

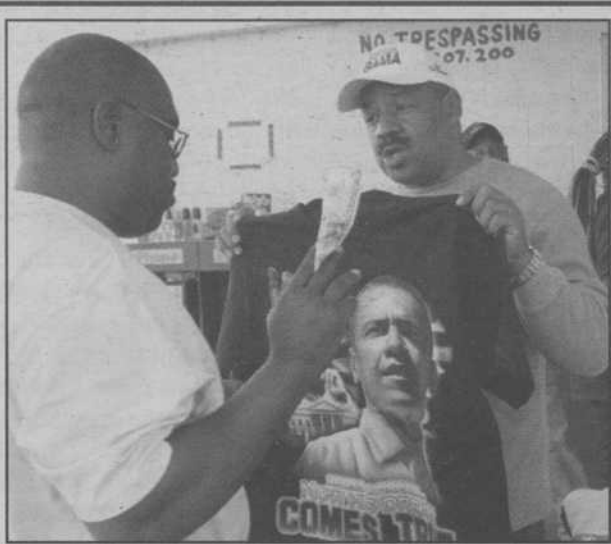
# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 25

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

October 16, 2008

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Pete Gibson buys T-Shirt from Bill Evans. Voters in some states have been told not to wear candidate shirts.

## Candidate wear risky at the polls

By Pharoh Martin

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Don't wear campaign paraphernalia to voting polls on election day Nov. 4 or bring a sweater to cover it up, experts say.

"Whether or not they have a constitutional right to wear [campaign memorabilia] we tell them to leave it at home and avoid the hassle," says Laughlin McDonald, Director of ACLU Voting Right Project. "There is a Supreme Court decision that prohibited campaigning within 100 feet of a polling place; so we advise that if they do wear a campaign button that they follow that state's law, unless they are trying to challenge it."

Barbara Arnwine, executive director for Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, a non-profit legal organization that specializes in election law, agrees. She says that there should be no open endorsement of a candidate because it helps voting sites remain neutral.

But, she says, "There needs to be more uniformity of the law under local and state legislation."

Thousands of voters have received emails and text messages informing them that they may have problems if they show up to the voting booths wearing buttons, stickers and T-shirts with the names of political candidates. In many states, that could be true.

Maryland voter Alpatrick Golphin, 39, thought the email he received was just another unsubstantiated rumor.

"I thought it was a joke like Ashton [Kutcher] was trying to punk me," he said. Golphin has voted in other elections, but this was the first time he's heard anything about this. He may not have heard about not being allowed to wear his candidate's T-shirt to the voting polls because Maryland does not have a dress code, per se. But, it still has laws against "electioneering" or campaigning inside a voting poll.

It is a state's decision how to regulate elections so long as the elections are conducted fairly, says Federal Elections Commission spokesperson Bob Biersack. Because there's no federal provision, elections are administered by the states.

Therefore, depending on what voting jurisdiction a citizen resides in, casting a ballot while displaying any campaign affiliations — including names or images on a hat, (See T-shirts, Page 2)

## March will look back, ahead

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Clark County Democratic Black Caucus and Women for Obama will host a march on Saturday. Participants are encouraged to arrive at 9:30 a.m. March Early for Change will start at 10 a.m. in the plaza at the Martin Luther King Jr. Statue at the intersection of Carey Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

From there, the procession will head west on Carey Avenue to the early voting location at Dr. William Pearson Community Center. Registered voters can cast their vote at any early vote polling location on Oct. 18-31.

After the march, County Commissioner Lawrence



Law enforcement attacks marchers in Alabama on the infamous day of "Bloody Sunday."

Weekly, community leaders, guest speakers and invited celebrity guests will hold a "Vote Early for Change Rally." Entertainment, food, music and activities for children will be available. This event is free and open to the public.

The march will com-

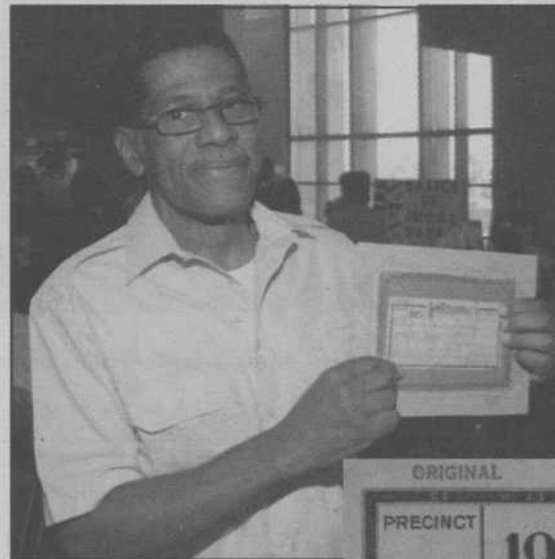
memorate the 54-mile trek that 600 people made on March 7, 1965 from Selma, Alabama to that state's capitol.

The marchers sought to shed light on the plight of African-American civil and voting rights. However, the marchers were met with vio-

lence, largely at the hand of law enforcement agencies. The brutality was such that the day earned the nickname "Bloody Sunday."

Those interested in more information can call Yvette Williams at (702) 596-2559 or send an e-mail [ccblackcaucus@gmail.com](mailto:ccblackcaucus@gmail.com).

## Poll tax receipt reminder of past



By John T. Stephens III  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

On Nov. 4, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama has the opportunity to make history as the first African-American president in U.S. history. If he is elected, this will turn American politics on its ear while simultaneously proving to a new generation of citizens that anything is indeed possible.

The road to this potentially historic moment has been peppered with potholes. John T. Stephens II knows this firsthand. As the author and exhibitor of "Black Extravaganza: A Cultural Awak-

ening!" and "The Madam Molly E. Carney Exhibit," Stephens is showcasing one remnant of an ugly period of history in which Blacks and poor Whites were shut out of the electoral process. "It was given to me by my great, great, great, great aunt Madam Molly E. Carney," Stephens said of a poll tax receipt that is part of the exhibit. "She paid \$1.50 to make her voice heard and have her opinion counted." Owned by his great, great, great, great aunt, the receipt was issued and signed on Jan. 9, 1926. It has his aunt's name, address, profession, age and even her race "colored" scrawled out on an official Bexar County, Texas (See Tax, Page 3)



ORIGINAL

POLL TAX RECEIPT  
COUNTY OF BEXAR No. 19909

Precinct 65 1925 Date Jan 9 1926

RECEIVED OF Madam M. E. Carney

ADDRESS 701 Virginia Blvd.

AGE 52 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE 20 20 20 Occupation Teacher Race Colored

the sum of One and 50/100 Dollars, in payment Poll Tax, for the year A. D. 1925. The said Tax Payer being duly sworn by me says that the above is correct. All of which I Certify.

By J. W. Hall Deputy Tax Collector, Bexar County, Texas.