The People behind Kurt Schmoke

All a part of a great team effort

Michael A. Millemann, Coordinator of Issues; Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law; Chaired the Schmoke issues brain trust composed 25-30 lawyers who met regularly to advise Schmoke on legal and campaign issues. Milleman says, "Our job was very easy in that we had an extremely smart candidate who had a grasp of the issues bar none".

John H. Morris, Jr., Coordinator of Endorsements; Attorney with Venable, Baetjer, and Howard law firm; compiled and helped solicit political endorsements from elected officials and political clubs; met Kurt as an attorney in the public defenders office; Morris says the reason for Kurt's victory was his ability to transcend race as the main issue in the campaign and establish competence as the main issue.

Bernard Manekin, Member of the Finance Committee; Chairman of the Board of the Manekin Corporation; helped raise funds through personal solicitation; "I feel Kurt and the young people like him are very important to this city's future. I was proud to be a part of the campaign and associated with such a competent group of young people."

Ron Shapiro, Treasurer of the Schmoke Campaign; Senior Attorney with the law firm of Shapiro and Olander; helped raise funds and supervised financial record keeping functions; "Kurts victory belonged to first Kurt Schmoke and his ability to captivate Baltimore's black voters and second, to Larry Gibson who ran a masterful campaign."

Patricia Schmoke, wife of the candidate; opthalmologist in private practice; "I supported him through this difficult and new experience and assured him that I and the kids would be alright while he was out campaigning. Kurt wasn't used to spending so much time away from home and the children."

Larry S. Gibson, Campaign Manager and Chairman of the Schmoke Campaign Committee; Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law; "Kurt was the best candiate you could ever have. He listened, he worked hard, and he knew his stuff. It's hard to lose with a person of his quality."

Danny Henson, Deputy Campaign Manager and Co-Chair of the Finance Committee; Vice President of G & M Oil Company; "We did everything we could think of to raise money. We had early money and that was extremely important to our effort. I am just glad it's over. It was really a grind. But it was well worth it."

Steve Wengel, Press Secretary; law student University of Maryland School of Law; "It was a pretty big responsibility. I'd never done it before but Kurt made it easy. He didn't exagerate. He knew his stuff. It was an experience I will never forget."

Marcella Holland, co-ordinator of special events; law student and Chairman of the Black American Law Student Association (BALSA) at the University of Maryland School of Law; researched the times and places of various public events so that the Schmoke campaign could be present; "He's probably the most unique black candidate we have ever had. He had that human touch."

Alan Schwait, Co-Chair Finance Committee; Partner, law firm of Garbis and Schwait; "It was very important to raise seed money and thereby help establish credibility in the community. We did that. But the key ingredient was Larry Gibson's enthusiasm. His energy was infectious and his leadership great."

Lynette Young, Scheduler and Office Manager; member of the Schmoke Transition Team; "He was the best candidate. He knew what he wanted. He was decisive, and knew when to delegate . . . I made sure his schedule was full and he got where he needed to go."

David Young, Coordinator of Professional Groups and Organizations; attorney in the Baltimore City Solicitor's office; helped pull professional and social organizations into the campaign, accompanied Kurt at speaking events. "It was pleasant to find a candidate who had given real thought to his position on the issues."

Barbara McCoy, Fundraising Coordinator, former Baltimore City school teacher; organized all fund raising events, handled tickets and arrangements for fund raising events; "I did just about anything I could do for him and he really appreciated it"

Richard Krummerich, Statistician /Archivist; law clerk; provided campaign with much needed data which helped determine campaign direction; Gibson says, "On election night when all the TV stations had us behind, Richard confidently stated we were the winners. On the basis of his projections, I announced our victory."

Dick Lee, Trouble Shooter; retired from Balto. City Schools; fill in the gaps whenever needed says Gibson, "He did just about everything imaginable and probably was one of our most important volunteers."

Joanne Johnson, Receptionist-Typist; receptionist on Schmoke Transition Team; "I enjoyed the contact with the public particularly the receptions and the street corners with the human billboards."

Ken Strong, Coordinator of Community Organizations; pulled local advocacy groups into the campaign.

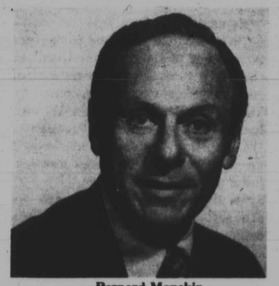
Delores McPhearson, Volunteer Coordinator; recruited and mobilized voters into campaign activities. " The wonderful thing about Kurt was that he really appreciated you and the work you were doing for him. We had over 800 volunteers and they were the very best I had ever seen."

Patricia Schmoke
Wife of Candidate

Lynette Young
Scheduler/Office Manager

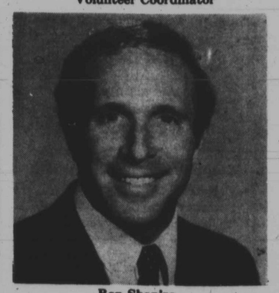
Michael Millemann
Issues Coordinator

Deloris McPhearson
Volunteer Coordinator


Bernard Manekin
Member, Finance Committee

Barbara McCoy
Fund Raising Coordinator

Marcella Holland
Coordinator of Special Events


Ron Shapiro
Treasurer

The Sign-tists

How to put up 2,000 lawn signs

Schmoke campaign manager Larry Gibson smiled broadly when asked how the campaign managed to put up so many lawn signs in such a short period of time. "It was easy," he said, "all we did was call in the Sign-tists."

The 'Sign-tists' was the code name for three last year high school students Barry Freeman, Lorenzo Bellamy and Kevin O'Keefe who reduced lawn sign manufacture and placement to a science.

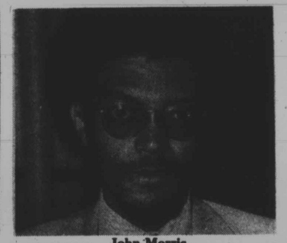
"They were an important part to solving our name recognition problem," Larry Gibson related. "The three of them over the period of the campaign installed over 2,000 lawn signs. I am sure that after the bulk of them were up, fewer people were saying 'Kurt who?.'"

All three of the students are in college now. Barry Freeman is in the first year of a dual program at UMBC and Coppin. Lorenzo Bellamy is in his first year at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. Kevin O'Keefe is a freshman at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Barry Freeman
"Sign-Tist"

Kevin O'Keefe
"Sign-Tist"

Alan Schwait
Co-Chair, Finance Committee


John Morris
Coordinator of Political Endorsements

"I have been observing local Baltimore politics and the black electorate for over thirty years and I can say, without fear of contradiction, that black Baltimoreans have established their presence in the political process of Baltimore City as a result of the recent primary election.

We at the Super Pride Markets are dedicated to the proposition that qualified black men and women pursue vigorously elected offices at all levels now, both City and State wide.

Our senior management, store managers and employees, which make up the family of Super Pride Markets, wish to congratulate the Baltimore black community for its outstanding voting record and challenges it to even greater heights for the future."

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