From the Iowa caucus to Inauguration Day, in presidential elections the game of politics captivates America. The final scoreboard is produced by voters on Election Day, but the race is scored each day with the release of new national and swing state polls. With each fresh polling result, one side rejoices while the other looks to discredit its methods. Partisanship is the force that determines which side of that debate one is on and it is partisanship that turns politics into sport. It’s us versus them.

The 2012 Bulen Symposium on American Politics promises to bring many and varied perspectives on the game of politics. The starting lineup includes Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard and the chairs of the Indiana State Republican and Democratic parties Eric Holcomb and Daniel J. Parker, who will provide an inside-the-locker-room look at the election season. Anne Hathaway, president of Hathaway Strategies and program director at the 2012 Republican National Convention, will provide a national perspective on the presidential election results. From the sidelines, the media panel will give a birds’-eye view on the political action. Expert commentator Dr. Alan Abramowitz from Emory University will weigh in on the game, focusing on the role of partisanship and polarization.

SUPPORT THE BULEN IN 2012

The Bulen Symposium was established in 1998 to provide a premier forum for the examination and discussion of the American political process and parties, and other issues relating to the American political system. The symposium, named in memory of party activist and local leader L. Keith Bulen, takes place on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) every other year following national elections. Private contributions and symposium registrations and sponsorships support the symposium and contribute to the democratic process of free speech, informed choice and voter participation.

To make a tax deductible gift visit: http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/bulen
9:00 AM  WELCOME

William Blomquist  
Dean, IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI  
Professor of Political Science

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).

9:10 AM  MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Anne Hathaway  
President, Hathaway Strategies  
Program Director, 2012 Republican National Convention

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).

10:00 AM  MEDIA PANEL

Amos Brown  
Host, Afternoons with Amos on WTLC-AM

From media executive to newspaper columnist to television and radio personality, this esteemed broadcast veteran has been the talk of the town for over 34 years. For the past five years, Brown has hosted the popular WTLC-AM radio talk show, “Afternoons with Amos.” In addition to reporting national and local news, the show serves as an open forum for community views and is the most listened to talk show among African-Americans in Indianapolis and the highest share of Black listening of any talk show in America. A graduate of Northwestern University, Brown has also written and produced many public service and community initiatives of Radio One’s five radio and TV stations, including projects for Indiana Black Expo, Circle City Classic, United Way and voter registration. He has also supported efforts for the United Negro College Fund and Riley Hospital for Children.

Mickey Maurer  
Columnist, Indiana Business Journal; Chairman, IBJ Media Corp.

An Indianapolis native, Maurer graduated from North Central High School and received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from University of Colorado. He returned home for law school, earning a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University, where he was a writer and an editor of the Law Journal. He also successfully completed the CPA examination. Maurer serves as chairman of the board at IBJ Corp. and The National Bank of Indianapolis. In 2001, he established “Mickey’s Camp,” a charitable endeavor that has raised more than $1 million for central Indiana charities. In 2006, Maurer was named Indiana’s secretary of commerce by Gov. Mitch Daniels, serving in that position until 2008. Maurer can be seen on Fox 59 in a quarterly program called “Mickey’s Corner,” interviewing Indiana luminaries. In 2008, IU’s School of Law-Bloomington was renamed Indiana University Maurer School of Law. Maurer is a regularly published contributor to The New York Times crossword puzzle.

Jim Shella  
Political Columnist for the Indianapolis Star. He has also worked at Congressional Quarterly and the Post-Tribune and is a graduate of Indiana University Bloomington.

Mary Beth Schneider  
State Government and Political Reporter, Indianapolis Star

Ms. Schneider is the state government and political reporter for the Indianapolis Star.

Matthew Tully  
Political Columnist, Indianapolis Star

Political Columnist for the Indianapolis Star. He has also worked at Congressional Quarterly and the Post-Tribune and is a graduate of Indiana University Bloomington.

11:15 AM  “VOTING IN AN ERA OF POLARIZATION: THE 2012 ELECTIONS AND BEYOND”

Alan I. Abramowitz  
Alben W. Barkley Professor of Political Science, Emory University

Alan Abramowitz is a popular expert on national politics, polling and elections. His expertise includes election forecasting models, party realignment in the United States, congressional elections and the effects of political campaigns on the electorate. His election forecast has correctly and precisely predicted the popular vote winner within two percentage points or less in every U.S. presidential election since 1988. Abramowitz, the Alben W. Barkley Professor of Political Science, is the author or coauthor of five books, including “Voice of the People: Elections and Voting Behavior in the United States.” His new book on polarization in American politics, “The Polarized Public? Why Our Government is So Dysfunctional,” will be published in 2012.

12:00 PM  LUNCH

1:15 PM  AFTERNOON KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Greg Ballard  
Mayor, Indianapolis, Indiana

Elected as the 48th Mayor of Indianapolis on November 6, 2007. Just prior to being elected Mayor, he was a self-employed leadership and management consultant, and the author of The Ballard Rules: Small Unit Leadership. He conducted seminars and modular training based on the book, and taught college-level economics, marketing, and management courses at Indiana Business College. Previously, he worked for several years as North American Operations Manager for Bayer in Indianapolis. Active in the community, he served as a tutor and an Advisory Board Member for the Lilly Boys and Girls Club; as a contributing editor to both the Indiana Minority Business Magazine and the Indiana Parenting Magazine, and as founder of the Indianapolis Writers Group. Greg spent the majority of his career in the United States Marine Corps, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel after 23 years of service to his country. As a Marine, he rose steadily through the ranks and held a variety of leadership and staff positions in logistics, transportation, and acquisition, both at war and in peace.

2:00 PM  STATE OF THE PARTY

Eric Holcomb  
State Chair, Indiana Republican Party

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 CINCIBERLANT, a NATO war headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal. He also managed campaigns for former Congressman John N. Hostettler and former Vincennes Mayor Terry Mooney.

Jennifer Wagner  
Communications Director, Indiana Democratic Party

Jennifer Wagner is lifelong Indianapolis resident who fell into politics by way of journalism. She started her career as a government reporter for the Indianapolis Star but wound up going to law school, working in state government and eventually the Communications Director for the Indiana Democratic Party. She is Owner and Founding Principal of Mass Ave Public Relations.