



State Senator Robert Ford

P.O. Box 21302

Charleston, SC 29413

843.813-1777 or 803.920.5399

senatorrrford@bellsouth.net

senatorrrford@gmail.com

When a White Republican comes back to the Democratic Party there is rejoicing and jubilation. When a Black Republican returns to the Democratic Party they should be treated the same!

The other two announced candidates have strong Republican ties:

- **Margaret Rush former long serving staff member of Republican Congressman Arthur Ravenel and**
- **Marlon Kimpson new in elected politics but works for a major law firm that makes substantial contributions to a large number of Republicans and some Democratic candidates**

Memorandum

To: Charleston County Democratic Party

From: Robert Ford

Date: June 24, 2013

Subject: Maurice Washington Will Get a Fair Election in the Senate District 42 Democratic Primary

For approximately 125 years, the only political party in the South was the Democratic Party. In or about 1866, the Republican Party was prevalent in the South because of the newly freed slaves that were given the right to participate as citizens in our political structure. They participated in the process because of President Abraham Lincoln.

White Southerners began to leave the Democratic Party during the Civil Rights Movement and the trend presently continues. Up until 2000, the majority of elected officials in South Carolina were Democrats. The Democratic Party affiliation has diminished due to White flight to the Republican Party in light of irresponsible and poor leadership.

The elected conservative Democrats like Senators Vincent Sheheen, Thomas McElveen and other Democrats support Governor Nikki Haley's agenda 70% of the time. My question to you ladies and gentlemen who represent the power structure of the Charleston County Democratic Party; "What gives you the right to think you should choose the Democratic Party nominee?"

Your interference in Maurice Washington running as a Democrat is a clear violation of election laws not only in South Carolina but the entire United States. South Carolina is one of the few states where citizens do not have to declare a political affiliation because we do not have political party registration. The only way candidates declare a political affiliation is to file and run under a party label, get elected under a specific party label or vote in a specific party's primary. When the primary process comes to an end, the voter has no legal attachment to that party.

In closing, Maurice Washington who has served this community on a daily basis better than 99% of elected officials in Senate District 42. He has been involved on a daily basis with the fourteen community projects not only financially, but has given time and efforts to make these projects successful. As a business and professional, Maurice has provided jobs, business opportunities and contracts to hundreds of people each year.

In other words, Maurice Washington is more of a Democrat than any of you who call yourself the leadership of the Charleston County Democratic Party. Maurice Washington will get a fair election because the consequences will be too severe if he does not.

Maurice Washington was born and raised in Senate District 42. He has lived in Senate District 42 for 51 years.