

Memo

To: **IMPA Members**
From: **Carolyn A. Wright, Vice President of Government and Member Services**
Date: **November 5, 2008**
Re: **2008 Post-Election Wrap-Up**

SUMMARY

What a remarkable year on the political landscape, both nationally and at the state level. Historic spending, historic candidates, historic voter turnout, and historic results. All across Indiana and the nation, voter excitement and involvement were demonstrated. There were debate parties that rivaled Super Bowl festivities. There were rallies for candidates on both sides of the political aisle with tens of thousands in attendance and at venues usually reserved for rock concerts! For months, the voting public was polled...and polled...and polled. In the end, the electorate truly was motivated to head to the polls, in record numbers across the country. Here in Indiana, the May Primary was a true indicator of things to come in the Hoosier state, and Indiana became an "in-play" state in the general election for the first time since the 60's!

For the first time in 44 years, Hoosier voters broke blue in presidential politics, helping to give Democrat Barack Obama an historic victory and the state's 11 electoral votes. Interestingly, there was a clear pattern of ticket-splitting going on as Hoosiers voted 58%-40% to re-elect Republican Mitch Daniels as Governor.

ON THE NATIONAL SCENE

Neither of Indiana's US Senators was on the ballot this year, but 35 out of 100 seats were on the line. Of those, 23 were held by Republicans. At the time of this update, the Democrats now control the Senate 56-40 (two independents caucus w/ Democrats), but there are still 4 seats that have not been called. Senate Democrats had hoped that they would gain enough seats to make that Chamber filibuster-proof. They needed to reach the magic number of 60. They will not attain that regardless of how the 4 outstanding races conclude.

All 435 US Representatives were up for re-election, including Indiana's 9 members of Congress. Democrat control has increased to at least 254-173.

For Indiana, there was virtually no change and all incumbents will return to Washington DC for another term.

Breakdown of Indiana’s Congressional Delegation:

Congressional District 1 –	Democrat Pete Visclosky (D)
Congressional District 2 –	Democrat Joe Donnelly (D)
Congressional District 3 –	Republican Mark Souder (R)
Congressional District 4 –	Republican Steve Buyer (R)
Congressional District 5 –	Republican Dan Burton (R)
Congressional District 6 –	Republican Mike Pence (R)
Congressional District 7 –	Democrat Andre Carson (D)
Congressional District 8 –	Democrat Brad Ellsworth (D)
Congressional District 9 –	Democrat Baron Hill (D)

ON THE STATE SCENE

Governor

Incumbent Governor Mitch Daniels will return to his role as Indiana’s Chief Executive Officer and Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman resumes her duties, as well. They defeated challengers Jill Long Thompson and Dennie Oxley 58%-40% after a spirited campaign.

Indiana Senate 33-17

Going into November 4th, Republicans firmly controlled the State Senate by a 33-17 margin. That margin remains unchanged.

Indiana House of Representatives 52-48

The House of Representatives will remain in Democrat control by a margin of 52-48. If the results stand as they do currently, 7 seats will actually have switched party. Specifically, Republicans will have lost 4 incumbent seats and Democrats will have lost 3 incumbent seats. There is 1 Democrat district where the vote tally is still too close to call, but it appears that the GOP has won this.

Who appears to have lost: Republican Reps. Tim Harris (HD 31), Amos Thomas (HD 44), the open HD 89 seat, and Jon Elrod (HD 97); Democrat Reps. Bill Cochran (HD 72), the open HD 63 seat, and the open HD 26 seat. After the math is done, the equation nets House Democrats with 52 seats and the Republicans with 48.

There will be a significant number of new members in the Indiana General Assembly this next session due to election defeat, retirement, resignation or death since the last election. Organization Day for the State Legislature is November 18th, which is the first official day of the 2000 “long” legislative session. The House and Senate will be meeting in the next few days to select their respective Leadership.

The overall scenario of split government is familiar. Republicans have long-held the State Senate, and the House has flipped back and forth several times over the last several election cycles. The challenges this next session remain familiar – a Republican Governor who must work with a marginally split legislature! This will be a state budget writing session. Additionally, issues dealing with education, local government finance, energy, and a whole slew of others will all be on the table for discussion. It's already interesting. Stay tuned!

Other Offices

Also up for election this year were the offices of Indiana Attorney General and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Both offices were won by the Republican candidate, Greg Zoeller and Tony Bennett, respectively.

Conclusion

As Public Power entities, all of these changes impact us in one way or another. We have our work cut out for us with both our Congressional delegation and with the Indiana General Assembly. The economy, energy issues of all kinds, and a whole host of other important issues will be ripe for consideration. I know we are all up to the task! Stay tuned for more information as things unfold. As always, feel free to give me a call if you have any questions. My number is 317-575-3873, or email me at cwright@impa.com.