The midterm elections brought a switch in party control of the House for the second time in the last four years. This type of change had happened just once in the previous fifty. Volatility of this sort often leaves one with more questions than answers. How significant is the loss of the House to the President’s agenda? How successful will Republicans be in pursuing their own agendas? Who will voters reward or punish for the successes or failures of the next two years? These questions become all the more important as we rapidly move into the next presidential race, with Republicans already scheduling their first presidential primary debate for this spring. The Bulen Symposium will explore the results of past elections with an eye towards understanding how they will influence the future of both the state and national political environment.

Acknowledgements

Patrons and those who sponsored-a-student provided additional support for the 2011 L. Keith Bulen Symposium.

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Forward Looking While Thinking Back: Midterm Results and the Next Presidential Election

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Since 1998, the Bulen Symposium has been one of the nation’s premier forums for discussion of America’s political parties and other issues relating to our political system. The symposium, named in memory of party activist and local leader L. Keith Bulen, takes place every other year following national elections, on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).

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William Blomquist
Dr. Blomquist is the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Professor of Political Science at IUPUI. He teaches American politics, Indiana politics, constitutional law, and public policy. His primary research interest is water problems with an emphasis on the management of watersheds and river basins. Dr. Blomquist's publications include Common Waters, Diverging Streams (2004) and Embracing Watershed Politics (2008).

Lee H. Hamilton
Lee H. Hamilton, director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University, is one of the nation's foremost experts on Congress and representative democracy. Hamilton represented Indiana in the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years, establishing himself as a leading figure on foreign policy, intelligence, and national security. In the years since he left public office in 1999, he has continued to play a leading role in public affairs. In 2002, he chaired the 9/11 Study Group, a bipartisan panel that assessed the situation in Iraq and made recommendations on U.S. policy options there. He served as vice chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, known as the 9/11 Commission. Among his published works are two books on the legislative branch—How Congress Works and Why You Should Care and Strengthen Congress. He writes twice-monthly commentaries about Congress and what individuals can do to make representative democracy work better.

Daniel Parker
Mr. Parker is currently chair of the Indiana State Democratic Party and was recently a super delegate for Indiana at the Democratic National Convention. A native of Braintree, Massachusetts, Mr. Parker came to Indiana in 1992 to work on Evan Bayh’s gubernatorial reelection campaign.

Eric Holcomb
Mr. Holcomb is the chair of the Indiana State Republican Party. He served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Mitch Daniels prior to taking that position and was Gov. Daniels’ campaign manager in 2008. After graduating from Hanover College, Holcomb served in the United States Navy at VS-27 in Cecil Field, Florida and abroad at CINCOBERANT, a NATO war headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal. He also managed campaigns for former Congressman John H. Hostettler and former Vincennes Mayor Terry Mooney.

John Ketzenberger
Mr. Ketzenberger is president of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute and a regular commentator on Indiana University’s Online News Review. Prior to joining the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute he spent four years as the lead business columnist for the Indianapolis Star. He has also worked at the Indianapolis Business Journal and Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.

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