I'm not conceding. When you have nine votes, every vote needs to be looked at closely." Mansfield followed the race behind closed doors for most of the night at Democratic headquarters but joined the crowd upstairs to declare victory around 8 p.m. In his speech, Mansfield called the race a dogfight. "For the first time in a long time we're going to have Democrats controlling city hall," he said, drawing a round of applause.

Luecke rolls in South Bend

Voters gave Democratic Mayor Stephen J. Luecke a surprisingly easy victory Tuesday over Republican rival Juan Manigault (Wensits, **South Bend Tribune**). Luecke



South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke rolled to an easy victory Tuesday. He believes the GOP's Rest in Peace mailer helped his landslide. (South Bend Tribune photo)

trounced Manigault by a nearly 2-1 count, according to unofficial vote totals. Write-in Green Party candidate Thomas Brown collected less than 1 percent of the vote, although Brown and other party members said some of the write-in votes may not have been counted. "We did better than we thought," said a jubilant Luecke, who was the target of many hugs and handshakes from well-wishers during a victory celebration at the West Side Democratic & Civic Club. Luecke, who appeared to have about a 10-

point lead in a Tribune-WSBT-TV poll in late October, was thought to be in a nail-biter that many, including Manigault, thought was much closer than what the poll was showing. Instead, Luecke won with a margin of over 34 percent and picked up nearly 62 percent of the vote. "We saw support all across the spectrum," Luecke said, crediting his victory to voters who believed in his experience in office and had confidence in the ability of his administration to move the city forward. In particular, he said, a mailing that depicted a tombstone with the message, "Here Lies South Bend" may have "galvanized voters and made them determined to vote for me." The problem caused by the mailing was compounded, Luecke said, after Manigault embraced the sentiment. "I think the negative campaign from the Indiana Republican Party backfired," Luecke theorized.

Mayor Rea survives in Mishawaka

Incumbent Mayor Jeff Rea pumped his fist when he got up to announce to supporters Tuesday night that he had won (Lowe, **South Bend Tribune**). But his voice broke when he thanked his family and talked about negative campaigning against him and "the crap" his family has had to listen to about him on television. The jubilation at Republican headquarters contrasted with the quiet at Democratic headquarters and the BK Club, where Democrats gathered after getting the results. "It's a big disappointment," Hayes said in a telephone interview shortly after realizing that he had lost. "It's just ... I just don't know." "I'm just stunned a little bit," he continued. "I thought it



looked good for us.”

Senter upsets Cook at Plymouth

By an unofficial margin of 1,014 to 747, Republican Mark Senter beat incumbent Democrat Gary Cook, 56, for the city’s top elected position in Tuesday’s city election (South Bend Tribune). The news brings to an end a months-long campaign that saw the two men skirmishing over issues including economic development, law enforcement, and taxes, as well as a public disagreement over a debate that led to the cancellation of the event. But for Senter, the struggle — and the anxiety of waiting for the outcome — faded into a sweet glow of handshakes and well-wishing at Christo’s Banquet Center after the results rolled in Tuesday. “All day long, we were on a roller coaster,” he said with a laugh. “One person would come in and say things are looking good — then another one would come in and tell us the Democrats were coming on strong.”

Madison mayor defeated

A 21-year veteran of the Madison police force, Armstrong hammered the theme that it was time for a change, and the message clearly resonated with voters in the Ohio River city of 12,000. Armstrong edged Huntington by 186 votes in a community that has traditionally leaned Republican. Armstrong, 47, credited friends and family for helping fashion a well-organized, aggressive campaign against Huntington, 62. He said before the election that residents were upset by the closing of two factories, Reliance Electric and the former U.S. Filter, which put 315 people out of work. Even before Armstrong’s resounding primary victory over retired Reliance plant manager Dale Minor in May, Huntington knew that he would face a stiff challenge. The mayor said he doubted that the factory closings and a high-profile lawsuit that has alleged police misconduct had played a role in his defeat. “I’m not one to make excuses. I just got beat,” Huntington said moments after learning last night’s results. “People just decided that for whatever reason they wanted somebody else.” He said he’ll leave feeling good about the strides Madison has made, and he intends to remain a big cheerleader for the city. “We’ve really done a lot in 13 years.”

Pabey wins second term

Democrat George Pabey bested three challengers Tuesday to handily win election to a second term as mayor. “It feels good that finally -- after so many fights -- we get to do four years,” Pabey told the jubilant crowd at American Legion Allied Post 369 (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). “We are going to work very hard to bring East Chicago back to what it used to be.” Though 2008 will mark Pabey’s second term, it will be the first time the former city police chief will get to serve a full term because pervasive vote fraud allowed former Mayor Robert Pastrick to serve an

extra year in office in 2004.

Goodnight wins big in Kokomo

A jubilant, standing-room-only crowd at the Continental Ballroom announced the return of Democratic unity in Kokomo Tuesday, swept up in the emotion of Greg Goodnight’s landslide mayoral victory (Smith & de la Bastide, **Kokomo Tribune**). Not only did Goodnight roll past Republican opponent Rick Hamilton by what could be a record margin, but Democrats went from the minority to the majority on the Kokomo Common Council. Democrat



Kokomo’s Greg Goodnight calls for unity after his landslide win on Tuesday. (Kokomo Tribune photo)

straight ticket voters, led by a powerful local labor coalition, dominated the election, outpacing Republican straight ticket voters by the same margin — 66 percent to 34 percent — as Goodnight’s victory. “When they distorted our record, we worked harder. When they made personal attacks against me and my family, our resolve became stronger,” Goodnight told an audience estimated at more than 400. “We saw beyond the nastiness, began to have hope, and pulled together.” It was a heady night for the former Steelworkers union

president, particularly given the Democratic council candidates riding his coattails. Democrats gained a seat on the council, but came within 28 total votes of gaining an 8-1 margin. Republicans Mike Karickhoff, Ralph Baer and Cindy Sanders all won by extremely narrow margins, prompting calls for a recount from several prominent Democrats, including Goodnight. But the theme of Goodnight’s acceptance speech was a simple one for Kokomo Democrats torn by years of infighting. “The healing process,” Goodnight said, “begins tonight. “We did the right things for the right reasons,” he said in his speech. “When we were tempted to go negative — and God knows we were tempted — we stuck to our plan, stayed on message, and outworked our opponents.” Immediately after the final vote tally was announced, Hamilton called to congratulate Goodnight. “It’s humbling tonight,” Hamilton told local Republicans. “Who I am as a person and who we are as a family is not tied up in an election. I wished I had won, but it wasn’t meant to be.”

Snedecor wins big in Hobart

Democrat Brian Snedecor clobbered his Republican rival in the Hobart mayoral race, winning every precinct in



the city except for one (Post-Tribune). "The people believed in us (**Post-Tribune**). It's amazing to see that we won in every section of the city," Snedecor told hundreds of cheering supporters at the American Legion post. Unofficial election tallies show that the retired Hobart police detective won 28 of 29 city precincts to capture about 59 percent of the vote, compared to the 39 percent GOP mayoral candidate John Guthrie received. Hobart teenager Eric Smith, who ran as an Independent, won about 2 percent of the vote, according to unofficial results.

GOP mayor claims New Castle

For the first time in more than a half century, a Republican was elected the mayor of New Castle (**Muncie Star Press**). First-time candidate Jim Small, 67, beat Sherman Boles, 60, a Democrat who previously had served three terms as the city's mayor until he was defeated in 2003. Small's win, 2,919 votes to Boles' 2,503, was due in large part to strong Democratic support, a necessity in this city that last elected a Republican mayor in 1952. Nearly half of the city's registered voters cast ballots, 47 percent compared to 40 percent four years ago. "It shows that we'll be a unified city," Small said of the bipartisan support, which actually was driven by a divisive primary involving Boles and the city's current mayor, Democrat Tom Nipp. After Nipp lost his bid for re-election in May, many of his supporters crossed party lines. At times Tuesday night, Nipp acted like Small's victory was his own. Before Small arrived at the senior center, where he planned to address the crowd, Nipp greeted green-clad supporters with hugs and handshakes. He told one person, "Boles can't beat us up any more." Boles said Tuesday's loss would be the end of his political career. "Oh, I'm done," he said, noting campaigning was "just too hard of work."

5 SW GOP incumbents defeated

In a year when property tax concerns and aging infrastructure may have contributed to an anti-incumbency sentiment among voters, five Southwestern Indiana mayors — all Republicans — were defeated Tuesday night. In Vincennes, incumbent Mayor Terry Mooney was defeated handily by Democrat Al Baldwin, a hardware store owner. In Washington, incumbent Mayor David Abel lost to Democratic challenger Larry Haag. In Huntingburg, Democratic challenger Marvin Belcher defeated Mayor Gail Kemp. In a rematch in Cannelton, Democrat Morris "Smokey" Graves unseated incumbent Melvin McBrayer. In Tell City, Democrat Barbara Ewing defeated Mayor Gayle Strassell. Republican mayoral candidates won in Petersburg and Rockport, and a Democrat won an open seat in Bicknell. Losing to Baldwin by a vote of 2,454 to 1,662 in Vincennes, Mooney called his defeat "a massacre." Baldwin campaigned on what he said was the need for the city to be more organized in its planning and development, and contended Vin-

cennes could do more to market itself as a good place for retirees to live. Mooney said he was proud of his economic development record, and obtaining a \$5 million study to relocate railroad tracks because of the 84 railroad crossings on Vincennes streets.

Hartford City Mayor re-elected

For the first time in almost four decades, Hartford City voters returned an incumbent to consecutive terms as mayor (**Muncie Star Press**). In Tuesday's election, Dennis Whitesell, a Democrat, received 838 votes. Rollin Brown, a Republican, received 765 votes, and Donald Lower, Independent, received 23 votes.

England reclaims New Albany

New Albany voters decided yesterday to give Doug England, a Democrat who was mayor from 1991 to 1999, another chance to lead the city (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). England defeated Republican Randy Hubbard, the former Floyd County sheriff, with 52 percent of the vote. England received 4,017 votes, Hubbard 3,741. "Thank you for looking at the issues, not the allegations," England said in an acceptance speech before cheer-



Doug England returns at New Albany (News & Tribune Photo)

ing Democrats at the Knights of Columbus Hall, alluding to questions his opponents raised about his record. "New Albany is going to need a lot of love," he said of a range of issues, from a deteriorating downtown to economic development, that he mentioned during his campaign.

Galligan returns at Jeffersonville

Democrat Tom Galligan was elected to a third term as Jeffersonville's mayor yesterday, capping a political comeback following his surprise defeat in the Democratic primary 4 1/2 years ago to current Mayor Rob Waiz (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). Galligan, 61, drew about 63 percent of the vote, soundly defeating Republican Monty Snelling, a member of the Clark County Council. Galligan, who turned the tables and defeated Waiz in this year's primary, used the theme "I get things done" to focus on the



economic development successes of his first years in office, which included attracting high-profile restaurants to the city's "Restaurant Row" on the riverfront and a number of businesses to its industrial parks. Galligan, quiet for a moment amid the clapping and cheers in his campaign headquarters, said he was touched by the overwhelming support. "I lost the last time," Galligan said, referring to his 2003 primary defeat. "Running was a major, major decision," since it meant risking another rejection by voters, he said.



Jeffersonville's Tom Galligan reclaimed his former office. (News & Tribune)

Icehouse Restaurant, with dozens of supporters surrounding him and cheering.

Hutton wins at Richmond

Improving neighborhoods and schools through home ownership is one of the goals Sally Hutton set for the city after winning the Richmond mayoral race Tuesday over challenger Rick Thalls (**Richmond Palladium-Item**). Hutton, a Democrat, won 4,118 votes to 3,195 for Republican Thalls, or 56.31 percent of ballots cast. She became the first incumbent to repeat as mayor since Dennis Andrews in 2000.

Seybold skates in Marion

Four-year-old Michael Seybold summed up Tuesday's race for Marion mayor best: "My daddy rules."

Republican Wayne Seybold was emphatically re-elected to a second term as Marion's mayor Tuesday, carrying two-thirds of the votes in a race that pitted him against Democrat Bill Henry, whom he defeated as challenger four years earlier (**Marion Chronicle-Tribune**). "This is just a prime example that the people of Marion believe in what we're doing," Seybold said amidst the crowds inside The

Hall defeats Mayor Hall

It's back to the future in Charlestown, as former Mayor Bob Hall came out victorious after Tuesday's election (News & Tribune). While the totals won't be made official for a week or so, unofficial results show that voters preferred Bob Hall over his opponent, incumbent Mayor Mike Hall, by a 56 percent to 44 percent margin. The former mayor garnered about 275 more votes than Mike Hall. ❖

2008 State Presidential Polls

	Date	Romney	Giuliani	Thompson	McCain	Huckabee
Iowa (R)						
ARG	Oct. 26-29	30	16	8	14	19
Iowa/Hawkeye	Oct. 17-24	36	13	11	6	13
New Hampshire (R)						
ARG	Oct. 26-29	30	23	5	17	7
Rasmussen	Oct. 23	28	19	6	16	10
South Carolina (R)						
ARG	Oct. 26-29	29	23	10	13	5
Iowa (D)						
ARG	Oct. 26-29	32	15	22	7	5
Iowa/Hawkeye	Oct. 17-24	29	20	27	7	5
New Hampshire (D)						
ARG	Oct. 26-29	40	10	22	5	
Rasmussen	Oct. 26-27	38	14	22	7	
South Carolina (D)						
ARG	Oct. 26-29	41	18	19	1	
Rasmussen	Oct. 26-27	43	10	30	2	



'The Reformatory' comes to Indiana politics

By BEVERLY PHILLIPS

Indianapolis resident Melyssa Donaghy first made news in 2005 when Mayor Bart Peterson said she was operating an illegal home business and also targeted her retail shop. Known as "The Reformatory," her private clients spent time (and money) at her home engaging in non-sexual bondage and discipline activities, commonly known as domination and submission. The city eventually closed down her home business saying it violated zoning issues. Her lawsuit with the city recently ended without a fine.

Donaghy is most recently known for being a property tax activist and taking on Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson. HPR talked with her prior to last night's election to learn more about her background and what's fueling her passion for property tax reform.

HPR: To give us some background, what was at the heart of your battles with the City of Indianapolis.

Donaghy: The mayor libeled and slandered me. Mayor Peterson stated several times in a press release published on the www.indygov.org website and at a televised press conference, that I owned illegal adult businesses. I did not. I believe the mayor, to divert attention from his problems in the City-County Council, used me as a political decoy.

HPR: Are your battles with the City over?

Donaghy: My battles are not likely not over if Peterson is re-elected as I am considering filing a lawsuit for sexual harassment, libel, and slander. I will not file suit involving the city if Greg Ballard is elected. I feel the taxpayers have been hurt enough due to the negligence of taxpayer concerns in Peterson's administration.

HPR: Sexual harassment? Libel? Slander?

Donaghy: At the Mayor's budget presentation before the City-County Council on August 6, when citizens were denied access to the public ... note the word "public" ... assembly room, I politely asked a group of seated, uniformed Indianapolis Fire Department employees to give up their seats so citizens could participate. They looked incredulous and declined. As I walked away, one of them asked, "Who was that?" Another man responded: "Our resident Bull Dyke." At it turns out, the man who said this was Indianapolis Fire Chief James Greeson. I have a sworn

affidavit from a witness who heard the remark.

(HPR Note: In response to an email inquiry last week, Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell adamantly denied the remark was made. He wrote, "Chief Greeson fervently denies that he said that (comment). He's a good man and I can't imagine him thinking it, let alone saying it.

Donaghy: The mayor publicly stated at a tax forum on September 30 that the city's sexual harassment policy also protects citizens from harassment by public officials when he was questioned about a recent \$350,000 settlement the taxpayers were forced to give a female firefighter (for discrimination).

HPR: And now you are a property tax advocate?

Donaghy: I got involved with the property tax issue because my own neighborhood was hurt. I did not appreciate the fact in 2003 Mayor Peterson promised that we would not face another big increase. His promise four years ago made people settle down. He didn't keep his promise. This time our property tax increases were more severe because of the bloated spending of Peterson's administration, the library board, and the school board whose budgets are approved by our City-County Council. I believe change happens from your own back yard.

HPR: What do you think of Governor's recently unveiled property tax relief proposal?

Donaghy: I think it is a bold move in the right direction and I appreciate that the Governor acknowledged the people and that he hears us. I also appreciate that he looked at complete repeal of property tax from day one. I am not sure why he came to the conclu-

sion that property tax repeal is not possible and would like to see a serious public debate and open number crunching of the economist Dr. Bill Styring's plan for property tax elimination.

HPR: Are you giving up your dominatrix business for good?

Donaghy: No way! Memo to Peterson: I am going to continue my dominatrix business, but in a new form that you cannot stop. Domination is about power and submission. I intend to educate the citizens of this community and this state, about who works for whom and to teach our citizenry their rightful place as dominants over their politicians and their government as promised to us by our Constitution. What happened over time, partly due to arrogance, partly due to lack of public awareness and public apathy, is that government workers and elected officials have forgotten who the real bosses are ... the tax paying citizens who sign their pay checks. ❖





Matthew Tully, Indianapolis Star - In the most stunning way possible, in perhaps the most stunning Election Day in the city's history, Marion County voters on Tuesday sent a message so loud that it will echo throughout Indianapolis for the next four years. Residents had watched the antics at the City-County Building and wondered what was becoming of their city. They had read about the disastrous reign of ethics-plagued City-County Council President Monroe Gray and wondered whether any Democratic leaders -- say, the mayor -- would have the will to stand up to him and say, "We deserve better." Time and again, through massive tax increases and embarrassing controversies, Marion County residents found themselves disappointed and disgusted. They found themselves wondering whether anyone at the City-County Building was looking out for them. As Republican Mayor-elect Greg Ballard's campaign slogan suggested, they decided they'd "had enough." Before I go on, I'll let you take a second to digest that: "Mayor-elect Greg Ballard." That's going to take awhile to get used to. And while this race was more about voter anger than Ballard's low-budget campaign, he was right: Voters have indeed had enough. There is no other explanation for the results that poured in Tuesday night, results showing Mayor Bart Peterson, a highly skilled politician who was essentially guaranteed a third term only three months ago, conceding defeat. Residents' seething anger also explained council Democrats' loss of their majority. The voters have spoken. Many headed to the polls Tuesday with one mission: to toss out incumbents. How stunning is this? Remember, this is a county that was written off by Republicans several years ago. The GOP's time as a party of power in this county was over, a faded bit of history, we all said. Republicans had moved to the suburbs, leaving Democrats in control of the state's largest seat of local government. The outlook was so bad for the GOP that its leaders struggled for months to find a mayoral candidate, before belatedly accepting, but not seriously backing, Ballard. ❖



Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union - From time to time it's nice to take an inventory of where one stands in the political spectrum. Now seems like a good time to do this because I believe it is one of the most divisive, partisan times ever. I get the sense the nation is polarized. It's an "us against them" kind of thing. Certainly, elected officials must share a good bit of the blame. I remember when W took office the first time. He billed himself as "a uniter, not a divider." Well, how's that workin' for ya these days, W? After his re-election, I remember him saying his win gave him "political capital." He followed that up with, "and I'm gonna spend it." He said it with a smirk, or a sneer. I remember thinking to myself, this can't be good. And it hasn't been. I have always considered myself a

conservative, but I have a tough time squaring my political ideology with the current crop of Republicans - from W on down. Honestly, they don't act very conservative. During W's first term, when the GOP was running the show in the House, the Senate and the White House, we wound up with huge new government programs. The USA Patriot Act. No Child Left Behind. The prescription drug benefit. These things were budget busters, and W was all too happy to go along with them. In fact, W didn't veto anything - not one thing - during his entire first six years in office. Now things are different. Since the Demos took over Congress, the veto pen has been wielded over things like a modest (by Washington standards, 3 or 4 billion dollars a year is modest) proposal to give health insurance to poor kids. Things like this tell me that there's little going on in Washington on either side of the aisle that has anything to do with what's right for America. ❖

John Ketzenberger, Indianapolis Star - Mark Lubbers expected the attacks on Gov. Mitch Daniels' property-tax plan. The governor's longtime adviser figured they would come this weekend after the opponents had time to digest the proposed reforms. Lubbers didn't think the governor's ironclad support in the business community would be the source of strife, though. Yet Pat Kiely, president of the Indiana Manufacturers Association, and Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, didn't wait to pounce on the property-tax caps that are triple those for homeowners. Neither longtime Daniels supporter minced his words publicly. Both pillars of the business community called the proposal unconstitutional and unfair. "It would have been better if the plan had a chance to take root, knowing that it was going to change when the General Assembly got it, without Pat and Kevin piling on," Lubbers said. Here's Lubbers' theory on what ticked off the two: "This has nothing to do with the governor and his plan," he said. "It has everything to do with their competition for members." "That's nonsense," Brinegar said. "Year in and year out, issue in and issue out -- particularly on taxes -- the IMA has been one of our strongest, if not the strongest, allies." Maybe Lubbers is playing a little divide-and-conquer. Maybe he's tweaking the two just for fun. Or maybe he has a point. Brinegar doesn't cut the same profile as Kiely, but the former Senate Finance Committee staffer takes pride in the chamber's research and has expanded by adding programs like the monthly Economic Club of Indiana. The rift has a nice side effect, too. "Even though this wasn't calculated," Lubbers said, "it helps people understand the governor is not afraid to make his friends mad." Even if only at each other. ❖