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Today's Howey on AG Race:

Indiana Republican Convention

COSTAS ENDORSEMENTS DENIED: State Rep. Cindy Noe and 2nd CD vice chair Sam Frain have denied they have endorsed Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas for attorney general (*Howey Politics Indiana*). "I just want to make it clear to everyone that contrary to what the Costas campaign is saying, I have not endorsed John Costas for AG," Frain said in an e-mail to Republican State Committeemen and women. "I have made every effort to remain uncommitted to either candidate but the Costas' camp put my name on their list of state comm. members endorsing him. I find this very upsetting as I gave my word to both John and Greg that I was not going to make an endorsement. Now an email has been sent out statewide with my name on the list. To say the least - I'm just a little pissed."

COSTAS CLAIMS MOMENTUM: Yesterday, Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas said he believes he has momentum going into the convention and is "cautiously optimistic" about victory, thanks in part to the governor's endorsement. "Practically speaking, without the governor supporting me it would be very difficult for a mayor from the northern part of the state to run a statewide campaign in five weeks," Costas said (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "Having that support was important to me to put the team together I needed. But that being said, once (delegates) have heard my story and take a hard look at what I've accomplished as mayor, they like the story and they're responding to it," he said. Clark said that he's not concerned that the race might divide the party. It may in fact inject some energy into Monday's events, he said, pointing to 2002 when four candidates ran for secretary of state. That race took three ballots before Todd Rokita was nominated. "We rallied behind Todd ... and had a really great victory in November," Clark said.

AG RACE TO TAKE FRONT STAGE AT GOP CONVENTION: About 2,000 delegates who will meet Monday for the Indiana Republican State Convention have just one big decision to make — choosing a nominee who will try to succeed outgoing Attorney General Steve Carter (Weidenbener, *Louisville Courier-Journal*). Their choices: New Albany native Greg Zoeller, the current deputy in the office, or Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas, an attorney who specializes in elder law. "That'll be the most high-profile business of the convention," said Indiana Republican Chairman Murray Clark. The rest of the questions already are answered. GOP primary voters decided May 6 to renominate Gov. Mitch Daniels, and the delegates will confirm that Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman will again be his running mate. Only one Republican — Greater Clark school Superintendent Tony Bennett — is seeking the nomination for state superintendent of public instruction, so the delegates gathered at the Indiana Convention Center need only to formalize his nomination. But the battle for the attorney general nod has heated up over the weeks since Carter surprised Republicans by announcing he wouldn't seek

another term. That split party leaders, legislators and other officeholders into two camps. Daniels is backing Costas, who is in his second term as mayor and serves on the Indiana Higher Education Commission. Costas also claims endorsements from 29 county chairmen, more than 30 legislators and 19 mayors. In a letter to delegates earlier this month, Daniels cited geography as a primary reason for supporting Costas, saying "fairness, balance, and political common sense all argue for supporting" him. *But Carter has endorsed Zoeller, who has served as deputy attorney general for eight years and was previously an assistant to then-Vice President Dan Quayle. Zoeller said he also has the backing of two congressmen, most of the county and district chairmen across Southern Indiana, and Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi, an up-and-comer who is well respected in the party. Harrison County Republican Chairman Scott Fluhr said he's supporting Zoeller in part because he "possesses a familiarity with the issues and with the operations of the attorney general's office that is unmatched, especially among his fellow potential candidates, both Republican and Democrat.*

COSTAS BAND TO PLAY SUNDAY NIGHT: Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas's band, The Conservadelics, will play a 7:30 p.m. show at the Westin Hotel with free drinks and food (*Howey Politics Indiana*).