

INDYSTAR★COM

Mayor, council must work together

Another first was scored by Indianapolis voters Tuesday when they re-elected a Republican mayor and restored a Democratic majority to the City-County Council.

Now residents wait to see if the executive and legislative leaders they have chosen can resist the temptation to dig partisan trenches at the expense of building the city.

A key indicator will be another election: that of council president. While there is no clear front-runner, a name frequently mentioned is that of 7th District councilwoman Maggie Lewis. Smart, energetic and **open-minded**, she may be the best bet to bridge a troubling gap between council Democrats and Mayor Greg Ballard.

Both sides have cards to play. The mayor's aloofness toward the Democratic caucus cannot continue; and he can remind his rivals he hauled in a load of Democratic votes on Tuesday.

New territory will open up in January. In the more than 40-year history of Uni-Gov, only once before has the mayor not had a council majority. That was the first term of Uni-Gov's first Democratic mayor, Bart Peterson, 2000-2003.

Redistricting in 2002 -- done by the Indiana Supreme Court, not by politicians -- led to Uni-Gov's first Democratic council majority in 2003. It's time for redistricting again; and that figures to be a hot issue, with Democrats no doubt taking aim at the plan hatched in August by outgoing Council President Ryan Vaughn.

Public servants, please note: The current map shifted the council's **power** three times in three elections, with several incumbents losing. Wholesale change seems unnecessary.

A host of other issues will test the spirit of compromise; among them, a comprehensive smoking ban, sought by most Democrats and some Republicans, which Ballard once supported, later backed away from, and probably will have to decide whether to veto. The next budget will travel a road much less smooth than the current one. Differing approaches to public **safety**, education, mass transit and neighborhood needs will have to be hashed out.

Advertisement

Make it Yours™

Browse thousands of designs for over 3,000 devices.

Get 15% off with code: SAVE15


Browse Designs

skin it

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

INDYSTAR★COM

In sum, a municipal government that's already made history by virtue of its split faces the challenge of making a future by coming together. By the voters' choice, there is no choice.

AdChoices 

Ads by Pulse 360

Smart Investment - FTTN

Shale Gas is Your Best Investment Right Now and Here is Why
www.FirstTitanEnergy.com

57-Year-Old Mom Looks 25

Thiensville: Local Mom Exposes an Anti-Aging Miracle. Her \$5 Trick ERASES Wrinkles!
PopularLifestyleJournal.com

Thiensville: Become a Social Worker

Earn your degree in as little as 18 mos. Fin. Aid avail. for those who qualify.
Psychology-Colleges.org

Advertisement



Make it Yours™

Browse thousands of designs for over 3,000 devices.
Get 15% off with code: SAVE15

15% OFF

[Browse Designs](#)

skinit

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™