

There Diego Goes Again



Okay, many of you have been asking us when will the legal hammer drop on **Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales**. When we find out, you'll be the first to know, well, you'll be at least the second to know after Morales. What we can tell you, however, is that we haven't seen this much Statehouse animosity for a Secretary of State since **Charlie White**. And Diego isn't helping matters much.

The latest is that Morales and his wife, **Sidonia Nicolae**, who is Hungarian, and that will be important in a minute here, recently took a trip to Hungary to the tune of several thousand dollars. See the Hungary connection. "So what TCS, Diego and his wife took a trip to her native country, and...?" you might be thinking. Well, it wasn't so much the trip to Hungary; it's what he reportedly did when he returned.

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Are you sitting down?

Our sources are telling us he filed a travel reimbursement request for his and his wife's trip to [Hungary](#).

We'll let that sit in for a minute.

Yes, Secretary of State Diego Morales and his Hungarian-born wife took a trip last year to her native country, and he has reportedly filed a formal request for reimbursement. In other words, he wanted the taxpayers to foot the bill.

Now the good news and we here at TCS have to give a major shout-out to **State Comptroller Elise Nishalla's office** for, pardon our French here, flushing that political turd down the toilet as soon as they got the request. We know the office does not make judgment calls on out-of-state trip requests; they simply ensure that proper procedures are followed, and the approval or denial is based on that. But you can imagine the look on the staff's face when they saw round trip plane tickets to Budapest.

Oh, and wait, there's more.

[There was a news story about Diego's trip in the Hungarian local press.](#) What really stood about it out was his wife, who was mentioned as **the Honorary Consul of Hungary in the State of Indiana**.

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When did that happen? Who made the appointment? Does this now mean she would have to register as a foreign agent? Was this part of the reason Diego did not try to get the necessary security clearance so he could get briefings from **Homeland Security** in the event of natural disasters and civil unrest?

We also heard that Diego took a recent trip to Chicago for the **Japanese consul's birthday party**. And he wanted a state vehicle for the trip.

Why not take his own car, you might be asking. The way state travel works is that you can take a state car for a trip or use your personal vehicle and get reimbursed for mileage, which is 70 cents per mile. The catch is that you put miles on your car. We're hearing Diego did not want to put miles on his car (i.e., the state vehicle he already drives), so he asked for a state vehicle.

His request was denied.

With all this "foreign engagement" someone must be confusing Morales with **Marco Rubio**.

And apparently, we're also hearing that there's an issue regarding "**spot bonuses**" for his executive staff. It's an odd story that we're still trying to piece together. Stay tuned.

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For Whom the Braun Tolls



Governor Mike Braun's Team is apparently not too happy with State Senators **Scott Baldwin** and **Kyle Walker**. Team Braun is ticked off that Baldwin and Walker voted against property tax relief when **SB 1** was amended in committee. They are running some digital ads against the two of them. The ads encourage the reader to contact the Senator and restore the property tax cut.

We would also not be surprised if digital ads were running against other committee members who also voted for it, like **Tax & Fiscal Policy Chairman** and SB 1 **author Travis Holdman** and Vice-Chair **Chris Garten**.

Now, if you ask Team Braun what the deal is, they would probably say these aren't attack ads; they're simply telling Hoosiers that they should contact the Senators and let them know how they feel if they want property tax relief.

That's one way to look at it. Don't you just love this stuff?



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There Ain't No Party Like A Marion County Republican Party



If you follow us on Facebook or X, you know what you're about to read here. If you don't follow us, you won't believe what you're about to read here. On Saturday, March 1, **County Republican and Democratic Parties** across Indiana will gather and elect a County Chair and Vice-Chair.

And while you would think it's the Democrats, particularly **Marion County**, who will have their full dysfunction on display, it looks like **Marion County Republicans** will get that honor this time.

Now, please note that **Indiana State Democrats** are going to have their own "scandal" break when they meet in mid-March at their state caucus to pick new officers, so stay tuned.

Back to the MCGOP.

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The Republican race for County Chair is between former 7th Congressional District candidate **John Schmitz** of Wayne Township and **Natalie Goodwin** of Lawrence. We've been attending the local GOP forums, listening to the candidates, and getting reactions from the audience. You know, the usual political stuff. Schmitz would talk about his background as a builder and how he would use his business acumen to return Republicans to power in Marion County. Goodwin promises to mix technology and traditional grassroots organizing to make the party more competitive.

Goodwin is supported by more traditional Republicans, and Schmitz is backed by former State **Rep John Jacobs** and that crowd, including convicted felon **Gabe Whitley**. And you also may recall that Schmitz showed up at the Democratic State Convention in 2024 supporting **Bobby Kern**, yes, that Bobby Kern, for Lt. Governor. And Schmitz was the Republican candidate for Congress at the time. He's also been on the ballot 3-4 times and lost each race. He even ran candidates against Republican incumbent City-Council members in the May 2025 primary. They all lost.

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So, a few days ago, we got a tip saying someone, i.e., us, should ask if Schmitz ever filed for bankruptcy. We were a little skeptical about this at first, and then we said if Schmitz is going to promote his business background, then the issue of bankruptcy is fair game, So we went and looked it up. It's posted on our LNG website, Indy Politics.

We weren't expecting much. If the bankruptcy had been filed in 2008, our response would have been, "Meh," because who didn't file for bankruptcy in 2008-2009? It turns out the bankruptcy was filed in 2015. So we were like, okay. Then, we went to look for the amount, and we figured \$70,000 - \$100,000.

The number was north of \$2 million.

\$2,140,055 to be exact. And more than 70 percent of that was non-consumer debt, in other words, business debt and loans. And before we forget, Schmitz filed for **Chapter 7 bankruptcy**, which meant he did not have to pay back his creditors.

[Schmitz offers his defense here.](#)

Now, once again, we argue it's relevant to the race as it goes to Schmitz's business background, which he is using as part of his sales pitch to the PCs, so we put it out there so they have the facts and can make up their own minds.

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And to make life even more interesting, when we tried reaching out to his vice-chair candidate, **Elizabeth Williams**, to see why she joined Schmitz, he told us at the Broadripple GOP Club event that he didn't want us to talk to her and ordered us to stop. And he told us our cheat sheet was garbage. We're not making this up.

Schmitz forgets the quote, "The knives of the press are sharp", and to paraphrase Seinfeld, "[He wants to be your county chairman!](#)"



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Licensed to Ill



Well, the line got crossed this week, and that has compelled me to get in touch with my inner [Anakin Skywalker](#). (A Star Wars reference).

We got a letter from the **Indiana Attorney Disciplinary Commission**, you know, the people who have **Todd Rokita** on speed dial, yeah, that Commission. We had received a notice that a complaint had been filed against me, but the allegations did not come anywhere near (my words, not the Commission's) violating the **Rules of Professional Conduct**, So we were scratching our heads trying to figure out where this was coming from and then we saw the name of the person who filed the complaint, **Jeremiah Tevebaugh**.

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Who is that?

Jerimiah Tevebaugh is an individual who was the former manager of the **Marion County Fair**, who we fired for insubordination when we were president of the Marion County Fair Board. He sued, claiming he was wrongfully fired and lost in court. Tevebaugh has had a personal grudge against yours truly forever. He is part of what we call the crazy cabal and is tied into the John Schmitz camp, even though he lives in **Howard County**. Well, we think Tevebaugh lives in Howard County. He has an eviction hearing next month. And, lest we forget, he was also indicted on felony forgery-related charges involving Fair Board checks.

Yes, he is a fine specimen of humanity.

In the complaint, he accused yours truly of virtually every offense you could accuse an attorney of, except there was no attorney-client relationship, nor were there any violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct. And come to think of it, there was no truth to any of his allegations, so that's three strikes, and he's out.

Speaking of being out, Tevebaugh's complaint, we were told, could be interpreted as possible witness

intimidation as I am scheduled to be a witness if he goes to trial.

And we're expecting more of this from Schmitz's supporters.

This is why we say if you're going to attempt to weaponize a process, make sure you're not firing blanks.



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A Few Other Items of Note



You may have noticed **Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith's** new glasses. They've noticed you and probably recorded you. Beckwith is shooting a documentary, and the glasses are AI and work like mini-cameras. TCS was told the **Senate Republicans** were aware of this. And now, so is everyone else.

Will someone please explain to us what's going on in **Madison County**? We're hearing the fight for GOP Chair is like a scene out of *Gladiator*.

And while we're at it, what the heck is going on in the race for **6th District Republican Chair**? That's more like *Gladiator II*.

We're hearing former State Rep. **Chuck Goodrich** may be gearing up for another go at Congresswoman **Victoria Spartz** in 2026.

That's all, folks!

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