

"FREE MARYLAND"

A Discussion Paper About Ways to Reach Conservative Goals Over the Next Decade

One conservative path for Maryland would be to start a well-funded conservative movement— maybe a kind of (c)(4) tax-exempt civic league – as opposed to a public charity or (c)(3) – known as "*Free Maryland.*"

This organization would constantly be running inexpensive media and doing well selected "shadow hearings" (and local demonstrations) throughout the *Old Line State*.

Free Maryland's activities would not be limited to election years or to supporting candidates (although it would include such efforts), but they would also range from tracking collective-bargaining negotiations with public-employee unions, to highlighting questionable or inadequate taxpayer-supported education activities, to producing action papers on fiscal matters (including safeguarding property rights).

In my view, half of those folks (67,364) who voted for Brian Murphy in the 2010 GOP gubernatorial primary might come up with \$100 apiece to kick off such an effort – and would give more if they begin to see results. One measure of the results of these activities would be the degree of outrage the movement evokes both from the legacy media and the Maryland political class.

What would be needed to begin with is a well-known Maryland conservative with sound judgment who would act as that movement's public face.

A (c)(4) can get underway fast; works without many advocacy restrictions (except that "electioneering" should not prudently be more than 40% of the organization's activities); and is not required to reveal its donors. The latter is very important because state and local politicians and bureaucrats will retaliate in a variety of ways from zoning to regulatory abuses, to stopping state or local contracts with donors.

See the links below from the left-wing *Alliance for Justice* which, incidentally, has [very good material](#) on grass-roots advocacy.

<http://www.afj.org/assets/resources/resource1/Comparison-of-501C3S-501C4S.pdf>
<http://www.afj.org/assets/resources/nap/election-year-activities-for-501c4s.pdf>

In any event, most money should come from a large number of donors in modest packets, donors to whom the organization can return for additional help when the organization shows results.

The organization should focus on the conservative triad:

- Traditional values – much more than abortion -- such as reforming taxpayer-supported school curricula from K through 16;
- Fiscal reform – more than lower taxes -- such as rolling back regulation by state and local government – in short, espousing a pro-market, but not a so-called "pro-business" or "crony-capitalist" agenda;
- A strong national (including homeland) defense, which is where the whole *Shariah* concern comes into play.

So-called "single-issue conservatives" pursue a path to irrelevance, and help ensure that we shall all hang separately.

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