



# FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN LETTER

Volume 15 No 1

January/February 1992

## AMENDMENT VOTE

Since the November/December Issue of this newsletter, The Maryland Libertarian Party has had no less than three Central Committee Meetings concerning the proposed Constitutional Amendment regarding the nomination of candidates for political office.

The proposed amendment would have required the party to nominate candidates in the same way as the Republicans and Democrats. In other words, through primary balloting to be held in March.

Although the pros and cons of the issue were discussed at length, the final vote seemed to focus on one primary issue-- the resulting court case and the costs involved in carrying the appeals to the Supreme Court, if necessary.

The final vote came about when it became obvious that no attorney or representative could be found to take the case on a contingency basis and the rapidly approaching filing deadline for the March primary prevented any serious fundraising. The vote was 0-9 against the proposal.

## AFFILIATE PARTIES REPORT

I've received several calls lately from folks from Howard and PG counties looking for local LP organizations to become involved with. I've had the difficult task to explain to them that while we have members in most counties, Montgomery, Frederick, and Charles are the only officially organized groups. People, this doesn't make us look very good to prospective members. Even if we only have a half dozen members in a county, we need to get it organized. That's why the Affiliate Parties Committee was formed - to help new county organizations get going. Are we going to be a libertarian club, or will the Libertarian Party become a respected player in Maryland politics? It's your choice. Now that we have an APC, new county organizers won't be alone. If you wish you had a local group to work with, **START ONE!**

To help in our efforts, I recently called Steve Dasbach, National APC Chairman. Steve suggested that one of the most effective tools in building membership is the "Public Opinion Survey" booth. Those of you

who have seen the Marrou tape sent to delegates to the national convention have seen this booth. It is essentially an expanded Nolan Chart in a very professional looking package. Steve tells me that this can be purchased for \$275.00. I believe this would be a wise investment for us - IF we are going to use it. Especially in election year 1992, we need to get the message out that the Libertarians are here to stay. This booth would be useful for county fairs - hopefully Montgomery won't be the only County Fair we make it to. I personally would love to take it to Gun Shows. It could be used by new county organizations to build membership. Again, it's up to you. If you think we should purchase the booth, call me with your pledge. If we raise enough in pledges, we will purchase it. But remember, we will also need people willing to USE it. Let's plan to work together to make 1992 the best year ever for freedom in the Free State!

Amy Rule, APC Chair

**FROM THE CHAIR**  
**I. Dean Ahmad, MDLP Chair**

At the request of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, delegate Dana Dembrow has submitted a bill calling for ballot access reform which the state of Maryland badly needs. **WE NEED EVERY LIBERTARIAN SUPPORTER TO CALL HER STATE DELEGATE AND INSIST THAT THEY BECOME CO-SPONSORS ON HB 851.**

Maryland state law divides political parties into two classes: primary parties and "new" parties. The Democratic and Republican parties are the only primary parties under the law. The Libertarian Party has been the only other political party consistently to have ballot status at every Presidential election in Maryland since 1980. Our status as a "new" party, however, subjects us to the same petitioning requirements as independent candidates and political organizations without recognized political party status (except for President and Vice President).

At my suggestion, the Montgomery County Civic Federation passed the proposal on page 3.

The last part of this (bracketed by the lines of asterisks) is the bill which Dembrow has submitted. **CALL YOUR STATE DELEGATE(S) AND TELL THEM TO BECOME COSPONSORS TO HB 851.**

Here are a few arguments you can use:

It is shocking that it is more difficult for a candidate for public office to get on the ballot in Maryland than in Poland. Most of the 50 states have much more reasonable requirements. Yet none of them suffer from the "ballot overcrowding" that has been the rationale for the existing prohibitive rules in Maryland.

If overcrowding were a problem at all it would be manifested in the primaries where any Republican or Democrat can run. Yet many primaries are not even contested. It seems unreasonable to require the election boards to go to all the effort of verifying the more than ten thousand signatures that we have submitted each time we have run a Congressional candidate. A requirement of 4000

signatures--or even fewer--would be an effective barrier to overcrowding. Besides, any Libertarian or independent candidate could simply register Republican or Democrat and automatically be in the primary. If the primary is uncontested they would then automatically be on the November ballot without a single signature. This was actually done by four Libertarian Party members who ran for state legislative office as Republicans in the last election.

I do not believe that the existing system serves the voters well. Why should they be presented with Libertarian candidates identified as Republicans on the ballot? This is confusing at best. At worst, the current system invites catastrophe. In Illinois a member of Lyndon LaRouche's extremist political group won the Democratic primary for Lieutenant Governor. Wouldn't it be better to let candidates from such groups run under their own party label? In Illinois the Democratic Party came close to losing its ballot status from the incident.

This bill would reduce the number of signatures required for nomination by petition from 3% to 1/2% and would cap the requirement at 10,000 signatures. This modest proposal is a reasonable way to reduce the burden on the election boards while still keeping a requirement for potential candidates to hurdle in order to satisfy any residual concerns about potential ballot crowding. The requirement for Presidential candidates has been 10,000 signatures for a long time in Maryland and yet the number of Presidential candidates on the ballot has never been large. In the last election there were only four Presidential candidates on the ballot in Maryland. (Fewer than the number in the Democratic primary!)

Elsewhere in this issue is a list of Maryland state delegates and their address and phone numbers.

**GET THOSE PHONE CALLS AND LETTERS OUT. RIGHT NOW!**

**HB 851**

Whereas the Maryland election laws unfairly discriminate against independent candidates and candidates affiliated with new political parties in that such candidates are required to collect exorbitantly large numbers of petition signatures in order to have their names placed on the ballot,

Whereas most states require signatures of less than 1/2% of the registered voters to place an independent candidate on the ballot without any difficulties for the voters or the state,

Whereas the burden of checking the large number of signatures places an unnecessary burden on the various election boards and constitutes a waste of taxpayers money,

Whereas, many races in Maryland go uncontested,

Whereas no independent or new party candidate has ever fulfilled Maryland's present requirements for ballot status for Governor or any other statewide Maryland office,

Whereas, it is in the interest of the citizens of Maryland to have the names and party affiliations of all qualified candidates for partisan public office printed on the ballot,

Whereas there is a worldwide movement for more democratic government which has liberalized ballot access requirements from the Soviet block to the state of Massachusetts,

and Whereas the Constitution and Administrative Law Committee of the Maryland state legislature has submitted for summer study HB 1096 and HB 845 that would have addressed these issues,

Therefore BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montgomery County Civic Federation calls for the following changes to the Maryland election law:

- (1) that the petitioning requirement for independent candidates be reduced to one comparable to that in most other states, and
- (2) that all political parties which have met the petitioning requirements for recognition under Maryland law have their candidates names be placed on the ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the above-named objectives be achieved by the following changes to Article 33 of the Maryland Code [brackets indicate deletions and uppercase indicates additions]:

\*\*\*\*\*

- (1) that Section 7-1 (b)(2) be revised as follows:

In order to have the name of a proposed candidate placed on the ballot under this section, the candidate shall file with the appropriate board petitions signed by not less than [3] ONE-HALF percent of OR 10,000 OF, WHICHEVER IS LESS, the registered voters who are eligible to vote for the office for which the nomination by petition is sought.

- (2) that the first sentence of Section 4B-1 (h) be revised as follows:

Unless the party is required to select its nominees for public office by primary election pursuant to S 5-1 of this article, the nominees for public office of the party shall be selected in the manner provided in the interim constitution and bylaws of the party AND SHALL HAVE THEIR NAMES AND PARTY AFFILIATION PRINTED ON THE BALLOT. [but no such nominee shall appear on the ballot at any general election unless the nominee has complied with all the requirements of the provisions of the subtitle "Nomination by Petition" of this article, including the filing of petition with the election board or the several boards of the State, which shall bear in addition to the name of the nominee, the name of the party, signed by not less than three percent (3%) of the registered voters eligible to vote for the office for which election at the general election is sought.]

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## 1991 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### HOW TO CALL TOLL-FREE:

Baltimore/Annapolis area -- dial 841 plus 4-digit number listed below;

Washington, D.C., Prince George's and Montgomery Counties -- dial 858 plus the 4-digit number below;

All other points in the state -- dial 1-800-492-7122 and ask for the 4-digit number below.

*If you do not know the legislative district in which you reside, call your city or county clerk or voter registrar immediately.*

**District 1 - Allegany and Garrett Counties**

Sen. John J. Hafer	3565
Del. George C. Edwards (1A)	3435
* Del. Kevin Kelly (1B)	3454
Del. Betty Workman (1B)	3462

**District 2 - Allegany and Washington Counties**

* Sen. Donald F. Munson	3609
Del. Casper R. Taylor, Jr. (2A)	3519
Del. Peter G. Callas (2B)	3449
Del. John P. Donoghue (2C)	3447

**District 3 - Frederick and Washington Counties**

Sen. John W. Derr	3575
* Del. D. Bruce Poole (3A)	3464
Del. James E. McClellan (3B)	3240
Del. J. Anita Stup (3B)	3240

**District 4 - Carroll/Frederick/Howard Counties**

* Sen. Charles H. Smelser	3704
Del. Thomas H. Hattery (4A)	3107
Del. George H. Littrell, Jr. (4A)	3107
Del. Donald B. Elliott (4B)	3371

**District 5 - Baltimore and Carroll Counties**

Sen. Larry E. Haines	3683
Del. Richard N. Dixon (5A)	3371
* Del. Richard C. Matthews (5A)	3371
Del. Lawrence A. LaMotte (5B)	3109

**District 6 - Baltimore County**

Sen. Michael J. Collins	3642
Del. Leslie Hutchinson	3384
* Del. E. Farrell Maddox	3332
Del. Michael H. Weir	3384

**District 7 - Baltimore County**

* Sen. Norman R. Stone, Jr.	3587
* Del. John S. Arnick	3488
Del. Louis L. DePazzo	3334
Del. Connie Galiazzo	3334

**District 8 - Baltimore County**

Sen. Thomas L. Bromwell	3620
Del. Joseph Bartenfelder	3365
Del. James F. Ports	3365
Del. Alfred W. Redmer, Jr.	3365

**District 17 - Montgomery County**

* Sen. Mary H. Boergers	3134
Del. Jennie M. Forchand	3028
Del. Kumar P. Barve	3046
Del. Michael R. Gordon	3001

**District 18 - Montgomery County**

Sen. Patricia R. Sher	3137
Del. Christopher VanHollen, Jr.	3028
Del. John Adams Hurson	3200
One Delegate position vacant	

**District 19 - Montgomery County**

Sen. Idamae R. Garrott	3151
Del. Henry B. Heller	3019
Del. Carol S. Petzold	3037
Del. Leonard H. Teitelbaum	3028

**District 20 - Montgomery County**

Sen. Ida G. Ruben	3634
Del. Dana Lee Deaubrow	3200
Del. Peter Franchot	3045
Del. Sheila E. Fixson	3019

**District 21 - Prince George's County**

Sen. Arthur Dorman	3141
Del. Timothy F. Maloney	3315
* Del. Pauline H. Menes	3114
Del. James C. Rosapepe	3114

**District 22 - Prince George's County**

Sen. Thomas Patrick O'Reilly	3155
Del. Anne Healey	3058
Del. Richard A. Palumbo	3058
Del. Paul G. Pinsky	3058

**District 23 - Prince George's County**

Sen. Leo E. Green	3631
Del. Mary A. Conroy	3098
Del. Joan B. Pitkin	3098
Del. Charles J. Ryan	3407

**District 24 - Prince George's County**

Sen. Decatur W. Trotter	3148
Del. Nathaniel Exum	3065
Del. Joanne C. Benson	3065
One Delegate position vacant	

**District 33 - Anne Arundel County**

Sen. John A. Cade	3568
Del. John G. Gary	3223
Del. Marsha G. Perry	3223
Del. Elizabeth S. Smith	3223

**District 34 - Harford County**

* Sen. Habern Freeman	3158
Del. Rose Mary Hatem Bonsack	3289
Del. David R. Craig	3289
* Del. Mary Louise Preiss	3289

**District 35 - Cecil and Harford Counties**

Sen. William H. Amoss	3603
Del. Donald C. Fry (35A)	3289
* Del. James M. Harkins (35A)	3289
Del. Ethel A. Murray (35B)	3444

**District 36 - Caroline/Cecil/Kent/Queen Anne's/Talbot Counties**

* Sen. Walter M. Baker	3639
* Del. C. Ronald Franks	3410
Del. Ronald A. Guns	3442
Del. R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr.	3800

**District 37 - Caroline/Dorchester/Talbot/Wicomico Counties**

* Sen. Frederick C. Malkus, Jr.	3590
Del. Kenneth D. Schisler	3429
Del. Robert A. Thornton, Jr.	3343
Del. Samuel Q. Johnson, III	3427

**District 38 - Somerset/Wicomico/Worcester Counties**

Sen. Lewis R. Riley	3645
Del. Norman H. Conway	3425
Del. Bennett Bozman	3431
Del. J. Lowell Stoltzfus	3433

**District 39 - Baltimore City**

Sen. Larry Young	3612
Del. Elijah E. Cummings	3507
Del. John D. Jefferies	3263
Del. Ruth M. Kirk	3263

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\* **THOSE SENATORS MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (\*) ARE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE. THOSE DELEGATES MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK ARE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.**

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<b>District 9 - Baltimore County</b>	<b>District 25 - Prince George's County</b>	<b>District 40 - Baltimore City</b>
Sen. F. Vernon Boozer ..... 3706	Sen. Albert R. Wynn ..... 3127	* Sen. Ralph M. Hughes ..... 3656
* Del. Gerry L. Brewster ..... 3359	Del. Ulysses Currie ..... 3076	Del. Tony E. Fulton ..... 3277
Del. John J. Bishop ..... 3359	* Del. Michael Arrington ..... 3076	Del. Howard P. Rawlings ..... 3407
Del. Martha S. Klima ..... 3359	Del. Beatrice Tignor ..... 3076	Del. Salima Siler Marriott ..... 3277
<b>District 10 - Baltimore County</b>	<b>District 26 - Prince George's County</b>	<b>District 41 - Baltimore City</b>
* Sen. Janice Piccinini ..... 3606	Sen. Gloria Lawlah ..... 3092	Sen. Clarence W. Blount ..... 3697
* Del. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. .... 3350	* Del. Rosa Lee Blumenthal ..... 3012	* Del. Frank D. Boston, Jr. .... 3283
Del. A. Wade Kach ..... 3350	Del. Christine M. Jones ..... 3012	Del. Margaret H. Murphy ..... 3283
Del. Ellen R. Sauerbrey ..... 3401	Del. David M. Valderrama ..... 3012	Del. Samuel M. Parham ..... 3283
<b>District 11 - Baltimore County</b>	<b>District 27 - Prince George's County</b>	<b>District 42 - Baltimore City</b>
Sen. Paula C. Hollinger ..... 3131	Sen. Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. .... 3700	Sen. Barbara A. Hoffman ..... 3648
Del. Leon Albin ..... 3342	Del. Gary R. Alexander ..... 3083	Del. James W. Campbell ..... 3297
Del. Theodore Levin ..... 3342	Del. James E. Proctor, Jr. .... 3083	Del. Samuel I. Rosenberg ..... 3297
Del. Richard Rynd ..... 3342	* Del. Joseph F. Vallario, Jr. .... 3083	Del. Delores G. Kelley ..... 3297
<b>District 12 - Baltimore County</b>	<b>District 28 - Charles and Saint Mary's Counties</b>	<b>District 43 - Baltimore City</b>
Sen. Nancy L. Murphy ..... 3653	Sen. James C. Simpson ..... 3616	* Sen. John A. Pica, Jr. .... 3145
* Del. Kenneth H. Masters ..... 3378	Del. Stephen J. Braun (28A) ..... 3247	Del. Gerald J. Curran ..... 3308
Del. Louis P. Morsberger ..... 3378	Del. Michael J. Sprague (28A) ..... 3247	Del. Ann Marie Doory ..... 3308
Del. Thomas E. Dewberry ..... 3378	Del. John F. Wood, Jr. (28B) ..... 3247	Del. Henry R. Hergenroeder, Jr. . 3308
<b>District 13 - Howard and Prince George's Counties</b>	<b>District 29 - Calvert and Saint Mary's Counties</b>	<b>District 44 - Baltimore City</b>
Sen. Thomas M. Yeager ..... 3572	Sen. C. Bernard Fowler ..... 3673	Sen. Julian L. Lapidus ..... 3686
Del. Virginia M. Thomas (13A) ..... 3205	Del. George W. Owings, III (29A) .. 3231	* Del. Curtis S. Anderson ..... 3259
Del. Martin G. Madden (13B) ..... 3205	* Del. J. Ernest Bell, II (29B) ..... 3314	* Del. Kenneth C. Montague, Jr. . 3257
Del. John S. Morgan (13B) ..... 3205	Del. John F. Slade, III (29C) ..... 3314	Del. Anne S. Perkins ..... 3502
<b>District 14 - Howard and Montgomery Counties</b>	<b>District 30 - Anne Arundel County</b>	<b>District 45 - Baltimore City</b>
Sen. Christopher McCabe ..... 3671	Sen. Gerald W. Winegrad ..... 3578	Sen. Nathan C. Irby, Jr. .... 3165
Del. Joel Chasoff (14A) ..... 3052	Del. John C. Astle ..... 3209	Del. Clarence Davis ..... 3325
Del. Robert L. Flanagan (14B) ..... 3200	Del. Michael Busch ..... 3211	Del. John W. Douglass ..... 3325
Del. Robert H. Kittleman (14B) ..... 3401	One Delegate position vacant	Del. Hattie N. Harrison ..... 3325
<b>District 15 - Montgomery County</b>	<b>District 31 - Anne Arundel County</b>	<b>District 46 - Baltimore City</b>
Sen. Laurence Levitan ..... 3169	* Sen. Philip C. Jimeno ..... 3658	Sen. American Joe Miedusiewski . 3598
Del. Gene W. Counihan ..... 3521	Del. W. Ray Huff ..... 3217	Del. Anthony M. DiPietro, Jr. ... 3303
Del. Jean W. Roesser ..... 3037	Del. Charles W. Kolodziejski ..... 3217	* Del. Cornell N. Dypski ..... 3303
Del. Richard La Vay ..... 3090	Del. Joan Cadden ..... 3217	* Del. Carolyn Krysiak ..... 3303
<b>District 16 - Montgomery County</b>	<b>District 32 - Anne Arundel County</b>	<b>District 47 - Baltimore City</b>
* Sen. Howard A. Denis ..... 3124	Sen. Michael J. Wagner ..... 3593	Sen. George W. Della, Jr. .... 3600
Del. Brian E. Frosh ..... 3045 <del>3041</del>	Del. Tyras S. "Bunk" Athey ..... 3469	Del. R. Charles Avara ..... 3547
* Del. Gilbert J. Genn ..... 3011	Del. Patrick C. Scannello ..... 3233	Del. Brian K. McHale ..... 3319
Del. Nancy K. Kopp ..... 3001	Del. Victor A. Sulin ..... 3233	Del. Paul E. Weisengoff ..... 3319

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## COUNTY ROUND-UP

### Montgomery County

The Montgomery County LP held its quarterly business meeting on Dec. 16. It is my pleasure to welcome Scott Becker and Glenn Howard to the County's Exec. Committee. Scott replaces Bob Creager as Secretary, and Glenn fills the long-vacant position of Solicitor.

Terry Atwood announced his candidacy for a non-partisan At-Large position on the Montgomery County School Board. Anyone wishing to help Terry with his campaign can reach him at (301) 229-4092.

We are already planning for the Montgomery County Fair. At the December meeting, we got pledges of \$240. Thanks to everyone who has pledged toward this effort. We need twice that much by June to assure our participation. Anyone who would like to contribute time or money can contact me at (301) 570-1498.

And don't forget our monthly social meetings, which continue on the third Monday of every month. Everyone is invited -- especially you folks who don't have an active local group yet. Hope to see you there!

Amy Rule  
Chair, Montgomery County  
Libertarian Party

### Frederick County

The Libertarian Party of Frederick County was formally organized on December 5th, 1991. I was elected Chairman and Wayne Dougherty of Brunswick was elected Secretary/Treasurer. At this time, the appropriate papers are being filed with the State of Maryland to become an officially recognized affiliate of the Maryland Libertarian Party.

The initial mailing to over 50 persons resulting in an amazing response. Eventually 12 persons expressed interest in attending an organizational meeting, almost a 25% response rate. In addition, several other persons expressed interest in being kept notified of ongoing activities, but could not commit to attending regular meetings. Virtually all current members responded, as well as several non-members. And, especially heartening, two new members were added to the roles at the first meeting.

Our first courses of action were decided at a follow-up meeting held in January. We have obtained the voter registration list of all registered Libertarians in Frederick County, and will be sending a mailing to the persons whom we have not yet contacted. In addition, it was decided to conduct a small series of test mailings to unaffiliated voters in the

county. We are tentatively planning a mailing to 400 persons, 100 per month, with the obvious goal of increasing the membership role. After these mailings, the results will be analyzed to determine whether or not to continue.

The next meeting will continue the discussion from the last meeting of identifying two or three issues of local concern on the Frederick Party can make an effective and vocal public stand. It is scheduled for Thursday, February 20th at 7:30 PM at 73 Boileau Court in Middletown. Interested persons may call (301) 371-6931 for more information.

Kirk W. McKee, Chairman,  
Libertarian Party of  
Frederick County

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### Valentines Fundraising

Once again, Bill Buzzell is offering roses for Maryland LP members to sell for Valentine's Day. The roses cost \$19/doz wholesale. Bill recommends a sale price of \$25/doz. The \$6 mark-up will be donated to the MDLP. The roses come with Baby's Breath and Bakers' Fern, wrapped in tissue and placed in a white box. They must be picked up in Bel Air, MD. Call Bill at (410) 477-9173 for directions and details.

**MD LP Executive Committee:**

Chair: I. Dean Ahmad(301) 951-0539  
Vice Chair: Amy Rule (301) 570-1498  
Treasurer: Bill Buzzell (410) 477-9173  
Asst. Treasurer: Kirk McKee (301) 371-6293  
Secretary: Luther Jett (301) 874-5403  
Asst. Secretary: Tomas Estrada-Palma  
(301) 942-4427  
Parliamentarian: Clifford Thies (410)523-0928

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Libertarian BBS: (301)656-4714  
after 6:00 PM and on weekends  
Newsletter Editor: Norman Rule (301) 570-1498  
National LP Headquarters: (202) 543-1988  
or 1-800-682-1776

**Affiliate Parties / Contacts:**

Affiliate Parties Committee:  
Chair: Amy Rule (301) 570-1498  
Baltimore City: Bob Jackson (410) 467-9404  
Baltimore County: Bill Buzzell (410) 477-9173  
Carroll County: Barry Chodak (410) 876-1641  
Cecil County: Mike Borland (410) 658-3767  
Sarah Miller (410) 658-5987  
Charles County and Southern Maryland:  
Stephen Zeigler (301) 932-6808  
Frederick County and Western Maryland:  
Kirk McKee (301)371-6931  
Howard County: David Settles (301) 428-5603  
Montgomery County: Amy Rule (301) 570-1498  
PG County: Don Monroe (301) 779-8722

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**Libertarian Party Membership Form**

\$15 State/Local annual dues \*  
Includes subscription to  
the Maryland LP Newsletter

\$27.50 Combined National/State/Local\*\*  
Includes subscription to *L.P News*  
and the Maryland LP Newsletter

Additional donation toward the fight for Liberty in Maryland \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The Federal Election Commission requires the we ask the following information

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer \_\_\_\_\_

\* I would like to become a voting member of the MD LP Central Committee

\*\* New National LP Members only: "I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals:"

signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Send To: Bill Buzzell, Treasurer. Maryland L.P. 7806 St. Fabian Lane, Baltimore, MD 21222

## FREE STATE CALENDAR

February 18, 1992  
7:00

**Montgomery County LP**  
Social Meeting

13424 Hathaway Dr  
Wheaton, MD

Location subject to change - call (301) 570-1498 to confirm.

February 20, 1992  
7:30

**Frederick County LP**  
Business Meeting

73 Boileau Ct  
Middletown, MD

February 27, 1992  
7:30

**Charles County LP**  
Business Meeting

TBA  
call (301) 932-6808

March 16, 1992  
7:00

**Montgomery County LP**  
Business Meeting

17714 King Wm. Ct  
Olney, MD

Free State Libertarian Letter  
4323 Rosedale Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Baltimore, MD  
Permit No. 1719

SUBS EXP THIS ISSUE. PLS RENEW!  
Terry & Katherine Atwood  
6405 Wilson Lane  
Bethesda MD 20817



# Montgomery County



# Libertarian News

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Volume 12 No. 1

January-March 1992

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## *MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:*

**County Central Committee Meeting  
at 17714 King William Court, Olney  
on Monday, March 16, 1992  
at 7:30 PM**

The March Montgomery County LP meeting will be held at the home of Amy Rule, 17714 King William Court, Olney on Monday, March 16, 7:30 p.m. Call 570-1498 for details and directions. It will begin with a short BUSINESS meeting which should degenerate into an informal SOCIAL gathering.

## *MONTGOMERY COUNTY UPDATES:*

### **TERRY ATWOOD RUNS FOR SCHOOL BOARD**

Montgomery County LP member Terry Atwood is running for School Board in the primary election being held on Tuesday, March 3, after this newsletter goes to press. Check your local newspaper to see how he did. If he scores in the top two he will be on the general election ballot in November.

There was a brief stir about the County LP's endorsement of Terry when a voters' guide report gave the impression that he advocates making community service a condition of graduation in some cases. Terry quickly responded to inquiries from Libertarians with an assurance that a condensation of his complete response was misleading. His actual position is that in some cases community service might be made an alternative to other requirements for graduation.

### **MDLP CHAIR TESTIFIES FOR CIVIC FED ON BALLOT ACCESS REFORM IN ANNAPOLIS**

Amy Rule, our county LP Chair and Vice-Chair of the state LP testified on behalf of the LP in front of the Constitution and Law Committee of the Maryland state legislature, because our state chair, Dean Ahmad, was asked to represent the Montgomery County Civic Federation on the same issue. Here are excerpts from Dean's testimony:

Ladies and gentlemen, there is a democratic movement sweeping the world, and it is an embarrassment to our great state that Maryland is one of a tiny handful of states in which it is more difficult for candidates to get on the ballot than in the constituent nations of the former Communist block. This particular proposal is an extremely popular one with the citizens of Maryland. Our delegates'

assembly voted to support it without a single dissenting vote. Ladies and gentlemen, please understand that most of our delegates are registered Democrats or Republicans, but think it undesirable for their party's fortunes to be protected by anti-democratic requirements such as Maryland's existing ballot access law.

HB 851 will make ballot access requirements in Maryland more in line with the requirements in other states. It will still be more difficult than in most other states for a candidate who is not a Republican or a Democrat to run, but not the near impossibility that it is now.

Most states require signatures of less than 1/2% of the registered voters to place an independent candidate on the ballot without any difficulties for the voters of the state, while Maryland law has a THREE per cent signature requirement. Unsurprisingly, many races in Maryland go uncontested. No independent or new party candidate has ever fulfilled Maryland's present requirements for ballot status for Governor or any other statewide Maryland office (63,000 signatures!).

Ladies and gentlemen, this proposal is popular in Montgomery county with good reason:

*Montgomery County Libertarian News*  
Montgomery County Central Committee  
Maryland Libertarian Party  
4323 Rosedale Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Terry & Katherine Atwood  
6405 Wilson Lane  
Bethesda MD 20817

approximately 25% of the voters are affiliated with neither the Republican nor the Democratic party. They have been effectively disenfranchised by the current law. Citizens government has become unresponsive. That unresponsiveness appears related to a lack of accountability, directly related to the lack of competition. While a desire for incumbents to prevent completion is understandable--it is unacceptable. If HB 851 is not passed you will not be protecting your seats--you will be endangering them. The voters are fed up. In China and in the Soviet Union the people were prepared to stand in front of tanks to secure their democratic rights, and I do not believe the Americans are any less committed to democracy. We will not accept distortions and excuses. If 49 states can have more reasonable ballot access laws without an adverse effect on the body politic, so can Maryland. Do not stand in the way of democracy. Represent us on this most fundamental of issues, or be prepared to be brushed aside to make room for others who will.

#### **REGULAR SOCIAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

The Montgomery Party LP continues its series of monthly social meetings on the **THIRD MONDAY** of every month. Call Amy Rule (570-1498) for schedule of locations.



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