

SENATE RACE

Rappaport vs. Sarbanes: Both Running on Incumbent's Record in Senate Race

BY RACHEL BROWN
Capital News Service

They don't call it a war chest for nothing. Paul Rappaport's donors are ready to do battle. Anne Arundel County Circuit Clerk Robert Duckworth called himself part of a grassroots army for Rappaport, ready to oust four-term Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Baltimore.

"His opponent would certainly be a good senator for Massachusetts," Duckworth said of Sarbanes. "But he doesn't represent the views of Maryland."

Rappaport agrees and pledged to "represent all the people" — the centerpiece of a campaign that attacks Sarbanes as out of touch.

"As a citizen, I can try to leave the state, keep taking it or say 'enough is enough,'" the former Howard County police chief said.

Even at that, Rappaport did not want to throw his hat into the race at first. He was persuaded to run by a strong showing of support from his friends and grass-

PAUL RAPPAPORT

PARTY: Republican
AGE: 66
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree, University of Baltimore, 1972; law degree, University of Baltimore School of Law, 1974.
EXPERIENCE: Lawyer; self-storage company owner; served in the Army, 1957-59; Maryland State Police officer, 1951-1979; Howard County police chief, 1979-87; Republican nominee for lieutenant governor, 1994; nominee for attorney general, 1998.
POLITICS: Rappaport believes in smaller government. He supports private school vouchers and plans that would let people invest part of their Social Security in private funds. Public safety is a key issue, and he considers himself a strong advocate for law enforcement.
FAMILY: Married to Margaret; three children; lives in Ellicott City.

Source: Capital News Service

roots activists. But political analysts say grassroots alone are not going to help Rappaport unseat Sarbanes, an unabashedly liberal Democrat in a Democratic state, whose \$1.7 million in campaign funds is more than 15 times what his challenger has raised.



RAPPAPORT

"I think that Sarbanes is unbeatable because he is a known commodity, and he has all of the powers of incumbency," said Griffin Hathaway, a Towson University political scientist.

The difference in their fundraising is not the only thing that sets the two men apart. While Rappaport charges that his opponent "believes the only thing is government," Sarbanes offers a defense of government that sounds like a throwback to classic Democratic ideals.

"I do think that government is an instrument to be used by the people to achieve their objectives," Sarbanes said. "Otherwise they are going to be left at the mercy of very large interests."

"I don't know why [Rappaport] is engaged in the activity of trashing government employees," Sarbanes said. "We work very hard to try and serve the people who elect us."

Quiet senator

Sarbanes was born on the Eastern Shore, where he worked in his parents' restaurant. He earned a scholarship to Princeton and a law degree from Harvard. A Rhodes Scholar, he practiced law in Baltimore before being elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1966.

He was elected to Congress in 1970 and to the Senate in 1976. He serves on the Senate's budget and foreign relations committees and is ranking minority member of

the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. He is dean of the Maryland congressional delegation and serves on the Joint Economic Committee.

Despite his longevity, he rarely attracts headlines — leading opponents to dub him the "stealth senator." Paul Ellington, executive director of the Maryland Republican Party, said "the majority of Marylanders couldn't pick Sarbanes out of a lineup."

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Griffin Hathaway
Towson University Political Scientist

But Sarbanes' supporters said his low profile is simply a matter of style.

"He just has a very quiet demeanor," said Ilene Kessler, a longtime supporter and Columbia real estate agent. But a reserved demeanor does not suggest that Sarbanes is an incapable legislator, she said.

"Sarbanes does things quietly and effectively," said Kessler, noting his work for affordable housing as evidence of his accomplishments.

"We think he is wonderful," said Amy Isaacs, national director of Americans for Democratic Action. "He is a very intelligent, very hard-working member of the Senate who at no time showboats."

Sarbanes' record gets favorable ratings from labor organizations, earning a perfect score from both the AFL-CIO and the American Federation of Government Employees for his 1999 votes.

"He has helped working men and women," said Mary Murphy, chair of the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee. "He has done a fantastic job, and I don't see any reason why he should not be re-elected."

Many in the business community see plenty of reasons.

Business opposition

"Sarbanes' voting record is consistently an F for business ... and I hope the voters take these records into account," said Chris Wysocki, president of the Small Business Survival Committee. "Maryland consistently is one of the worst states for entrepreneurship, and Sarbanes exemplifies that."

Robert Worcester, president of Maryland Business for Responsive Government, said that Sarbanes got a composite score of 12 percent from business and manufac-

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turing groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business.

"Mr. Rappaport does not have a record, but we know that from the positions he is taking on a variety of business issues that he should be considered business-friendly," Worcester said. "Anyone interested in the private-sector health of Maryland should be very disappointed" with Sarbanes.

But the senator's supporters defend his business record, which they see as part of a total legislative package. "I think the most important things for Maryland busi-

ness are, No. 1, good schools and, No. 2, a good transportation network," said George Leventhal, chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee. "Sen. Sarbanes has been deeply involved in getting education funds ... and laying the groundwork for the transportation system."

But others say Sarbanes is just too liberal.

Ian Walters, a spokesman for the American Conservative Union, called Sarbanes' record "about as liberal as it gets." His group gives the senator a 5 percent lifetime rating.

Lloyd Hinton, a retired Navy officer from Easton who contributed to Rappaport's campaign, said it is time for Sarbanes to go.

"Paul Sarbanes has supported everything that Clinton does," Hinton said. "We just got to get rid of him."

Sarbanes' detractors are pinning their hopes on Rappaport, a former Howard County police chief whose only bids for public office were an unsuccessful run for lieutenant governor in 1994 and a failed campaign for attorney general in 1998.

PAUL SARBANES

PARTY: Democrat
AGE: 67
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in public and international affairs from Princeton University, 1954; Rhodes Scholar, Oxford University, 1957; law degree from Harvard Law School, 1960.
EXPERIENCE: Lawyer; member, Maryland House of Delegates, 1967-71; House of Representatives, 1971-76; elected to the Senate in 1976; serves on the Joint Economic Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Committee on the Budget; ranking member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.
POLITICS: Sarbanes is supportive of gun control measures, including mandatory trigger locks and closing gun-show loopholes. He advocates targeted tax cuts and rejected a Republican plan to repeal the estate tax.
FAMILY: Lives in Baltimore with wife, Christine; three children.

Source: Capital News Service

Like Sarbanes, he worked in his parents' restaurant, a Jessup business that was frequented by Maryland State Troopers. It was there that Rappaport realized that he wanted to be a police officer. He served in the Maryland State Police from 1951 to 1979, with a brief stint in the Army from 1957-59. He left the state police in 1979 to become Howard County chief of police, serving until 1987.

He took night classes to earn a college degree and later earned a law degree. He currently practices law and owns a storage company.

Sarbanes "doesn't know how we live anymore," Rappaport said. "He believes the only thing is government. He doesn't believe in the people."

Patrick Dorman, who co-chaired the Howard County Taxpayers Association with Rappaport, said the aspiring senator's personality makes him right for the job.

"Paul has more honesty and integrity than anyone I know," said Dorman, who added that Rappaport was a good influence on those around him and he even "was able to moderate me."

Rappaport is not a pure partisan. While he supports GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush's plan to set aside part of Social Security funds for private investment, he also would put some of it in the "lockbox" that Democratic Vice President Al Gore has proposed.

But he is otherwise mostly Republican, rejecting proposals for more gun-control laws, calling for a strong defense, favoring school vouchers, and urging a return to smaller government and greater local control of services.

It has been difficult for him to get the word out against a well-financed incumbent, however. Rappaport said he is "raising funds every day," but because of the fund-raising dis-



SARBANES