

Boozer write-in campaign may be in the cards

Senator's supporters urging run

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Sen. Wernon Boozer, unseated by Dr. Andrew Harris in last month's Republican primary, says he is considering a General Election campaign as a write-in candidate.

The senator from Towson said he has been urged by leaders of environmentalist and women's rights groups to wage such a contest.

"To do a write-in campaign is very difficult," Boozer said in a Sunday interview.

Boozer, who has served in the Senate since 1981 and for two years has been the official leader of the Republican minority in the Senate of Maryland, was asked about a report that he might seek to reverse his loss in the primary by running in the Nov. 3 General Election.

The report stemmed from a visit to the county Board of Elections Supervisors by one of his aides to inquire about the write-in process.

Doris Suter, administrator of the county elections office, said that process requires only that an otherwise qualified candidate file within seven days after spending at least \$51 on a write-in campaign, but no later than Oct. 28.

Boozer said leaders of the Sierra Club and women's groups contacted him shortly after his Sept. 15 loss to Harris to advise that he run again in the general.

He said further discussions would be held this week and a decision would probably come by the end of the week.

"I have to see what these groups want to do and what resources there would be," he said, referring to campaign funding and volunteers necessary to implementation of a write-in drive.

Commenting on Boozer's consideration of a second contest with him, Harris said, "It's part of the election process, and I would welcome a continuing discussion with any candidate who is part of the election process."

The Democratic nominee for the Senate seat from the 9th Legislative District is Anthony O. Blades of Monkton, who was unopposed in the primary.

Harris, a Cockeysville resident who is an anesthesiologist and had never before run for public office, won the Republican nomination by 593 votes. He drew 4,490 votes to 3,897 for Boozer.

Boozer, who was unopposed in the 1990 and 1994 primary and general elections, polled 27,143 votes in the General Election four years ago.

The results of the primary capped a bitter campaign focused in which Harris drew support from anti-abortion activists, the National Rifle Association and Maryland Business for Responsive Government.

Besides environmentalist and women's groups, those endorsing Boozer included Chamber of Commerce interests and the liberal-to-moderate wing of the Republican Party once led by former U.S. Sen. Charles McC. Mathias and the late Gov. Theodore McKeldin.