



Obama, Daniels redouble change

Historic 2008 election turns Indiana blue, but also brings status quo

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis
MARK SCHOEFF JR. in Washington

This was an election with something for everyone. Democrats saw Indiana go blue for the first presidential election since 1964 and retained control of the Indiana House by a 52-48 margin. Republicans saw Gov. Mitch Daniels win a second consecutive term, defend the attorney general and superintendent of public instruction offices, maintain a 33-17 margin in the Indiana Senate and defend their four congressional seats by resounding margins.

If you were of a "throw the bums out" sentiments, six Indiana House seats changed parties - four Republicans and two Democrats. There will be 32 new members of the Indiana General Assembly due to death, resignation, retirement or defeat, the highest since 33 seats changed hands in 1992. If you liked the status



President-Elect Barack Obama greets tens of thousands of supporters at Grant Park in Chicago on Election Night. It was an American 'defining moment,' Obama said. (HPI Photo by Ryan Nees)

quo, all nine members of Congress returned and Speaker

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The Arc of Abraham

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - It was an obscure fact buried in battleground Indiana; that Spencer County - Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home - came in blue for Barack Obama. It was a county Obama could only muster 39 percent of the vote in last May's primary.

Three hours later, Indiana went blue. Two epic phases of the Obama story played out in Hoosier basketball gyms, public parks, on our TV screens. It earned the Illinois Democrat a 1,352,356 to Republican John McCain's 1,329,370 victory in



"Change just won and won big in Indiana. This is less an endorsement than an instruction. This is less a victory than an assignment."

- Gov. Mitch Daniels

PRESS

BRIAN HOWEY
Howey Politics Indiana
Publisher

HOWEY
Politics Indiana

Howey Politics Indiana | P.O. Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240 | 317-202-0210



HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

is a nonpartisan news-letter based in Indianapolis and published by NewsLink Inc. It was founded in 1994 in Fort Wayne.

Brian A. Howey, publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr. Washington writer
Jack E. Howey, editor
Beverly Phillips, associate editor

Subscriptions:

\$350 annually HPI via e-mail;
\$550 annually HPI & HPI Daily
Wire.

Call **317-631-9450**.

HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

PO Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265.

Contact Us

www.howeypolitics.com

bhowey2@gmail.com

Main Office: 317-202-0210.

Howey's Mobile: 317-506-0883.

Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.

Washington: 202-256-5822.

Business Office: 317-631-9450.

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Indiana on the way to 349 Electoral College votes. It was the first time a Democrat had carried Indiana since LBJ in 1964, coming on the heels of a 1 percent loss to Hillary Clinton in the primary.

Seven months before this historic movement - in Fort Wayne - Obama was in an intense primary campaign with Clinton. It was April 4, 2008, the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. And Obama harkened back to King's "arc of the moral universe" which, he said, "is long but that it bends toward justice." Obama went on to talk of King's legacy, of a "demand for personal responsibility" and "cleansing yourself" and "turning the other cheek."

Fourteen months before that, Obama kicked off what was then widely seen as a long-shot campaign in Springfield, Ill. A few blocks away from the Old Illinois Capitol stood Lincoln's home. Across the street stood the Lincoln & Herndon Law Offices. A few miles away stood Lincoln's tomb. It was a city that rioted in 1909 and the reaction was the formation of the NAACP.

It was at the Old Illinois Capitol that Lincoln gave his "House Divided" speech: "In my opinion, it will not cease until a crisis shall have been reached and passed," Lincoln said. "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved - I do not expect the house to fall - but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

Obama accepted the arc of Lincoln that day, and the arc of

King in Fort Wayne months later. Of Springfield, he noted that it was where "north, south, east and west come together, that I was reminded of the essential decency of the American people, where I came to believe that through this decency we can build a more hopeful America."

In Chicago Tuesday night, Barack Obama was elected to be the



44th president of the United States and carried this arc to the American people. It was a mission he acknowledged back in Springfield had a "certain presumptuousness - a certain audacity." But he said that "Washington must change. The genius of our founders is that they designed a system of government that can be changed."

Before perhaps a million jubilant people in Grant Park and millions more the world over, Obama said, "I will never forget who this victory truly belongs to. It belongs to you. It belongs to you. I was never the likeliest candidate for this office. We didn't start with much money or many endorsements. Our campaign was not hatched in the halls of Washington. It began in the backyards of Des Moines and the living rooms of Concord and the front porches of Charleston. It was built by working men and women who dug into what little savings they had to give \$5 and \$10 and \$20 to the cause." Add in the 49 stops Obama made to Indiana,



including the final of the campaign on Election Day, as a birthing point.

Throughout our Hoosier State this spring, summer and fall, dozens of Obama offices sprung up in strip malls, barber shops, beauty shops and Main Street store fronts in some of the most Republican areas of the state, in counties he would never carry. For Obama, it was all about building rapport. Or as Obama put it, "It grew strength from the young people who rejected the myth of their generation's apathy who left their homes and their families for jobs that offered little pay and less sleep. It drew strength from the not-so-young people who braved the bitter cold and scorching heat to knock on doors of perfect strangers, and from the millions of Americans who volunteered and organized and proved that more than two centuries later a government of the people, by the people, and for the people has not perished from the Earth."

"This is your victory."

Yes, soaring rhetoric. Change has come to America. The Obama campaign began a dialogue in red Indiana and shaved points off the Republican base before Indianapolis, the Democratic counties between Lake and St. Joseph, and parts of the Wabash and Ohio River valleys delivered the knock out punch.

"To those -- to those who would tear the world down," Obama said. "We will defeat you. To those who seek peace and security: We support you. And to all those who have wondered if America's beacon still burns as bright: Tonight we proved once more that the true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity and unyielding hope."

Whew. Hope!

And the Arc to America's Abraham: "In this country, we rise or fall as one nation, as one people. Let's resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness and immaturity that has poisoned our politics for so long. Let's remember that it was a man from this state who first carried the banner of the Republican Party to the White House, a party founded on the values of self-reliance and individual liberty and national unity. Those are values that we all share. And while the Democratic Party has won a great victory tonight, we do so with a measure of humility and determination to heal the divides that have held back our progress.

"As Lincoln said to a nation far more divided

than ours, we are not enemies but friends," Obama continued. "Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. And to those Americans whose support I have yet to earn, I may not have won your vote tonight, but I hear your voices. I need your help. And I will be your president, too."



The Obamas and Bidens greet the nation from Grant Park in Chicago on Election Night. (HPI Photo by Ryan Nees)

What we've witnessed is the greatest political campaign in American history that played out vividly amidst Hoosier cities, towns, taverns and farms. A 47-year-old Harvard-educated African-American with the middle name "Hussein" who steered his way through the Chicago Democratic machine, to the Statehouse, to Congress has come to this: Toppling the Clinton dynasty. Overcoming the Bradley Effect. A black man in the White House.

Watching the Obama and Biden families mingle on the stage at Grant Park was a transcendental moment as celebrations broke out across the nation at the White House, in Harlem, on Monument Circle, at Ebenezer Baptist Church. The music in Grant Park wasn't triumphant; it was reflective, an acknowledgement of the arduous road ahead. "This is about an America that is as good as its promise," said Tavis Smiley, the PBS commentator from Kokomo.

Carrying Indiana into the blue column. Yes, "Change has come to America," Obama said. It passed through the Crossroads of America to get there. ❖



B. Patrick Bauer will be there to offer “constructive” input.

If you’re a reformer, 31 of the 43 township assessors were abolished and Gov. Daniels returns, never having to face the voters again. He is expected to aggressively push an agenda of government reform and education enhancement.

This election marks the last time Daniels will be on a ballot. It will be difficult for Jill Long Thompson to revive a political career that now includes three consecutive general election defeat, two for Congress and one for governor.

There will be speculation on who might join Barack Obama’s administration with Sens. Lugar, Bayh, Ron Klain, and former congressmen Tim Roemer and Lee Hamilton on various lists for the emerging cabinet expected to take shape after Thanksgiving. Lugar said on Wednesday, “I intend to continue serving the people of Indiana who elected me to the Senate.”

Both parties now face gubernatorial succession issues that will slowly begin to play out. For Republicans, there will a search for clues as to who succeeds the Daniels era: Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Senate President David Long, Republican Chairman J. Murray Clark and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence will top all lists. For Democrats, there will be a three-year search for someone to assume the party mantle and restore energy and ideas. The short list there will likely include former mayors Bart Peterson and Graham Richard, former Speaker John Gregg, Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, Lake County Sheriff Rogelio Dominguez and newly elected Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson.

Presidential

Obama invested heavily in Indiana and won a 1 percent victory over John McCain. He opened 44 offices, made 49 trips including the last of his campaign on Election Day, and built a rapport in Republican counties. The strategy delivered, with Republican strongholds like Noble County giving Obama 42 percent (30 percent in 2004 for John Kerry), LaGrange 39 percent (28 percent in 2004), Steuben 45 percent (33 percent in '04), Kosciusko 39 percent (21 percent in 2004), Johnson 37 percent (26 percent in 2004) and Shelby 40 percent (28 percent in 2004). In Hamilton County, subject of Walter Shapiro’s Salon.com story on suburban politics, Obama polled 38 percent, up from the 25 percent that John Kerry received in 2004. While Lake County was credited with putting Obama over the top, the



Vee's Diner at 40th and Boulevard in Indianapolis openly supported both Barack Obama and Mitch Daniels. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

plurality actually came within the 49,691 votes for Obama in Hamilton County and the extra thousands of votes he polled from some of Indiana’s most Republican counties.

“They were in our headquarters, (Obama) organizers and volunteers, just canvassing and calling people,” Mary Kay Elder, chairwoman of the Perry County Democratic Party told the Evansville Courier & Press. “I had never actually seen anything like a presidential campaign getting a committee together here, and I’ve been involved in politics for 40 years. It was unbelievable.” The payoff: Perry County, which went to Republican George W. Bush in 2004 by seven votes, went Democratic this time. Obama won by a margin of 5,140 to 3,201.

It was an audacious, successful game plan that spread the field. No one here had ever seen anything like it. It dismantled conventional wisdom. Obama lost Indiana to Hillary Clinton in the May primary due to an influx of “Limbaugh” Republicans. He might have won Indiana in November with those who were jarred by the failures of the Bush administration, the financial collapse on Wall Street and a candidate with a strange name who actually met them more than halfway. He outraised McCain \$639 million to \$335 million and therein lies the cushion of his historic victory.

Our analysis in October was that if Obama could poll more than the 38 percent of the white vote he had in the October 23-24 Howey/Gauge Poll he might win. Obama carried 45 percent of whites, according to CNN exit polling



data. He got 41 percent of white men and 48 percent of white women. He polled 54 percent of independents and 13 percent of Republicans. Obama won 86 percent of those who strongly disapproved of President Bush.

Probably the most striking weakness of John McCain's quest for the White House was that he never articulated a clear plan for what he would do if he were elected. Despite surrounding himself with some of the best business leaders and economic thinkers in the country, he failed to develop a simple, three-point approach to reviving the economy that all Americans could repeat by heart by mid-September.

His advisers got it wrong when they assumed that the campaign would be about character rather than issues. Voters grew to trust Obama enough that they concluded he would be a safe bet for president. They hungered for a response to the biggest issue of the day--the cratering economy.

Obama didn't really have a plan that would directly address the economic crisis. Tax cuts for the middle class is an elixir at best. But Obama didn't need one. As the challenger - and McCain was essentially the incumbent with the Bush millstone around his neck - all he had to do was make the election a referendum on the status quo. He succeeded brilliantly.

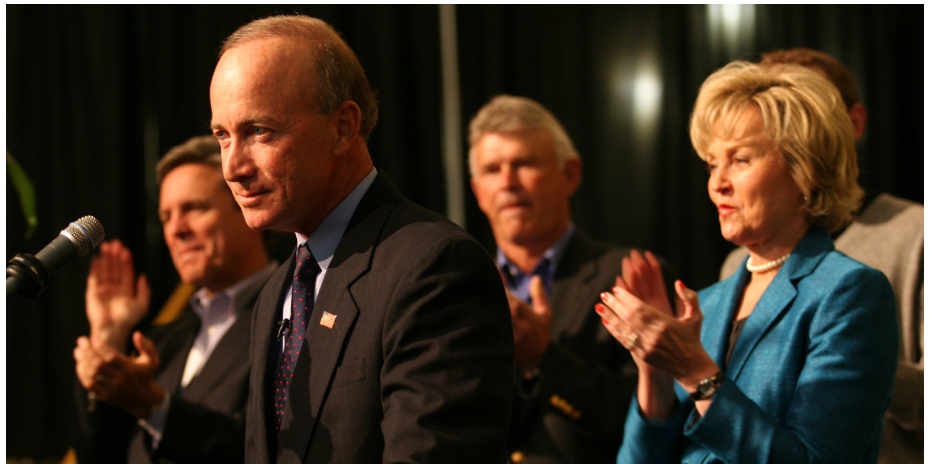
Indiana had a front row seat to the best candidate and campaign in modern American history. Obama was cool and calm, his rhetoric soared and inspired, and he drew hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers out of their homes and into the political public space. Indiana went Democratic for the first time since 1964 and the time before that was FDR in 1932. Historians are already comparing 2008 to the epic transformation elections of 1980, 1932 and 1860.

Governor

Gov. Daniels conducted one of the best campaigns in modern Indiana history. His opponent performed one of the worst. If it weren't for Obama, Daniels might have eclipsed Evan Bayh's plurality and percentage records. Daniels ran TV almost non stop from the time the Indiana General Assembly's sine die with a historic property tax reform package in March. Thompson failed to close ranks within her party, feuded with labor, disappeared in early summer, picked a running mate virtually no one envisioned as a legislator ready to step up to gubernatorial politics. While Daniels' campaign manager Eric Holcomb put together the best campaign and ground game in modern history,

Thompson's went 180 degrees in the other direction with a late and shaky field staff that was quickly laid off, a lack of ideas, and a nasty campaign demeanor. She saw traditional Democratic newspapers like the Post-Tribune and Fort Wayne Journal Gazette back Daniels. She began her TV in August and pulled it shortly after Labor Day for seven long, long weeks, a cardinal sin in campaigning.

Thompson didn't carry a single county in her old congressional district and lost Allen County 61-37 percent. In the 2nd CD, where she ran unsuccessfully in 2002, she carried only St. Joseph County and barely, winning by a 50-48 percent margin. Thompson failed to carry her current home county of Marshall and her family homestead county of Whitley. Thompson got a 56,000 vote plurality out of Lake County but Daniels swamped her in Hamilton, where



Gov. Mitch Daniels just prior to his victory speech Tuesday night in which he said the election was less a victory "than an assignment." Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and GOP Chairman Murray Clark applaud. (HPI Photo by A. Walker Shaw)

he emerged with an 85,000 vote plurality. That Hamilton County edge essentially covered the pluralities she gained in Lake and the 12 other counties she carried. Thompson carried the Lake Michigan counties as well as St. Joseph and Vermillion, Sullivan and Knox counties in the Wabash River valley as well as Crawford, Perry and Dearborn in the Ohio Valley.

Daniels carried 20 percent of the African-American vote, compared to 7 percent in 2004, extraordinary considering voters also had the first chance in American history to vote for a black man for president and many voted a straight Democratic ticket. Daniels polled 24 percent of the Democratic vote (compared to 13 percent in 2004). He won among whites 61-36 percent, among youth 18- 21-year-olds 51 percent; and carried 67 percent of the 65 years and older. Daniels carried 58 percent of the male vote, 56 percent of the female vote.

Daniels carried 79 of 92 counties and polled



249,676 more votes than in 2004 with 1.552 million. It came during a ferociously hostile environment for Republicans. When it all ended, Daniels shared the spotlight of change with Obama. While the two haven't met and come to the center from opposite ideological moorings, Daniels and Obama cast themselves as change agents in a troubled world.

Upon winning their offices, both sounded similar themes Tuesday night. At Conseco Fieldhouse, Daniels brandished a "Ditch Mitch" bumper sticker and told his supporters, "Change just won and won big in Indiana. This is less an endorsement than an instruction. This is less a victory than an assignment. And what the people of Indiana have said is they want us to press forward with change and improvement and reform." Daniels said he hoped his victory would influence future candidates to "be a little braver, think a little bigger, promote something bolder. You can propose a new idea that won't shoot the messenger."

About 160 miles away at Grant Park a few hours later, Obama told the nation: "There will be setbacks and false starts. There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as president. And we know the government can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. And, above all, I will ask you to join in the work of remaking this nation, the only way it's been done in America for 221 years - - block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand. What began 21 months ago in the depths of winter cannot end on this autumn night. This victory alone is not the change we seek. It is only the chance for us to make that change. And that cannot happen if we go back to the way things were. It can't happen without you, without a new spirit of service, a new spirit of sacrifice."

Congress

Just as Howey/Gauge polled in the 3rd CD, showing U.S. Rep. Mark Souder trailing Michael Montagano 44-41 percent, the RNCC dropped a devastating attack on the 27-year-old Democrat. His dad had purchased his \$320,000 home and his Hummer. He had no income. The picture was of a rich kid who thought he could waltz into Congress without taking stances on issues or dealing with the media.

Souder ended up stunning Montagano with a 55-40 percent victory. Our analysis that Souder's financial bailout vote was unpopular was probably outflanked by the Richie Rich issue.

The end game played out similar to the wave that brought Souder into office in the 1994 Gingrich revolution. He was angered at the negative tactics his party used to save him. "I just don't know how anybody's reputation survives \$1 million worth of advertising. It discouraged me more than any race I ever had," Souder told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette's Sylvia Smith. Three weeks ago, Souder's comments to Smith seemed almost fatalistic. When HPI talked to him two weeks out, he appeared to put on a facade of confidence. Behind that facade was a political levee that held.

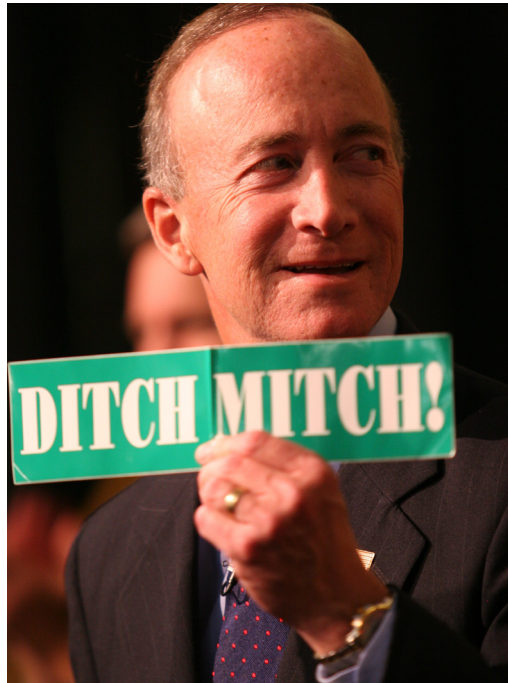
What we also didn't know was the extent of the ticket splitting. Many analysts nationally foresaw a Republican bloodbath in Congress. It didn't happen with the Democrats picking up only 15 seats in the House and currently five in the Senate (another four are under recount). The threat of an Obama wave never materialized and stalwart Republicans in some of the safest GOP congressional districts in the nation - Dan Burton, Steve Buyer and to a lesser extent Mike Pence - were able to ride out the storm with comfortable victories.

With this election, U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky won his 13th term, Andre Carson earned his first full term, Baron Hill vanquished Mike Sodrel for the third (and final?) time, and Brad Ellsworth and Joe Donnelly won their sophomore terms. In the first Obama mid-terms, expect some of those comfort levels to decrease.

Indiana General Assembly

For the first time in modern history, a Republican was elected governor and he didn't bring a GOP House majority with him.

Democratic Speaker B. Patrick Bauer appears to have upped his majority by a seat to 52-48 and possibly 53-47 if John Polles can find enough votes from the provisionals still to be counted in HD26 where he trailed Randy Truitt by 20 votes. Most of the provisionals are from Purdue. Republican incumbents Amos Thomas, Jon Elrod and Tim Harris lost. So did Democrat 34-year veteran Bill Cochran. The parties swapped open seats with Mark Messmer taking the HD63 seat vacated by Dave Crooks and John





State Rep. Tim Harris holds up an attack flier on behalf of his opponent, Democrat Joe Pearson who won the race. Harris's opponent in 2006 refused to go negative and lost by a handful of votes. (Marion Chronicle-Tribune Photo)

Barnes taking over Larry Buell's HD89. State Rep. Scott Reske escaped an upset bid by Kelly Gaskill, who used TV ads with Gov. Daniels to attempt the upset.

The final margin comes down to HD26, where Republican West Lafayette Councilman Randy Truitt has a 20-vote lead over John Polles with provisional ballots hanging in the balance. It may be 10 days before that shakes out.

Daniels was philosophical, telling reporters on Wednesday that "the people have spoken" and that he had accomplished "some great things" with Democrats controlling the House. Bauer explained, "I appreciate they wanted to re-elect the governor and they wanted balance. We're willing to continue that in a constructive way."

Clearly, however, the scope of Daniels' plans for the first half of his second term were impacted by who controlled the House. When HPI asked him last Thursday about his plans for 2009, Daniels deferred, saying he didn't know who would be speaker.

Senate Republicans maintained a 33-17 majority. The Democrats have turned over their leadership team to Vi Simpson and Tim Lanane.

Government Reform

If Gov. Daniels has big plans, the disappointment at losing the House was mitigated by the 31 township assessors (out of 43) who had voters abolish their offices. Indiana now has 12 township dinosaurs with isolated fiefdoms. This could have considerable impact on the coming Kernan-Shepard reforms. Had most of the assessors survived, it would have placed reactive legislators into a cautionary mode. With Daniels and Obama ushering a change agenda in Indianapolis and Washington, there is now a new opportunity to put the rest of the Kernan-Shepard reforms on the table under the climate of change. Opinion leaders from newspaper editorial boards to business and labor groups recognize that we exist in the 21st, not the 19th century.

A new, profound era of Indiana governance is on the cusp. ❖

HPI Forecast: a B+?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Howey Politics Indiana's final forecast called it an "epic election" and it was. That was the easy part. But how did our final forecast on Monday bear out with the vote? You decide.

Presidential: While the final Howey/Gauge Poll had John McCain leading Barack Obama 47-45 percent, on Monday, "We forecast that the Obama ground organization overcomes not only the racist tendencies in some pockets of Indiana, but lifts it into the 11 Electoral College votes." Result: Obama carried the state by 1 percent, or slightly more than 20,000 votes. That's the ground game we were talking about. The final was also within the 4.1 percent margin of error in the Oct. 23-24 Howey/Gauge Poll. On the Electoral College front, HPI predicted Obama would get 340 votes. As of this writing, he has 349.

Gubernatorial: This was our forecast on Monday: "Ultimately, we think (Gov. Daniels') floor and ceiling is in the 55 to 57 percent range.



Thompson's golden opportunity came during the Wall Street meltdown and she was broke at the time. We suspect Thompson's ceiling is in the upper 30s to low 40s, with some of the anti-Mitch vote going to

Libertarian Andy Horning due to Thompson's name recognition problems." Result: Daniels won 58-40 with Horning at 2 percent. We were just a wee bit off. Thompson was able to attract some of Horning's 3 percent support in Howey/Gauge Poll which had Daniels up 61-30-3. We believe Howey/Gauge was catching Daniels at the peak of his support 10 days out. Both Republican and Democratic internals were showing margins between 20 and 30 percent. In the final days, Thompson's moderate TV buy obviously narrowed the margin and she picked up some of the Obama momentum.

Congressional: We predicted that U.S. Rep. Mark Souder would lose, giving his re-elect a 20 percent chance. Howey/Gauge had Michael Montagano leading Souder 44-41 percent on Oct. 23-24. Our survey began just as the RNCC was attacking Montagano for having his father buy him homes, Hummers and not having his own income. Beyond our poll, we theorized that Souder's vote for the financial bailout plan might doom him. What we suspect happened was that Montagano's family gravy train had more of an impact than Souder's courageous vote on the bailout. We acknowledge here that we did something we haven't done lately, which is to under estimate Souder's intricate knowledge and grasp of his congressional district. As he displayed in 1994, he's one of the best. As for Con-



gressmen Mike Pence and Steve Buyer, we suggested that one of them might get washed out in the Obama tide just as Earl Landgrebe and David Dennis did in the Watergate backwash of 1974. Obviously Hoosiers split their tickets (thank you Mitch) and the Pence and Buyer base turned out. So this was not our shining moment.

Statewides: On Monday we forecast a "GOP sweep for Daniels, Zoeller and Bennett." Bingo!

Legislative: On Monday we forecast on the late-breakers: "We're not sure which one, but we think the GOP has a chance at peeling one of these seats (Avery, Cochran, Bischoff) off in the 'time for a change' environment." Result: State Rep. Bill Cochran lost while Reps. Bischoff and Avery won easily. On the switches, we predicted the Democrats would defeat State Rep. Amos Thomas and the Republicans would win the Democratic open seat of Dave Crooks. Bingo! In our six tossup races, two of them are in recount zone (HD 26 and 31). We gave Tincher a "slight"

advantage and he won. We're kicking ourselves for not going with our gut and predicting Mary Ann Sullivan's defeat of Jon Elrod. On the "incumbent advantage" portion of our analysis, we gave Reps. Lehe, Reske, Davis and Borders the edge. On House control: our Monday forecast was "a 52-48 Democratic House. We don't mean to equivocate, but it could easily go one seat either way." It ended up 52-48. Bingo!

Our final grade: Let's see, it was an "epic election." We nailed the presidential, gubernatorial and state-wides. We were equivocatingly close on the Indiana House. We were quite off on the congressionals (after pegging the March special and May primary) and obviously Rep. Pence missed a golden opportunity to finally win an election bet against Howey, though we hope he and his family ride their horses up to the cabin over the next month or so (upon which we will all go fishing with the Zoellers). How's about a B+? ❖

JLT repeated history and doomed the ticket

By THOMAS COOK
Blue Indiana

BLOOMINGTON - In order to properly understand the failure of Jill Long Thompson's campaign, you really have to look at the surprising demise of Jim Schellinger's. The first 3-6 months of his effort provided a perfect blueprint of how a lackluster campaign structure can screw up a seemingly great opportunity. I gave credit to Jim at the time for recognizing when changes needed to be made and for making them -- something that nearly saved his campaign -- but there is no denying that his effort was lost in those critical first few months. In the end, the presidential primary factors really dictated the eventual outcome of that race, but the tone was set far before that circus ever rolled into town.

And yet, after being an active observer of all of this, Jill Long Thompson and her staff turned around and repeated the mistakes of history nearly misstep-for-misstep, a sin made even more inexcusable when you consider the number of oft-maligned "establishment" voices who reached out to them in the formative post-primary period

when her campaign began its long, consistent journey into the wilderness. There will undoubtedly be a lot of finger pointing in the coming days, at least behind closed doors and on background with reporters, but the simple, inescapable fact is that this race was hopelessly, needlessly lost in the four to six weeks after the primary election.

The media cameras were on, the electorate was engaged, and our gubernatorial campaign simply went into hiding in Argos, not to be seen or heard from again until the state convention in June. By that point, the die had been cast, and history had repeated itself in the most horrific of ways.

Ultimately, this effort was salvageable for much longer than it ever should have been thanks to Barack Obama's stellar campaign, but the insular stubbornness of the candidate and top-level staff -- and the irrational bitterness that seemed to motivate much of the internal decision-making process -- precluded a changing of the strategic guard that at just about any point pre-September could have likely put Long Thompson in the Governor's Mansion.

It's sad, it was unnecessary, but that battle is behind us. Learning from the mistakes of your predecessors is one of the basic

building-blocks of any successful political campaign, and if there is one silver lining to all of this, it is that we have a lot of educational material to peruse for the next four years. ❖



Jill Long Thompson during here bizarre campaign. (HPI Photo by A. Walker Shaw)



Jerry Davich, Post-Tribune: Jerry Davich, Post-Tribune: They simply wanted to be here. Gray-haired old ladies. Fresh-faced school girls. Dapper business professionals. Hippie throwbacks from a bygone generation. Kids doing cartwheels. War veterans waving American flags. Volunteers crossing their fingers. Tens of thousands of people simply wanted to be at the same exact spot at the same exact time to witness the passing of a historic torch. They wanted to be something greater than the sum of their attendance. And they were. They flooded Chicago's Grant Park on Tuesday evening to celebrate the presidential coronation of Sen. Barack Obama. It didn't matter that most of them couldn't view the main stage at Hutchison Field, or the 25 American flags behind it, let alone the podium where Obama was expected to deliver his victory speech. It didn't matter that they stood cramped together in the chilled night. It didn't matter that some waited for hours to get in the park, or that others waited decades for such a thing to happen. They simply wanted to be here. Marcus Johnson Jr. stood alongside tens of thousands of other Obama supporters in the section of the park that required tickets for entry. The Hammond man waited to take part in what he deemed "the highlight of my life, next to my baby's birth." It turns out that the birth of a different kind would take place before his eyes a few hours later. ❖

Thomas Friedman, New York Times: And so it came to pass that on Nov. 4, 2008, shortly after 11 p.m. Eastern time, the American Civil War ended, as a black man — Barack Hussein Obama — won enough electoral votes to become president of the United States. A civil war that, in many ways, began at Bull Run, Virginia, on July 21, 1861, ended 147 years later via a ballot box in the very same state. For nothing more symbolically illustrated the final chapter of America's Civil War than the fact that the Commonwealth of Virginia — the state that once exalted slavery and whose secession from the Union in 1861 gave the Confederacy both strategic weight and its commanding general — voted Democratic, thus assuring that Barack Obama would become the 44th president of the United States. This moment was necessary, for despite a century of civil rights legislation, judicial interventions and social activism — despite *Brown v. Board of Education*, Martin Luther King's I-have-a-dream crusade and the 1964 Civil Rights Act — the Civil War could never truly be said to have ended until America's white majority actually elected an African-American as president. That is what happened Tuesday night and that is why we awake this morning to a different country. The struggle for equal rights is far from over, but we start afresh now from a whole new baseline. Let every child and every citizen and every new immigrant

know that from this day forward everything really is possible in America. Obama will always be our first black president. But can he be one of our few great presidents? He is going to have his chance because our greatest presidents are those who assumed the office at some of our darkest hours and at the bottom of some of our deepest holes. ❖

John Kass, Chicago Tribune: Chicago is the city where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was hit in the head with a brick. Chicago is the city where Barack Obama rose to become president of the United States. What happened to King took place 42 years ago in Marquette Park on the Southwest Side. Obama was elected on Tuesday, and he spoke to a diverse crowd of tens of thousands in Grant Park downtown. There is a span of just more than 11 miles between the two parks. So if you had sturdy shoes, you could walk it in a long afternoon. But these are measurements of time and stride, and they are not enough. In Marquette Park on Aug. 5, 1966, King led an open-housing march and was struck by angry, fearful whites who did not want black people living in their neighborhood.

"I've been in many demonstrations all across the South," a shaken King said after the brick knocked him to the ground, after a knife, hurled by another white, missed him but lodged in the neck of a white man marching with King. "But I can say that I have never seen—even in Mississippi and Alabama—mobs as hostile and hate-filled as I've seen in Chicago. I think the people from Mississippi ought to come to Chicago to learn how to hate." And now, people from Mississippi will come to Chicago to learn how the first African-American president began his political career. ❖

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star: Under a bright sunny sky late Tuesday morning, Renee Thomas stood smiling outside Butler University's Hinkle Fieldhouse, talking about the history she was certain would occur later in the day. "I just think people have gotten tired of the old politics," the 20-year-old junior said. "This is a day for change." By change, she meant Barack Obama. And she was right. Hours later, the Illinois senator was declared winner of the U.S. presidency, breaking down a racial wall that had survived far too long. Thomas, who is black, talked about the historical aspect of Obama's campaign, recalling years when she and her family had joked that "pigs would fly" before America elected a black president. She talked of being inspired like never before by Obama and his candidacy. And then Thomas said something that brought into sharp focus the impact Obama's campaign has had on the country. "My little brother is 7," she said. "And he looks at this like it's normal." That was without question the most inspiring thing I heard during a remarkable election year full of wonderful speeches and memorable moments. ❖





The Tina effect

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - No Bradley effect was discernable. This often cited possible effect frightened Barack Obama supporters like a hideous Halloween character who just might be real. It was the possibility of significant percentages of white voters telling pollsters they would vote for an African American candidate but then, in the voting booth, failing to do so.



Final polls were in line with results, with no sign that lots of folks said they would be for Obama and then couldn't bring themselves to vote for a black in the White House.

This doesn't mean there is no lingering racism in America. Just ask the Obama volunteer who told me of the hostile reaction from a man who demanded that she take back an Obama please-re-member-to-vote hanger she had left at the front door.

"Obama!" he shouted with contempt. "He ought to be in prison with O.J. Simpson." The president-elect and Simpson would seem to have only one thing in common. But most voters weren't thinking of race, as in black and white, but rather of race, as in presidential, with a decision to be made on the basis of which candidate would be the better choice to lead the nation.

Many voters thought the better choice was John McCain. More thought it was Obama. And very few, if any, had been hiding some kind of secret Bradley effect racism from pollsters.

Polls in Indiana were remarkably accurate in reflecting voter sentiment as the election approached. Of the final six polls in Indiana cited by RealClearPolitics, three were a tie, quite unusual, and the other three showed a race too close to call.

Too close to call it was all Tuesday night. That, of course, was a bad sign for McCain. If Indiana, so often the first state declared by TV networks to be in the Republican column, was so close all election night, an Obama tide was rolling.

While there was no Bradley effect, there were other effects, including what that might be called a Tina effect. One of my Notre Dame journalism students told the class of her experience at the polls. She voted early in her home state during mid-semester break. She is an "A"

student quite serious about her vote for president.

She also is from a family with conservative Republican views, which she shares. So, it was no surprise that she was planning to vote a straight-Republican ballot. In the voting booth, ready to do so, she thought of Tina Fey. Tina Fey was not on the ballot. Or was she?

The look-alike for Sarah Palin, who captured the unique speaking style and reasoning of the vice presidential candidate in skits on Saturday Night Live, had caused this student not just to laugh, but also to compare the Tina talk with the Sarah talk in the vice presidential debate. She had found that much of the skit was identical to the non-sentence "maverick" lingo of the real Palin.

There in the voting booth, finger poised for the planned straight-Republican vote, this student decided: "I just can't do it." She voted for Obama.

It wasn't done with laughter over some Tina (or Sarah) talk, but with serious concern over selection of a vice presidential nominee who would be, if elected, a heartbeat away from the presidency. President Sarah Palin,



Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin in Noblesville in October before 21,000 enthusiastic Hoosier Republicans who didn't seem to mind here disastrous TV interviews in September.. (HPI Photo by Chuck Schisla)

leader of the Free World.

So, indeed, right at the polling place, there were voters who decided: "I just can't do it." Although there was no discernable Bradley effect, some voters somewhere no doubt decided they couldn't vote for a black candidate. There were other effects as well, perhaps more powerful, such as a decision not to risk President Tina Fey, leader of the Free World. ❖



Big change in the Big 10 states

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - Twenty years ago yesterday, NBC news aired a report from Indiana in which I had something short of what Andy Warhol promised us all -- 15 minutes of fame.



Correspondent John Dancy interviewed me for that national segment. He asked me how a Democrat congressman like Jim Jontz was able to win in a predominantly Republican state.

Twenty years have passed since then, but the answer I gave Dancy then is the one Barack Obama gave Hoosiers Tuesday: Democrats can win this state by showing they care more than their opponents.

Since that interview, which can be viewed today through archives at Vanderbilt University, much has happened in Indiana. We've had 16 years of Democratic Indiana governors after 20 years of Republicans. My own district eventually turned out Jontz and has been represented by three men since then. We've had a vice president and another man who has been considered seriously for vice president three times. We've gone from a Democrat majority in the congressional delegation, to a Republican majority and back to Democratic again. We've gone from a Republican majority in the Indiana House to a 50-50 split, to a Democratic majority, to a 50-50 split, to a Republican majority and finally a Democratic majority again.

Change came to Indiana long before anyone in this state had heard the name "Obama" mentioned in the same sentence with the word "president." But the change he represented in this state Tuesday is easily the greatest change we've experienced in this state politically in the past 20 years. Simply put, he did what people in both parties thought unimaginable: He won Indiana. Let's pause for reflection here: A Democrat has won Indiana for the first time in 44 years.

It was early Wednesday morning when I and thousands of other Hoosiers watched with interest as votes in all 92 counties were counted. Indiana was one of the last states to be called, and it appeared as if the state was saying to itself, "Is this really happening. Are we really going to support a Democrat with our 11 electoral votes?" But in the hours that followed a McCain concession speech and a mass gathering in Chicago where Obama spoke and Oprah Winfrey wept in Grant Park, Indiana finally joined the rest

of its Big Ten state brethren. It became a blue state for the first time since the Vietnam War.

What effect the Obama win will have on Indiana's political landscape in the future is uncertain. What is clear is that Indiana, like the rest of the Big Ten states, is as blue as Penn State or the University of Michigan's home uniforms. It's previous red hue on election night can now be reserved for Indiana, Ball State and Wabash College.

There was a time 20 years ago when Hoosiers would have taken any bet that the state would not give up one-class basketball, switch to Daylight Saving Time or elect a Democrat president. Times have changed.

To borrow from President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address, the "torch has been passed to a new generation." According to MSNBC, voters under 30 went for Obama by 2-1, regardless of party affiliation. That lends credence to the view former Secretary of State Colin Powell has that Obama is a "transformational" figure in our time.

Regardless of what Obama does or does not accomplish from here, we've all witnessed a seminal time in our country that has mandated a new era that could make the 21st century another "American century" historians will be talking about for years.

Aside from Indiana going for Obama, it's clear the heartland of America -- the Big Ten states of Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota -- have collectively turned the country in a new direction. This is, as Thoreau said, the road less traveled, but it's a road we've been down before and will be again. That's because we're Americans in addition to being Hoosiers. ❖

Kitchell teaches journalism at Ball State University.

Contacting

HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

Business Office: 317-631-9450
Subscription/Passwords: 317-627-6746

Indianapolis Newsroom: 317-202-0210
Howey's Mobile: 317-506-0883
Washington, DC Bureau: 202-256-5822
Brian Howey: bhowey2@gmail.com
Mark Schoeff Jr. maswire@aol.com
Beverly Phillips phillipscgroup@gmail.com

www.howeypolitics.com



HD26 awaits provisional count

WEST LAFAYETTE - The political balance in the Indiana House of Representatives won't necessarily rest on the outcome of the District 26 race, a contest separated by 21 votes after Tuesday's election



(Lafayette Journal & Courier). But eyes from across the state were trained on the race in the West Lafayette-based district and the 414 uncounted provisional ballots that could help decide who goes to Indianapolis. Republican Randy Truitt holds the lead over Democrat John Polles in their bids to replace Democrat Joe Micon in the Indiana House. Both candidates said they were in a holding pattern, waiting until the provisional ballots can be counted on Nov. 14. "We'll just take it one day at a time," Truitt said on Wednesday. Both state parties invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the race, believing control of the Indiana House could hinge on its outcome. On Wednesday, neither state party nor campaign said it was preparing for a recount or legal battle after the provisional ballots are counted.

Supt. Clark resigns

JEFFERSONVILLE - Greater Clark County School Superintendent Tony Bennett told his school board yesterday that he will submit a formal resignation as soon as he knows more about the timing of his move to Indianapolis to become the state's superintendent of public instruction (Louisville Courier-Journal). Bennett, a Republican, won a close race for the position Tuesday, gaining 51 percent of the vote over Democrat Richard D. Wood.

Pence to seek GOP conference chair

WASHINGTON - GOP Rep. Mike Pence has entered the race for Republican Conference chairman, while Rep. Jeb Hensarling has bowed out, according to House sources (Politico). Pence is a former chairman of the Republican Study Committee, and one of the leading conservatives in the House.

IU report says state could lose 15,000 jobs

BLOOMINGTON - Indiana, already battered by a slowing economy that has closed or shrunk factories around the state, could lose up to 15,000 additional jobs next year as the business climate continues to sputter, according to new forecast by Indiana University economists (Indianapolis Star). The Hoosier state will almost certainly face at least a moderate recession next year, similar in severity to those in 1990 and 2001, according to the forecast, which was presented this morning by a panel of IU economists at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis. "But we cannot rule out something worse -- comparable to the severe recession in the early 1980s," said Bill Witte, associate professor of economics and co-director of the Center for Econometric Model Research at IU.

Clere got \$140k campaign infusion

NEW ALBANY - Democrats retained control of the Indiana House despite losing one of their most veteran members -- Rep. Bill Cochran, of New Albany, who narrowly lost his District 72 re-election bid to Republican newcomer Ed Clere (Louisville Courier-Journal). Clere won by 114 votes Tuesday, according to unofficial results from Floyd and Clark counties. "I'm happy the race went my way but I'm cognizant of the fact that it was very, very close," said Clere, whose campaign got a late \$143,000 infusion

of cash and in-kind contributions from Republicans and allied groups. "My job over the next two years is going to be to make sure that I'm representing all of the people of District 72, regardless of how they voted," Clere said. "I realize that it's a narrow margin and Mr. Cochran had a great deal of support, clearly almost as much support as I did." Cochran did not return a call yesterday.

First black elected in Bartholomew County

COLUMBUS - Barack Obama made history Tuesday night. So did Allen Smith (Columbus Republic). Obama was elected president of the United States, becoming the first black in history to record that achievement. The office won by Smith was more modest - Bartholomew County coroner - but in winning it, he became the first black person to win a countywide election in Bartholomew County.

Obama canvassers upset over no paychecks

INDIANAPOLIS - Police say a large group of people became upset yesterday as they waited outside a Barack Obama office in downtown Indianapolis to be paid for their vote-canvassing efforts (Associated Press). Police were called to the office yesterday afternoon, several hours after people began lining up. WTHR-TV said the crowd numbered about 375. Indianapolis Police Maj. Darryl Pierce said people were upset because the line wasn't moving as fast as they thought it should.

Lake turnout 70%

CROWN POINT - Lake County voters responded to the hottest presidential election in a generation with a 70 percent turnout at the polls (Times of Northwest Indiana). That exceeds the 55 percent turnout in 2004.