

# Peace reigns as line forms to fill Wynn's Senate seat

P. G. Journal 12-92  
By JEANNE DEWEY  
Journal staff writer

The process of replacing Sen. Albert Wynn, the county's congressman, promises to be calmer than the last time local Democrats were forced to fill a vacant Senate seat — in 1983 after former senator Tommie Broadwater was convicted of food stamp fraud.

The delegates from Wynn's 25th District — Beatrice Tignor, Michael Arrington and Ulysses Currie — are said to be in line for Wynn's job, and Democratic Party leaders said they would be happy to name any of the three to finish out two years of Wynn's term.

Wynn's as-yet unannounced endorsement will carry a lot of weight in naming his replacement, party leaders said.

"Frankly, I think the recommendation of the most prominent African-American elected official certainly will be pivotal in this process," said Gerard Evans, Democratic Central Committee chairman.

Wynn likely will endorse Tignor, 52, of Mitchellville who managed his successful campaign for the 4th District Congressional seat, sources said.

But Currie, 55, of Capitol Heights House majority whip and the most experienced of the three legislators, is not out of the running, sources said. Nor is Arrington, 37, of Largo.

Wynn, who will be sworn in Jan. 5, said he hopes to work cooperatively

with the three delegates.

"We've had an effective team as a delegation and it is my hope that we can continue that in naming a replacement," Wynn said.

Democratic leaders will hold a public hearing before naming Wynn's replacement. Arrington, a delegate since 1990, said the central committee should allow 25th District residents to pick Wynn's successor.

"I would love for this to be an election, because if this was an election, I believe I'd win," Arrington said.

The battle for the 24th District Senate seat vacated when Broadwater was convicted of food stamp fraud bitterly divided the county's Democratic leadership, particularly when central committee members named Sen. Decatur Trotter to the post, ignoring Broadwater's endorsement of Carolyn Howard, now a delegate.

The process of filling Wynn's seat is not expected to be nearly as divisive.

"I don't think this is an emotional kind of thing," said Marcia Krasnick, Democratic Central Committee executive director. "This is a happy kind of thing."

Currie said he is waiting for Wynn to make his choice.

"We work together as a team in the 25th District, with the senator as our coach," said Currie, who is serving his second term in the House. "I entertain thoughts of being an effective legislator. I tend to work hard where I am."

Joel Rozner, central committee second vice chairman, said, "All three [candidates] are so well qualified, you couldn't go wrong if you picked any of the three."

He added, "The amount and

strength of their support, and who's supporting them, are the factors in the process."

The General Assembly convenes Jan. 13.

Tignor could not be reached Friday.

Wynn Friday appointed Bill Boston as chief of staff and Luis Navarro as administrative assistant of his Congressional staff.

Boston, who will be responsible for intergovernmental relations, community liaisons and constituent services, is a past vice president of the Largo Civic Association. He works for Certified Laboratories and serves on the county Tax Appeal Board and as chairman of the Prince Georgean of the Year Committee.

Navarro, a Montgomery County resident and graduate of the University of Maryland College Park campus, will be responsible for legislative matters and special projects. He served as southeast campaign director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. He has worked for the National Association of Letter Carriers, former Congressman Mike Barnes and the Maryland State Teachers Association Political Action Committee.

Boston said Wynn will set up district offices in Montgomery County and the central and southern portions of Prince George's.