



## HPI Power 50 and HJR-6 consequences

The most divisive referendum issue since the 1988 lottery will shape 2014 from the legislature to the election

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Ponder, if just for a moment before you delve into the 15th Annual Howey Politics Indiana Power 50 List, the law of unintended consequences.

Former Fortune Magazine economics editor Rob Norton gives a fascinating historical review. The most recent example was the Exxon Valdez oil spill disaster in 1989. In its messy wake, many American coastal states enacted laws placing unlimited liability on tanker companies. Royal Dutch/Shell responded by hiring independent shippers for its American lanes.

Norton explains: "Oil specialists fretted that other reputable shippers would flee as well rather than face such unquantifiable risk, leaving the field to fly-by-night tanker operators with leaky ships and iffy insurance. Thus, the probability of spills probably increased and the likelihood of



collecting damages probably decreased as a consequence of the new laws."

In 1692, John Locke urged defeat of a parliamentary bill designed to cut the maximum permissible rate of interest from 6 to 4%. Locke argued that instead of benefiting borrowers, as intended, it would hurt them, Norton observed. People would find ways to circumvent the law, with the costs of circumvention borne by borrowers. To

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## Andy through war & peace

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – Scheduled to tape a public affairs program at WFYI-TV in downtown Indianapolis, I arrived promptly enough and stood at a stoplight on Meridian Street, waiting to cross. It was a windy day, and it was impossible not to notice one of the other scheduled guests – Andrew Jacobs Jr. – just outside the studio doors, chasing down pieces of litter blowing down the sidewalk. And not just one errant gum wrapper. The former congressman was involved in a personal process, working diligently to clean up this one entire street corner.



Anyone acquainted with Indiana politics knows that in the scheme of things, U.S. Rep.



**“No, they shouldn’t get in. There shouldn’t be cheating allowed to get into the Hall of Fame.”**

*- Frank Thomas, the former Chicago White Sox slugger elected to the Hall of Fame, on steroid use by other stars of his era*



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Andy Jacobs Jr. was a giant when it came to principle, whether it was his contributions to the epic Voting Rights Act of 1965, or his early decision to oppose President Lyndon B. Johnson on the Vietnam War, which would eventually claim more than 55,000 American and millions of Vietnamese lives before the Communist takeover in 1975. He was also instrumental in launching and continuing the Carson political dynasty.

**Jacobs died last** month at age 81 at his Indianapolis home. He twice defied death decades earlier, once on a Korean War battlefield when a Chinese detachment came upon him as he was collecting wounded Marines. The Chinese unit declined to attack. And in 1974, Jacobs refused to take a flight because there were only first class seats. That flight crashed in Shelby County, killing all aboard.

Jacobs stood with the sturdiest when it came to sending the sons of his constituents into battle. He not only opposed the numerous wars that pockmarked his era in Congress, he chronicled the constitutional erosion in his 1999 book, "The 1600 Killers: A Wake-Up Call for Congress." Jacobs asserts, it is Congress that should be declaring war, not commanders-in-chief.

The book is a fascinating journey through Vietnam, Grenada, Lebanon, the Gulf, all from a man who once found himself hauling off wounded Marines in Korea, and in a classic fog-of-war moment, staring down the guns of Chinese infantry, who inexplicably allowed him to live. As Jacobs described the account of "Jim," ... "The men with the stretcher were confused for a moment and then quickly got the point. It was a Chinese bazooka team who were pointing their rocket launcher at the misplaced Marines in the paddy. As he said his final prayers and cringed, he looked back toward his executioners and stared in amazement. The Chinese loader was signaling to the Marines to go on, obviously because they were carrying a wounded man. The Marines waved a bewildered wave of gratitude as they

rushed from the paddy up a draw in the adjacent woods."

He coined the phrase "war wimps," describing members of Congress and presidents who passed the chance to go to war themselves, but mightily beat the battle drums.

In a one-page Chapter 12, "Mad Math," Jacobs writes, "The apocalyptic prophecy is more likely to be validated when those we suppose to be educated and intelligent declare that war is a reasonable means by which to 'achieve clearly definable aims.'"

He asks, "Have you ever seen two grown men in a bare-knuckle fist fight on a sidewalk?" If so, he says, your reaction would be shock? Disgust? Insecurity? "Probably all three. Yet, multiply those two men by tens of thousands and intensify the violence by tons of dynamite, steel and gunpowder with the resultant quantum of blood, viscera, stonemold rigor mortis and corresponding broken hearts back home and frail wise men such as writer George Will will vicariously celebrate this madness of war, itself, as 'a profession.' Go figure."

**When the 2002 Iraq War** resolution was debated, the retired congressman took a phone call from the former aide he had anointed to succeed him, U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, weeping on the House floor. Iraq, Jacobs would tell me, is the work of "a bunch of amateurs; the neo-cons. Iraq was tying the steering wheel as you go down the road. When you head down the road, you're going to crash because the road turns. That's the trouble with being doctrinaire. We all know there are people who don't plan to go themselves. War wimps. They are like babies with machine guns. They get the levers of authority. They never read the Constitution. They wouldn't understand it if they did."

Rep. Julia Carson would later tell demonstrators in Indianapolis on the eve of the 2003 shock and awe, "Truly it is all in the name of greed and truly in the name of war. We should have learned by the Vietnam War, but we did not."

The last general the U.S. had as president was Dwight Eisenhower and he had three different opportunities – Vietnam, Hungary, Suez – to go to war and chose not to. Jacobs recalled a war council led by Vice President Nixon trying to coax Eisenhower into rescuing the French at Dien Bien Phu. “And the next day,” Jacobs said, “Eisenhower made a public announcement: ‘This country will not go to war except through the constitutional process that gives Congress the war making power.’ As I said in my book: Think of it, a president of the United States who can read and comprehend the Constitution to preserve, protect and defend. Eisenhower, not a member of my party, and John Adams, not a president of my party, are my favorite presidents because nothing is more important to me than saving some hapless young American from being blown to bits as a prop in somebody’s damn political career. That is a monstrous realm that neither can nor ever should be forgiven.”

**In that interview,** Jacobs and I played a word association game.

Mission accomplished.

Jacobs said, “You know I was in combat in the Korean War and I’m sure if I had told them I needed to go take a business course at Harvard, they would have let me go home. Who’s that other guy? Buchanan? Pat Buchanan. In his campaign for president, [he] had speeches that were laced with military terms. Let’s lock and load. Let’s move out. So mission accomplished, well, that’s a military term, from movies of how glorious war was. Mission accomplished, John Wayne standing, we’re all right.”

How about this phrase: “Bring ‘em on”?

And Jacobs responded, “The resistance fighters? Or the caskets?”

Jacobs would lose one race for Congress – a 1972 reelection bid against Republican Bill Hudnut – but would

reclaim the seat two years later during the GOP’s Watergate debacle. Jacobs and Hudnut would become fast friends. In 1992, Jacobs had the fourth lowest staff payroll in the House. He began supporting a balanced budget amendment in 1976.

**Twice, he would place** his imprimatur on what has become the Carson dynasty, first endorsing Center Township Trustee Julia Carson for the seat he would retire from in 1997. Upon her death in 2007, Jacobs would endorse the current U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, the grandson, which played a key role in his winning the caucus in February 2008.

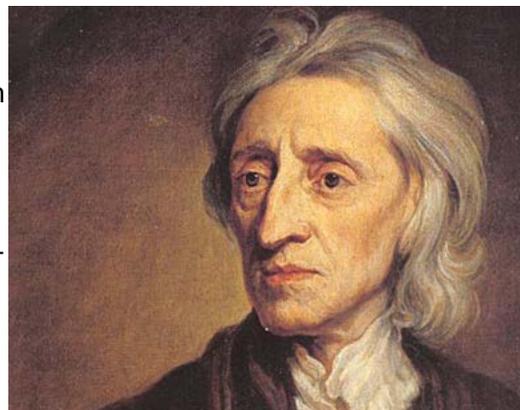
Rep. Andre Carson would note, “While in Congress, Andy never took a donation from a political action committee, he never attacked an opponent, and he never put his name on his office door in Washington, D.C., explaining that ‘the seat belonged to the people I serve, not to me.’ He was a selfless public servant, who never cared about station or the trappings of office. It was Andy’s faith and encouragement that inspired my grandmother to run for state representative in 1972, and his support of her never wavered. At an early age, Andy also took an interest in me as well and imparted wisdom while serving as a role model. He continued as a valued mentor, even long after he left office. With Andy’s passing, our nation lost a man who was resolutely courageous, both in his service as a Marine in Korea, and in public life.”

“In sum,” Carson continued, “Andy was a model of decency, compassion, servant-leadership, thoughtfulness, and civility. I pray that God rests his soul and gives peace and comfort to his wife, Kim, his sons Andy and Steven, and to the countless others for whom Andy is ‘family.’” ❖

## Power 50, from page 1

the extent the law was obeyed, Locke (pictured below) concluded, the chief results would be less available credit and a redistribution of income away from “widows, orphans and all those who have their estates in money.”

And then there was American sociologist Robert K. Merton, who wrote “The Unanticipated Consequences of Purposive Social Action,” in 1936. Merton identified five sources of unanticipated consequences. The first two – and the most pervasive – were “ignorance” and “error.” These were followed by the “imperious immediacy of interest” as



well as “basic values” and then “self-defeating prediction.” Undeveloped by Merton was the bookend, “self-fulfilling prophesy.”

The “imperious immediacy of interest” is fascinating, as it prescribes to the notion in which someone wants the intended consequence of an action so much that he purposefully chooses to ignore any unintended effects.

Now, on the eve of the full manifestation of House Joint Resolution 6, Indiana’s constitutional marriage amendment – the issue that dominates the 2014 Howey Politics Indiana Power 50 list – some of these theories will get a full public testing in this state, with a national audience not only watching, but making

contributions into our own internal affairs.

It will likely be the most compelling social referendum to go before Indiana voters since the 1988 amendment that lifted the state's constitutional ban on lottery and gambling. It came following the 1986 upset of Republican House Speaker J. Roberts Daily, which happened largely because, unknown to him, public opinion was shifting away from his position. Republicans had, perhaps, their best prepared nominee of the century, Lt. Gov. John Mutz. But he lost to a 31-year-old Democrat neophyte named Evan Bayh, while Hoosier voters passed the lottery referendum with 62% of the vote.

In the spring of 2012, Howey Politics Indiana asked a staffer on Mike Pence's gubernatorial campaign whether they were concerned about the probable primary defeat of U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, the most prolific Republican vote getter in Indiana history. The answer was, "No, we'll be OK," even though HPI polling had shown a fall matchup between Lugar and Donnelly a 51-29 GOP rout, while the Richard Mourdock/Donnelly matchup was a dead heat. We all know what happened. The landslide victory many anticipated for Pence became a nail-biter and a 49% victory as the undisciplined and reckless Mourdock imploded in the final weeks of the campaign and female voters fled the GOP. Had Lugar been on the ticket, Pence probably would have had his landslide, as the 69-seat House Republican majority lends credence.

At this point, HJR-6 looks like it will pass the House (where Rep. Eric Turner is expected to sponsor) and Senate, due to caucus decisions allowed by House Speaker Brian Bosma and Senate President David Long. Without a presidential, gubernatorial or U.S. Senate candidate atop the ballot, and with national groups poised to send in troops, field directors, direct mail and out-state financed TV ads, the marriage issue will fill a vacuum.

Yes, Eric Miller & Company will get the church buses rolling on Election Day, as he did against the 1988 lottery amendment. The unintended consequences come as the political left, the urbanites tolerant of diverse life-



**The Advance America TV ad that began running in the Indianapolis and Fort Wayne media markets on Wednesday at a \$36,000 buy.**

styles, the moderates who expect all Hoosiers to get a fair shake, and the suburbanites with younger, open-minded Republicans in the ranks (ask Hendricks County Republican Chairman Mike O'Brien about that) will likely take what normally would be a moribund second presidential mid-term election and widespread Obama exasperation and turn it into an epically divisive showdown between cultural flanks.

So potentially toxic is that dynamic that Gov. Mike Pence's political apparatus doesn't want it to be on the ballot when he seeks reelection in 2016.

In a once-in-a-lifetime evangelic emulation of Barack Obama's "fierce urgency of now," the social/evangelical conservatives see this as their moment with sprawling legislative super majorities and the most conservative governor in generations. The fierce irony of now is that this constitutional reach stands

to collide with another four-year-old "urgency of now," the mono-party passage of the Affordable Care Act which in normal times would be expected to dominate this complex political picture.

The 2014 Power 50 list reflects the key players who will mold this fascinating HJR-6 chapter.

But there are other influences helping to shape this Power 50.

Collectively, the Indiana congressional delegation sags on this list, by design. Several polls have congressional approval at historic, low single-digits. The delegation is young and emerging, with several House members earning A-list committee assignments. But many of these same members spent much of 2013 tilting at windmills and engaging fights that won battles in the House, while having no chance of passage in the Senate, let alone gaining a presidential signature. Policy masturbation might sound harsh, but progress and law need two parties to tango.

As gridlock consumes Washington, we see mayors accomplishing real goals in cities. Transportation is rapidly evolving in Indianapolis, Kokomo and Marion. City cores are being rebuilt in Evansville and Fort Wayne. And this comes with a hostile Indiana General Assembly becoming Indiana's Super City Council, with key chairs viewing the progressive cities as inefficient big spenders. What's an-

other \$50 billion to \$100 billion to the places where 70% of Hoosiers now live?

The list reflects the early stages of two potentially competitive congressional races this year, as well as the 2015 mayoral races and the 2016 elections coming in Indiana's bicentennial.

Since 1999, Howey Politics has presented the Power 50 list as a guide to who is most likely to shape events in the coming year. Some folks are posted due to their legacies and potency of position. As always, we hope it stirs a debate that lends to good governance and policy that creates a better Indiana for the 6.7 million of us who call Indiana home.

**1. Gov. Mike Pence:** Pence enters his second legislative session pursuing three familiar themes, tax cuts, education reform, and transportation. Pence achieved much of his legislative agenda – with bipartisan support – in 2013, though his income tax cut was shaved in half and spread out over much of his first term. While most Hoosiers couldn't tell you how much extra money they've seen in their paycheck, the emerging national economy gives Pence an economic tailwind an Indiana governor hasn't seen in more than five years. His top priority is the business property tax repeal which puts him on the same page as Republican legislative leaders, but it emerged with little detail on how local governments replace somewhere between \$500 million and \$1 billion in revenue.

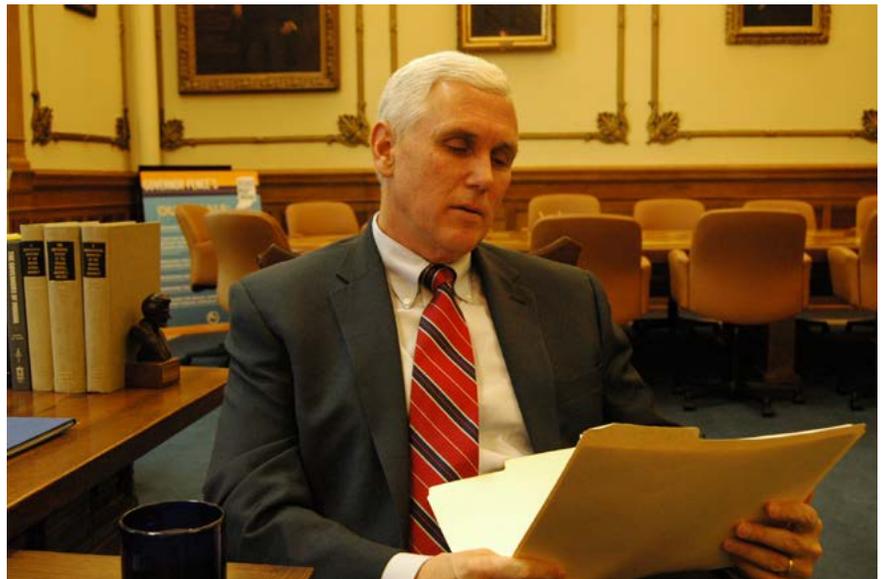
There seems to be a realization by Gov. Pence and legislative leaders that local governments cannot take that kind of hit on top of the constitutional tax caps. But one of the options is a local option income tax, and that will be seen by Republicans who hold 80% of elected county positions and close to 60% of city positions as shifting the tax burden and political repercussions onto them. City and county officials also opposed the income tax cut, but Pence was able to muster a \$100 million silver lining for municipalities in the form of new road money, which is sorely needed, and he pumped \$190 million more into K-12 education funding.

With so much emphasis on the feud between Supt. Glenda Ritz and his education policy apparatus, Pence will strive to expand charter schools this session, provide incentives for teachers to move into low-performing charter schools, and state-funded vouchers to pay for children from low-income families to attend private or public prekindergarten classes. These education goals will likely find widespread support. Some will question whether his education policies should take front-stage center instead of the tax cuts and repeals. Many urged Pence to do that during his first session and while he only got half a loaf, he was able to wrap it under the headline of the larg-

est tax cut in state history. Polling since his first session shows a governor who enjoys close to a 60% approval rating. An emerging and robust economy has the potential to improve those numbers.

But there are two danger points for the governor. The first is Medicaid expansion and whether Health and Human Services Sec. Kathy Sebelius will give Indiana the option of expanding the Healthy Indiana Plan. Given the tortured rollout of Obamacare, the governor has widespread backing from the GOP establishment on this course, even though he is turning down \$10 billion for a fully covered Medicaid expansion. If HHS rejects the HIP expansion, Pence will face some huge decisions on how to extend coverage to 200,000 to 300,000 low- to middle-income Hoosiers. The fact that all surrounding states are expanding Medicaid in some form sets up a regional contrast. It is impossible to say how this will turn out, but Pence has forged an independent course on this issue.

The second is HJR-6, which the governor backs



but doesn't want to discuss. He appears unlikely to actively campaign for the ballot referendum, but will not escape the potential political ramifications. If it fails, it fuels the story line that the man who became the first governor in half a century to win office with less than 50% of the vote stood on the sidelines while the most coveted issue to social conservatives was rejected by voters. The 2016 Democratic gubernatorial nominee will seek momentum on the issue.

Multiple sources tell HPI that Pence will not want to seek reelection in 2016 with HJR-6 on the ballot, a scenario that could present itself if the amendment's controversial second sentence is jettisoned, restarting the process. On education and marriage controversies, the governor has attempted to stay above the fray and keep his focus on jobs and the economy. It's a Teflon veneer mastered by his hero, President Reagan, and his predecessor.

**2. Speaker Brian Bosma:** It is going to be fascinating to watch the speaker and President Long maneuver the constitutional marriage amendment, as well as the business personal property tax repeal. Bosma and Long can hardly hide their irritation at the focus on HJR-6, and one scenario is that they move quickly on the issue. Both have said it will be a caucus decision and Sen. Long said on Tuesday that the process will begin in the House and that he expects it to move to the Senate several weeks later. Bosma has expressed concern about the amendment's controversial second sentence and told HPI last summer that if he had his "druthers," it would not be included, though he noted that 30 other states have similar laws. Powerful speakers have their druthers. Bosma seems to be more secure when it comes to a potential caucus leadership challenge than Long and if the marriage amendment is important, he will make a tough and painful decision to remove the second sentence. That might put him at odds with Gov. Pence, who doesn't want to run with HJR-6 in a 2016 reelection bid. We view Speaker Bosma as the leading Republican in the post-Pence gubernatorial era, and he will obviously be weighing the consequences of moving a flawed and, some believe, bigoted amendment with that second sentence before the voters. Even supporters of the amendment have acknowledged they may be on the "wrong side of history." Bosma faces a historic situation that could partially define his legislative career.

**3. Senate President David Long:** Unlike past years, we don't detect any palace coup when it comes to President Long this session. But he is walking a fine line in the Senate, where a distinct conservative bloc could muster close to 20 votes on any given issue. Thus, Long's decision to let the caucus decide on HJR-6. We view the Senate as the most likely chamber to pass HJR-6, and many view the House as the ultimate chamber which will decide whether the amendment in its current form moves forward. Long said on Tuesday that HJR-6 does not have a Senate sponsor, and "it won't be 40-8" as when it passed in 2011. "We haven't done a head count," Long said on Tuesday. "We'll have a much better feel for it in the next couple of weeks." Long's other challenge is the business personal property tax repeal, which he outlined with Bosma as a priority. But he doesn't appear to have Senate Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley on board, so that will be an interesting subplot this session.

**4. FSSA Commissioner Deb Minott:**



**FSSA Commissioner Deb Minott will have a full plate this year.**

The FSSA Commissioner will play a vital role in the Medicaid/Healthy Indiana Plan story no matter what HHS Sec. Sebelius decides. If HHS accepts HIP as a vehicle for Medicaid expansion, Minott will have to fashion what multiple sources have told Howey Politics Indiana will likely be big changes for the program. If it is rejected, the unknown "Plan B" will be on her plate. If the administration walks away from a HIP-less expansion, Minott will be on the

hot seat. She told a legislative panel last June that the social safety network across the state will provide health services for the estimated 200,000 to 300,000 Hoosiers who will go without health insurance, but has provided little detail on how this network would work. The administration has also been pressed on the notion that the uninsured can simply walk into emergency rooms. The small Democratic minorities in the General Assembly have been critical of Gov. Pence's remarks on that subject, but have done little to convey this to the general public. And the big future story is how the Disproportionate Share Hospitals such as Eskenazi Health can survive without a Medicaid expansion.

**5. State Rep. Tom Dermody:**

The new chairman of the influential House Public Policy Committee will play a gatekeeper role on HJR-6, if it emerges for a vote. He will also bring a new, open perspective on legislation involving alcohol, gaming and abortion after State Rep. Bill Davis left the post to take an administration job. Davis had refused to move legislation on Sunday alcohol sales and Dermody has said he will have an open mind on hearing future bills. Obviously, Dermody has the intrinsic trust of Speaker Bosma.

**6. Curt Smith, Micah Clark and Eric Miller:**

This triumvirate of family values proponents will take the point on urging passage of the constitutional marriage referendum. Smith from the Indiana Family Institute has led the fundraising efforts, while Miller and his Advance America group are expected to use his wide network of evangelical churches to urge passage not only in the General Assembly this winter, but this November. Advance America began running TV ads in the Indianapolis and Fort Wayne markets on Wednesday saying that "seven legislators" should not keep people from voting on the issue, referring to a future House committee vote. The family network has already resorted to taking out newspaper ads pressing State Reps. Sean Eberhart, Ed Clere and Rebecca Kubacki to support HJR-6. If the referendum fails to win passage before the Feb. 10 filing deadline, look for these groups to seek primary challengers.

**7. Megan Robertson:** The former campaign manager for U.S. Rep. Luke Messer, Robertson is heading the Freedom Indiana organization that is opposing HJR-6. Robertson has waged a fascinating campaign thus far, coalescing university and colleges; big industries such as Eli Lilly and Cummins; mayors; city councils; and religious leaders to publicly oppose HJR-6. The Phase I goal has been to keep the amendment from passing in a second legislative session, and HPI believes that will be a tough order. Failing that, she will coordinate a fall campaign that promises to be the most controversial and divisive policy/election event in modern Indiana history.

**8. State Rep. Robert Behning:** The House Education Committee chairman is expected to carry Gov. Pence's education legislative agenda, including his Pre-K program. Behning sits at another key juncture on what happens to the Common Core standards after the General Assembly voted to "pause" the standards. Bosma has said he wants the state to draw up new standards.

**9. U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski and Joseph Bock:** The one emerging competitive Indiana congressional race in 2014 finds Democrat Joe Bock challenging Walorski, who won a much closer race in 2012 than virtually anyone had anticipated. Walorski defeated Democrat Brenden Mullen by just 1.4% and with 49% of the vote. Bock, who heads Notre Dame's Eck Institute for Global Health, is a former Missouri legislator and



**Rep. Walorski with Mike Pence and Richard Mourdock during campaign 2012.**

has an extensive background on health issues. Walorski is expected to use the fumbled rollout of Obamacare as a key issue for her first reelection bid. She has worked on the military sexual assault issue, with some of her provisions ending up in the National Defense Authorization Act. This past week, Bock engaged Walorski, urging her to extend federal unemployment insurance benefits. "I believe it's wrong to turn our backs on our neighbors in their time of need and, like them, I'm tired of political maneuvering in Washington getting in the way of economic recovery here in Indiana," Bock said. With Walorski representing a district that is +6 on the Cook Partisan Index (the least Republican in the state), this will be a key race to watch. If HJR-6 is on the ballot in November, that could impact this race as both conservatives and liberal/moderates will have additional motivation to vote in a normally low-turnout

mid-term election.

**10. U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly:** We place the junior senator in this slot because he is in the Senate majority. Donnelly played a key role in hammering out a budget compromise last fall as a group of moderates from both parties reached out to break the gridlock. Donnelly has also taken what we see as a more constructive position on the troubled Obamacare law, advocating tweaks and overhauls on what isn't working. He sponsored legislation, for instance, to change the full-time work status that had prompted Indiana school districts to begin laying off employees.

**11. U.S. Sen. Dan Coats:** Indiana's senior senator is working from the minority and has moved to bring the state delegation together to address common issues on a regular basis. Coats has repeatedly reached out to President Obama in efforts to secure the "grand bargain" budget deal as a member of the so-called "Diner's Club," to no avail. Coats paints the President as an obstructionist consumed by petty politics. Coats has also been the mature voice in the Indiana GOP delegation, making attempts to modify the defund-Obamacare movement that ultimately led to the disastrous federal government shutdown and a near debt default. While his junior House colleagues believed they could defund Obamacare, the hard reality was that most of the law was untouchable in the budget process. Coats has dedicated this term in office to rein in federal spending, but with the gridlock in Washington, it will be an uphill climb.

**12. U.S. Rep. Todd Young:** The sophomore Republican sits on the influential House Ways & Means Committee, the plum of the financial services committee assignments. He has become an ally of House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan. Young has prioritized tax reform, which he believes can play a role in deficit reduction and job creation. "We haven't fundamentally overhauled our tax system in a quarter of a century, and since the 1986 reforms our code has been larded up with provisions that only benefit narrow interests," said Young. "The net effect is a tax code that is confusing, complex and difficult for individuals and small businesses to comply with. As we try to spur our economy, making the code simpler, fairer and flatter is key." Young will also face a challenge from former Democratic Seymour Mayor Bill Bailey in November and will report more than \$1 million cash on hand later this month.

**13. U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks:** As a freshman, she chairs the Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications subcommittee of the Homeland Security Committee. Less than a month after she arrived on Capitol Hill, she gave the GOP response to President Obama's Saturday radio address. She is close to Speaker John Boehner and took part in the GOP Congressional

leadership press conference when the Require a Plan Act was announced. She also cast pragmatic votes on the government shutdown in October and budget vote in December. And she has a warchest of \$500,000 at year's end and will face token primary opposition from the Tea Party in May. Brooks is widely seen as a rising star both on Capitol Hill and in Indiana.

**14. Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard:**

In the past few years, the mayor has moved to create bike lanes, launch a second Super Bowl bid, convert the city fleet to alternative fuels, rebuild the Market Square Arena site and create vehicle-sharing consortiums. We will likely learn later this year whether Ballard will seek a third term. Our guess is that he will, and he will be tough to defeat, given his track record.

**15. Evan Bayh:** Let's go back in time . . .

to 1987, when the Democratic world awaited word on whether the young secretary of state prodigy would run for governor. That's where the Indiana Democratic Party is today. Who will challenge Gov. Mike Pence in 2016 will revolve on whether Bayh decides to make a political comeback. This decision will have a huge impact on the Democratic Party pecking order over the next three years. If Bayh decides to seek another gubernatorial term, that will likely clear any Democratic field that could include former congressman Baron Hill, Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott and possibly former Evansville mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. If he doesn't, then it's a wide-open affair now that 2012 nominee John Gregg has said he won't run. If Bayh doesn't run, the rest of the field will need to begin gearing up late this year. Bayh allies said that once his twin sons graduate from high school this spring, the family will move back to Indiana and that had always been the plan. Others tell HPI that Bayh "misses public service." His campaign committee sent out Christmas cards last month and Bayh attended the IDEA convention in French Lick last summer. In the April 2013 HPI Poll, Bayh's fav/unfav stood at 60/16% and he had 95% recognition, compared to 52/20 for Gov. Pence and equal recognition. There is no question that if Bayh decides to return, Pence will have his hands full. Why would Bayh want to be governor again? To complete his legacy. He's only 57 years old. During his two terms, many decisions he made came with an eye on a potential White House bid. With longtime friend Hillary Clinton likely to occupy that position from 2016 to 2020, Bayh could operate in the "good policy makes good politics" mode.



**16. Joe Hogsett:** This is the bookend to the Bayh dynamic. When the 2016 gubernatorial question comes up, many Democrats around the state see the Southern District U.S. attorney as an attractive gubernatorial candidate. Others see him as a 2015 Indianapolis mayoral powerhouse. As John Gregg told HPI when he bowed out of the 2016 gubernatorial race last year, winning the Indianapolis mayoral race will be key to retaking the governor's office the following year. It's a decent bet that Bayh and Hogsett will look at their options in tandem. A Hogsett mayoral run – and he will have to make that decision his year – could be seen as a precursor to a Bayh revival. The two have been close political allies since Bayh emerged in the mid-1980s. If Bayh decides against running, Hogsett will be seen by many Democrats as the next man up.

**17. Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr.:**

The mayor/Lake County Democratic chairman has formed a political action committee - McPAC - to spread money to Democratic House, Senate and mayoral candidates. It is a clear indication that the three-term mayor is ready to step up to a statewide level. "I'm open-minded," McDermott told HPI. "I didn't do this job to be mayor forever. The new political action committee will help us establish new relationships around the state." McDermott doesn't believe that Evan Bayh will come back and run, though he says he's heard it "both ways" in party circles. McDermott sees Bayh as damaged goods within the party. "He left us leaderless and penniless," McDermott said of Bayh's 2010 bombshell not to seek reelection just days before the February filing deadline, setting in motion what HPI called the "Bayh dominoes." That decision cost Democrats Bayh's U.S. Senate seat, the 8th CD seat Brad Ellsworth relinquished, and southwestern Indiana House and Senate seats vacated by Trent Van Haaften and Bob Dieg to fill the other candidate gaps created in Bayh's wake. "If he thinks it will be like his first and second terms, he is mistaken," McDermott said of Bayh's 1988 breakthrough that brought about the Bayh/O'Bannon ticket and his 1992 landslide reelection. "There's a little anger over 2010." McDermott is also perturbed that while Bayh sits on a war chest of about \$10 million, Indiana Democrats saw Right to Work legislation pass that has damaged the unions, as well as a lack of funding to counter what has become the Republican super majority caucuses in the House and Senate. "He didn't do that," he said of Bayh spreading his war chest to help the party. "Leaders don't do that."

**18. Baron Hill:** The former congressman is doing all the things a potential gubernatorial candidate should be doing at this stage. He is showing up to Democratic events around the state, and worked the various

events at the IDEA convention in French Lick last summer.

**19. Senate Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley and Ways & Means Chairman Tim Brown:**

This is a non-budget session, and both these influential Republicans have said they will not reopen the budget for Gov. Pence's proposed business personal property tax repeal. Kenley has suggested that this issue will have to await 2015, so this pair could be at loggerheads with the administration on its top priority. In 2013, the Pence administration was able to squeeze out a win on the income tax when legislative leaders were clearly skeptical. Kenley and Brown will play a key role in how the governor's top priority fares this time around. Brown has also told HPI he will monitor other state Obamacare exchanges as Hoosier leaders monitor the Affordable Care Act.

**20. Chief-of-Staff Bill Smith:**

He is the governor's long-time friend and gatekeeper. Smith has been at the helm in remaking the Pence operation from a small Congressional operation, to the campaign, and now running a state with a \$15 billion annual budget.

**21. Supt. Glenda Ritz:**

The elected Democratic superintendent received more votes than Gov. Pence in 2012, but entered the Statehouse with an anemic legislative power base, and has since been embroiled in a showdown with Gov. Pence's newly created CECI education apparatus and the State Board of Education. The entire scenario is murky. Gov. Pence created CECI to coordinate the various education stakeholders early last summer, but Ritz learned about it from the news media. Republicans view the SBOE as the body that makes policy with the superintendent implementing the policy. The superintendent sees herself as the chair of the SBOE and a policymaker. And the SBOE has become a hodgepodge of Daniels and Pence appointees, and sympathetic conservatives education reformers acknowledge to HPI that the board doesn't follow Roberts Rules of Order. Thus, there has been chaos, though Ritz and the SBOE have gradually made progress on some of the most fitful and tormented policies, such as the A to F fiasco left over from the Tony Bennett era. With business and industry unable to find graduates with enough skills to fill tens of thousands of jobs, the past generation of public education in Indiana has under performed, and in all but four years (the Daniels/Bennett era of 2009-12) the governor and superintendent have either been in different parties or had divergent agendas. The Ritz showdown with the administration will almost certainly prompt legislation that will make the superintendent a gubernatorial appointed position, as both the Republican and Democratic platforms have called for in 2012, though the Pence administration is hesitant to do so, fearing the type of political backlash that consumed Bennett.

**22. Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann:**

She spent much of 2013 touring Indiana's 92 counties, holding closed-door meetings with local elected officials, community leaders, business owners and farmers, getting them to tell her how state government can do a better job serving local communities. In doing so, she created goodwill with both Democrat and Republican local office holders who feel like their voices often aren't heard by powerbrokers in the Statehouse. Ellspermann urged local leaders to be candid with her and in return, she got an earful of complaints – crumbling infrastructure, shrinking school



budgets, and the shortage of skilled workers, to name a few. She's also heard complaints about the slow response of state agencies to local concerns, and worries about the unforeseen impact of government mandates. Still to be seen is her impact on the governor's agenda. But she's not to be underestimated: An industrial engineer with a Ph.D., she's whip-smart and fearless. She may have been relatively unknown when tapped in 2012 to be Pence's running mate, but two years earlier when she won her first election she took down then-Democratic House Majority Leader Russ Stilwell. From a political viewpoint, a 92-county tour certainly lays the groundwork for a future statewide run on her own. Lt. Govs. Robert Orr and Frank O'Bannon traveled extensively during their first terms.

**23. Claire Fiddian-Green:** She is the governor's special assistant for K-12 and higher education, and is the key player in the Center for Education and Career Innovation, which was created by Gov. Pence to "improve coordination between pertinent agency partners and industry voices to ensure a world-class education for students," as Pence put it when he announced its creation last summer. The first six months of the new agency has been marked by a showdown with Supt. Ritz over who controls of the State Board of Education. She will play a key role as the governor makes decisions on whether to scrap Common Core and opt for an Indiana-written educa-

tion standard, as Speaker Bosma and President Long are advocating.

**24. Attorney General Greg Zoeller:**

There has been a real shift in issues to state attorneys general, and Zoeller has been as active as any on issues ranging from Obamacare to the defunding of Planned Parenthood, to immigration reform and the recovery of stolen funds by public officials. Zoeller was recently pulled into the showdown between Supt. Ritz and the State Board of Education.

**25. U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman:** The “dean” of the Indiana Republican House delegation (after two full terms), Stutzman (seen below) carved out a conspicuous niche as an ardent advocate for separating the SNAP program out of the farm bill. In doing so, he riled Indiana agricultural leaders. He was also a force last summer in tying the budget and debt ceiling to defunding Obamacare, which was impossible. This led to the 16-day congressional shutdown. The National Journal reported that in early discussions with aides and lawmakers regarding a successor to Rep. Steve Scalise at the Republican Study Committee, the only name mentioned more frequently than Raul Labrador is that of Stutzman. The National Journal reported: Stutzman, with his Midwestern manners and agreeable demeanor, has drawn comparisons to Mike Pence – a fellow Hoosier and former RSC chairman. Stutzman is known to have a firm grasp on a wide range of policy issues, and colleagues have taken notice of his vocal presence – not to mention, perfect attendance – at RSC meetings. Stutzman may have hurt his case by voting for Ryan’s budget deal - where he acted as a bridge between conservatives and leadership - which was opposed by some influential conservatives including Scalise, Jordan, and Labrador. But that vote could very well be ancient history by the time prospective RSC candidates interview for the position next fall. If Stutzman is as fixated on the RSC gig as everyone assumes, he’ll use 2014 to underscore his conservative credentials – while avoiding the type of verbal gaffe he made during the October shutdown, when he said, “We have to get something out of this. And I don’t know what that even is.”



**26. House Minority Leader Scott**

**Pelath:** The House minority leader has fashioned a working relationship with Speaker Bosma, with the two actually sponsoring legislation together, but has not hesitated on calling out what he sees as misguided policy that runs from a rejection of Medicaid expansion, to sidelining the constitutional marriage amendment. “Save us from a na-

tional embarrassment,” said Pelath, D-Michigan City, when given the opportunity to address the chamber by Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma. “We must reject solutions in search of problems.” Pelath said that HJR-6, which could end up on the November ballot, “sends a message to the best and brightest” that Indiana is not a welcoming state. I know in our world it is sometimes easy to forget, but most of our citizens are not ideologues. What our constituents really demand is functionality. They insist on a frank and honest assessment of problems, some common-sense solutions, and a credible effort to make their lives a little better.”

**27. Jim Bopp Jr.:** The Terre Haute attorney and the legal mastermind behind Citizens United is about to further change Congressinonal election law when he contests two-year spending limits in the McCutcheon case. The Republican National Committee filed its opening brief in McCutcheon v. FEC in the U.S. Supreme Court last May. The case, brought by the Republican National Committee and Shaun McCutcheon, challenges the federal biennial, individual aggregate limits on contributions to candidates and national political party committees (such as RNC). These aggregate limits restrict how much an individual may spend on political contributions over a two-year election cycle, even though the contributions are at levels otherwise legal. For example, an individual can legally give \$2,600 per election to any candidate, or \$5,200 if the candidate is supported in both primary and general elections. But the aggregate limit requires the individual to give no more than \$48,600 to candidates in a two-year election cycle. Thus, the individual could only support nine candidates at the full legal base limit of \$5,200.

**28. Secretary of State Connie**

**Lawson:** The appointed secretary of state heads the statewide ballot this November, since there are no gubernatorial or U.S. Senate races. Democrat Beth White is expected to oppose her. As Howey Politics Indiana observed in an analysis in its edition Sept. 19, 2013, the GOP statewide ticket has experienced a defeat (Supt. Tony Bennett) and a number of closer-than-expected races over the past several election cycles, as well as Gov. Pence’s 49% victory in 2012 at a time when the legislative caucuses forged super majorities. The days when tickets led by a Lugar, Bowen, Orr or Daniels pulled the GOP statewide with 250,000 to 400,000 vote pluralities are waning despite Indiana’s red state reputation. In 2008, while Gov. Daniels’ reelection was on its way to a 481,422 plurality over Democrat Jill Long Thompson, Bennett barely defeated little-known Democrat Richard Wood by 51,000 votes and Zoeller nipped Democrat Linda Pence by just 38,863 votes. In that race, the Barack Obama presidential campaign which carried Indiana, and Daniels’ reelection produced historic ticket splitting. In 2006 during a backlash against Presi-

dent Bush and the Iraq War, Treasurer Richard Mourdock defeated Michael Griffin by 61,921 votes, Auditor (and now Republican Chairman) Tim Berry defeated Democrat Judy Anderson by 36,064 votes and Secretary of State Todd Rokita defeated Joe Pearson by 89,455 votes. The wildcard in the statewide this year will likely be HJR-6. Without a dominant, well-funded personality at the top of either ticket, and the marriage amendment pulling in activists right and left of center, don't be surprised if we end up with unintended consequences and Lawson could be in the bullseye.

**29. Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold:**

The three-term mayor has an impressive list of party chair and mayoral endorsements, as well as support from key financiers such as Bob Grand and Dan Dumezich. He will face a convention floor fight from former Senate and congressman candidate Don Bates Jr., who will attempt to pack the convention delegates with Tea Party supporters. Treasurer Mourdock is running an aide, creating a potential three-way floor fight. But we see Seybold as in the driver's seat at this point, with a potential floor team that delivered a hard-fought win for Todd Rokita in 2002. Seybold has received blistering coverage over city finances from his hometown Marion Chronicle-Tribune, but in recent weeks Marion has posted a \$2 million budget surplus and Standard & Poor's has upgraded its bond rating from BBB- to A-.

**30. State Rep. Ed Clere:** While Indiana Republicans from the governor to the congressional delegation and legislative leaders cannot hide their disdain and contempt for Obamacare, it is this New Albany Republican and chairman of the House Public Health Committee who has had the guts to question the wisdom of turning down more than \$10 billion in federal Medicaid funding over the next three years while leaving hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers without health insurance options beyond social safety net clinics and emergency rooms. Clere has taken some arrows from legislative leaders over those questions as well as his opposition to HJR-6. But in November, both Bosma and Long acknowledged the vast sums being left on the table and, after Obamacare shakes out over the next year or two, the need to revisit the issues.

**31. State Rep. Ed DeLaney:** Not only has the Indianapolis Democrat voiced opposition to the Republican stances on HJR-6 and Obamacare, he is leading the fight for mass transit in the capital city and doughnut counties. DeLaney has also presented himself as an option if Joe Hogsett passes on the Indianapolis mayoral race and if Bayh doesn't make a third gubernatorial bid.

**32. Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke:**

The Republican mayor has had a successful two years, with his internal polling showing him with a 74% approval rating, which is noteworthy for a Republican in a very Democratic city. Winnecke (pictured above) has focused on incentives to retain some high profile companies,

championed some major public projects like a downtown hotel and cloverleaf at the city's busiest highway intersection, and straightened out some financial accounting problems left over from the Weinzapfel administration. The intangibles are all there too; he's the most visible



mayor even really oldtimers have ever seen. He's run into a few roadblocks with a city council dominated by Democrats 8-1, but in spite of that he's gotten his top priorities through. On the plate in the coming year is the proposed Indiana University Medical School expansion for the city. IU is looking for a site in the region and Winnecke has been pushing to locate it in downtown Evansville. If successfully located downtown it's likely to be one of the most transformative Evansville projects in a generation.

**33. Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry:**

The two-term mayor is coming off what he calls a banner year in 2013 with the completion of the Harrison Square project, the attraction of the \$71 million Ash National Brokerage project, and additional apartment and condos. On the horizon is a potential downtown sports arena and a study of the three rivers that course through the city and potential economic impact opportunities. Henry has been trying to coordinate with mayors across the state and nation to address the recent spike in violence in the city. Henry has created a new public safety position that is being filled by former police chief Rusty York. Henry is expected to seek a third-term in 2015 and will likely face either Councilman Mitch Harper, a former Republican legislator, Council President Tom Didier or Councilman Marty Bender.

**34. State Reps. Greg Steuerwald & Jud McMillin, Sen. Brent Steel, and David Powell:**

The criminal code reforms are due to go on line on July 1, and the Indiana Prosecutors Council (headed by Powell) is objecting to some of the drug law reforms. This actually is one of the more compelling story lines in the coming General Assembly session, as the various judiciary and legal panels have to tweak and defend the reforms. Powell is using local media to make the case. Steuerwald,

McMillin and Steel will have the legislative bully pulpit to attempt to stay the course. With public attitudes shifting dramatically of issues such as marijuana decriminalization, this will be a fascinating story line of the upcoming session.

**35. Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight:**

The two-term mayor has been one of the real post-2008-09 auto meltdown success stories. Kokomo stood on the brink of oblivion as GM and Chrysler teetered on the brink of bankruptcy. Since then, more than \$1 billion has been invested in his city by the automakers. He has extended free public transportation to his community and now has a rare opportunity to remake the former U.S. 31 corridor in his city now that the new freeway bypass has opened to the east. Goodnight is aggressively moving to annex land between the current city limits and the new freeway to control development. Goodnight will almost certainly be part of ticket conversations in 2016 and beyond for Indiana Democrats.

**36. South Bend Mayor Peter Buttigieg:**

This rising Democratic star faces an epic 2014 when he deploys to Afghanistan in February as part of his Navy Reserve commitment. It will interrupt his goal of clearing away the industrial remains



of the auto industry and redevelop downtown. He will also preside over the city's 150th birthday in 2015 when he is expected to seek a second term. If the former Rhodes Scholar achieves that, Buttigieg will almost certainly be part of Democratic ticket considerations in 2016 and beyond, as well as a potential gubernatorial candidate past a second term. Buttigieg ran statewide for Indiana treasurer in 2010, losing to Mourdock.

**37. Richard Lugar:** With weapons of mass destruction and terror issues facing the world from Russia to Syria to Iran and now an Al Qaeda resurgence in Iraq, the former Indiana Republican senator is perhaps the most conspicuous Hoosier when it comes to international issues. A year after leaving the Senate following his primary defeat in 2012, Lugar received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and has been honored by Great Britain, Poland and Germany. Look for Lugar to continue to be a steady, insightful voice when it comes to the unsettled world around us.

**38. U.S. Rep. Luke Messer:** He was elected the freshman class president. He voted against the deal to reopen the federal government in October and avoid a default.

**39. U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita:** The former secretary of state and two-term congressman sits on the

House Budget and Education & Workforce committees and chairs the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. He was one five Hoosier Republicans to oppose the October bill that reopened the government and averted a federal default and has been an ardent opponent of Obamacare. Rokita is expected to post his most prolific FEC numbers next week and, since he represents an overwhelmingly GOP district, has dispersed those funds to Indiana colleagues. He is also an ally with Majority Leader Eric Cantor. Rokita is likely to take a long look at the 2018 U.S. Senate race against Joe Donnelly.

**40. Republican Chairman Tim Berry:**

The former auditor faces an unprecedented situation as GOP state chair. With a majority of the Republican Central Committee vehemently opposed to HJR-6 and prepared to pass a resolution against it, Berry finds himself in a balancing act between his district chairs and legislative leaders Bosma and Long, who don't believe the committee should weigh in on policy matters. But the committee fears the impact an expensive constitutional campaign will bring to Indiana, including potentially millions of outside dollars that could impact Jackie Walorski's 2nd CD reelection bid as well as the statewide ticket.

**41. Democrat Chairman John Zody:**

The new Democratic chairman has been relatively quiet on the recruiting front as Democrats attempt to make inroads into the legislative super majorities as well as the congressional delegation that is 9-3 Republican. Currently Indiana Democrats appear only to contest Rep. Walorski with Joseph Bock and challenge Rep. Todd Young with former Seymour mayor Bill Bailey. It has been legislative leaders Pelath and Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane who have sounded the alarms on HJR-6, as well as the decision not to expand Medicaid and create an Indiana health care exchange.

**42. State Sen. Brandt Hershman and State Rep. Eric Turner:**

They are the Senate and House point men on the business personal property tax repeal bill, setting up an interesting dynamic with Appropriations Chairman Kenley and Ways & Means Chairman Brown, who would prefer to deal with the repeal during the 2015 budget session. The senator believes that local government is still inefficient. Turner is also expected to sponsor HJR-6.

**43. Goshen Mayor Alan Kauffman and Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett:**

This Democrat mayor from Republican Goshen and Republican mayor from Democratic



Terre Haute will be key municipal voices on the debate over the business personal property tax repeal, which has the potential of severely impacting their communities. Terre Haute has seen its funding reduced by more than \$10 million annually by the tax caps. Kauffman cites his own city Chamber of Commerce as opposing the repeal, believing it will cut not municipal fat, but bone. Kauffman (pictured) also exhibited true leadership when he endorsed and pushed a successful school funding referendum last November.

**44. State Sen. Jim Merritt:** The Indianapolis Republican is highly influential not only in the upper chamber, but in his city. His lifeline law that encourages students to get help for others experiencing drug and alcohol overdoses is actually legislation that has saved lives.

**45. Purdue President Mitch Daniels:** His continued reform movement now within the state university system is capturing national attention as the Internet is doing to universities what it did to entertainment and publishing. The former Indiana governor has pared away layers of administrative fat, is moving to reduce costs for students while urging them to graduate on time. Daniels will play a key role in attempts by the state to retain Purdue's engineering, science and mathematic students. His relentless pursuit of change still has some Hoosier Republicans hoping he can convince the family "female caucus" to launch a 2016 presidential bid. Many believe if he had run in 2012, he could have unseated President Obama because he has the retail political touch and strategic acumen that Mitt Romney lacked.



**46. U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon:** The 8th CD sophomore had a rarity within the Indiana delegation; he actually got a trucking industry bill dealing with federal sleep apnea regulations passed by Congress and signed by President Obama. Once a target of Club For Growth's Chris Chocola, Bucshon appears to have evaded a primary challenge and looks to be in good shape for a third term.

**47. Rod Ratcliff:** The self-made fertilizer salesman rose to ownership of Hoosier Park and Churchill Downs, then went into bankruptcy after the state sought a huge ante up fee for racinos that came in tandem with the epic Great Recession. Ratcliff emerged from bankruptcy this past year and Centaur purchased the second racino, Indiana Live at Shelbyville, prompting the Indianapolis Star to call him the "most powerful man in Indiana's high-stakes gambling industry." At a time when legislative leaders and governors treat the gaming industry as a necessary evil, and with gaming revenues declining in the wake of out-state competition, a close study of Ratcliff finds a blueprint not only for survival, but prosperity, and

civic stewardship, as Centaur's recent \$2.7 million gift to the Purdue Equine Diagnostic and Surgery Center shows. The gaming industry in Indiana has not only been a key revenue producer, but it has done so with a high degree of integrity, which hasn't been the case in a number of other states. As the industry faces more competition and declining revenue, Ratcliff will be an influential player when it comes to keeping the industry viable.

**48. Doug Brown:** When the Indianapolis Motor Speedway sought \$100 million in bonds for lighting and night racing, it was the Bose Public Affairs group headed by managing partner Brown who delivered after Gov. Pence had expressed his initial "lukewarm" reaction to the proposal. His team includes former speaker Paul Mannweiler, Democrat Greg Hahn and Republican Randy Borrer, becoming a Statehouse lobbying powerhouse.

**49. State Rep. Mike Karickhoff:** The Kokomo Republican who was just appointed to Ways & Means Committee leadership will be an interesting barometer when it comes to the business personal property tax repeal legislation this session. Howard County with its huge auto industrial cluster, could be Exhibit A on the impact of taxation change on local government. He is also a former city councilman who created city budgets, so his insights will be influential this session.

**50. Jennifer Hallowell:** Hallowell plays a strong "behind the scenes" role with Mayor Ballard and Rep. Messer. She is a modern Republican strategist who understands the strengths and challenges of her candidates and puts together the messaging needed to win. She takes commonly held political principles and fashions them to the individual. She doesn't reinvent the wheel but she doesn't take a "cookie cutter" approach either.

## Honorable Mention

**Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane:** He leads the tiny 13-member Democratic caucus, but is a respected voice.

**Policy Director Chris Atkins:** He and Ryan Streeter are the policy wonks in the Pence administration. They have keenly focused on taxation, and it will be interesting to see whether the advocated changes can lift the stubborn Indiana economy, or whether the improving national picture will do it for them. They also face some potentially titanic issues on the Medicaid front if the HHS doesn't approve the HIP expansion. And there are some potential landmines in the future, such as what happens to Disproportionate Share Hospitals once Medicaid as we know it fades.

**INDOT Commissioner Karl Browning:** Gov. Pence is preparing to launch a \$400 million road funding program, and Commissioner Browning will play a key role in doling out the bucks as we emerge in the post-Major Moves era. Pence has said he wants to complete the I-69 extension between Evansville and Indianapolis and he favors the Illiana Expressway. In the meantime, it is

becoming obvious that I-65 is closing in on volume capacity between both Merrillville and Lebanon, and south between Greenwood and Sellersburg. There are big decisions and big bucks here.

**Chris Chocola:** The former Indiana congressman was a key player in kicking the Indiana Republican Senate seat of Dick Lugar to Democrat Joe Donnelly in 2012. Unbowed, Chocola tried to get Rep. Larry Bucshon "primaried" to no avail. The Club For Growth honcho plotted to scuttle the budget deal in October that sent the federal government into a disastrous 16-day shutdown that damaged the Republican brand at the very time of the Obamacare website meltdown, and urged GOP members to let the nation go into default. This past week, he was urging Congress not to extend unemployment payments. Indiana Democrats can only hope that Chocola stays active in Hoosier political affairs as well as U.S. Senate races across the nation. The man is on a roll!

**Kevin Brinegar:** The business personal property tax repeal rollout and lack of local options wasn't quite as bad as Obamacare, but the headlines weren't good. And the Chamber is MIA on HJR-6.

**Pat Kiely:** Manufacturing is in an Indiana resurgence and the Indiana Manufacturing Association president plays a crucial role there.

**U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky:** Dean of Indiana congressional Democrats.

**Marilee Springer:** A key policy adviser for Gov. Pence.

**Matt Greller:** IACT's executive director will play a key role to the business personal property tax repeal debate and how it impacts municipalities.

**State Sen. John Waterman:** Facing an intense primary challenge from Washington Councilman Eric Bassler.

**Craig Hartzler:** Supt. Ritz's chief of staff has been a key connector to the governor's office. If things smooth out between the two offices, he will play a key role.

**Bill Bailey:** The former Seymour mayor is challenging U.S. Rep. Todd Young.

**U.S. Rep. Andre Carson:** The Indianapolis congressman will be back on the Power50 in 2015 when



LaPorte Mayor Blair Milo (above) and Marion County Clerk Beth White.

the mayoral nominee will need his ground troops.

**Don Bates Jr.:** Will contest Mayor Seybold in an expected convention floor fight for the treasurer's nomination.

**Sasheer Zama-ta:** The Pike HS grad joins NBC's Saturday Night Live, the key primetime political lampooner in America.

**LaPorte Mayor Blair Milo:** This rising star Republican represents the coming "Millennial" generation

of leaders.

**Marion County Clerk Beth White:** Will try to recapture the secretary of state's office for the first time since 1990.

**Auditor Suzanne Crouch:** She will be on the GOP statewide ticket this year, helping the party recover from the Dwayne Sawyer fiasco.

**State Sen. Carlin Yoder:** He is Rep. Stutzman's district director and is in the nexus between state and federal government.

**State Sen. Jim Banks:** An ambitious Republican and one to keep an eye on.

**State Rep. Christina Hale:** The freshman Democrat is a rising star, and has made the assault of teenage girls an issue that is attracting attention.

**State Rep. Milo Smith:** He has authored legislation creating a redistricting commission, something Speaker Bosma favors.

**State Rep. Jerry Torr:** A key ally to Speaker Bosma.

**State Rep. Ed Soliday:** A respected voice on transportation issues.

**Eric Holcomb:** The former state Republican chairman is Sen. Coats' influential state director.

**State Rep. Steve Braun:** The Zionsville freshman Republican is seen as an emerging leader on economic issues.

**Jeff Cardwell:** The special adviser to Gov. Pence has his ear.

**Dan Elsener:** The Marian University president has been a key foil to Supt. Ritz on the SBOE. ❖

# HJR-6 no longer looks like a slam dunk

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - What looked like a sure slam dunk - passage in Indiana of a constitutional amendment to prevent same-sex marriage - no longer is such a sure thing. Business and politics are the reasons why.

Politics always was a factor.

When the proposed amendment won overwhelming approval in both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly in 2011, political considerations were important.

Now, as the legislature decides whether to give approval again - required to place the proposal on the November ballot for voter acceptance or rejection - political considerations aren't exactly the same. And there are new business considerations.

What will happen isn't clear. But it is clear that the decision will involve the new business and political considerations

as much as the oft cited rival arguments - on one side that it's wrong to deny marriage rights for gays, on the other side that it's wrong for gays to marry.

Some legislators don't see this as a grave moral issue for the state - either way. They wish it would just go away, with somebody else, namely U.S. Supreme Court justices, deciding what restrictions can or can't be imposed on marriage.

But there will be a legislative decision. Even a decision not to decide - to avoid a vote on the proposed constitutional amendment - would be a decision to keep the amendment off the ballot this fall.

Votes by two separately elected legislatures are needed to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot. This session is the last time for the current legislature to give that second approval.

**Back when the prior** separately elected legislature give approval in 2011, political considerations were clear. Polls showed opposition to same-sex marriage. Even though Indiana already has a law defining traditional marriage, leaving no sanction for same-sex marriage, there was a push to go beyond that to place that definition in the constitution. The proposed amendment also has language to hold civil unions of gays as invalid as well.

Republican legislators saw obvious political advantage in supporting the amendment. Their voters, especially the conservatives who have such a strong voice in primaries, were for it. And they figured that the amendment on the ballot would attract many evangelical and other conservative voters to the polls to vote against same-sex

marriage and, while there, to vote for Republican candidates, too.

Democratic legislators saw obvious political disadvantage in opposing an amendment with popular public support. In the 2011 legislative decision, many Democrats joined in the overwhelming "yes," even if they didn't see need for an amendment.

Since then there has been a surprisingly quick shift in public opinion.

National polls once showing opposition to same-sex marriage now swerve in the other direction. Even in Indiana, a recent WISH-TV/Ball State poll showed 54 percent opposing the amendment, 38 percent in support.

**Momentum is with** same-sex marriage rights as states elsewhere give approval and courts consider striking down other prohibitions.

What if it did go on the November ballot? Would voters concerned about gay rights, especially the young, be energized to go to the polls in numbers to counter energized amendment backers? Would it pass? Fail? Be close? Affect the outcome of candidate races?

Business interests now are a very significant factor.

Business organizations and major Indiana employers such as Eli Lilly and Cummins urge defeat of the amendment, saying it could hurt economic development.

The Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce explained its opposition to the amendment this way: "The proposed marriage amendment does nothing to help show the nation that Indiana is a place that welcomes all, not just some. And we must be mindful of how actions such as this will impact our competitiveness on a national and global level."

**Business fears decisions** of highly sought firms, the best talent and noted faculty members to locate elsewhere. Nor does business want to risk boycotts of Indiana conventions or products.

University administrators express similar concerns.

If that seemingly sure slam dunk is blocked, it will be business and university leaders and others talking beyond partisan politics that will swat it away. ❖

**Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.**



# Tax reform and local governments can work

By **KEVIN BRINEGAR**  
**Indiana Chamber of Commerce**

INDIANAPOLIS – Shaw Friedman closed out 2013 true to form with a fact-challenged rant attacking Mitch Daniels, Gov. Mike Pence and the Indiana Chamber for trying to create more jobs and economic growth (HPI, December 18). This latest hyper-partisan assault provides the opportunity to start 2014 with an explanation of the facts behind the emerging tax reform proposal focused on the business personal property tax.



**Fact:** The Indiana Chamber has had a longstanding policy position, developed by our members, to eliminate the business personal

property tax. The statewide task force that crafted the Indiana Vision 2025 economic development plan in 2011 reinforced that priority. That plan has been shared with local chambers, community leaders and economic development officials through a dozen regional forums and a statewide summit in the last two years.

**Fact:** No one is talking about an immediate \$1 billion hit to local government revenues. That would be the total only if all taxes on business machinery and equipment were immediately eliminated with no replacement revenue. Neither the Chamber, nor Gov. Pence, nor legislative leaders, nor other supporters of this reform have advocated that path.

**Fact:** The “easy to throw around” \$1 billion figure is not accurate. Half of that would be received by local governments from other taxpayers, including commercial and industrial property owners. There are many options, local choices, for recouping the remaining \$500 million.

**Fact:** Tax shifts are a positive reality. Indiana had a poor tax climate in the early 2000s before eliminating the gross receipts and inventory taxes and shifting the burden with corporate income tax increases and generous homestead deductions. These adjustments resulted in increased state and local tax revenues, paying for themselves many times over. The same can take place this time around.

**Fact:** Most Midwest states are not taxing business machinery and equipment at all. Kentucky is an exception, but its rates are much lower than Indiana’s. No matter which of a variety of rankings is used, Indiana is among the five or six states that tax business personal property at the highest rates. Shift away from the taxes that discourage business investment and the results are companies growing, adding jobs and spending more money on products and services from other local businesses.

**Fact:** Indiana has a positive overall tax climate due to past reforms, but other states are not standing still. The argument that “we already have a good ranking, we don’t need to do anything else” is shortsighted. Just as Indiana dramatically improved in competitiveness during the first decade of this century, it can just as quickly regress by letting others pass us by.

Our state has been, and always will be, known for its manufacturing production. Taxing the very machinery and equipment – drill presses, forklifts, tractors, etc. – that allow organizations of all sizes (79 percent of Hoosier manufacturers employ fewer than 50 people) and their employees to be more productive and successful is a counterproductive approach.

What about those local government revenues? Mayors seek, indeed perennially lobby for, more control over their finances. They could gain it as part of a reform package.

Everyone understands that the post-property tax cap world – which itself was a dramatic shift to reducing property taxes on homeowners – has altered the norm for local government operations. We can’t govern in 2014 as if it’s 1851, 1951 or even 2001.

Maybe it’s finally acting upon the government reform recommendations of 2008 by eliminating townships and increasing local government efficiency. The same questions asked six years ago by the Kernan-Shepard Commission apply today: Do we need 1,006 townships when their services could be provided more effectively and at a lower cost at the municipal or county level? Are multiple 911 call centers necessary in the same cities or adjacent areas? Shouldn’t promising examples of joint purchasing agreements be greatly expanded to the benefit of all taxpayers? (Hint: No, no and yes are the answers).

Maybe it’s expanding the current local option income tax system to more fairly disperse the tax burden. Under the current structure, business property owners pay more than twice what a homeowner pays on equally valued property. For every dollar in property taxes paid by a business (based on 2012 assessed values and taxes paid), a homeowner paid only 42 cents. Business owners and site selection consultants do look at those numbers in deciding where to grow or expand operations.

Maybe it’s allowing local leaders to decide whether a locally driven tax reform package is in their community’s best interest. If they don’t like the idea of eliminating the business personal property tax and any attendant tradeoffs, then they can choose to do nothing.

We’re confident, however, that most, if not all, would benefit and make the choice to expand investment in their economies. This is not a choice between providing a good economic environment for businesses or a sound fiscal environment for local government to deliver essential services to its citizens. These need not be competing objectives or one-size-fits-all proposals.

Gov. Pence has stated a goal of growing good jobs and reducing our unemployment rate by stimulating addi-

tional business investment. He asked the Indiana General Assembly to identify ways to help make it a reality that benefits the state as a whole. That approach may not be feasible in our nation's capital today, but it's one that works in Indiana. We look forward to a fact-based debate

and a positive outcome that helps create new jobs and vibrant communities while moving Indiana forward. ❖

**Brinegar is president of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.**



## Protestant leaders oppose HJR-6

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - Seven leaders of Indiana protestant denominations sent a letter on Monday expressing opposition to HJR-6, the constitutional marriage amendment.

"As leaders of Christian faith communities in Indiana we share a common concern surrounding the proposed amendment to the state constitution of Indiana, HJR-6," Indiana religious leaders wrote in a letter released on Monday. "The members and ministers of our congregations and our particular denominations have differing interpretations of marriage and yet we affirm the right and responsibility of each faith tradition to maintain its teaching and to bless and sanctify the union of persons in ways that are consistent with their belief. The proposed amendment to our state constitution does not strengthen that practice which will endure irrespective of and without the reinforcement of a state defined concept of marriage."

The letter continued, "The proposed amendment can be read, most particularly in its second clause, as a statement that expresses an unwelcoming attitude toward a particular population within our society. Our common tradition expressly advocates that we must show hospitality and welcome to all and most specifically to those who are unlike us. As pastoral leaders we fear that this proposed amendment and the process of its consideration by our state legislators and, potentially, by the population as a whole, will be both costly and divisive. With a statute already clearly in place that governs who is eligible to be licensed to marry within Indiana we believe an amendment to the constitution is unnecessary and so we urge our legislature to set aside this measure in order that other matters that strengthen the lives and opportunity for all Hoosier citizens might be addressed."

**The letter was signed** by Richard L. Spleth, Regional Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana; Michael J. Coyner, Bishop, Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church; John Vertigan, Conference Minister, Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ; William O. Gafkjen, Bishop, Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Catherine M. Waynick, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis; Taylor Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter,

Presbytery of Whitewater Valley of the Presbyterian Church (USA); and Carol M. McDonald, Executive, Synod of Lincoln Trails of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ❖

## Methodist responds to Coyner

By **JOHN LOMPERIS**

INDIANAPOLIS – I have long appreciated many refreshingly helpful aspects of how Bishop Michael Coyner has led Indiana United Methodism.

Thus I was all the more disappointed to see him so publicly and unhelpfully seek to align Indiana United Methodism with rapidly declining, secularized "oldline" Protestant denominations in opposing Indiana's proposed marriage amendment. In a separate statement from the joint open letter, Bishop Coyner made clear that his objection was not just to the specific wording of HJR-6, but rather to the whole idea of any limiting governmental definition of marriage.

**Regardless of Bishop** Coyner's personal opinions, the official position of the United Methodist Church explicitly states: "We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman." The judicial activism of recent years has made it clear that such traditional marriage-definition laws are secure at neither the state nor federal level unless and until they are upgraded to the level of constitutional amendment.

It is hardly a secret that the UMC includes a very vocal (although demonstrably shrinking) minority who reject historic, biblical Christian teaching on marriage. But out of all of our denomination's various statements and policies related to homosexuality, our support for such "laws in civil society" has garnered the most support at our denomination's governing General Conferences. This stance is likely much more strongly supported by United Methodists in Indiana than in many other parts of the country.

**Our support for marriage-protection** laws is not driven by animosity against our own friends and loved ones who pursue less traditional relationships. Rather, it comes from sincere concern over the many ways in which the common good is harmed when inevitable legal regulations of relationships devalue or fundamentally redefine marriage while actively incentivizing alternative arrangements. Additionally, the objective reality is that in states that have legally promoted same-sex unions of various sorts, coercive government force has been used to punish and threaten small business owners and even church-

affiliated institutions whose only crime was adhering to traditional religious teachings about sexual boundaries.

**I respect Bishop Coyner** as a kind, intelligent, and duly appointed leader of my church. I simply wanted to set the record straight that his recent statements against HJR-6 contradict both the official position of the

United Methodist Church and the views of a great many United Methodists in Indiana. ❖

**Lomperis is director of the UM Action program Institute on Religion and Democracy**



## Jacobs should be the norm, not the exception

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPOUR - An image forever ingrained in my memory is a televised report of campaign finances for one of Indiana's congressional delegations.



While the narrative voice of an Indianapolis anchor read the staggering totals of incumbents and challengers, many of which were well into the six-figure range, the station's chyron displayed a total for Congressman Andy Jacobs I thought had to be a mistake. He had reported only \$10,000 for his entire campaign.

"What?" I thought. "That has to be a mistake," I thought. It wasn't.

A moment later, the anchor offered a caveat that Jacobs didn't accept political action committee funding. He could have funded his entire campaign for re-election in a day. He might have had the lowest campaign account of any congressional incumbent with an opponent that year.

Andy Jacobs, who passed away last month, was simply not made the way other members of Congress were. Indiana contributed tons of limestone for the halls of Congress, the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials and the Washington Monument. But the bedrock of ethical campaigns was personified by Jacobs, who went out of his way to avoid any appearance that he could be bought and paid for by special interests.

**They don't give** out awards for refusing to accept money in Washington. If they did, Andy Jacobs would have won them all or retired the trophy. It wasn't about paybacks from contributors for him. It was about giving back to his district, his state and his country and giving every indication to those who might want

to buy influence that he simply couldn't be bought.

What's even more interesting that with the exception of a lone race against former Republican Bill Hudnut in 1972, Jacobs never lost a race. His reputation as a thorough, concerned congressman who researched before he voted and didn't necessarily go along with the status quo was impeccable. Voters knew it.

**The image of Jacobs** I'll remember most is on election night in 1974. When lesser men might have gloated that they just recaptured their congressional seat or defeated Hudnut, Jacobs elected not to pontificate once the red light of the television cameras went on. He pointed to his watch to let his supporters know it was time to bring a long campaign and a long day to a close. It was a night for Democrats to rejoice in benefiting from the aftermath of Watergate and to look ahead, not to glory in his moment.

Jacobs served at a time when the Abscam scandal claimed victims in its wake. He served before campaign finance reform measures in the post-Watergate era were the norm. He served when congressmen were still respected as models of our society and not as the double-talking labelists that have the lowest approval ratings in the history of the institution.

They made a movie once about an ethical, moral man being chosen to represent his state. It was called "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" and it starred Jimmy Stewart in the lead role.

We may not have known it, but Andy Jacobs starred in the remake of that movie, and it was a reality show the likes of which we unfortunately will probably never see again.

Somewhere along the line, voters stopped demanding people like Andy Jacobs in Congress and allowed him to be the exception rather than the model. He retired with a remarkable legacy.

His passing should leave us all wondering why there are not more Andy Jacobses in Congress and public service today. ❖

**Kitchell is an award-winning columnist based in Logansport.**



**Carl Cannon, Real Clear Politics:** Between Christmas and New Year's, a patriot named Andrew Jacobs Jr. passed from this vale. He was 81, and enjoyed a life full of accomplishment and adventure, so he should be celebrated, not mourned. Yet mourn him we must, because he reminds us of what is lacking on Capitol Hill today—and in Sacramento. When voters in his native Indiana first sent Andy Jacobs to Congress in the 1960s, Ronald Reagan was emerging as a national political figure and "Big Daddy" Unruh was speaker of California's assembly. "Money," Unruh liked say, "is the mother's milk of politics." Andy Jacobs turned that notion upside down. Frugality and integrity were his sustenance. In 1986, Jacobs won re-election to an 11th term in a swing district while raising \$8,000 against a Republican opponent who outspent him 30-1—not counting a \$300,000 independent expenditure against him by the American Medical Association. "If the AMA is against you," he quipped, "you must be doing something right." Populism came naturally to Jacobs, a proud liberal who supported affirmative action, early childhood education, and gun control. He opposed war, discrimination, capital punishment, eating meat — and, notably, deficit spending. A self-described "parsimonious progressive," Jacobs wouldn't accept congressional pay raises. He took no overseas junkets, declined speaking fees, eschewed congressional mailing perks, and refused political contributions from special interest groups. A U.S. Marine wounded in combat in Korea, he also turned down a disability pension from the Veterans Administration. "He didn't think it was right to take that money, since he had a job with a good wage," family friend Gary Taylor explained last week. "He was frugal, and that's something I think the public really [liked] about him." He could get under conservatives' skins, too, especially when pursuing his pacifist leanings. Jacobs coined the phrases "war wimps" and "chicken hawks" to describe lawmakers who voted to send Americans to war, but who'd avoided military service when they were young. As Andy Jacobs tried to tell his party for half a century, there's nothing progressive about saddling future Americans with debt because today's officeholders greedily consume campaign contributions while ignoring the quid pro quo that accompanies them. ❖

**Larry Sabato, Politico Magazine:** Another midterm election beckons, and over the next 10 months we'll see headlines about a thousand supposedly critical developments—the "game changers" and the "tipping points." But we all know there aren't a thousand powerful drivers of the vote. I'd argue that three factors are paramount: the president, the economy and the election playing field. And, at least preliminarily, those three factors seem to be pointing toward Republican gains in both houses in the 2014 midterms. Why? 1. The president. His

job approval numbers are perhaps the best indicator of the public's overall political orientation at any given time, a kind of summary statistic that takes everything at the national level into account. In a large majority of cases, the president's party does poorly in midterms, especially the second midterm of a two-term administration. It's a rare president who doesn't make enough mistakes by his sixth year to generate a disproportionate turnout among his opponents—thus producing a political correction at the polls. Presidents Dwight Eisenhower in 1958, Lyndon Johnson in 1966, Richard Nixon/Gerald Ford in 1974, Ronald Reagan in 1986 and George W. Bush in 2006 all experienced significant corrections in their sixth-year elections. 2. The economy, but mainly if it's bad. Eisenhower's 57 percent approval rating couldn't prevent Republicans from losing 47 House seats and 13 Senate seats in 1958 because of a shaky economy. GDP growth had contracted by an astounding 10.4 percent in the first quarter of that year, though it rebounded later in the year. More recently, there was the 2006 election; while

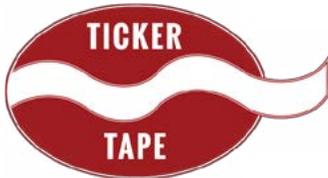
most analysts thought the Democratic takeover of Congress that year was mainly about Bush's war in Iraq, the economy wasn't performing on all cylinders. GDP growth in the second and third quarters of 2006 was an anemic 1.6 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively. The economy, still reeling from the 2008 economic near-collapse, was also the root cause of the Democrats' 2010 debacle. 3. The electoral playing field. How many vulnerable seats are there in the House for the president's party? This is mainly a result of prior elections. At this early stage, the combination of these three factors suggests a good election year for the GOP. The president is a Democrat and his approval is weak. The economy may be improving, based on GDP growth (4.1 percent in the third quarter), but voters still don't believe their personal economy, at least, has picked up much. Instead, the major national issue of the moment is Obamacare, which at this point is a loser for Democrats. The structure of the election in the House and Senate also bends in the GOP direction. ❖

**John Breech, CBS sports:** I hate picking against Tom Brady because I'm never right. In 2001, I said Brady would never make it in the NFL. Wrong. In 2009, I said he'd never marry a super model. Wrong. In 2013, I said he'd never curse at a press conference. Wrong. The law of averages says I have to be right sometime. The Colts have played their best games this season when they're playing the NFL's best teams. Denver, Seattle and San Francisco combined to go 0-3 against the Colts and 38-7 against everyone else. As long as the Colts don't fall behind 38-10 again, I like they're chances of winning this game and making it to the AFC Championship. Colts 30-27 over Patriots. ❖



## House GOP eyes pre-K

INDIANAPOLIS - While the governor wants a preschool program for all low-income students, Republicans will focus on what they call a "pilot," initially helping about 1,000 children (Statehouse File). Indiana is currently one of 10 states that does not offer state-funded preschool programs and 60 percent of Indiana children aged 3 and 4 are not enrolled in preschool, he said. Republicans plan to accomplish their goal by linking preschool recipients to the K-12 voucher program. "We had an aggressive program last year, which would have created a pilot program for about 1,000 preschool kids, low-income, high-quality programs around the state, and while we had a little success and are working something into the budget that was a scaled down version of that program, we're coming back with our full-pilot program," Speaker Brian Bosma said. "It's our hope that we can enact legislation this year that will be funded in next year's budget preparing 1,000 children for early learning opportunities." Bosma didn't offer many details about the preschool program or say how much it would cost. He said Republicans are still working on the specifics of how to pay for it.



appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, is skeptical. "We put in last session that we would not spend the \$400 million in this budget cycle because we had already given an extra \$100 million to local governments and given INDOT an extra \$250 million, and we thought we would want to save it for special big projects," Kenley said. "We'll need to look over the proposal and if it makes sense."

## State revenue back on track

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana tax revenues are finally back in line with expectations after months of falling short of projections (Smith, Indiana Public Media). For the first five months of the fiscal year that began in July, Indiana was evaluating the performance of its revenue collections based on its April forecast, and the state did terribly, coming in more than \$140 million short. That prompted Governor Mike Pence to cut the budgets of state agencies and universities. The revenue projections were revised last month to reflect slightly less optimism about the state's economic growth. After last month's revenue collections, the state's revenues for the first half of the fiscal year are right at expectations. December tax collections were more than \$40 million above target, boosted in large part by strong individual income tax collections.

## Bosma seeks \$400M for highway funding

INDIANAPOLIS - Speaker Brian Bosma said House Republicans also want to boost highway funding by using part of the \$400 million that was set aside for future projects in the two-year budget passed in 2013 (Statehouse File). Pence has proposed something similar, but Senate Ap-

## Chamber takes aim at smokers

INDIANAPOLIS - If you're looking for a job in Indiana, prospective employers can't ask you to stop smoking cigarettes in order to be hired (Bergoetz and Cook, Indianapolis Star). The Indiana Chamber of Commerce wants the state legislature to change that. If passed, House Bill 1029 would eliminate the so-called "smokers' bill of rights" law approved

in the early 1990s. Employers would be able to require job-seekers to stop using tobacco products at all times as a condition of employment. Indiana is among 29 states with smoker protection laws. The bill to repeal Indiana smokers' rights has been assigned to the House Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee, chaired by Rep. Doug Gutwein, R-Francesville.

## Bassler posts \$87k v. Sen. Waterman

WASHINGTON, Ind. - State Senate candidate Eric Bassler (R-Washington) announced that his Republican primary campaign against State Sen. John Waterman has raised \$87,312.58 in 2013. Bassler, a Washington city councilman, said, "This success in fundraising reflects the enthusiasm the people of southwest Indiana have for new leadership in Indianapolis. I am humbled by the support our campaign has received throughout the 39th District as we attended over 100 events in all seven counties in 2013. We will continue to work throughout the next year to make sure the citizens of this district have the effective representation they deserve."

## State revenue back on track

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana microbrewers are one step closer to selling their craft beer at local farmers' markets after a bill by Sen. Jim Banks passed a Senate committee Wednesday (Troyer, Statehouse File). Senate Bill 16 will allow Indiana microbrewers to sell their beer at farmers' markets... A similar bill passed the Senate last year but wasn't heard in the House. The artesian distillery permit allows the company to produce spirits as well. The second provision states that a company's entire brewing process must be completed in Indiana.