

Out of the running

Sen. Clarence Blount has been ordered to be removed from the 41st Legislative District ballot. He is appealing.

41st
Legislative
District



The district:
The 41st Legislative District includes the neighborhoods of Pimlico, Forest Park, Ashburton, Edmondson Village and Irvington.

The remaining candidates:
Democratic Senate candidates are Frank D. Boston Jr. and Gregory Truitt. Democratic House candidates are Richard C. Barbee, Nathaniel Bland, Walter Dean, Lisa A. Gladden, Clarice Herbert, Nathaniel T. Oaks, Wendell F. Phillips and Marshall Pittman. There is no Republican primary for either House or Senate.

Salary: \$31,591.

Term: Four years.

1994 primary turnout:
29 percent of Democrats and 21 percent of Republicans.

DOUG STEVENS : SUN STAFF



GENE SWEENEY JR. : SUN STAFF

Support:
Governor
Glendening
(left) at a rally
yesterday for
state Sen.
Clarence W.
Blount.

Senate majority leader Blount appeals ruling

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By IVAN PENN
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SUN STAFF

He's the one who builds bridges when troubles rise in Maryland's General Assembly. And as the Senate's majority leader, he has a powerful voice that can push a bill into law.

All that may soon change.

Sen. Clarence W. Blount — the West Baltimore lawmaker whose nearly 28 years in the Senate has earned him the respect of most in the 188-member legislature — is on the verge of being bumped out of Maryland politics because a judge has ruled that he doesn't live in the district he represents.

Blount filed an appeal yesterday to have Anne Arundel County Circuit Judge Michael E. Loney's decision overturned, but evidence showing that his real home sits outside Baltimore City is making a tough case for the senator.

Taking Blount off the ballot also could deal a blow to Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, who relies on Blount to bring a consensus on controversial bills and other key decisions. It also could hurt the political influence of Baltimore City and African-Americans throughout Maryland.

"My opinion was that people should have had the opportunity to decide the issue ... rather than have a circuit court judge from Anne Arundel County decide the fate of Baltimore City voters," Miller said.

Some lawmakers see Blount as an important voice in upcoming decisions such as the redrawing of legislative districts after the 2000 Census and the appointments of committee chairs in the Senate, which has no African-Americans in line to run a standing committee.

For these reasons, the lawmakers and the community urged Blount — the first African-American to become chair of a standing committee in the General Assembly — to put his name on the 1998 ballot, even though he had planned to retire.

Blount's supporters yesterday criticized Del. Frank D. Boston Jr., who filed the lawsuit over Blount's residence, for endangering Baltimore's political stability and that of the African-American community.

At a rally yesterday, Blount said election politics played a role in Boston's challenge.

"I wanted to retire ... but this governor needs your help and he needs my help," Blount said. "The reason I'm in this trouble right now is because I support this governor."

Boston, who could not be reached for comment yesterday, filed suit against Blount after launching an extensive investigation into where the senator lives.

Boston charged that Blount lived in Baltimore County, not in the 41st District in West Baltimore, and should be removed from the election ballot.

Blount's attorneys argued in court that he qualified to represent the 41st District because he rented an apartment there.

Sun staff writer William F. Zorzi Jr. contributed to this article.