

Report: Arundel state lawmakers don't support working families

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Political Notes is a periodic compilation of announcements.

Only about a third of Anne Arundel's state lawmakers scored well on the Progressive Maryland Education Fund's annual legislative scorecard released this week and designed to show how lawmakers support working families.

The organization ranks lawmakers on their leadership and on their voting record for nine bills the group considered important for working families, including the recent measures to expand access to health care through Medicaid and the graduated state income tax scale that more heavily taxes corporations and the wealthy. All the votes were taken during the 2007 special legislative session and the 2008 regular session. The scorecard, its methodology, and an explanation of the votes it scores are available at www.pmfef.org.

Of area legislators, three were among the top scores: Sen. Jim Rosapepe, D-College Park, tied with four others for first place in the Senate, and Del. Barbara Frush, D-Beltsville, tied for fourth among delegates and Del. Virginia Clagett, D-West River, tied for fifth.

The report also singled out five local lawmakers with the dubious distinction of "2008 Champions of Wealthy Special Interests" - Sens. Janet Greenip, R-Crofton, Bryan Simonaire, R-Pasadena; Ed DeGrange, Sr. , D-Glen Burnie, and Dels. Don Dwyer, R-Glen Burnie, and Tony McConkey, R-Severna Park.

The points awarded ranged from 3 to 97, and Anne Arundel had scores on both ends of the spectrum. The average point score for state lawmakers was 66, with Democrats scoring 83 points on average and Republicans 24.

Here is how Anne Arundel's state lawmakers fared:

Don Dwyer: 3. Tony McConkey: 7. Janet Greenip: 11. Bryan Simonaire: 11. Ed DeGrange: 20. Ron George: 20. Bob Costa: 35. James King: 35. Nic Kipke: 35. Steve Schuh: 38. John Astle: 60. Pam Beidle: 63. Theodore Sophocleus: 63. Joseline Pena-Melnyk: 86. Michael Busch: 93. Ben Barnes: 94. Mary Ann Love: 94. Virginia Clagett: 95. Barbara Frush: 96. Jim Rosapepe: 97.

Republicans meet

The Annapolis Republican Central Committee will hold its next "Politics on Tap" gathering at 7

p.m. tonight at the Loews Annapolis Hotel's Weather Rail Lounge, 126 West St. The event is open to anyone who enjoys meeting fellow Republicans to socialize and discuss issues of the day. For more information, e-mail mike_dye@verizon.net or call 410-991-7677.

Friday Dems

Robin Harting, superintendent of the county Department of Detention Facilities, will speak tomorrow at the Almost 7:30 Friday Morning Democratic Breakfast Club meeting.

The meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Eastport Yacht Club, 317 First St. in Eastport.

Senior Republicans

Robert Duckworth, the county Circuit Court clerk, will be the guest speaker at the Anne Arundel County Senior Republican Club next week.

Mr. Duckworth has served as clerk since 1994. His talk begins at 2 p.m. Monday at the North County Area library branch, 1010 Eastway in Glen Burnie.

The meeting is open to the public, and people of any political persuasion are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. Contact club President Frances Jones at 410-789-2192 for more information.

District 32 Dems

The District 32 Republican Club will hold its next meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Severn United Methodist Church, 1215 Old Camp Meade Road, Severn.

It is a working/planning meeting with an update on the club's ongoing voter education program. New members and interested parties are welcome to attend. For more club information, visit www.md32gop.org, or call club President Gerald Starr at 410-859-8026.

Greens to meet

The Anne Arundel County Green Party will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday in the back room of 49 West Coffeehouse, 49 West St. in Annapolis.

The public is invited.

Meeting topics include the Green Party presidential campaign and how to participate in hearings of the Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment. For more information, e-mail Virginia at vsmith@earthlink.net or visit www.arundelgreens.org.

Wednesday GOP

"How Republicans Can Save Annapolis" will be the topic of the Wednesday Republican Breakfast Club meeting at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The meeting will be held at the Eastport Yacht Club, 317 First St. on Annapolis Harbor in Eastport.

Guest speaker is Stanford A. Erickson, president of Media Integration Consultants, Inc.

The Wednesday Republican Breakfast Club meets from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. each Wednesday to discuss city, county, state and national issues; campaigns; intended government policy and actual results.

There is a continental breakfast with a view of the harbor at sunrise. The cost is \$8.

South county Dems

Mike Miller, who is campaign coordinator for the Anne Arundel County for Obama Campaign, will be guest speaker Wednesday at the South County Democratic Club meeting.

He will share what is happening with the campaign on the local level. An optional dinner begins at 6 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Pirate's Cove Restaurant, 4817 Riverside Drive, Galesville. For more information, e-mail Patti Burns, secretary, at retiredbobbie@msn.com or call 443-203-0069.

Elephant Club

The Elephant Club breakfast meeting is set for next Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 400 Benfield Blvd., Severna Park. There will be an open mic. The public is invited but there is a \$4 fee. For more information, visit www.elephantclub.us or call 410-437-2213.

EPA appointment

Lynn Buhl has been named the administrator for Region 5 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

She is former acting secretary of the state Department of the Environment and Deputy Secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources.

Region 5 is comprised of Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Sarbanes honored

The Century Council, a national nonprofit organization funded by distillers, hosted its 6th annual Congressional Awards luncheon on Capitol Hill to honor select members of the U.S. House of Representatives who have shown an outstanding commitment to fighting drunken driving and underage drinking.

Rep. John Sarbanes, D-Baltimore, was one of 37 members to receive the honor for his ongoing dedication.

Mr. Sarbanes teamed with the council in May in Annapolis to launch its "Ask, Listen, Learn" initiative at Annapolis Middle School.

Compiled by staff writers Barbara McLaughlin and Erin Cox from staff and wire reports.