

# *LaPolitics Weekly*

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By John Maginnis

## **Jim Brandt Redefined Role of PAR**

Jim Brandt called it a "tough decision" to announce his retirement this week as president of the Public Affairs Research Council after 11 years at its helm.

When he took the post in 1999, more than the group's financial outlook was challenged. The non-partisan non-profit, founded in 1950, also needed to redefine its role as a public research organization amidst the explosion in information technology.

Besides rebuilding PAR's endowment and creating a revenue stream through special events, Brandt led in reaffirming the group's leadership in unbiased research on state governmental issues, which remains a continuing challenge. "There is an information glut out there," he said.

"There is not a problem with the lack of it but with sorting out what is credible."

PAR Chairman Donna Saurage announced a search committee will be formed to find PAR's five president. Brandt plans to remain active in the organization, but will spend more time getting into shape to run another marathon, his first in three years, having completed 21.