

**MARYLAND LT. GOVERNOR  
MICHAEL STEELE**

**RESEARCH BOOK**

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# STRATEGIC MEMO

Michael Steele has never succeeded on his own, either in the political world or the private sector. Steele has never won elected office on his own, losing in the 1998 state comptroller Republican primary before becoming Robert Ehrlich's running mate in 2002. Amazingly, he has a worse track record when it comes to his personal finances. Steele's consulting group never turned a profit, he was threatened twice with foreclosure on his home and sued for failure to pay an \$11,000 credit card bill. If Michael Steele can't even balance his own checkbook, how can he be expected to deal with the massive federal budget deficits incurred by his own party?

Although Michael Steele has claimed that his campaign will be about appealing to African-Americans who have been neglected by the Republican Party, his own record will prove unpalatable to those very constituents. A 2002 UMD study found rampant racism in the application of the death penalty in Maryland, an issue that was brought to the forefront after Gov. Ehrlich lifted the moratorium on capital punishment. An opponent of the death penalty, Steele vowed to issue a report on racism and the death penalty but, three years and two executions later, has failed to produce anything but unfulfilled promises.

When he took office, Michael Steele also promised to revamp a juvenile justice system that has been criticized for its failures. However, Steele once again failed to deliver on his promises as Governor Ehrlich vetoed legislation that children's advocates called vital to the reform effort. From minority business reform to affirmative action, the Lt. Governor believes that African Americans should not receive any help from their government, positions that are sure to anger the African American community in Maryland and make it difficult for Steele to secure their votes.

Like any inexperienced politician, Michael Steele is prone to speaking without thinking. He has compared the Democratic Party to slaveholders and called himself "a radical Republican." Most egregiously, in front of the Baltimore Jewish Council, Steele claimed that doctors performing stem cell research were the same as Nazis performing human experiments during the Holocaust.

Many Lt. Governors around the United States have important duties, ranging from running the Senate to taking charge of their own issue areas. This is not the case in Maryland with Michael Steele. According to the state Constitution, Steele's only responsibilities are those delegated to him by the Governor. In answer to a question asking him to detail the responsibilities of the Lt. Governor, Steele replied: "Well, none." Robert Ehrlich attacked Kathleen Townsend as unfit to become Governor in 2002 because she had never been elected on her own and never voted on any of the issues facing America. The exact same argument can, and should, be used to show that Michael Steele is completely unprepared for the United States Senate.

In order to make the contacts necessary to finance a Senatorial campaign, Michael Steele has spent 128 days, over 11% of his time in office, outside of the state of Maryland. During this time, Maryland's taxpayers have been forced to pay over \$49,000 for Steele's protective services even during political trips that had nothing to do with state business. Nearly 27% of his campaign funds have come from outside Maryland, possibly showing why the Lt. Governor decided to spend so much time away from his job.

Michael Steele received \$10,261 in campaign contributions from members of the Board of Directors of the Greater Baltimore Urban League only one day after the company was notified that it would be receiving \$100,000 from the Monumental Insurance settlement. Unlike other states that disbursed the money to general or scholarship funds, the Lt. Governor recommended that settlement be awarded to four

organizations. Steele apparently recommended the GBUL to receive the money and, since it was awarded, has taken in nearly \$12,000 for his Senate campaign from members of its board.

As Michael Steele travels the state, claiming to want to bring a clean slate to government, it is important to remind him of his close ties to the Republican culture of corruption. Steele accepted \$4,000 from the Jack Abramoff as head of the State Republican Party and has received donations from the former lobbyist's colleagues and Indian tribe clients for his Senate campaign. Karl Rove headlined a fundraiser for the Lt. Governor while under investigation for exposing an undercover CIA agent's identity.

Even though he may claim to want to attract Democrats to his campaign, Michael Steele's views on the important issues of the day can only be classified as extremely conservative. Steele is pro-life, opposing abortion even in cases of rape and incest. He has given a speech extolling the virtues of George Bush's Social Security privatization scheme and backs the president's policies on the Iraq war. Maryland's voters must know that, if elected, Michael Steele would be just another rubber stamp for the Bush administration.

Michael Steele is unfit for the Senate, his unfulfilled promises have hurt African-Americans and his values are not Maryland's values.

# MICHAEL STEELE PERSONAL OUTLINE

TYPE	DETAILS	CITE
<b>Date of Birth</b>	October 19, 1958 at Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, MD	[Steele campaign website; 1/11/06]
<b>Marriage (s)</b>	Married Andrea Derritt (born 5/2/1959)	[Steele campaign website; 1/11/06]  Nexis asset locator
<b>Children</b>	Michael: 18 years old, attends Georgetown Prep Drew: 15 years old, attends Our Lady of Victory	[Steele campaign website; 1/11/06]
<b>High School</b>	Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, DC; Graduated 1977	[Steele campaign website; 1/11/06]
<b>High School Yearbook</b>	Drama Club – 4 years; played Malcolm in <i>Macbeth</i> , played Applegate(Devil) in <i>Damn Yankees</i> National Honor Society – sophomore, junior, senior Crescent (school newspaper) – junior Glee Club – sophomore, junior, senior Student Council – freshman, junior, senior(President) Spanish National Honor Society – junior, senior Patriot (school yearbook) – sophomore, junior, senior Audio Visual Club – senior Archbishop’s Citizenship Award – senior Co-Man of the Year – senior	Archbishop Carroll High School Yearbook 1977
<b>College</b>	Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University -1981; J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center -1991; Spent 3 years in the Augustinian Friars Seminary at Villanova University in Pennsylvania preparing for the priesthood	[Steele campaign website; 1/11/06]  [Maryland Republican Party website; 1/11/06]
<b>Professional</b>	As a seminarian, he taught freshman world history and senior economics for one year at Malvern Prep School	[Maryland Republican Party website; 1/11/06]

	<p>in Malvern, Pennsylvania</p> <p>Associate-Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen &amp; Hamilton (DC) 1991-97 (specialized in financial investments for Wall Street underwriters; worked in Tokyo office on product liability litigation; London office on initial IPO's in the London Stock exchange)</p> <p>Appointed by President Bush in 2002 to the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy</p> <p>2005 Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellow in Public Leadership</p> <p>Member-Pennsylvania Bar Association (Not Maryland, DC, or Virginia)</p> <p>Smith Coopers LLP, Counsel, principally working with Black Entertainment Television</p>	<p>[Steele campaign website; 1/11/06]</p> <p>[<a href="#">Daily Record</a>, 10/4/02]</p> <p>[<a href="#">Daily Record</a>, 8/7/02]</p> <p>[<a href="#">WP</a>, 7/2/02]</p>
<b>Military</b>	N/A	[Steele campaign website; 1/11/06]
<b>Address &amp; Property Tax info</b>	<p>10637 Campus Way South Largo, MD 20774-1307 Prince George's County Assessor's Parcel Number: 13-1489004 Sale Price: \$90,180 (Full Amount) on 1/8/87</p>	<p>[<a href="#">WP</a>, 7/4/02]</p> <p>Nexis asset locator</p>
<b>Previous Addresses</b>	<p>10682 Campus Way South Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-1318 (301) 350-4457 TOWNHOUSE CENTER UNIT</p>	Nexis asset locator
<b>Personal Voting History</b>	Unavailable	PG County Government
<b>Campaign Contributions Made</b>	1996: Watts for Congress 96 – \$400	<a href="http://www.tray.com">www.tray.com</a>
<b>Public Licenses</b>	Unavailable	PG County Government

<b>Personal Financial Disclosure</b>	See Addendum I	
<b>Affiliations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Served under the Carter and Ford Administrations on the National Federal Election Reform Commission</li> <li>*Maryland Republican Central Committee Member (first African American County Republican Party Chairman)</li> <li>*Alternate Delegate to the 1996 Republican National Convention in San Diego</li> <li>*Delegate to the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia</li> <li>*Member-Executive Committee, Republican National Committee</li> <li>*Chairman-Republican Party state central committee</li> <li>*Chair-Maryland Governor's Commission on Minority Business Enterprise Reform</li> <li>*Chair-Maryland Governor's Commission on Quality Education</li> <li>*Oversees Governor's Office on Community Initiatives</li> <li>*State House Trust</li> <li>*East Baltimore Development Corporation</li> <li>*Co-Chair-Family Violence Council</li> <li>*Board of Directors-Hospice of the National Capital Area</li> <li>*Board of Trustees-Johns Hopkins University</li> <li>*Export-Import Bank Advisory Committee</li> <li>*NAACP- Prince George's County Chapter</li> <li>*Advocates for Maryland's 5 Historically Black Colleges and Universities</li> <li>*St. Mary's Catholic Church, Parishioner, Landover Hills, MD</li> </ul>	<p>[WP, 10/6/04]</p> <p>[Steele campaign website; 1/11/06]</p>

<b>Tax Liens</b>	See attachment	PG County Courts
<b>Civil Court Search</b>	Michael Steele has been sued for defaulting on his mortgage by two different organizations and for failing to pay his credit card bill. Please see attachment for case files.	Maryland Court Clerk
<b>Criminal</b>	N/A	Maryland Court Clerk
<b>Bankruptcy Court Search</b>	N/A	US Bankruptcy Court

# **STEELE BIOGRAPHICAL TIMELINE**

- 10/19/58: Born at Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, MD (Raised in Washington, DC)
- 1977: Graduated from Archbishop Carroll High School
- 1981: Received bachelor's degree in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University
- 1991: Received J.D. from Georgetown Law
- 1991- 94: Spent 3 years in the Augustinian Friars Seminary at Villanova University (approx.)
- 1991 - 97: Associate for Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton Law Offices
- 1995 - 99: Served on Archdiocese of Washington Pastoral Council
- 1997 - 98: Counsel for the Mills Corp., Arlington, VA
- 1999: Founded the Steele Group consulting firm
- 1995 - 00: Served as Chair of Prince George's County Republican Party
- 1995: 1995 Maryland State Republican Man of the Year
- 1996: Led effort against referendum to repeal county property tax cap
- 1996: Alternate Delegate-Republican National Convention in San Diego
- 12/9/2000: Elected chairman of Maryland Republican Party
- 2000: Delegate-Republican National Convention in Philadelphia
- 2001: Served on NAACP Blue Ribbon Panel on Election Reform
- 2002: Appointed by President Bush to the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy
- 2002: Counsel for Smith Coopers LLP principally working with Black Entertainment Television
- 11/2002: First African-American ever elected to statewide office in Maryland. (Lt. Gov.)
- 2005: 2005 Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellow in Public Leadership
- 2005: Received Bethune-DuBois Institute 2005 Award
- 10/25/2005: Announced candidacy for U. S. Senate

# MICHAEL STEELE

## VULNERABILITIES

- 11. Ties to President Bush.** If elected to the Senate, Michael Steele would become just one more rubber stamp for the Bush Administration's policies. Steele has supported Bush on No Child Left Behind, law enforcement cuts and the disastrous prescription drug reform bill that gave away billions to drug companies while making it harder for senior citizens to buy their medications. In a speech to Republicans Abroad in Spain, he endorsed the President's Social Security privatization scheme. Steele has constantly supported Bush on the Iraq War, ignoring the increasing contradictions between the facts on the ground and the president's rosy spin. Finally, both George Bush and Karl Rove have hosted campaign fundraisers for Michael Steele, further cementing his ties to the current administration.
- 10. While Steele's Away...** Michael Steele has spent 128 days outside of Maryland since his inauguration, over 11% of his time in office; it is important to take note of some significant events that were happening in the state while he was gone. While speaking in Madrid for Republicans Abroad, two prisoners on death row in Maryland were claiming racial bias in their sentencing. During a trip to Vienna, the state approved "Choose Life" license plates for an anti-abortion group. These examples clearly show that Michael Steele is more concerned with raising his own profile in the Republican Party than in helping to govern the state of Maryland.
- 9. Ehrlich Golf Club Fundraiser.** Robert Ehrlich held a private fundraiser at the Elkridge Golf Club, an institution that has never admitted a minority member in its 127 year history. Instead of calling for the club to change its admissions policies, Michael Steele said: "I don't know that much about the club, the membership, nor do I care, quite frankly, because I don't play golf." Only after intense criticism, the Lt. Governor called on the club to change its stance on admission.
- 8. Steele's Travel.** Michael Steele has spent over 11% of his time in office outside the state of Maryland on various political trips. Some of the travel has been for state business to sponsor international economic development but he has failed even in this area. Steele's greatest accomplishment from a trip to Africa was a commitment from Ghana Airways to schedule more direct flights into BWI; unfortunately, the airline's planes were grounded by federal authorities less than two months after the deal was announced. Not only has Steele spent time in exotic locations, he actually has charged Maryland's taxpayers for his security costs on personal trips. The state has spent over \$49,000 to send bodyguards with the Lt. Governor on personal fundraising trips around the country.
- 7. Steele's Personal Finances.** Michael Steele's financial history is littered with problems. He has been threatened with home foreclosure twice after failing to keep up with his mortgage payments and sued after an \$11,000 credit card bill went unpaid. Also, Steele started a consulting firm, The Steele Group, that never turned a profit.
- 6. Foot in Mouth.** Steele has made several misstatements while in office. In front of the Baltimore Jewish Council, Steele has compared doctors doing stem cell research to Nazis

performing human experiments. He defended Trent Lott after the Senator claimed that the United States would have been a better place if Strom Thurmond had been elected president in 1948 on a platform calling for racial segregation; the Lt. Governor said: “I know Senator Lott personally and understand him to be compassionate and a tolerant statesman.”

- 5. Death Penalty Report.** When Michael Steele took office he vowed to examine and report on accusations of racism in the application of the death penalty in Maryland. His promise, as a proclaimed opponent of the death penalty, became all the more important after Robert Ehrlich decided to lift the ban on state-sponsored executions. However, three years and two executions later, Michael Steele has yet to issue his report on the death penalty, betraying the trust placed in him by an African-American community that believes that racism exists in Maryland’s criminal system.
- 4. Abortion Position.** Michael Steele’s position on abortion is at the extreme end of the anti-choice movement. He opposes abortion in all cases, even when dealing with rape and incest, because he fears that any exceptions will start a trend toward accepting abortion.
- 3. Greater Baltimore Urban League Pay-to-Play.** The Monumental Life Insurance Company settled a lawsuit with Maryland over racially biased pricing, giving the state \$250,000. Unlike other states that gave the money to minority scholarship programs, Michael Steele directed the money to four different organizations, including the Greater Baltimore Urban League. Less than one day after sending a letter to the GBUL notifying them of a \$100,000 windfall and clearly identifying the Lt. Governor as the cause of the award; Steele received \$10,261 in donations from members of its board of directors.
- 2. Wrong for African Americans.** In addition to the problems with the death penalty report and Ehrlich’s golf club fundraiser detailed above, Michael Steele has many other issues to face before he can successfully court African American votes. Steele has said that minority businesses should not receive any preferential treatment in receiving state contracts and has obstructed efforts to monitor the state’s compliance with the awarding of contracts to minorities. He has claimed that affirmative action should not be based on race, despite admitting that he benefited from it earlier in life. Finally, the Lt. Governor defended Trent Lott after the Senator claimed that the United States would be better off if Strom Thurmond had been elected president on a platform of segregation, saying: “I know Senator Lott personally and understand him to be compassionate and a tolerant statesman.”
- 1. Lt. Governor’s Lack of Duties.** As Michael Steele has said, if there’s one thing he has a lot of it’s time: “I have time. That’s the one thing a lieutenant governor has, is time.” According to the Maryland Constitution, the Lt. Governor’s office has no responsibilities other than those bestowed on it by the Governor. Over four years, Steele has had no significant achievements to call his own and has actually been accused of taking credit for the work of others. Robert Ehrlich said it best during the 2002 campaign when he claimed that the Kathleen Townsend was unfit to become governor because “you’ve never been elected to anything at any time on your own.”

# MICHAEL STEELE

## TOP FIVE QUOTES

7. Michael Steele has repeatedly called parents selfish and lazy, including a meeting at Mill Creek Middle School where he said: “Parents need to wake up and stop being selfish” and “I think parents have gotten lazy when it comes to educating their children.” [[Maryland Gazette](#), 4/29/05]
6. In an interview, Michael Steele claimed that, “There is a legitimate business purpose to outsourcing and we are looking at making government better at being government, more efficient at what it's doing.” [[India Abroad](#), 9/12/03]
5. As a guest on *Real Time with Bill Maher* during a discussion about tax cuts for the wealthy, Steele asked repeatedly, “Who are the rich?” Before being cut off, Steele gave an example of people he would not consider rich: “If you take a man and a woman living in Middle America,” Steele said, “each making \$150,000 a year with a combined household income of \$300,000.” [Real Time with Bill Maher, 4/29/05]
4. Michael Steele compared the Democratic Party to slaveholders: “The Democrats were slaveholders, they were the ones who wanted to keep blacks in slavery. So the irony is that here we are today beholden to our slave masters, in effect.” [[Washington Post](#), 5/10/01]
3. Even though his consulting business never turned a profit, Michael Steele has claimed that he knows that it's like to meet a bottom line. “With me, they're not going to be getting someone who does not understand what it's like to start a business and meet a bottom line.” [Pamela on Politics Interview, posted 1/17/06, <http://www.bet.com/News/manofsteele.htm??Referrer={BABDE58A-3D6D-4CCC-8059-C6089062B451}>]
2. While speaking to the Baltimore Jewish Council, Michael Steele compared doctors conducting stem cell research to Nazis performing human experiments during the Holocaust: “You of all folks know what happens when people decide to experiment on human beings, when they want to take your life and use it as a tool.” [[Associated Press](#), 2/10/06]
1. Michael Steele: “I consider myself a radical Republican.” [[Maryland Gazette](#), 10/5/01]

**DOUBLE BONUS:** Michael Steele has made it very clear that the Lt. Governor has little to no responsibilities, as seen in these two quotes. While doing a tour of Maryland cities, Michael Steele said: “I have time. That's the one thing a lieutenant governor has, is time.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 5/17/05] And, in an interview with *Johns Hopkins Magazine*, Steele proclaimed: “This office has never been a stepping stone to anything. No lieutenant governor has ever gone on to be governor. Most tend to fade into obscurity.” [*Johns Hopkins Magazine*, 4/05]

# TOP TEN HEADLINES

## 10. **Ties to Bush Administration**

**Steele Takes High-Profile Roles in Bush Campaign** [[Associated Press](#), 7/20/04]

**Karl Rove to Headline Fundraiser for Maryland Lt. Gov. Steele** [[Associated Press](#), 7/8/05]

**Bush Helps Steele Raise \$500,000** [[Baltimore Sun](#), 12/1/05]

**Card to Headline Steele Fundraiser in New York** [[Associated Press](#), 3/5/06]

**Cheney to Host Fundraiser for Steele Senate Race** [[Associated Press](#), 3/22/06]

## 9. **Donations Scrutinized; Steele Contributors Tied to Grant Recipients, Data Show** [[Baltimore Sun](#), 3/21/06]

## 8. **Steele Employs Strategy of Silence; Comments to Jewish Council and General Policy of Staying Mum Lead Critics to Wonder if He's Ready for Senate** [[Baltimore Sun](#), 2/12/06]

## 7. **Lt. Gov. Candidate Michael Steele Thousands of Dollars in Debt** [[Associated Press](#), 7/4/02]

## 6. **Steele Attends Anti-Abortion Rally** [[Baltimore Sun](#), 3/4/03]

## 5. **Globe-Trotter Steele Heads to Vienna for Conference on Racism** [[Washington Post](#), 9/4/03]

## 4. **Steele Campaign Seen in Disarray; Communications Chief Latest to Quit** [[Baltimore Sun](#), 2/18/06]

## 3. **Public Shoulders Security Costs for Steele's Political Travels** [[Washington Post](#), 2/26/06]

## 2. **Steele's Words at Meeting Faulted; To Jewish Leaders, He Likens Stem Cell Study to Holocaust** [[Baltimore Sun](#), 2/10/06]

## 1. **Death Penalty Headlines**

**Steele Urged to Create Panel on Death Penalty; Hinting Issue is Stalled, Lawmakers Write Letter** [[Baltimore Sun](#), 6/26/03]

**Steele's Vow to Review Death Penalty Not Yet Fulfilled** [[Associated Press](#), 12/1/03]

**Steele is Silent on Death Penalty as Md. Execution Looms** [[Washington Post](#), 6/15/04]

**Steele Still Working on Racial Bias Report on Death Penalty** [[AP](#), 11/6/05]

**Call for Stay of Execution Also Targets Steele; Activists Want Promised Study** [[Washington Post](#), 12/4/05]

**Waiting for Mr. Steele's Life-and-Death Memo** [[Baltimore Sun](#), 12/4/05]

# STEELE ON THE ISSUES ...

<b>ABORTION</b>	Steele is opposed to abortion even in cases of rape or incest.
<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	Steele supports a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, even though he said that states should decide the issue only 5 months before.
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Michael Steele has called for education to be divided by sex in order to foster competition. His education commission recommended using the ABCTE program, which certifies teachers using only an online test and does not include classroom training. Steele's commission also recommended against using school vouchers in Maryland but as state GOP chair, he talked about using the voucher issue to attract black people to the Republican party.
<b>GAMING</b>	Steele has stated that in order to fully fund education in Maryland, the state must expand its legalized gambling program. He also claims that addictions to gambling are behavioral issues and "you wanna stop – you stop."
<b>HEALTH CARE</b>	Steele supported President Bush's prescription drug plan and favored vetoing the so-called Wal-Mart bill that required companies of a certain size to provide their employees with health care.
<b>LABOR</b>	According to the MDP, Michael Steele opposed a \$1 increase in the state's minimum wage. He claimed that "there is a legitimate business purpose to outsourcing.
<b>SENIORS</b>	Steele gave an address endorsing President Bush's Social Security privatization plan.
<b>STEM CELL</b>	Steele originally opposed stem cell research but, after comparing doctors in this new science to Nazis, he reversed his position and now supports embryonic stem cell research.
<b>TAXES</b>	Led 1996 referendum campaign to preserve county property tax.

# MICHAEL STEELE: A LEGACY OF FAILURE

*Michael Steele has had numerous opportunities over the past decade to demonstrate his leadership abilities to the people of Maryland, but has failed every time. Steele has never won an election on his own merits, losing the 1998 state comptroller primary before joining Robert Ehrlich's ticket in 2002. In the private sector, he has been threatened twice with home foreclosure, been sued for failure to pay a credit card debt and ran a consulting business that was never profitable. As the Republican PG County chair, Steele was unable to find a full field of candidates and saw the number of registered Republicans in his county diminish while every other county's number increased. When he became Lt. Governor in 2002, Michael Steele took over a position with no responsibilities and has lived up to the job description, even going so far as to tell people: "I have time." Steele was reduced to taking credit for the work of others for a grant to prevent vehicle theft while he failed to produce reports on the death penalty promised to his constituents shortly after being elected.*

## SUMMARY

- **Steele: No Responsibilities.** “[Steele is] in an office that has virtually no official responsibilities.”
- **Steele Spent 128 Days Away from MD.** “Michael S. Steele has spent more than 128 days traveling outside of Maryland since taking office in 2003.”
- **Steele Billed MD Over \$49,000 for Political Trips.** “Michael Steele took more than 20 political trips in the past year, billing Maryland taxpayers each time for his security protection to places as far away as Spain... Maryland taxpayers are responsible for his executive protection expenses totaling more than \$49,000.”
- **Steele Promised Death Penalty Report in 2002; Still Unfinished.** “Michael Steele said he is still working on a formal report on the death penalty... [Steele] made a campaign promise nearly three years ago to address racial bias in the state's use of capital punishment.”
- **Confrontation with Columnist.** A Baltimore Sun columnist published a story where he replayed a conversation he had with Michael Steele on multiculturalism that portrayed the Lt. Governor badly. After denying that the conversation happened, Steele finally relented and admitted that the columnist's account was true.
- **Steele's Personal Finance Problems.** Michael Steele has been threatened twice with foreclosure on his home, been sued for failing to pay a credit card debt over \$11,000 and ran a consulting business that never turned a profit.
- **Steele Lost 1998 Republican Primary for Comptroller.** Michael Steele received the endorsement of the Republican gubernatorial candidate and was the leading fundraiser, but finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the race.

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DUTIES

*In some states, the second in command has numerous responsibilities and is not merely a showpiece for the governor; that is not the case in Maryland. Michael Steele said it best: "I have time." Over four years as Lt. Governor, Steele has no significant accomplishments to call his own and has been forced to take credit for program funding obtained by others. An opponent of the death penalty, he vowed to produce a report on supposed racial bias in its application, but, four years later, the public is still waiting while Gov. Ehrlich allows prisoners to be executed. Steele also promised to help reform the juvenile justice system, but Ehrlich vetoed reforms that children's advocates said would hinder the reform effort. Robert Ehrlich said it best during a 2002 debate when he called his opponent unprepared because she had served as the Lt. Governor in the previous administration and had no responsibilities.*

### Nothing To Do

*According to Maryland's Constitution, the Lt. Governor has absolutely no responsibilities. Michael Steele has admitted that he has nothing to do and has lots of free time. Maryland deserves better than a man who accomplishes only what is required of him and does nothing more.*

**MD Constitution on Lt. Governor's Duties:** "There shall be a Lieutenant Governor, who shall have only the duties delegated to him by the Governor." [Constitution of Maryland, Article II Section 1A]

**Steele: I Have No Responsibilities.** The following is a transcript from a CSPAN interview with Steele: "LAMB: What are the responsibilities of a lieutenant governor in the State of Maryland?"

STEELE: Well, none. You serve at the pleasure of the governor. So, if your governor likes you, you get to work. If he doesn't, you just sit in your car all day long.

LAMB: Do you – I mean, you have no statutory responsibilities.

STEELE: No statutory responsibilities. I don't oversee the senate. I don't manage any state agency, as some lieutenant governors do."

[CSPAN Q&A, Host Brian Lamb, 2/27/05; the video for this interview is available here: <http://www.q-and-a.org/Program/index.asp?ProgramID=1012>]

**Steele: I Have Lots of Free Time.** The Baltimore Sun reported in May 2005 that Michael Steele said: "I have time. That's the one thing a lieutenant governor has, is time." [Baltimore Sun, 5/17/05]

**Steele's Lack of Responsibilities.** The Washington Post reported in February 2006 that, "[Steele is] in an office that has virtually no official responsibilities." [Washington Post, 2/26/06]

**Steele: Administration's Accomplishments Don't Include My Tasks.** The Cumberland Times-News reported in May 2004 that, "In his speech at the dinner, [Steele] said the past 15 months have been a learning process. Accomplishments of the current administration include reducing the state work force by 5 percent, hiring a grant director to coordinate with the federal government, passage of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative, establishing a State Agency of Disabilities and sustaining \$520 million in the Rainy Day Fund, which helps the state's credit." [Cumberland Times-News, 5/8/04]

**Steele: Lieutenant Governors "Fade Into Obscurity."** Michael Steele was quoted in Johns Hopkins Magazine saying, "This office has never been a stepping stone to anything. No lieutenant governor has ever gone on to be governor. Most tend to fade into obscurity." [Johns Hopkins Magazine, 4/05]

**Summary of Steele's Responsibilities.** In February 2006, the Washington Post reported that, "Steele's portfolio has included work on an education commission and on efforts to assist faith-based organizations and help minority-owned businesses secure more state contracts." [Washington Post, 2/26/06]

### **Robert Ehrlich on Lt. Governors**

*In 2002, Robert Ehrlich believed that his opponent, the Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, did not have the experience to run for Governor because she had never been elected to anything on her own. He accused her of never having to vote on any of the important issues in the country, including abortion and the budget. Interestingly, Michael Steele has never had to do any of these things either.*

**Ehrlich Attacked 2002 Opponent for Never Winning on Her Own.** The Washington Post reported in September 2002 that, "Ehrlich (R) cast Townsend as an ineffective leader who has never won election on her own... 'Lieutenant Governor, with all due respect, ma'am, you've never been elected to anything at any time on your own,' Ehrlich said. 'This is serious business. You've never voted on war or abortion or tort reform or the budget or anything.'" [Washington Post, 9/27/02]

### **Campaigning More Important than Duties?**

*Apparently, campaigning is more important than the few legislative duties he has, as Steele skipped a meeting with the legislative black caucus in order to appear at a campaign event.*

**Steele Skipped Meeting with Legislative Black Caucus to Campaign.** Fox News reported in October 2005 that, "Michael Steele skipped an appearance at a Legislative Black Caucus event Friday to stump on the Eastern Shore." [Fox News, 10/30/05; <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,173951,00.html>]

- **Chairwoman Expected Steele to Show Up.** Fox News reported in October 2005 that, "The black caucus chairwoman for the weekend's events said she expected Steele to hold to the commitment he made. 'These are people from all over the state,' said Sen. Verna Jones, D-Baltimore, not just those from the Eastern Shore." [Fox News, 10/30/05; <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,173951,00.html>]

### **Death Penalty**

*Throughout the United States there are questions about potential racism in the application of the death penalty. As an opponent of state sponsored executions, Michael Steele pledged to create a task force to find a way to fix the capital punishment system and ensure that racial bias played no part in the application of the death penalty. As of February 2006, Steele had yet to produce the promised report on the death penalty nearly three years after promising to do so. The issue took on even greater significance after Gov. Ehrlich lifted the death penalty moratorium and Maryland was once again executing people, even as the Lt. Governor refused to comment on the executions. Michael Steele pledged to examine racism in the state's use of the death penalty but, three years and two executions later, he has failed to produce anything for his constituents.*

*Michael Steele's broken promises on the death penalty are covered more extensively in the "Wrong for African-Americans" section of the research book.*

**2002: Steele Pledged to Form Task Force on Death Penalty.** The Associated Press reported in December 2003 that, "Michael Steele took office in January as the first black person elected statewide in

Maryland, he vowed to set up a task force to find a way to fix the capital punishment system.”  
[[Associated Press](#), 12/1/03]

**2005: Still No Report.** In November 2005, the [Associated Press](#) reported that, “Michael Steele said he is still working on a formal report on the death penalty. Steele, a Republican running for U.S. Senate, made a campaign promise nearly three years ago to address racial bias in the state's use of capital punishment.”  
[[Associated Press](#), 11/6/05]

## Juvenile Justice System

*Michael Steele promised to “totally revamp” the juvenile justice system but, instead of championing legislation designed to reform the system, the Ehrlich administration vetoed legislation accomplishing those goals. Children’s advocates from around the state criticized the Ehrlich administration for using the promise of reform as a campaign pledge but failing to following through on their vows.*

**Steele Promised to Revamp Juvenile Justice System.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in January 2003 that, “[Steele] said the administration would ‘totally revamp’ the state's juvenile justice system. ‘I am tired of 15-, 13-year-old black males seeing their future in a jail cell or a graveyard. We cannot afford to lose another generation of black men. It will not happen on my watch,’ Steele said.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 1/4/03]

**Juvenile Justice Reform Vetoed by Ehrlich.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in May 2005 that, “Advocates for children sharply criticized Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. yesterday for vetoing a pair of bills they say are important to reforming Maryland's long-troubled juvenile justice system and accused him of exploiting the issue for purely political reasons. The bills, which passed both houses of the General Assembly by wide margins in the past session, sought to expand and strengthen outside scrutiny of state-run programs for juvenile offenders.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 5/21/05]

- **Children’s Advocates Criticized Veto.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in May 2005 that, “Linda Heisner, deputy director of Advocates for Children and Youth, said the vetoes will hamper reform efforts. ‘This is not moving forwards; this is moving backward,’ she said. ‘It’s a shame.’” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 5/21/05]
- “Stacey Gurian-Sherman of the advocacy group JJ FAIR said Ehrlich's actions suggest he was never serious about his campaign pledge to reform the state's juvenile justice system. ‘By vetoing these bills, he is signaling that this issue was nothing more than a political ploy to get himself elected,’ she said.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 5/21/05]
- “Cameron E. Miles, the outreach director for the Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition, also said the vetoes raise questions about Ehrlich's commitment to reforming the system. ‘All he's done so far is change the name of the department,’ he said.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 5/21/05]

**Independent Report Criticized Juvenile Justice Center.** The [Associated Press](#) reported in June 2005 that, “[The Office of the Independent Monitor] issued a blistering report on dangerous understaffing at the state-run Baltimore Juvenile Justice Center on North Gay Street. The report described how public defense lawyers and clergy were afraid to enter the \$45 million center, which had been open for less than a year.”  
[[Associated Press](#), 6/15/05]

## Trip to Ghana

*As Lt. Governor, Michael Steele has used taxpayer money to fund economic development trips to exotic locales that his constituents can only dream about, costing them tens of thousands of dollars while delivering little in new economic growth. According to the governor's office, Michael Steele's biggest accomplishment on a trip to Africa was securing Ghana Airways' assurances of increased flights that would generate \$16 million for Maryland. However, less than six weeks after returning from a trip that cost \$150,000, Ghana Airways' flights were grounded by the FAA. Currently, Ghana Airways has gone bankrupt and been replaced by a different airline, which does not operate any flights out of BWI.*

**Steele Accomplishments From Africa Trip.** According to a press release from the Governor's office, "Lt. Governor Steele and his team helped increase international air service from Baltimore Washington International Airport to West Africa, which will generate additional revenue for the State; initiated discussions to relocate Ghana Airways' U.S. headquarters from New York to Maryland; and helped finalize plans to establish educational programs between the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and two Ghanaian universities." [Steele Press Release, 6/28/04]

**Ghana Airways Deal Was Biggest Accomplishment of Africa Trip.** The Baltimore Sun reported in August 2004 that, "The big accomplishment of his visit? According to the governor's office, Steele secured a promise from Ghana Airways to 'increase direct international air service' from BWI to West Africa, including a flight that was to be added this summer and generate an additional \$16 million for Maryland's economy." [Baltimore Sun, 8/2/04]

- **Steele's Trip to Africa Cost Nearly \$150,000.** in June 2004, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "The cost of the trip to taxpayers is \$148,338." [Baltimore Sun, 6/15/04]
- **Ghana Airways Flights Grounded.** The Baltimore Sun reported in August 2004 that, "Michael S. Steele must have been as surprised as anyone to hear last week that Ghana Airways had stranded hundreds of passengers at Baltimore-Washington International Airport after federal officials grounded its planes... As of the end of last week, it wasn't clear when - or if - Ghana Airways would resume flying." [Baltimore Sun, 8/2/04]
- **Ghana Airways Now Defunct.** Ghana Airways no longer exists, it has since been replaced by Ghana International Airlines. Neither airline operates flights out of BWI Airport. [BWI Airport website, accessed 3/22/06]

## **Vehicle Theft Prevention Council**

*Michael Steele claims on his website that he works with the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council but there is no record that he has accomplished anything in that time, other than taking credit for the work of others.*

**Steele Works with MD Theft Prevention Council.** According to Michael Steele's website, "Lt. Governor Steele works with state police and The Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council to reduce crime and create safer neighborhoods." [<http://www.gov.state.md.us/ltgovernorbio.html>]

**Steele Took Undeserved Credit for Auto Grant.** In May 2005, The Gazette reported that, "Michael Steele (R) is expected to hand the check [for a \$700,000 auto theft prevention grant] to the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council later today. But some have questioned Steele's level of involvement in pulling in the funding. 'If anyone should receive the credit, I think it's Del. Derek Davis,' said Sen. Ulysses Currie (D-Dist. 25) of Forestville. 'The lieutenant governor had very little to do with the money

coming to the county.’ Currie, who signed off on the release of the money from the state's insurance fund, said Steele was further down the totem pole in the process.” [[The Gazette \(MD\)](#), 5/17/05]

## **Michael Olesker**

*In May 2004, [Baltimore Sun](#) columnist Michael Olesker wrote about a conversation he had with Lt. Governor Michael Steele outside of Pimlico race track about Governor Ehrlich’s statement that multiculturalism doesn’t exist. Six months later, the governor’s office claimed that the conversation never took place and accused the columnist of fabricating quotes. However, only days after spokespeople claimed the event never took place, they were forced to reverse themselves and admit that it did happen.*

**Original Michael Olesker Column.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) published a column by Michael Olesker in May 2004: “Outside Pimlico Race Course yesterday, there was Michael Steele, the lieutenant governor of Maryland. He was talking with a couple of horse breeders, Yu Wang and Richard Wang. This looked dangerous, and possibly un-American, as perceived by Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. The Wang brothers are Chinese. Steele is an African-American. ‘This looks like multiculturalism to me,’ I said. ‘Ha-ha-ha,’ said Steele. ‘Ha-ha-ha-ha.’ He laughed loudly, and kept on laughing. Everybody stood there and waited for him to stop the laughing, but Steele kept going... ‘So, what's your question?’ Steele said when he finally stopped laughing. ‘Are you comfortable,’ he was asked, ‘with the governor's remarks about multiculturalism?’ ‘I'm comfortable,’ Steele sighed, ‘with my governor.’ ‘That's your best shot?’ But Steele turned and walked away.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), Michael Olesker Column, 5/14/04]

**Steele Claimed Not to Remember Talking with [Baltimore Sun](#) Columnist.** In November 2004, the [Baltimore Sun](#) reported that, “The governor's office said it accuses only Olesker of making up quotes. [Ehrlich Spokeswoman Shareese] DeLeaver referred to a May 14 column by Olesker that included quotes from Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele on multiculturalism. Steele does not recall speaking to Olesker, DeLeaver said.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 11/23/04]

- **Olesker Response to Steele.** In November 2004, the [Baltimore Sun](#) reported that, “Olesker says he spoke with Steele outside Pimlico Race Course. ‘I remember vividly, he was standing just outside the main entrance to Pimlico racetrack,’ Olesker said yesterday. ‘They are trying to deny having conversations with me that absolutely occurred and that I would never in a million years make up.’” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 11/23/04]
- **Olesker Response to Steele.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) published a column by Michael Olesker in November 2004: “Lt. Gov. Michael Steele says he does not recall talking to me in May, outside Pimlico Race Course, when I quoted him in the next day's column. Isn't that convenient? It's taken Steele six months to realize he has retroactive amnesia.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), Michael Olesker Column, 11/24/04]

**Steele Admitted to Talking with [Baltimore Sun](#) Columnist.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in November 2004 that, “The Ehrlich administration acknowledged yesterday that Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele had a conversation with Sun columnist Michael Olesker at Pimlico Race Course in May -- a reversal after the administration had been saying for several days that no such conversation occurred... Shareese N. DeLeaver, an Ehrlich spokeswoman, said Steele now acknowledges saying, ‘I'm comfortable with my governor,’ as Olesker wrote. But she said Steele did not laugh and did not say, ‘So, what's your question?’ after Olesker had made an observation about multiculturalism.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 11/25/04]

- **Admission by Steele Contradicts Previous Administration Statements.** The Baltimore Sun reported in November 2004 that, “This [admission] contradicts previous statements by the governor's staff. In an interview Monday, DeLeaver said, ‘The lieutenant governor said he never spoke with Olesker.’ And Friday, another Ehrlich spokesman, Greg Massoni, said of Olesker, ‘He claims he spoke to the lieutenant governor at the event. He did not speak to him.’ Steele was at Pimlico on May 13 with his deputy chief of staff, Zachary McDaniels, and the governor's communications director, Paul E. Schurick. Both aides now recall that Olesker approached Steele outside the racetrack, DeLeaver said.” [Baltimore Sun, 11/25/04]

## Legislative Failures

**Steele Failed to Get Business Reform Bills Through the Legislature.** The Daily Record reported in April 2004 that, “Michael S. Steele began this legislative session with one agenda--overhaul Maryland's minority business enterprise reform program...With less than a week remaining in session, Steele's two bills were stalled in the House Health and Government Operations Committee.” [Daily Record, 4/16/04]

**Steele Didn't Step Up On Business Issues.** The Washington Times reported in February 2005 that, “[Delegate Curt Anderson, Baltimore Democrat] agreed with [Sen. Delores Kelley, D-Baltimore County] that Steele has little to show for more than two years as lieutenant governor. When Comptroller William Donald Schaefer and Mr. Ehrlich recently talked about the need to end the state's minority business enterprise program, ‘[Mr. Steele] should have said something,’ Mr. Anderson said.” [Washington Times, 2/21/05]

**Steele's Comments Derailed Gambling Bill.** The Washington Times reported in April 2005 that, “Mr. Steele could not help persuade the General Assembly to pass slot machine legislation, the cornerstone of the administration's plan to spend more on public education and generate more state revenue. Members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus rejected the legislation, in part because Mr. Steele told The Washington Times recently that the administration would not guarantee black ownership of slots emporiums.” [Washington Times, 4/24/05]

## LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN GOP

*Michael Steele has held numerous positions in the Maryland Republican Party, ascending from PG County Chair in 1995 to state chair by 2000. Along the way, he has had a number of high-profile failures ranging from failing to find candidates to actually seeing the number of registered Republicans decline in his county. Steele was a failure as a leader in the GOP, why does he think things would be different in the Senate?*

**1998: Steele Failed to Field Candidates in PG County.** In June 1998, the Washington Post reported that, “Steele added that he does not expect the Republicans to have a candidate to challenge [Prince George's County Executive Wayne K. Curry] in the November election.” [Washington Post, 6/25/98]

**1998: Steele Had No Candidate to Oppose State's Attorney.** The Washington Post reported in June 1998 that, “No other Democratic or Republican candidate has yet filed to challenge [Prince George's County State's Attorney Jack B. Johnson (D)], and Johnson probably will be able to use the election to lay the groundwork for an expected campaign in four years for county executive. ‘It breaks my heart to have that happen. We just don't have the farm team to readily develop [candidates] to challenge these guys,’ said Michael Steele, county Republican chairman.” [Washington Post, 6/25/98]

**1998: Steele Dropped Out of Race for State GOP Chair.** The Associated Press reported in December 1998 that, “Michael Steele, one of Maryland's most prominent black Republicans, has abandoned his bid to become chairman of the state Republican Party... He made his decision Monday night after realizing he could not round up the votes needed to win.” [Associated Press, 12/1/98]

**Registered Republicans In Prince George County Declined Under Steele.** The Baltimore Sun reported in October 2000 that, “[Christopher] West, meanwhile, has made sure that GOP activists know about Steele's record as chairman of the Prince George's County Republican central committee. In a letter to the faithful, West pointed out that the number of registered Republicans in the heavily Democratic county has dropped from 59,000 to 48,300 in the last six years. ‘Prince George's County sticks out like a sore thumb because in the other counties, Republican registrations are on the upswing,’ he writes.” [Baltimore Sun, 10/3/00]

- **Steele: Republicans Declined Because Whites Moved Out.** The Baltimore Sun reported in October 2000 that, “Steele says there's a simple explanation for the drop in Republican registrations in Prince George's in the last decade. ‘The bottom line is, white Republicans moved out of Prince George's County and black Democrats moved in,’ says Steele.” [Baltimore Sun, 10/3/00]

**Steele: Previous Officials Responsible for Problems.** In July 2001, the Washington Post reported that, “Steele said [Prince George's County Executive Wayne K. Curry] remains responsible for what has occurred since he took office. ‘If it predates you and it's still an issue when you leave office, then nothing was done... Whatever occurs on your watch, you have to take ownership of it.’” [Washington Post, 7/8/01]

**2002: Steele Found No Candidate for State's Attorney General.** The Associated Press reported in June 2002 that, “State Republican Chairman Michael Steele said he is concerned that no prominent Republicans have stepped up to run for attorney general. ‘It would be nice to have someone running against Mr. Curran,’ Steele said. ‘We don't have that candidate unfortunately.’” [Associated Press, 6/12/02]

## 1998 CAMPAIGNS

*In 1998, Michael Steele was considered and rejected to be the running mate for the eventual Republican gubernatorial candidate, Ellen Sauerbrey. After losing this chance, Steele decided to run for the state comptroller's office even though he had endorsed another Republican only hours before. Steele was the frontrunner for the GOP nomination because of an endorsement from Sauerbrey and the fact that he was the top fundraiser among the candidates. However, Michael Steele finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Republican primary, behind two opponents without the money or endorsements of his campaign.*

**Steele Was Rejected as Running Mate for Republican Nominee.** The Baltimore Sun reported in June 1998 that, “After being rejected as Republican Ellen R. Sauerbrey's running mate, Michael Steele will be on the team after all. Sauerbrey has picked Steele... to be yet another co-chair of her campaign for governor.” [Baltimore Sun, 6/30/98]

**Steele Endorsed for Comptroller by GOP Gubernatorial Nominee.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 1998 that, “Michael S. Steele, chairman of the Prince George's County Republican Party, emerged from the pack seeking the GOP nomination for comptroller yesterday with the enthusiastic endorsement of gubernatorial front-runner Ellen R. Sauerbrey.” [Baltimore Sun, 7/15/98]

**Steele Endorsed Candidate Before Filing to Run Mere Hours Later.** In August 1998, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “Late in the evening of Monday, July 6, hours after publicly expressing support for another candidate, Steele walked into the state Administrative Board of Election Laws minutes before the deadline and filed to run for the Republican nomination.” [Baltimore Sun, 8/9/98]

**Steele Was Leading Fundraiser Among Republicans.** In September 1998, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “The leading fund-raiser among Republicans running for comptroller was Prince George's County attorney Michael Steele.” [Baltimore Sun, 9/5/98]

**Steele Was “Presumed Frontrunner.”** The Baltimore Sun reported in September 1998 that, “Epstein and Mayberry overcame Michael Steele, head of the Prince George's County Republican Party and the presumed front-runner after being recruited to run by GOP gubernatorial nominee Ellen R. Sauerbrey.” [Baltimore Sun, 9/24/98]

**Steele Came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in Republican Primary.**

Candidate	Votes
Larry Epstein	42,488
Timothy Mayberry	42,480
Michael Steele	37,726

[Maryland State Board of Elections]

## SENATE CAMPAIGN

*After two high profile resignations from Michael Steele's campaign, people are left wondering who exactly is running the show for the Republicans. According to newspaper accounts, there is an internal struggle between Washington advisers and Steele's longtime workers. Graham Shafer, an aide who has ties to the Lt. Governor going back over ten years, resigned as campaign manager after finding his vision for the campaign at odds with Steele's new consultants. Once again, Michael Steele has failed as a leader as his campaign threatens to break apart before it even gets off the ground.*

**Campaign Manager Resigned.** The Washington Post reported in February 2006 that, “The man hired to run Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele's campaign for U.S. Senate has resigned... Campaign manager Graham M. Shafer made a quiet exit earlier this month, citing family obligations.” [Washington Post, 2/16/06]

**Friction on Steele Campaign.** The Washington Post reported in February 2006 that, “[Campaign manager Graham Shafer's] departure highlighted a growing tug within the Steele campaign between the candidate's Washington advisers and his coterie of longtime loyalists from Maryland.” [Washington Post, 2/16/06]

**Communications Director Resigned.** The Washington Post reported in February 2006 that, “[Michael Steele] lost his communications director, Leonardo Alcivar, who resigned.” [Washington Post, 2/18/06]

**Steele Campaign in “Disarray.”** The Washington Post reported in February 2006 that, “The public signs of disarray have exposed what campaign insiders confirmed yesterday are even deeper internal problems, stemming from a rift between Steele's longtime loyalists and the professional consultants who trooped to Annapolis to run his first big-league campaign. In interviews this week, sources familiar with

the inner workings of Steele's campaign described an increasingly caustic dispute that left a number of the candidate's professional advisers cut off from Steele and his closest aides.” [[Washington Post](#), 2/18/06]

**National Consultants & Steele Supporters Fighting for Control of Campaign.** The [Washington Post](#) reported in February 2006 that, “The lieutenant governor's longtime supporters said yesterday that they have tried to fend off a national GOP ‘consultant culture’ that espouses a cookie-cutter approach ill-suited for Maryland, a state dominated by Democratic voters. National advisers, however, described Steele loyalists as rigid and unsophisticated about the needs of a campaign of that scale. They said a parochial approach being counseled by Steele aides was destined to fail in a media-driven race that has drawn national attention and could cost more than \$10 million before it's done.” [[Washington Post](#), 2/18/06]

## **PERSONAL FINANCE PROBLEMS**

*Outside of his work for the Republican Party, Michael Steele has been wildly unsuccessful professionally. He owned a consulting firm that never turned a profit, owned no stocks, had no investments, and was threatened twice with foreclosure on his home. In 2002, Steele had \$35,000 in personal debts and his campaign committee failed to repay a \$25,000 loan from his sister that was given four years earlier. Michael Steele has shown no aptitude for success outside of his work for the GOP. (Copies of all civil cases referenced in this section are attached)*

### **Personal Finances**

**2002: Steele’s 1998 Comptroller Campaign Owed Almost \$35,000 in Bills.** The [Washington Post](#) reported in November 2002 that, “Lt. Gov.-elect Michael S. Steele, has also run afoul of campaign finance rules, stemming from his unsuccessful 1998 bid for state comptroller. Steele's campaign committee still owes \$34,236 in bills from the comptroller's race.” [[Washington Post](#), 11/21/02]

**Steele Owned No Stocks & Had No Investments.** According to Michael Steele’s 2004 Maryland State Ethics Commission financial disclosure statement, neither he nor his wife own any stocks and have no investments. [2004 Maryland State Ethics Commission Financial Disclosure Statement]

**Steele’s Consulting Firm Never Turned A Profit.** The [Washington Post](#) reported in July 2002 that, “[Steele’s] consulting firm has never turned a profit, and he has drained more than \$100,000 from two retirement accounts to support his family, he said, leaving a balance of about \$600.” [[Washington Post](#), 7/4/02]

**Steele Drained His Retirement Account Due to Failed Consulting Firm.** The [Washington Post](#) reported in October 2002 that, “Steele quit his job with Mills in order to create his consulting firm, the Steele Group... His income dropped to almost nothing. He drained his retirement account to pay bills and keep the modest townhouse in Largo where he lives.” [[Washington Post](#), 10/31/02]

**2002: Steele Owed \$35,000 in Personal Debts.** In July 2002, the [Washington Post](#) reported that, “Maryland lieutenant governor candidate Michael S. Steele owes more than \$35,000 in personal debts... He owes nearly \$22,000 on a 1993 home equity loan he said was used for home improvements. And he owes more than \$13,000 on a revolving line of credit used to pay family expenses while he struggled with his consulting firm” [[Washington Post](#), 7/4/02]

**Two Banks Filed Lien Notices on Steele's Home.** The Baltimore Sun reported in October 2002 that, "Last year, two banks filed notice of intent to take liens on Steele's Largo townhouse, appraised at \$115,000, after he and his wife missed several mortgage payments. He said he has caught up on his payments." [Baltimore Sun, 10/27/02]

- **Steele Twice Threatened With Foreclosure for Debts.** In August 2002, the Washington Post reported that, "Court records show that the first foreclosure notice served to Steele and his wife was filed in court on June 13, 2001, by Washington Mutual Home Loans Inc., seeking \$80,767 in mortgage payments, interest and late fees. The case was dismissed four months later, according to the records. A separate foreclosure action was filed against the Steeles on Nov. 16 after they defaulted on a \$23,600 home equity loan from Bank of America. Although court records indicate the case remains active, Steele disputed that yesterday, saying the matter had been worked out with the bank." [Washington Post, 8/28/02]

**Steele Sued by Credit Card Company for Failure to Pay.** Michael Steele was sued by CITIBank for failing to pay a balance on his credit card of \$11,846.88. The account was later settled after Steele agreed to pay the amount owed. [Maryland District Court Records, CITIBank v. Michael Steele]

# MICHAEL STEELE: WRONG FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS

*Although Michael Steele claims that his candidacy will attract African-Americans to the Republican Party, his failure to advocate on behalf of blacks will only serve to drive them away. As an opponent of the death penalty, one of Steele's signature initiatives after taking office in 2002 was to create a commission and produce a report on the apparent racism in Maryland's application of the death penalty. This commitment was made all the more important because of Gov. Ehrlich's decision to do away with the death penalty moratorium; however, as of the writing of this research book, Michael Steele has yet to produce any report on the death penalty. Minorities throughout Maryland are helped because of state guidelines dictating that a percentage of state contracts be awarded to minority owned businesses, but Steele has made it clear that he would end this practice because he believes that all businesses should be given the same opportunities for state contracts and not award one over the other based on race. In 2002, Senator Trent Lott claimed that the United States would be better off if the country had elected segregation candidate Strom Thurmond as president. His remarks provoked condemnation from Republicans and Democrats, except for Michael Steele, who defended Lott. Finally, Gov. Ehrlich made headlines throughout the country when he held a fundraiser at a country club that had not admitted an African American member in its 127 year history. Instead of calling on the club to change its discriminatory practices, Steele told a radio station that he didn't care about the discrimination because he doesn't play golf.*

## DEATH PENALTY

*Throughout the United States there are questions about potential racism in the application of the death penalty. As an opponent of state sponsored executions, Michael Steele pledged to create a task force to find a way to fix the capital punishment system and ensure that racial bias played no part in the application of the death penalty. As of this writing, Steele has yet to produce the promised report on the death penalty nearly three years after promising to do so. The issue took on even greater significance after Gov. Ehrlich lifted the death penalty moratorium and Maryland was once again executing people as the Lt. Governor refused to comment on the executions. Michael Steele pledged to examine racism in the state's use of the death penalty but, three years and two executions later, he has failed to produce anything for his constituents.*

**2002: Steele Pledged to Form Task Force on Death Penalty.** The Associated Press reported in December 2003 that, "Michael Steele took office in January as the first black person elected statewide in Maryland, he vowed to set up a task force to find a way to fix the capital punishment system." [Associated Press, 12/1/03]

**Steele: There's A Racial Disparity In The Death Penalty.** The Associated Press reported in January 2003 that, "The recent University of Maryland study showing that certain defendants are more likely than others to be sentenced to death... That study has troubled Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele, who said over the weekend he would ask Ehrlich for an additional review to figure out why blacks who kill whites are statistically more likely to end up on death row, as the university analysis indicates. The study also showed that where the killing occurred in the state also greatly affected the outcome of the case... 'There clearly is a linkage to race. There clearly is a linkage to jurisdiction,' Steele said. 'Why it exists, no one seems to know.'" [Associated Press, 1/28/03]

- **Summary of UMD Study.** The Associated Press reported in December 2005 that, “The study's author say it's core findings - that the death penalty in Maryland is influenced by race and the jurisdiction where cases are prosecuted - have yet to be fully explored by lawmakers or the courts... In his state-commissioned study, Paternoster reviewed 6,000 murder cases between 1978 and 1999, which included 1,311 that were eligible for the death penalty. His results conclude that race and geography play major roles in whether prosecutors seek death sentences. Prosecutors were most likely to seek death sentences for black defendants who killed white victims. The jurisdiction also mattered - death sentences were the highest in Baltimore County, where prosecutors seek death in all eligible cases.” [Associated Press, 12/2/05]

**Steele Won't Comment On Death Penalty As Convict Is Executed In MD.** In June 2004, the Washington Post reported that, “This week, as Maryland prepares to execute its first convict since Steele took office and as a clemency petition waits on the governor's desk, the lieutenant governor has assiduously avoided making any comments on the subject. ‘He will not talk about the death penalty, period,” is how Steele's press secretary, Regan Hopper, responded to questions on the subject.” [Washington Post, 6/15/04]

**Steele Traveling for Republicans Abroad While Convicts Claimed Racial Bias in Death Penalty.**

- **Steele Spent May 3–8, 2005 in Spain for Republicans Abroad.** The Baltimore Business Journal reported in February 2006 that, “[Steele was traveling] from May 3, 2005 through May 8, 2005 -- to Spain for an unspecified GOP event.” [Baltimore Business Journal, 2/20/06]
- **May 6: Convicts Claimed Racial Bias in Death Penalty Application.** The Daily Record reported on May 6, 2005 that, “Time is running out for Vernon Evans Jr. and Wesley E. Baker. Lawyers for these two Maryland death row inmates have just one month before they face the Court of Appeals in crucial cases to be argued the same day... Both men are claiming Baltimore County prosecutors ‘engaged in racial discrimination in selecting cases for capital prosecution,’ to quote from Evans' brief.” [Daily Record, 5/6/05]

**Steele Won't Spare Those Already On Death Row.** In December 2003, the Associated Press reported that, “Apart from lobbying Ehrlich as each case reaches his desk, Steele said he won't attempt to spare those already on death row. He said he is more interested in making sure future cases are handled fairly.” [Associated Press, 12/1/03]

**Steele Was Not Determined To Push A Death Penalty Moratorium.** The Baltimore Sun reported in January 2003 that, “Steele is not sure whether he will lobby Ehrlich to reinstate the moratorium, which effectively ended when Glendening left office Jan. 15. ‘Should the system come to a complete stop while we move forward with a further review of the problem? I don't know that it should,” he said. [Baltimore Sun, 1/27/03]

**2003: No Commission.** In November 2003, the Associated Press reported that, “Nearly a year later, there's no formal commission, and Steele hasn't contacted the leading death-penalty lawyer in the state public defender's office because, he said, “I'm still trying to identify all the players,” The Washington Post reported.” [Associated Press, 11/30/03]

- **Legislator Sent Steele A Letter Urging Him to Take Up the Issue.** In June 2003, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “The 13 senators and 22 delegates, many of whom are African-American, sent

Steele a letter requesting that he assemble a panel to study whether racial or geographic bias is involved in assessing the death penalty.” [Baltimore Sun, 6/26/03]

**2004: Still No Task Force.** In November 2004, the Associated Press reported that, “Steele never convened his task force on race and capital punishment in Maryland.” [Associated Press, 11/11/04]

**2005: Still No Report.** In November 2005, the Associated Press reported that, “Michael Steele said he is still working on a formal report on the death penalty. Steele, a Republican running for U.S. Senate, made a campaign promise nearly three years ago to address racial bias in the state's use of capital punishment.” [Associated Press, 11/6/05]

## MINORITY OPPORTUNITIES

*Michael Steele has been a disaster for Maryland's minority population. His positions against minority businesses and affirmative action have hurt people throughout the state. Steele has helped to kill legislation increasing the percentage of state contracts required to be awarded to minority owned businesses and has suggested that there should be no difference between small and minority owned businesses, thereby eliminating the state's contracting guidelines. Michael Steele also believes that affirmative action should not be based on race, a position that may be of some surprise to the tens of thousands of minorities around the country who have been helped by this program.*

### Minority Businesses

*Minority owned businesses throughout the country are helped by state guidelines guaranteeing a minimum percentage of state contracts be awarded to them. In Maryland, Michael Steele has worked to kill legislation establishing commissions to ensure the state's compliance with minority contract guidelines and giving those businesses a higher percentage of state money. He told reporters that he did not want to differentiate between small businesses and minority owned businesses, thereby eliminating the state's contracting guidelines. Steele was placed in charge of recommending changes to the state's minority business program but failed to get his legislation passed and, according to leaders across the state, there have been no changes benefiting minority business owners. Michael Steele was given the responsibility of improving Maryland's minority business program but has failed once again to provide help for the state's minorities.*

**Steele Killed Bill To Establishing Commission To Oversee State Compliance With Minority Business Contracting Guidelines.** The Baltimore Afro-American reported in May 2003 that, “It is well known that during the session just past, Steele convinced a legislative subcommittee to set aside an important bill that would have established a commission to monitor state compliance with minority business contracting guidelines, with the promise that he will help shape an even stronger initiative next year. It's a measure of Steele's growing credibility in the Black community that few people doubt his word.” [Baltimore Afro-American, 5/16/03]

**Steele Killed Legislation Reforming Minority Business Programs.** The Baltimore Business Journal reported in June 2003 that, “On the last day of the 2003 General Assembly, two bills sponsored by [Sen. Verna] Jones that would have reformed MBE programs were killed by inaction - and, she said, by Steele. One bill would have set up a minority business advisory committee to act as a watchdog for MBE programs... ‘We had been working on this for years,’ Jones said. ‘Why stop the momentum? This had nothing to do with his [Steele's] administration. It would not have precluded anything he was doing.’”

Steele has said it would have been ‘premature’ to pass legislation as his task force worked on its own changes.” [[Baltimore Business Journal](#), 6/9/03]

**Steele Does Not Want To Differentiate Between Minority Businesses and Small Business.** The [Baltimore Business Journal](#) reported in June 2003 that, “Guiding Steele's plan is his philosophy that the state should not work to direct business to minority business, per se, but rather small business in general. He said 90 percent of the state's companies are small businesses, and 50 percent of those businesses are minority owned. ‘I do not believe in the segregation of work forces,’ Steele said. ‘We don't want to stigmatize a business before it gets out of the starting block. We want fair and equal opportunity and access to bid on and receive the benefits for a state contract.’” [[Baltimore Business Journal](#), 6/6/03]

**Democrats Said Steele Did Not Consult Others On MBE Reform.** The [Baltimore Business Journal](#) reported in June 2003 that, “Sen. Verna Jones, a Baltimore Democrat said Steele has taken control of MBE reform without consulting others who know better what reforms are needed. ‘He wants to put his name on it, take credit for it,’ Jones said. ‘Fine. I just want something to be done.’ ... Jones also said she was concerned that Steele's task force did not include anyone who had worked on MBE programs in the past, or had been working to improve the program. [[Baltimore Business Journal](#), 6/6/03]

**Steele Failed to Get Business Reform Bills Through the Legislature.** The [Daily Record](#) reported in April 2004 that, “Michael S. Steele began this legislative session with one agenda--overhaul Maryland's minority business enterprise reform program... With less than a week remaining in session, Steele's two bills were stalled in the House Health and Government Operations Committee.” [[Daily Record](#), 4/16/04]

**Steele Commission on Minority Business Criticized by Minority Contractors Association.** In August 2005, the [Baltimore Sun](#) reported that, “Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. announced yesterday that state contracts with minority businesses increased more than 20 percent in fiscal 2004, but the report he cites calls the figures ‘best guesses based on partial data known to be of questionable accuracy.’ ... After Ehrlich took office, he assigned Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele to head a commission to study the state's minority business program and recommend changes. Some critics say the governor's efforts have fallen short. Wayne Frazier, president of the Baltimore-Washington Minority Contractors Association, called yesterday's report ‘voodoo economics.’” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 8/6/05]

## **Affirmative Action**

*Michael Steele claims that, in the years since its inception, affirmative action has been “bastardized” and should be “revisited across the board.” He opposes basing affirmative action solely on race, claiming that its effectiveness has been diminished by race-based quotas. In an interview, the Lt. Governor called the program “the modern day version of 40 acres and a mule.” Even though he has admitted to being helped by affirmative action, Michael Steele now claims that its effectiveness has been diminished. Steele’s rejection of a program that gives opportunities to minorities around the country can be a major vulnerability as he tries to court the African-American vote in Maryland.*

**Steele Said Affirmative Action Should Not Be Based Solely on Race.** The [Associated Press](#) reported in January 2003 that Michael Steele said: “My concern is that when it's based on race wholly, that it diminishes its effectiveness as a tool to raise opportunities for African-American and other minorities.” [[Associated Press](#), 1/21/03]

- **Steele Admitted to Gaining Advantages from Affirmative Action.** The following is a transcript from a CSPAN interview with Steele:

“LAMB: Did you choose to, or did you by default, use affirmative action anywhere in your life to get ahead?

STEELE: Oh, my goodness, yes.

LAMB: And how did it work? Give me some examples.

STEELE: It worked fine. I mean, scholarship programs and opportunities, some job opportunities when I was younger, coming up, trying to make my way.”

[CSPAN Q&A, Host Brian Lamb, 2/27/05; the video for this interview is available here:

<http://www.q-and-a.org/Program/index.asp?ProgramID=1012>]

**Steele Said Affirmative Action Has Been “Bastardized.”** The Associated Press reported in January 2003 that, “Michael Steele said Tuesday that affirmative action has been ‘bastardized’ since its inception and needs to be ‘revisited across the board.’” [Associated Press, 1/21/03]

**Steele Opposed to Basing Affirmative Action Solely on Race.** The Associated Press reported in January 2003 that, “Steele, a Republican who took office last week as Maryland’s first black lieutenant governor, said that he supports the original incarnation of affirmative action as envisioned by Arthur Fletcher, a black man and lifelong Republican who held high-ranking posts in the Nixon and Ford administrations. In 1969, Fletcher devised the first legal way to require companies that contract with government agencies to comply with affirmative action hiring goals. Since then, it’s ‘devolved into a race-based quota formula’ which ill-serves blacks while sometimes leading to backlash, Steele said. ‘My concern is that when it’s based on race wholly, that it diminishes its effectiveness as a tool to raise opportunities for African-American and other minorities,’ Steele said.” [Associated Press, 1/21/03]

**Affirmative Action = 40 Acres and A Mule.** On the WHUT Evening Exchange, Michael Steele said: “Affirmative action is the modern day version of 40 acres and a mule.” [WHUT Evening Exchange, 7/8/05]

**Steele Said Republicans Should “Embrace” Affirmative Action.** On the WHUT Evening Exchange, Michael Steele said: “We shouldn’t be afraid of affirmative action, we shouldn’t be afraid to embrace it, because it’s from our party, its part of our history, and let’s move forward, and let’s spread the love, as they say, in terms of economic opportunity.” [WHUT Evening Exchange, 7/8/05]

## **School Vouchers**

*While he was head of the Maryland Republican Party, Michael Steele claimed that he would use the school vouchers issue to attract African-Americans to the party. However, once he came into office, Steele’s education commission recommended against using school vouchers in Maryland. Apparently, the Lt. Governor only cares about using vouchers to attract more people to his party and doesn’t actually want to see them implemented.*

**Steele Used Vouchers to Attract Blacks to GOP.** The Washington Post reported in May 2001 that, “To woo African Americans, Steele is focusing on issues of common interest to blacks and Republicans, such as economic development and education. ‘Our polling numbers suggest that African Americans support the idea of charter schools and voucher issues to move their kids into a better-performing school system,’ tactics supported by the Republican Party, said Steele.” [Washington Post, 5/10/01]

**Steele’s Education Commission Did Not Recommend Vouchers.** The Baltimore Sun reported in September 2004 that, “The Ehrlich administration will not be advocating school vouchers, the lieutenant governor said, steering away from the divisive proposal that critics say drains money from public schools

by allowing tax dollars to be spent on tuition at private schools. 'It's not something I'm pushing or the governor is pushing,' [Steele] said. 'Maryland is not ready.'" [[Baltimore Sun](#), 9/28/04]

## **Administration Staffing**

**Black Republicans in Prince George's County Left Out of Ehrlich-Steele Administration.** The [Washington Post](#) reported in March 2003 that, "So far, these Prince George's black Republicans are feeling left out of the Ehrlich-Steele administration. Although there have been several high-level appointments of African Americans, only two black Republicans from the county have been named and those were to the Maryland Board of Elections. It is becoming a sore spot, this waiting for the phone to ring. A potential pall on their moment." [[Washington Post](#), 3/13/03]

## **GOLF CLUB FUNDRAISER**

*In June 2005, Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich held a fundraiser at a golf club that has never admitted an African-American member over its 127 year history. Instead of distancing himself from the Governor and immediately calling on the club to change its membership composition, Michael Steele inexplicably defended Ehrlich and said he didn't care about the issue. Steele claimed that because he does not play golf, the club's discriminatory practices meant nothing to him and were "not an issue with me." However, as pressure mounted throughout the state, the Lt. Governor changed his position and called on the club to admit minority members. Michael Steele's refusal to criticize the club until being forced to do so proves that he is not interested in actually ending discrimination, only in taking the politically expedient course.*

**Summary of Ehrlich Fundraiser.** The [Associated Press](#) reported in July 2005 that, "Gov. Robert Ehrlich is facing criticism for holding a recent fund-raiser at a golf club that black leaders say promotes racial exclusion... Several Elkridge members and former officers told The (Baltimore) Sun that the club has had no black members in its 127-year history." [[Associated Press](#), 7/2/05]

**Steele Doesn't Know If Golf Club Was Appropriate Venue And He Doesn't Care.** The [Associated Press](#) reported in July 2005 that, "Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, the state's first black lieutenant governor, said today in an interview with The Associated Press that he had not talked with Ehrlich about the golf tournament that raised \$100,000 for the governor's re-election bid and didn't know if it was appropriate to use the club as a location for a fund-raiser. 'I don't know that much about the club, the membership, nor do I care, quite frankly, because I don't play golf. It's not an issue with me,' Steele said." [[Associated Press](#), 7/5/05]

**Sun Editorial Blasts Steele's Response; Called "Unacceptable."** In an editorial, the [Baltimore Sun](#) wrote: "Responses this week by Governor Ehrlich and by Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele that the club's membership is not their concern are unacceptable. It's not enough for Mr. Ehrlich, a Republican, to point fingers and complain that Democrats have also used the club...Mr. Ehrlich and Mr. Steele are the top two officers in the government of a richly diverse, progressive state. They are supposed to set the example." [[Baltimore Sun](#) Editorial, 7/7/05]

**Steele Called on Club to Open Membership to All.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in July 2005 that, "Michael S. Steele yesterday called on the all-white Elkridge Club to change its membership practices so that African-Americans can be admitted, and said he understands the anger of minority groups at Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s decision to hold a fund-raising event there. 'There is a sensitivity with respect to this issue, particularly in the African-American community, that cannot be lost,' Steele said." [[Baltimore Sun](#), 7/17/05]

## HARMFUL RACE-RELATED QUOTES

*Michael Steele has a history of speaking without thinking, giving reporters some of their best quotes as he expounds on race in Maryland and the United States. He has compared the Democratic Party to slaveholders and called them racist after the 2004 convention. Not only has Steele made outrageous comments, he has defended Republicans who have made similar statements. The Lt. Governor defended Trent Lott after the Senator claimed that the country would have been better off if it had elected Strom Thurmond president, a candidate who ran on a party platform saying “we stand for the segregation of the races.” Steele has made it clear that he would rather defend his Republican friends than take on one of the biggest issues still facing this country 141 years after the Civil War.*

### Steele Statements

**Steele: Republican Registrations Declined Because Whites Moved Out.** The Baltimore Sun reported in October 2000 that, “Steele says there's a simple explanation for the drop in Republican registrations in Prince George's in the last decade. ‘The bottom line is, white Republicans moved out of Prince George's County and black Democrats moved in,’ says Steele.” [Baltimore Sun, 10/3/00]

**Steele Compared Democratic Party to Slaveholders.** In response to a question published in the Washington Post in May 2001 asking which black Republicans he admires, Michael Steele said: “In 1864, the Republican National Committee put a plank to abolish slavery in their platform. The Democrats didn't have it, the Democrats were slaveholders, they were the ones who wanted to keep blacks in slavery. So the irony is that here we are today beholden to our slave masters, in effect.” [Washington Post, 5/10/01]

**Steele: The Government Made Blacks Dependent on Federal Assistance.** The Washington Post reported in May 2001 that Michael Steele said: “I realized that what government had done was to make a generation of black men dependent on government. . . . That ran counter to everything my mother taught me.” [Washington Post, 5/10/01]

**Steele Agreed With Ehrlich’s Assessment That Democrats Are Racists.** The Baltimore Sun reported in August 2004 that, “Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. called the Democratic Party ‘racist’ in its appeal to blacks yesterday and was seconded by his African-American lieutenant governor.. ‘I saw a message coming out of the Democratic Convention: If you happen to have black skin, you have to believe one way. You have to. Or you are a traitor to your race,’ Ehrlich said in remarks to the Maryland state delegation at its hotel. ‘That's the message we've seen from a number of conventions. That's why it's important that this lieutenant governor speak to this country. That's racist.’... Steele said he agreed with the sentiment: ‘Absolutely. You are putting people in a box, and you are saying you can only believe or think or feel a certain way because of the color of your skin.’” [Baltimore Sun, 8/31/04]

**Steele: Requiring Photo IDs Wouldn’t Prevent Blacks From Voting.** The Washington Times reported in March 2001 that, “[The proposal] would have required voters listed on the rolls to show a form of official photo-ID such as a driver's license... Maryland Republican Party chairman Michael Steele, who is black, said their objections are weak excuses not to support a good bill. ‘This is bogus obfuscation. How is it going to slow down the line? You are waiting anyway and you have your photo ID ready...Banks require photo ID. Should black folks all of a sudden be afraid to write checks?’” [Washington Times, 3/9/01]

### Steele Defending People

**Steele: I Am Proud of Alan Keyes.** The Associated Press reported in August 2000 that Michael Steele said: “Alan should be our favorite son... As Marylanders and as Republicans, we should be proud of him and know that he's from our home state and the past is the past and look to build a bridge for him.” [Associated Press, 8/1/00]

- **Keyes: GOP Is Racist.** The Washington Post reported in August 1992 that, “Alan Keyes, the Republican nominee in Maryland's U.S. Senate contest this fall, denounced the national leadership of his party as racist yesterday, saying senior GOP officials have ignored or disparaged his campaign because he is black... GOP leaders ‘basically are sending the message that beyond a certain level blacks need not apply,’ Keyes added. ‘If I can work out in the fields, I think I ought to be allowed to come into the house for dinner.’” [Washington Post, 8//14/92]
- **Keyes: Black Leadership Bought By Democrats.** People For the American Way published a report in February 1999 saying, “At the end of his talk, during the question and answer period, someone from the audience asked Keyes why 80-90% of Black Americans vote Democratic. Keyes answered, ‘I think part of it is that the Black leadership, the vocal ones that the media concentrates on, are all bought-and-sold, step-and-fetch-its of depravity for the Democratic party.’” [People For the American Way, Eyewitness Report from the C-PAC Conference, 2/21/99]

**Steele Defended Trent Lott.** The Washington Times reported in December 2002 that, “Several black Republicans, while denouncing the remarks, yesterday defended Mr. Lott. Michael Steele, the lieutenant governor-elect in Maryland, said Mr. Lott's remarks were a ‘poor choice of words’ but don't reflect his own experiences with the senator. ‘I know Senator Lott personally and understand him to be compassionate and a tolerant statesman,’ he said.” [Washington Times, 12/12/02]

- **Lott's Remarks.** The Washington Post reported in December 2002 that, “Trent Lott of Mississippi has provoked criticism by saying the United States would have been better off if then-segregationist candidate Strom Thurmond had won the presidency in 1948... Lott said, ‘I want to say this about my state: When Strom Thurmond ran for president, we voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years, either.’ Thurmond, then governor of South Carolina, was the presidential nominee of the breakaway Dixiecrat Party in 1948. He carried Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and his home state. He declared during his campaign against Democrat Harry S. Truman, who supported civil rights legislation, and Republican Thomas Dewey: ‘All the laws of Washington and all the bayonets of the Army cannot force the Negro into our homes, our schools, our churches.’ On July 17, 1948, delegates from 13 southern states gathered in Birmingham to nominate Thurmond and adopt a platform that said in part, ‘We stand for the segregation of the races and the racial integrity of each race.’” [Washington Post, 12/7/02]

# MICHAEL STEELE'S TRAVEL

*Since inauguration, the Lt. Governor has spent over 11% of his time outside of the state, traveling much of the time for various Republican causes. While he has conducted extensive overseas work for Maryland to attract business, Steele's success has been marginal at best. For example, the highlight of a 2004 trip to West Africa involved Ghana Airways' commitment to increase direct service between BWI and Africa; unfortunately, the airline's planes were grounded six weeks later by federal officials and the airline later went bankrupt. The Lt. Governor's travels have cost Maryland's taxpayers at least \$49,000 because of the security staff that always travels with him, even on personal vacations in Barbados and political speeches in Spain. It is important to take note of some significant events that were happening in the state when he was gone. While Steele was speaking in Madrid for Republicans Abroad, two prisoners on death row in Maryland were claiming racial bias in their sentencing. During the Lt. Governor's trip to Vienna, the state approved "Choose Life" license plates for an anti-abortion group. Finally, Steele has used taxpayer money to conduct his "municipal tour," which many newspapers have identified as campaign events.*

**Steele Spent 128 Days Outside of Maryland Since Inauguration.** The Washington Post reported in February 2006 that, "Michael S. Steele has spent more than 128 days traveling outside of Maryland since taking office in 2003." [Washington Post, 2/26/06]

- **Steele Spent At Least 11% of Time Away from State.** Governor Robert Ehrlich and Lt. Governor Michael Steele were inaugurated on January 15, 2003; 1163 days ago. During that time, Steele has spent 128 days out of Maryland, meaning that he has at least 11% of his time away from his constituents. [Analysis done as of 3/24/06 with data from above bullet, unable to update unless Steele's schedule is obtained]
- **Steele Gone More than Twice as Much as Ehrlich.** The Washington Post reported in February 2006 that, "Steele's travel schedule has taken him out of state more than twice as often as his boss, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. (R), since the two took office in January 2003." [Washington Post, 2/26/06]

## OFFICIAL TRAVEL

*As Lt. Governor, Michael Steele has used taxpayer money to fund economic development trips to exotic locales that his constituents can only dream about, costing them tens of thousands of dollars while delivering little in new economic growth. According to the governor's office, Michael Steele's biggest accomplishment on a trip to Africa was securing Ghana Airways' assurances of increased flights that would generate \$16 million for Maryland. However, less than six weeks after returning from a trip that cost \$150,000, Ghana Airways' flights were grounded by the FAA. Finally, a 2003 trip to Paris for six people cost the state \$28,000 in airfare and hotel bills alone. Michael Steele has used his position as Lt. Governor to jet around the world at the expense of Maryland's citizens who can only dream of such trips.*

**Steele's Paris Junket Cost At Least \$28,000.** In June 2003, the Washington Times reported that, "Hotel accommodations and airfare for Mr. Steele and his five-member entourage to attend the junket will cost taxpayers about \$28,000. The group will be reimbursed for meals and expenses." [Washington Times, 6/18/03]

## Africa Trip

*As Lt. Governor, Michael Steele has used taxpayer money to fund economic development trips to exotic locales that his constituents can only dream about, costing them tens of thousands of dollars while delivering little in new economic growth. According to the governor's office, Michael Steele's biggest accomplishment on a trip to Africa was securing Ghana Airways' assurances of increased flights that would generate \$16 million for Maryland. However, less than six weeks after returning from a trip that cost \$150,000, Ghana Airways' flights were grounded by the FAA.*

**Steele Accomplishments From Africa Trip.** According to a press release from the Governor's office, "Lt. Governor Steele and his team helped increase international air service from Baltimore Washington International Airport to West Africa, which will generate additional revenue for the State; initiated discussions to relocate Ghana Airways' U.S. headquarters from New York to Maryland; and helped finalize plans to establish educational programs between the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and two Ghanaian universities." [Steele Press Release, 6/28/04]

**Ghana Airways Deal Was Biggest Accomplishment of Africa Trip.** The Baltimore Sun reported in August 2004 that, "The big accomplishment of his visit? According to the governor's office, Steele secured a promise from Ghana Airways to 'increase direct international air service' from BWI to West Africa, including a flight that was to be added this summer and generate an additional \$16 million for Maryland's economy." [Baltimore Sun, 8/2/04]

- **Steele's Trip to Africa Cost Nearly \$150,000.** in June 2004, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "The cost of the trip to taxpayers is \$148,338." [Baltimore Sun, 6/15/04]
- **Ghana Airways Flights Grounded.** The Baltimore Sun reported in August 2004 that, "Michael S. Steele must have been as surprised as anyone to hear last week that Ghana Airways had stranded hundreds of passengers at Baltimore-Washington International Airport after federal officials grounded its planes... As of the end of last week, it wasn't clear when - or if - Ghana Airways would resume flying." [Baltimore Sun, 8/2/04]
- **Ghana Airways Now Defunct.** Ghana Airways no longer exists, it has since been replaced by Ghana International Airlines. Neither airline operates flights out of BWI Airport. [BWI Airport website, accessed 3/22/06]

## Gifts

*Michael Steele's ethics commission filings has revealed the number of gifts he receives from people around the world, leaving people to wonder why he is getting so much from people outside the United States.*

Year	Donor	Position	Gift	Value
2004	Eugene Chien	Taiwan Ambassador	Vase	Unknown
2004	Eugene Chien	Taiwan Ambassador	Finger bowl	Unknown
2004	Unknown	Sierra Leone Official	Shadow box	Unknown
2004	King Leruso	Bako Koeng Nation	Framed drawing	Unknown
2004	Unknown	South Africa Government	Painted Ostrich egg	Unknwon

[Michael Steele State Ethics Commission Filings]

## PERSONAL TRAVEL

*Michael Steele has used Maryland taxpayers' money to finance his own security during personal trips that had nothing to do with the business of the state. From July 2004 to December 2005, the Lieutenant Governor took at least 23 trips for the Republican Party and his US Senate campaign, but charged the state for his security costs during these political excursions. In 2003, Steele spent one week in Barbados with his family in order to do two days of work; not only did the state pay for his travel, but taxpayers also paid for his security detail while on vacation. In short, Steele has cost Maryland at least \$49,000 in costs that he should have borne, instead of shunting them off onto the taxpayers.*

**Steele Spent Over \$49,000 in Taxpayer Money for Security on Political Trips.** The Baltimore Business Journal reported in February 2006 that, "Michael Steele took more than 20 political trips in the past year, billing Maryland taxpayers each time for his security protection to places as far away as Spain. From July 2004 through December 2005, the lieutenant governor traveled to 21 cities in the name of the Republican Party and two additional destinations in the name of his campaign for US Senate. Although he did not ask the state to pay for his airfare, lodging or meals, Maryland taxpayers are responsible for his executive protection expenses totaling more than \$49,000... Of Steele's more than \$49,000 in security expenses, the largest chunks were attributed to two different occasions. The first trip from Aug. 29, 2004 through Sept. 3, 2004 -- to New York City for the Republican National Convention -- cost almost \$8,000 in executive protection pay. The second one from May 3, 2005 through May 8, 2005 -- to Spain for an unspecified GOP event -- cost more than \$13,500 in security." [Baltimore Business Journal, 2/20/06]

**Steele Used Taxpayer Money For Security on Barbados Vacation.** The Washington Post reported in July 2003 that, "Steele spent a week on the sunny Caribbean island, along with his wife, Andrea, and their two sons, Drew and Michael. His mission: to build ties between Maryland and Barbados by focusing on formalizing a 'sister-state' relationship, according to his spokeswoman, Regan Hopper." However, 'He did a little work for the first couple days and then he and his family were on vacation,' Hopper said...." Taxpayers did pay the way for Steele's two-member security detail and a couple of tourism officials from the Department of Business and Economic Development, said Shareese DeLeaver, an Ehrlich spokeswoman." [Washington Post, 7/31/03]

- **Steele Concealed Barbados Trip Until Last Minute.** The Washington Post reported in July 2003 that, "Steele's fact-finding trip to the Caribbean was kept under wraps beforehand. It was omitted from the official schedule, which merely disclosed that he had 'no public activities' that week." [Washington Post, 7/31/03]

## WHILE STEELE WAS GONE

*During Michael Steele's travels throughout the world, other elected officials have actually been in Maryland doing their jobs, instead of going on personal trips. While Steele was in Spain speaking to the Republicans Abroad organization, lawyers for two inmates on death row claimed that their clients were facing execution because of racial bias. In September 2003, the Lt. Governor was in Austria for a conference on racism, avoiding the growing controversy over the use of "Choose Life" license plates in Maryland. Finally, while in Rome as part of the delegation to welcome the new Pope, Maryland's elected officials were dealing with slot machines and prosecuting racially sensitive cases. Michael Steele has shown that dealing with the business of Maryland is not his number one priority.*

## JUNKET:

**Steele Spent One Week in Austria.** The Baltimore Sun reported in September 2003 that, “Michael S. Steele is in Vienna, Austria, this week, part of the U.S. delegation to the Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, held by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.” [Baltimore Sun, 9/5/03]

**BACK IN MARYLAND:**

**September 5: Maryland Issues “Choose Life” License Plates.** The Associated Press reported in September 2003 that, “Maryland has joined a growing number of other states offering license plates carrying the words ‘Choose Life,’ prompting complaints from abortion rights advocates that the state is endorsing the message.” [Associated Press, 9/5/03]

**JUNKET:**

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**Steele Spent May 3–8, 2005 in Spain for Republicans Abroad.** The Baltimore Business Journal reported in February 2006 that, “[Steele was traveling] from May 3, 2005 through May 8, 2005 -- to Spain for an unspecified GOP event.” [Baltimore Business Journal, 2/20/06]

**BACK IN MARYLAND:**

**May 4: Giant Announces Job Cuts.** The Baltimore Sun reported in May 2005 that, “Giant Food LLC is selling its corporate campus in Landover and dumping most of its manufacturing facilities and warehouses, cutting hundreds of jobs and further diminishing the local presence of the nearly 70-year-old company... 500 jobs that are expected to be eliminated.” [Baltimore Sun, 5/4/05]

**May 6: Convicts Claimed Racial Bias in Death Penalty Application.** The Daily Record reported on May 6, 2005 that, “Time is running out for Vernon Evans Jr. and Wesley E. Baker. Lawyers for these two Maryland death row inmates have just one month before they face the Court of Appeals in crucial cases to be argued the same day... Both men are claiming Baltimore County prosecutors ‘engaged in racial discrimination in selecting cases for capital prosecution,’ to quote from Evans' brief.” [Daily Record, 5/6/05]

**JUNKET:**

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**Steele Spent May 23-25, 2005 in Rome.** The St. Petersburg Times reported in April 2005 that, “Jeb Bush, who became a Catholic a decade ago at a turning point in his life, will lead the American delegation to Rome for Sunday's inaugural Mass of Pope Benedict XVI... The five-member U.S. delegation also includes Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele.” [St. Petersburg Times, 4/23/05]

**BACK IN MARYLAND:**

**May 25: Decision Made on Special Session for Slot Machines.** The Associated Press reported in May 2005 that, “An executive of the Canadian company that owns Pimlico and Laurel racetracks emerged from a two-hour meeting with House Speaker Michael Busch Wednesday saying he remains optimistic that something will be done, either approval of slot machines or some other revenue source, to help the Maryland horse racing industry... Busch said, however, he thinks it is highly unlikely there will be a special session of the legislature to try again to pass a slot machine bill.” [Associated Press, 5/25/05]

**May 25: Racial Tensions Rise After Prosecutors Dismiss Case.** The Baltimore Sun reported in May 2005 that, "Saying the cases had 'no reasonable hope of success,' Anne Arundel County's chief prosecutor dropped manslaughter and other charges yesterday against four young white men accused in the death of a black Pasadena teenager in a brawl last summer. State's Attorney Frank R. Weathersbee said he was ending the cases in light of a jury's decision two weeks ago to acquit the first defendant, Jacob Tyler Fortney, of all charges. That was prosecutors' strongest case. Yesterday's announcement left the family of the dead youth, Noah Jamahl Jones, in tears and African-American leaders seething that, they say, no one is being held accountable for Jones' death outside a house party July 24." [Baltimore Sun, 5/25/05]

## **JUNKET:**

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**Steele Spent March 8, 2006 in NY for Fundraisers.** The Washington Times reported in March 2006 that, "Republican heavy hitters in New York City are going to bat for Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele... The glamorous cosmetics queen Georgette Mosbacher will host a cocktail reception for Mr. Steele starting at 5:30 this evening in her elegant Fifth Avenue residence... The price to sit on the dazzling redhead's silk sofa: \$1,000 per person and \$2,000 per political action committee attendee. Immediately afterward, at 6:30 at their residence on 71st Street, Mallory and Elizabeth Factor will host a fundraising dinner for Mr. Steele. Requested contribution: \$8,400 per diner and \$10,000 per PAC." [Washington Times, 3/8/06]

## **BACK IN MARYLAND:**

**March 8, 2006: State Senate Debated Stem Cell Research.** The Baltimore Sun reported in March 2006 that, "In a conciliatory move aimed at breaking a short-lived filibuster led by Republicans, the Senate bill was amended yesterday to wipe out language that gave priority to embryonic stem cell research and to include naming two religious leaders chosen by the governor to a commission that evaluates funding requests... The annual funding [for stem cell research] was stripped earlier in committee." [Baltimore Sun, 3/9/06]

## **JUNKET:**

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**Steele Spent December 10-12, 2004 in Jamaica for "Awards Presentation."** [Lt. Governor's Office answer to public information request]

## **BACK IN MARYLAND:**

**December 12, 2004: Teachers to Begin Negotiations with Carroll County School Board.** The Baltimore Sun reported that, "Workloads for teachers will be one of the major issues when contract talks between the Carroll County school board and negotiators from five unions representing more than 3,100 district employees." [Baltimore Sun, 12/12/04]

## **JUNKET:**

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**Steele Spent June 13-18, 2003 at the Paris Air Show.** [Lt. Governor's Office answer to public information request]

## **BACK IN MARYLAND:**

**June 14, 2003: Ehrlich Selected County School Board Member Unpopular with Community.** The Maryland Gazette reported in June 2003 that, "Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. Thursday named a former GOP official and longtime school activist to the county school board, rejecting the top choice of a local convention and prompting cries of racism and partisanship. The governor's selection of former Davidsonville Elementary School PTA president Tricia Johnson came over the objections of African-American activists who supported Charlestine Fairley, director of Sojourner-Douglass College in Annapolis. Propelled by a strong turnout of African-American backers, Ms. Fairley got votes from 100 of 193 delegates at the School Board Nominating Convention last month. Mrs. Johnson, whose five-year term begins on July 1, came in a distant second with 45 votes." [Maryland Gazette, 6/14/03]

**June 13, 2003: Juvenile Justice System Criticized for Lax Oversight.** The Baltimore Sun reported in June 2003 that, "State juvenile justice officials who investigate incidents of abuse at the Charles H. Hickey Jr. School in Baltimore County sharply disputed yesterday an independent monitor's report that accused them of failing to ensure a safe environment at the juvenile detention facility. The response came in a letter to the monitor's boss, which said that the monitor had 'modified facts and failed to include relevant information' in his report on Hickey. The monitor's report was critical of investigators for not doing more to protect youths there. Written by Philip J. Merson, the report detailed more than 20 cases of child abuse and neglect over the past year -- including instances of staff allegedly having sex with youths and bringing alcohol and pornographic materials into the juvenile detention facility. The Hickey School, which serves 262 troubled boys ages 14 to 17, is run by Correctional Services Corp./Youth Services International, a private, Sarasota, Fla.-based contractor. The report generally criticized the company's operations and faulted investigators from the Juvenile Services Department, state police and child protective services." [Baltimore Sun, 6/13/03]

## **JUNKET:**

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**Steele Spent July 18-23, 2003 in Barbados.** [Lt. Governor's Office answer to public information request]

## **BACK IN MARYLAND:**

**July 23, 2003: Testing Results of MD Students Unveiled; Minorities Lag Behind.** In July 2003, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "Half to two-thirds of students who took the state's new tests in March performed at a 'proficient' - or passing - level under scoring standards approved yesterday by the state Board of Education. But the overall proficiency of the 260,000 children in grades three, five, eight and 10 who took the tests in reading and math masked a poor performance by minorities, children from families in poverty and those with disabilities. In third-grade mathematics, for example, fewer than half of black children scored at the proficient and advanced levels, while four of five white children met that target. Among special education children, a little more than a third in grades three and five and a fifth in grade eight passed the reading test, while 8.4 percent of eighth-graders passed the math exam. 'That's unacceptable,' said state schools Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick. 'We have a very long way to go.' The results also demonstrate the need for full state financing of the \$1.3 billion public school funding formula known as the Thornton plan, Grasmick said." [Baltimore Sun, 7/23/03]

**July 21, 2003: Thornton Commission Funding Questioned.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 2003 that, "An attorney general's memorandum that raises grave legal questions about Maryland's \$1.3 billion public school funding plan is only the latest blanket of uncertainty to shroud a historic education initiative that appears increasingly vulnerable. Pressure is mounting from several quarters to re-examine, alter or postpone key elements of the funding law, known as the Thornton Plan. Some counties say they can't afford to build enough classrooms for all-day kindergarten, required to start statewide in the fall of 2007. They want exemptions. Political leaders are talking seriously about stretching out the hefty price tag by six years, so that the state gradually increases its additional annual kindergarten-through-12th grade spending to \$1.3 billion by 2014, rather than 2008." [Baltimore Sun, 7/21/03]

## **JUNKET:**

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**Steele Spent November 5-10, 2005 in Israel.** [Lt. Governor's Office answer to public information request]

### **BACK IN MARYLAND:**

**Dept. of Juvenile Services Scrambling to Find Placements for Youths.** In November 2005, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "With less than a month to go before the state closes most of the Charles H. Hickey Jr. School, critics say that the Department of Juvenile Services appears to have no final plan for what to do with the scores of young offenders who would have been sent there over the next year. The department has said that, in the short term, it will send some of the youths to out-of-state programs as far away as Minnesota, Iowa and Texas. But those efforts are being challenged in court by child advocates who say it is harmful to separate young men from their families and send them so far away. Juvenile Services Secretary Kenneth C. Montague Jr. told lawmakers last week that he hopes to establish a new 48-bed program here in coming months, but he could not offer details, such as where it would be or who would operate it... Department officials below Montague were stunned when Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. announced in June that he had decided to shut down Hickey, said Del. Bobby A. Zirkin, and the agency has been scrambling ever since, trying to figure out what to do with the current youths as well as future offenders." [Baltimore Sun, 11/6/05]

**Poll: Marylanders Support State Funding for Embryonic Stem Cell Research.** In November 2005, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "Maryland voters overwhelmingly support state funding for embryonic stem cell research, a new poll for The Sun shows, with growing numbers of Republicans backing the controversial science, whose opponents argue that the embryos destroyed in the process are human lives. The poll also reveals that voters believe education is the most important problem facing the state, whereas other high-profile issues - such as slots and social services - are of lesser concern. Republicans favor state funding of embryonic stem cell research, 48 percent to 40 percent." [Baltimore Sun, 11/8/05]

## **MUNICIPAL TOUR**

*In the summer of 2004, Michael Steele promised the Maryland Municipal League that he would visit all 157 towns and cities in the state. Steele has been forced to defend himself against charges that these visits are thinly disguised campaign events that are paid for by Maryland taxpayers. Every minute the Lt.*

*Governor and his staff spends away from Annapolis is another minute that he cannot help govern the state. After the disclosure that taxpayers have paid over \$49,000 in security and other costs for Steele's political trips outside Maryland, one can only wonder how much these municipal visits are costing the state.*

**Steele Conducted Over 70 Municipal Visits.** The New York Times reported in March 2006 that, "Steele is almost literally a moving target. I accompanied him on a visit to Fruitland, a tiny town on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It was his 50th municipal visit. He counts them. He's up to more than 70 now. A Steele supporter would say he is doing the state's business on these stop-bys, checking in with local folks on issues related to transportation, agriculture, business development, crime and so forth. A cynic would say that he has been on a four-year taxpayer-supported campaign to enhance his visibility and prep for higher office." [New York Times, 3/26/06]

**Steele Pledged to Conduct Statewide Municipality Tour.** The Baltimore Sun reported in May 2005 that, "Since promising the Maryland Municipal League last summer that he would try to visit each of the state's 157 towns and cities, Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele had been making occasional forays to places such as Bel Air and Capitol Heights to little fanfare." [Baltimore Sun, 5/17/05]

**Details of Steele's Entourage.** The Baltimore Sun reported in May 2005 that, "Now that he's seen as the Republican Party's best hope to win a U.S. Senate seat in Maryland, nothing he does is without fanfare. Trailed by two Cabinet secretaries, two television cameras, a photographer, three print reporters, security guards, staffers and a big black sport utility vehicle, Steele strolled through quaint downtown Kensington." [Baltimore Sun, 5/17/05]

**Steele "Spent Several Hours" Touring Towns.** In July 2005, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "In keeping with his promise to visit all of the state's municipalities, Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele spent several hours touring Hampstead and Manchester last week and focused many of his remarks on bypasses for both towns." [Baltimore Sun, 7/24/05]

**Steele Visits to Howard County.** In September 2005, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "Michael S. Steele isn't looking for a house to buy in Howard County, but it does seem as if he is visiting more often as political activity picks up at summer's end. Steele, a Republican and likely candidate for the U.S. Senate, attended the county Republican Party golf tournament Tuesday at Waverly Woods, and he is due back in a few weeks for Republican County Councilman Christopher J. Merdon's \$150-a-ticket fundraiser Sept. 22." [Baltimore Sun, 9/4/05]

**Steele Defended Municipal Visits.** In September 2005, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "With the most competitive election season in memory clearly under way, several of the most prominent politicians vying for a U.S. Senate seat and the governor's office have yet to formally declare they are running. But these current officeholders appear to be spending time campaigning for new jobs, raising questions among observers and critics about whether taxpayer money for their salaries - as well as for the paychecks of staffers who may join them and ancillary expenses such as police protection, vehicle miles and meals - is being properly spent. Last week, a polished sport utility vehicle carrying Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele rolled into Havre de Grace, the 47th stop on a months-long tour of Maryland's 157 municipalities. Addressing a few city department heads who were outnumbered by the state officials Steele brought with him, the lieutenant governor said the visits started long before he considered running for the U.S. Senate. 'This journey began in the spring of 2003, not the spring of 2005,' said Steele, a Republican. 'We have a serious commitment.'" [Baltimore Sun, 9/18/05]

# MICHAEL STEELE: FOOT IN MOUTH DISEASE

*Michael Steele has made a habit of putting his foot in his mouth. On issues from race to economics, Steele has shown a proclivity for making the outrageous sound bite that will be replayed endlessly on the news. Perhaps the most amazing claim was that people threw Oreos at him during a debate to symbolize that the Lt. Governor is black on the outside but white on the inside. This story has been debunked by non-partisan members of the debate committee and nearly everyone who attended that evening. Not only has he given the media crazy quotes, he has actually defended people like Alan Keyes and Trent Lott for their gaffes. Steele's worst gaffe came when speaking to the Baltimore Jewish Council as he compared doctors performing stem cell research to Nazis conducting human experiments. As he canvasses the state as a candidate, Michael Steele will have many more chances to talk without thinking; his history suggests that he will make the most of those opportunities.*

## OUTRAGEOUS STATEMENTS

*From stories about Democrats throwing Oreos during a debate to claiming that a household making \$300,000 isn't "rich," Michael Steele has said enough to keep reporters in business for years. He has compared the Democratic Party to slaveholders and claimed that the government made black men dependent on federal assistance. Steele criticized elected officials, who just happened to be Democrats, for sending aid to New Orleans post-Katrina and agreed with Gov. Robert Ehrlich that Democrats are racist. The Lt. Governor has claimed, along with other members of the Ehrlich administration, that Oreos were thrown at him during a debate. The story has been debunked by everyone in attendance outside of Ehrlich's inner circle and Steele has changed his version of it so many times that he doesn't know which way is up. The best example of Michael Steele speaking without thinking came when, in front of the Baltimore Jewish Council, he compared doctors researching the possibilities of stem cells to Nazi who experimented on human beings.*

## Steele Race Statements

**Steele: Republicans Declined Because Whites Moved Out.** The Baltimore Sun reported in October 2000 that, "Steele says there's a simple explanation for the drop in Republican registrations in Prince George's in the last decade. 'The bottom line is, white Republicans moved out of Prince George's County and black Democrats moved in,' says Steele." [Baltimore Sun, 10/3/00]

**Steele: Requiring Photo IDs Wouldn't Prevent Blacks From Voting.** The Washington Times reported in March 2001 that, "[The proposal] would have required voters listed on the rolls to show a form of official photo-ID such as a driver's license... Maryland Republican Party chairman Michael Steele, who is black, said their objections are weak excuses not to support a good bill. 'This is bogus obfuscation. How is it going to slow down the line? You are waiting anyway and you have your photo ID ready...Banks require photo ID. Should black folks all of a sudden be afraid to write checks?'" [Washington Times, 3/9/01]

**Steele Compared Democratic Party to Slaveholders.** In response to a question published in the Washington Post in May 2001 asking which black Republicans he admires, Michael Steele said: "In 1864, the Republican National Committee put a plank to abolish slavery in their platform. The Democrats didn't

have it, the Democrats were slaveholders, they were the ones who wanted to keep blacks in slavery. So the irony is that here we are today beholden to our slave masters, in effect.” [Washington Post, 5/10/01]

**Steele: The Government Made Blacks Dependent on Federal Assistance.** The Washington Post reported in May 2001 that Michael Steele said: “I realized that what government had done was to make a generation of black men dependent on government. . . . That ran counter to everything my mother taught me.” [Washington Post, 5/10/01]

**Steele Agreed With Ehrlich’s Assessment That Democrats Are Racists.** The Baltimore Sun reported in August 2004 that, “Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. called the Democratic Party ‘racist’ in its appeal to blacks yesterday and was seconded by his African-American lieutenant governor.. ‘I saw a message coming out of the Democratic Convention: If you happen to have black skin, you have to believe one way. You have to. Or you are a traitor to your race,’ Ehrlich said in remarks to the Maryland state delegation at its hotel. ‘That’s the message we’ve seen from a number of conventions. That’s why it’s important that this lieutenant governor speak to this country. That’s racist.’... Steele said he agreed with the sentiment: ‘Absolutely. You are putting people in a box, and you are saying you can only believe or think or feel a certain way because of the color of your skin.’” [Baltimore Sun, 8/31/04]

### **Stem Cell Research = Holocaust**

*During an appearance in front of the Baltimore Jewish Group, Michael Steele compared stem cell research to Nazi medical experiments.*

**Steele Compares Stem Cell Doctors to Nazis.** The Associated Press reported in February 2006 that, “Michael Steele apologized Friday to a Baltimore Jewish group offended when he compared embryonic stem cell research to Nazi medical experiments. After a Thursday speech to the Baltimore Jewish Council about his recent trip to Israel, Steele was asked by one of the 40 members in the audience what he thought about stem cell research. Steele replied that he had concerns about it. ‘You of all folks know what happens when people decide to experiment on human beings, when they want to take your life and use it as a tool,’ Steele said. ‘I know that as well in my community, out of our experience with slavery, and so I’m very cautious when people say this is the best new thing, this is going to save lives.’” [Associated Press, 2/10/06]

### **Oreo Story**

*The Oreo story is one of the most amazing tales ever told; unfortunately it belongs in Hollywood, not in the Maryland Senate race. Michael Steele has told at least two versions of the story, going from one Oreo rolling at his feet to having cookies actually thrown at him. Robert Ehrlich’s communications director claimed that there were so many cookies that, when Steele entered the auditorium, “they were thick in the air like locusts.” Unfortunately, as debate organizers and Republicans have said publicly, the story isn’t true. Steele needs to stop race baiting and start talking about the issues.*

**Erlich: Oreo Story is True.** In November 2005, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. said yesterday that he is angry at ‘revisionism’ from political opponents who question a much-repeated story about Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele being pelted with Oreos during a 2002 campaign debate in Baltimore... Paul Schurick, Ehrlich’s communications director, said last week that he saw people passing out packages of the cookies outside Morgan State University’s fine arts center before the debate and that when Steele entered the auditorium about 15 minutes before the start, people let fly with the cookies. ‘It

was raining Oreos,' Schurick said. 'They were thick in the air like locusts. I was there. It was very real. It wasn't subtle.'" [[Baltimore Sun](#), 11/13/05]

**Debate Organizers Didn't Remember Oreos.** In November 2005, the [Baltimore Sun](#) reported that, "Several debate attendees, however, could not corroborate Ehrlich and Schurick's version of events. 'It didn't happen here,' said Vander Harris, operations manager of the Murphy Fine Arts Building at Morgan State. 'I was in on the cleanup, and we found no cookies or anything else abnormal. There were no Oreo cookies thrown.' ... Clint Coleman, a spokesman for Morgan State who was at the event, said he saw lots of unseemly behavior but no Oreos. 'There were a lot of things, disturbances, by this group of outsiders who were bent on disrupting the debate,' Coleman said. 'But I never actually saw Oreo cookies being thrown at him.' As for 'raining Oreos,' Coleman said, 'I can tell you that did not happen.' Neil Duke, who moderated the event for the NAACP, said last week that he didn't see any cookies... Wayne Frazier, president of the Maryland-Washington Minority Contractors Association said he watched Steele walk into the auditorium that night but saw no Oreos.'" [[Baltimore Sun](#), 11/13/05]

**Steele's Oreo Story.** In November 2005, the [Baltimore Sun](#) reported that, "Steele was quoted in two articles that appeared in the next day's newspaper talking about the pro-Townsend crowd and what he called race-baiting by her campaign, but he said nothing about cookies... After the election, Steele told a writer for the Capital News Service that an Oreo rolled to his feet during the debate. 'Maybe it was just someone having their snack, but it was there,' Steele told the news service. 'If it happened, shame on them if they are that immature and that threatened by me.' ... Steele campaign spokesman Leonardo Alcivar said last week that the cookies 'were clearly thrown at the lieutenant governor.' He said Steele would not respond to questions about the event.'" [[Baltimore Sun](#), 11/13/05]

**Steele: Cookies Were Thrown.** The [Associated Press](#) reported in November 2005 that, "Steele told The Associated Press Monday that Oreo cookies were tossed in his general direction as he left the debate at Morgan State University. 'They fell on the floor; two rolled up next to my shoe,' Steele said. 'I remember turning to someone and saying, 'Anyone got a glass of milk?'''" [[Associated Press](#), 11/14/05]

**Democrats: Steele Changed Oreo Story.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in November 2005 that, "Maryland Democrats are accusing Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele of altering his description of a racially tinged incident at a 2002 gubernatorial debate, depending on his audience's political orientation. On the Wednesday night edition of the Fox television show *Hannity & Colmes*, Steele gave his latest comments... Steele was asked by conservative host Sean Hannity, 'You had Oreo cookies thrown at you?' Steele responded, 'Yup.' The state Democratic Party yesterday charged Steele with deliberately allowing the racially tinged incident to seem more aggressive and violent when speaking on right-leaning television and radio stations than when talking to other media outlets. On WTOP radio in Washington earlier this week, for example, Steele gave a more passive account of the incident. 'I never claimed that I was hit. No,' said Steele, a Republican running for U.S. Senate, on WTOP. 'The one or two that were at my feet were there. I just happened to look down and see them. Otherwise, I probably wouldn't have even noticed. To me it was a very subtle occurrence. It was not, as some have described it, a barrage of cookies.'" [[Baltimore Sun](#), 11/18/05]

**Republican Candidate: No Cookies Thrown.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in November 2005 that, "Corrogon R. Vaughn, a Republican candidate for Senate in 2002 who intends to run against Steele next year, yesterday criticized what he said were exaggerated accounts of the event perpetuated by Ehrlich supporters. Vaughn said he was volunteering for the Ehrlich campaign at the debate and saw no cookies thrown. He said he saw people rolling Oreos along a street outside of the fine arts center, but that Steele and Ehrlich were not outside at the time. 'Why wasn't someone apprehended, arrested or detained' by police or executive protection if cookies were thrown, Vaughn asked.'" [[Baltimore Sun](#), 11/18/05]

## Random Steele Statements

**Steele: “I consider myself a radical Republican.”** [Maryland Gazette, 10/5/01]

**Steele Praised State Senator Who Switched Parties.** The Washington Post reported in December 2000 that, “Michael Steele, the newly elected state GOP chairman, has said he wants to broaden the party to embrace both conservatives and moderates, and he called Hogan's departure a setback. ‘I consider P.J. a fine senator,’ Steele said yesterday. ‘I think [his departure] energizes the party and reminds our grass roots how important it is to get our act together.’” [Washington Post, 12/13/00]

- **Steele Attacked State Senator for Party Switch.** The Washington Times reported in December 2000 that, “When state Sen. Patrick J. Hogan of Montgomery County this week revealed his decision to become a Democrat, the GOP's new chairman vowed to make him regret it. Michael Steele lost his usually moderate tone and accused Mr. Hogan of putting ‘personal ambition above principle.’ Mr. Steele then vowed to field a Republican candidate that would oust Mr. Hogan in the 2002 general election. ‘My only question is, What deal did he cut?’ Mr. Steele said.” [Washington Times, 12/15/00]

**Steele Defended Mike Tyson Over Assault Charges.** The Associated Press reported in February 1999 that, “‘I think this was clearly a case of making an example of Michael one more time,’ said Michael Steele.” [Associated Press, 2/5/99]

**Steele Accused Judge of Failing to Apply Law Fairly in Tyson Case.** The Washington Post reported in February 1999 that, “Steele said he was shocked by the judge’s decision. ‘It is devastating, over a minor traffic accident,’ Steele said. ‘I hope the law as they apply it here in this court is applied fairly to others in traffic accidents. I want to see the same kind of sentences in the future because this is crazy.’” [Washington Post, 2/6/99]

- **Summary of Charges Against Mike Tyson.** The Associated Press reported in February 1999 that, “Tyson kicked one motorist and punched another after a minor three-car accident... Tyson pleaded no contest - meaning he neither protested the charges nor admitted guilt.” [Associated Press, 2/7/99]

**Steele Didn’t Consider A \$300,000 Household Income to be “Rich.”** As a guest on *Real Time with Bill Maher* during a discussion about tax cuts for the wealthy, Steele asked repeatedly, “Who are the rich?” Before being cut off, Steele gave an example of people he would not consider rich: “If you take a man and a woman living in Middle America,” Steele said, “each making \$150,000 a year with a combined household income of \$300,000.” [Real Time with Bill Maher, 4/29/05]

**Steele Criticized Democrats for Sending Aid to New Orleans Post Katrina.** In September 2005, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “Two weeks after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, Maryland's top elected officials are accusing each other of playing politics with their relief efforts - a fight that could carry into the 2006 race for governor. Officials from Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s administration have spent the week accusing his Democratic rivals from Baltimore and Montgomery County of improperly sending aid to Louisiana while a state Republican Party official branded those relief efforts as political grandstanding. The Democrats, Mayor Martin O'Malley and Montgomery Executive Douglas M. Duncan, have countered with evidence that their efforts were properly approved by the state and that Ehrlich is trying to deflect attention from their success at providing assistance to Louisiana... Michael S.

Steele joined that criticism yesterday when he told a Baltimore radio station that O'Malley 'jumped the gun' by sending his rescue personnel to Louisiana before he had the proper approvals." [Baltimore Sun, 9/16/05]

**Steele Failed to Call for Removal After Committeeman Distributed Leaflets Likening Legislators To Nazis.** The Associated Press reported in May 2002 that, "Maryland Republicans distanced themselves Friday from a Montgomery County party member who distributed a leaflet at a legislative committee meeting this week depicting three state lawmakers in Nazi uniforms standing in front of a concentration camp inmate...State GOP party chair Michael Steele said Alzona did not act on behalf of the Republican party when he distributed the leaflet, but said he would leave it up to the Montgomery chapter to decide Alzona's fate. 'It is an embarrassment to himself and the cause he was promoting,' Steele said." [Associated Press, 3/15/02]

# STEELE: PAWN OF THE RIGHT-WING

*From his favorite book to his preferred fundraisers, Michael Steele is conservative to the core. Steele makes evangelicals happy by opposing abortion in all cases, providing no exceptions for rape or incest. He appeases the Bush White House by holding fundraisers with Karl Rove and championing the president's policies from Iraq to prescription drugs to Social Security. Even the Jack Abramoff scandal touches Michael Steele because of the \$4,000 Abramoff gave to the Maryland GOP while Steele was chair. As he hopes to attract African-American voters to his campaign, Steele must be reminded that he defended Trent Lott after the senator announced that the United States should have elected Strom Thurmond president in 1948 with a platform of "segregation of the races." Finally, Steele's favorite book was written by Michael Zak, an author who claimed that oppression of minorities has been, and continues to be, the policy of the Democratic Party. The Lt. Governor is trying to reinvent himself for his Senatorial campaign to appeal to independents, but his record as a true conservative can hardly be more clear.*

## CONSERVATIVE CREDENTIALS

*Michael Steele is a staunch conservative who defends his colleagues even in the face of their policy failures. Steele has supported George Bush on issues from Social Security to the Iraq war, proving that if elected he would be just another rubber stamp for the administration. He accepted \$4,000 from Jack Abramoff as chairman of the Maryland Republican Party and booked Karl Rove for a fundraiser even as Rove was accused of being a traitor to this country. Michael Steele's views on abortion can only be classified as extreme as he opposes abortion in all cases, not even granting exception for rape or incest. The Lt. Governor's conservative credentials are firmly established, with positions that independents will likely find untenable in the current political climate.*

## Abortion

*Michael Steele is opposed to all abortions for women, not even allowing for exceptions in the case of rape or incest. Steele claimed that allow any abortions would put people on a "slippery slope" that is dangerous to opponents of abortion.*

**Steele Staunchly Opposes Abortion.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 2002 that, "Steele said he is staunchly opposed to abortion." [Baltimore Sun, 7/2/02]

**Steele Opposes Abortion Even In Case of Rape or Incest.** In October 2002, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "He is also opposed to abortion. Steele is even reluctant to make exceptions for women who have been raped or are victims of incest. 'I don't think a man or woman should be in a position of playing God,' said Steele, adding that if he were governor he would not seek laws to restrict access to abortion." [Baltimore Sun, 10/27/02]

- **Steele Said Exceptions Are "A Slippery Slope."** The Baltimore Sun reported in March 2003 that, "[Steele] added that any exceptions are 'a slippery slope if you believe in the sanctity of life.'" [Baltimore Sun, 3/3/03]

**Steele Walked In March For Life Rally.** In March 2003, the Associated Press reported that, “Michael Steele briefly joined the annual Annapolis March for Life Rally in front of the State House on Monday evening.” [Associated Press, 3/3/03]

**Steele Said He Has No Position on Parental Notification.** The Baltimore Sun reported in March 2003 that, “Steele said the administration has yet to develop a position on the parental notification legislation. ‘To the extent this becomes an issue, (the governor) and I will talk, and we will decide what, if any, positions he wants to take,’ Steele said.” [Baltimore Sun, 3/3/03]

## **Social Security**

*At an event organized by Republicans Abroad, Michael Steele gave a keynote address endorsing President Bush’s Social Security plan.*

**Steele Gave Speech on Bush Social Security Plan.** “The Lt. Governor gave the keynote address in which he emphasized Republican values, President Bush’s Social Security program, and the importance of the ownership society.” [Republicans Abroad Press Release, 5/11/05]

## **Gay Rights**

*Michael Steele has spoken at a rally calling for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage even though he claimed that states should decide the issue only 5 months before. Steele wants states to define marriage but, because some haven’t acted, is supporting efforts to amend the constitution. Finally, the Lt. Governor claimed that people don’t care about gay rights unless they are gay, a viewpoint contradicted by Vice President Cheney, who opposes a federal amendment banning gay marriage.*

**Steele Said He Couldn’t Define Gay Rights.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 2002 that, “Steele balked when asked about gay rights, saying he has trouble with the concept if not precisely defined. ‘There’s a lot of rights that already protect white gay men,’ he said.” [Baltimore Sun, 7/2/02]

**Steele Said People Don’t Care About Gay Rights Until They’re Gay.** The Maryland Gazette reported in August 2001 that, “Michael Steele, chairman of Maryland’s Republican Party, gave a much more blunt assessment, saying that the issue would be decided on election day. ‘Unless you’re gay, you could care less about gay rights,’ he said. ‘Unless you’re a homosexual or a lesbian, it’s not going to rise up on your radar screen. I’m focused on other things. You can talk about gay rights all you want, but it doesn’t mean crap if you don’t have a job.’” [Maryland Gazette, 8/8/01]

**Steele Spoke at Rally for Constitutional Ban on Gay Marriage.** The Baltimore Sun reported in January 2005 that, “About 1,000 people huddled in front of the State House yesterday to call for a constitutional ban on gay marriage in Maryland, cheering a succession of preachers and politicians - including Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele.” [Baltimore Sun, 1/28/05]

**Steele: Gay Marriage Is A State Issue, But Supports A Federal Amendment.** In August 2004, the Washington Times reported that, “[Steele] said each state should decide the issue, but added that he supports President Bush’s efforts in calling for a constitutional amendment to define marriage, because some states are unwilling to act.” [Washington Times, 8/26/04]

## **Clarence Thomas**

**Steele Called Thomas A “Hero.”** The Washington Post reported in June 1996 that, “‘Is he a hero? No doubt about it,’ said Michael Steele, who is black and who is chairman of the Prince George’s County Republican Central Committee. ‘Think about it: The only black people who are promoted as heroes by both black people and white people are those who can run, jump or dunk a ball. [Thomas] is a solid man. A solid judge. There’s real substance there.’” [Washington Post, 6/9/96]

### **Karl Rove**

*Karl Rove became the center of a federal investigation into the treasonous disclosure of an undercover CIA agent’s identity. Instead of recognizing the fundamental problems involved with the man known as Bush’s Brain, Michael Steele rejected calls to cancel his fundraiser with Rove. Apparently Steele believes that the \$75,000 he raised is worth more than national security in a time of war.*

**Steele Planned Fundraiser with Karl Rove.** The Associated Press reported in July 2005 that, “Michael Steele... is scheduled to have a fundraiser next week featuring Bush strategist Karl Rove.” [Associated Press, 7/21/05]

**NRSC: Steele Won’t Cancel Fundraiser With Rove.** In July 2005, the Associated Press reported that, “The suggestion was quickly rejected by Dan Ronayne, spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. ‘There is no reason to cancel any event,’ Ronayne said.” [Associated Press, 7/12/05]

**Rove Raised \$75,000 for Steele.** In July 2005, the Associated Press reported that, “White House strategist Karl Rove helped Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele raise \$75,000... At an event earlier in the day at Bowie State University, Steele brushed off the criticism. ‘They are criticizing for political purposes,’ he said of plans to hold the event. ‘There is no legal or ethical reason for me to do otherwise at this point. I look forward to him hosting a fundraiser for me.’” [Associated Press, 7/26/05]

### **Jack Abramoff**

**Steele Accepted Maximum Donation from Jack Abramoff to the MD Republican Party.** In 2001, as Chairman of the Maryland Republican State Central Committee, Michael Steele accepted a \$4,000 donation to the party from Jack Abramoff, the maximum amount an individual can donate to a state race. [Maryland State Board of Elections]

### **George Bush**

*Apparently, George Bush can do no wrong in the eyes of Michael Steele. He has supported the president’s policies in Iraq and participated in an anti-filibuster news conference promoting Bush’s extreme judicial nominees. Steele has defended the prescription drug plan and claimed that the president’s budgets have not cut funding for the COPS program and No Child Left Behind. It is clear that if Michael Steele is elected to Congress, he would become just another Republican rubber stamp for George Bush.*

**Steele: Bush is Right Leader for USA.** The AFRO reported in December 2005 that, “On the leadership of President Bush, whose popularity rating is at its lowest point in his presidency, Steele said Bush was and still is the best leader for the nation. ‘He’s led with conviction. I think any president who leads with conviction is the right leader for the country.’” [AFRO, 12/15/05]

**Steele Supported Bush Policies in Iraq.** In October 2005, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “On Fox News Radio's The Tony Snow Show, Steele supported the president's Iraq policies, saying he believes the vote on the country's proposed constitution is a sign that ‘democracy has spread her wings so much farther than anyone ever expected it would.’ He added that the U.S. needs to develop a strategy to bring the troops home. ‘Let's get the security operations on the ground in place and make sure people can defend that liberty,’ Steele said. ‘For every Iraqi soldier that takes up arms on behalf of freedom in Iraq, that means one more soldier can come home, and I think that's where the president is heading.’” [Baltimore Sun, 10/26/05]

**Steele Opposed to Specific Timetable for Iraq Withdrawal.** In November 2005, the Associated Press reported that, “In a statement issued by his Senate campaign, Lt. Gov. Michael Steele - who also does not support a specific timetable - warned that attempting to bring troops home too quickly ‘puts at risk the lives of our soldiers and undermines the efforts of the Iraqi people to secure their own freedom.’ Steele said it is time ‘for the Iraqi people to accept greater responsibility for the day to day security of their country.’” [Associated Press, 11/23/05]

**Steele Participated In A GOP Anti-Filibuster News Conference.** The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported in November 2003 that, “Republican senators are launching a drive to bring attention to what they consider the Democrats' unfair efforts to block Bush's court nominees. Steele participated Tuesday in a Republican-led news conference on the subject.” [Richmond Times-Dispatch, 11/6/03]

**Steele Denied that Bush Budget Cut Local Law Enforcement.** On Hannity & Colmes, Michael Steele said: “It's not cutting out law enforcement for the cities. No, no. He's not cutting out law enforcement for the cities... He's – I've read the budget. Trust me, the president's got the right course.” [Hannity & Colmes, 2/16/05]

- **Bush Budget Cut Funding for MD COPS Program.** George Bush's 2006 budget cuts funding for the Community Oriented Police program, which has put 2,519 police on the streets in Maryland. [DOJ, 10/19/04; Budget of the US Government, 2/05]

**Steele Said Bush Fully Funded No Child Left Behind.** The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported in October 2004 that, “Michael S. Steele, said the president has fully funded No Child Left Behind.” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/24/04]

- **Bush Shortchanges 39,722 MD Children by Underfunding No Child Behind by \$168.3 Million.** George bush's 2006 budget underfund the No Child left Behind program in Maryland by \$163.8 million. Under the Bush budget, 39,722 children in Maryland will go without promised help in reading and math. [National Priorities Project, 2/14/05; Office of House Democratic Leader, 2/10/05; CRS, 2/05]

**Steele Supported Bush Prescription Drug Plan.** In an interview on CNBC, Michael Steele said: “Certainly senior citizens, elderly African-Americans, will benefit from the president's prescription drug program, a first step, one of many steps that need to be taken, in national health care policy. But it's an important first step.” [CNBC, 9/16/04]

- **Bush Plan Would Leave At Least 71,000 People Without Coverage in MD.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 71,000 Maryland residents would be ineligible for prescription drug coverage under the Republican plan because these individuals also have

Medicaid coverage. This represents more than one-tenth of all Medicare recipients in Maryland. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 7/31/03; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Studies]

## **Favorite Book**

*Michael Steele claims that “my favorite book” is by author Michael Zak, who claimed the Democrats want to keep children uneducated and that “mastery over blacks has always been Democratic policy.”*

**Steele: “My Favorite Book” Is By Michael Zak.** On Michael Zak’s website, Michael Steele said that Zak’s book was “phenomenal” and “outstanding,” referring to it as “my favorite book.” **Note: This website has been updated and no longer contains Steele’s quotes, the following links to an archived version of the site with the Steele comments.**

[<http://web.archive.org/web/20040412201855/http://republicanbasics.com/comments.html>]

**Steele: “It’s a very good book.”** [WBAL, Stateline, 6/11/05]

**Zak Said Democrats’ Policy Is Mastery Over Blacks.** The Washington Times reported in June 2005 on excerpts from speeches by Michael Zak, including: “‘Mastery over blacks has always been Democratic Policy. Before it was cotton. Now it is misery.’” [Washington Times, 6/11/05]

**Zak Said Democrats Want to Keep Children Uneducated.** The Washington Times reported in June 2005 on excerpts from speeches by Michael Zak, including: “Democrats are socialists and we should call them socialists. It’s to the Democrats’ advantage children grow up poor and uneducated.” [Washington Times, 6/11/05]

## **REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM**

*Michael Steele served as a delegate to both the 1996 and 2000 Republican Party conventions where party platforms were adopted. By participating in the convention, Steele gave tacit approval to platforms that sought a constitutional amendment banning abortion, the abolishment of the Department of Education and the privatization of social security.*

### **1996 Republican Party Platform**

*In 1996, Michael Steele served as an alternate delegate to the Republican Party Convention. At the convention, the GOP adopted a platform written mainly by the conservative wing of the party. The platform sought a constitutional amendment banning abortion, sought to abolish the Department of Education and declared that the only benefit illegal immigrants should receive was emergency aid.*

**Michael Steele Served as an Alternate Delegate to the 1996 Republican National Convention.** [Baltimore Sun, 8/15/96]

**GOP Platform Shaped by Buchanan’s Conservative Ideals.** The Washington Post reported in August 1996 that, “the victory of conservative forces in writing the party platform was virtually across the board, encompassing immigration, foreign policy, quotas and a host of other issues. ‘This is very Buchanan,’ said Angela ‘Bay’ Buchanan, the candidate’s sister and campaign chairman. ‘We could not be more pleased.’” [Washington Post, 8/8/96]

**GOP Platform Opposed Quotas and Preferences Under Affirmative Action.** The Washington Post reported in August 1996 that the GOP platform included: “A single paragraph that opposed same-sex marriages, quotas and preferences under affirmative action, and that endorsed both national legislation and a California initiative to bar racial and gender preferences.” [Washington Post, 8/8/96]

**GOP Platform Urged Appointment of Federal Judges that Oppose Abortion.** The Washington Post reported in August 1996 that the GOP platform included: “Support for appointment of federal judges who not only ‘respect traditional family values,’ but respect ‘the sanctity of human life,’ a shorthand for opposing abortion.” [Washington Post, 8/8/96]

**GOP Platform Sought Constitutional Amendment Against Abortion.** The 1996 Republican Party platform said: “The unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. Our purpose is to have legislative and judicial protection of that right against those who perform abortions.” [1996 Republican Party Platform, <http://www.australianpolitics.com/usa/gop/gop-platform-1996.shtml>]

**GOP Platform Declared that Illegal Aliens Should Receive Nothing but Emergency Aid.** The Washington Post reported in August 1996 that the GOP platform included: “A declaration that ‘illegal aliens should not receive public benefits other than emergency aid, and those who become parents while illegally in the United States should not be qualified to claim benefits for their offspring.’” [Washington Post, 8/8/96]

**GOP Platform Sought to Abolish Dept. of Education.** The Washington Post reported in August 1996 that the GOP platform included: “A commitment to abolish the Department of Education, repeal the Goals 2000 education program and oppose all ‘federal attempts to impose outcome or performance-based education on local schools.’” [Washington Post, 8/8/96]

**GOP Platform Sought to Stop Welfare Payments to Unmarried Teens.** The Washington Post reported in August 1996 that, “the platform declares that ‘because illegitimacy is the most serious cause of child poverty, we will encourage the states to stop cash payments to unmarried teens and set a family cap on payments for additional children.’” [Washington Post, 8/8/96]

**Phyllis Schlafly Endorsed GOP Platform.** The Washington Post reported in August 1996 that, “Phyllis Schlafly, head of the conservative Eagle Forum, a leader of the antiabortion forces and a supporter of Buchanan during the primaries, was enthusiastic about the platform: ‘I’m very happy with the document.’” [Washington Post, 8/8/96]

**GOP Platform Opposed Abortion.** The Washington Post reported in August 1996 that the GOP platform stated: “We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. Our purpose is to have legislative and judicial protection of that right against those who perform abortions.” [Washington Post, 8/8/96]

## **2000 Republican Party Platform**

*Michael Steele served as a delegate to the 2000 Republican Party Convention. The party platform adopted at the convention called for an anti-abortion constitutional amendment, included explicit opposition to the “gay lifestyle,” and called for the privatization of social security.*

**Delegate to the 2000 Republican National Convention.** [Congressional Quarterly Weekly, 7/28/00]

**GOP Platform Called for Anti-Abortion Constitutional Amendment.** The Washington Post reported in July 2000 that, “Republicans who support abortion rights were defeated at every turn, as conservatives, with Bush's support, held firm to traditional platform language calling for enactment of an antiabortion constitutional amendment banning the procedure, with no exceptions, and for using a stand on abortion as a litmus test in appointing federal judges.” [Washington Post, 7/30/00]

**GOP Platform Included Explicit Opposition to the “Gay Lifestyle.”** The Washington Post reported in July 2000 that, “Gays experienced a more direct assault, with the repeated inclusion of language reflecting Republican opposition to ‘the gay lifestyle’ and to the presence of homosexuals in the military. The delegates were so concerned about any indication of support for homosexuality that they amended a provision endorsing two-parent families with ‘fathers and mothers’ to say ‘a father and a mother’ to be sure to avoid any implied endorsement of gay parents with two fathers or two mothers.” [Washington Post, 7/30/00]

**GOP Platform Called for Privatization of Social Security.** The Republican Party platform stated their principles on social security: “Personal savings accounts must be the cornerstone of restructuring. Each of today’s workers should be free to direct a portion of their payroll taxes to personal investments for their retirement future.” [2000 GOP Party Platform, <http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2000/conventions/republican/features/platform.00/>]

## **MICHAEL STEELE’S MEETINGS**

*Over the past two years, Michael Steele has held a number of meetings with people associated with the Republican Party. These meetings included events with Ken Mehlman, Ed Gillespie, Alan Fabian, and a number of Republican political consultants.*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MEETING ATTENDEE</b>	<b>CITE</b>
11/3/04	Casper Taylor – former MD House speaker, lobbyist for numerous MD companies	<u>Washington Post</u> , 9/16/04
11/12/04 12/13/04	Ed Gillespie	
11/15/04 2/22/05 (African-American steering committee)	Ken Mehlman	
12/9/04	Carla Joyner – served on Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission while the agency encountered numerous problems in 2004	Newspaper accounts

<b>12/21/04</b>	Paul Facchina – head of Facchina Construction Co.	
<b>1/7/05</b> <b>1/19/05 (candlelight dinner)</b> <b>10/11/05 (dinner)</b> <b>10/26/05</b>	Alan Fabian – COO of Southwest Medical Center, donated \$100,000 to Bush Inauguration Committee in 2005	<u>Washington Post</u> , 1/15/05
<b>2/1/05</b>	Kelly Lungren – Republican fundraiser for Steele, other clients include Sen. Burns	<u>Roll Call</u> , 12/21/05
<b>2/9/05</b>	Steve Proctor & Tom Graham of PEPCO – PEPCO is currently involved in the controversial electricity rate hike	<u>Washington Times</u> , 3/10/06
<b>3/29/05</b>	Howard Henderson – President/CEO of Greater Baltimore Urban League, gave donations for Steele after Lt. Governor provided company with \$100K grant	<u>Baltimore Sun</u> , 3/12/06
<b>5/18/05</b>	Tom Chuckas – President/CEO Rosecroft Raceway	
<b>9/22/05</b>	Lance Copsey – Republican media consultant	

# CAMPAIGN FINANCES

*In less than a decade, Michael Steele has managed to amass a large number of campaign finance problems stemming from his failed 1998 comptroller race and his stint as the head of the state Republican Party. The Friends of Michael Steele campaign committee, created during his 1998 campaign, were fined four times for a total of \$550 by the Maryland Board of Elections for late filings. Steele was lucky that there is a maximum fine of \$250 for late reports, because his committee sent in a report 8½ months late. In addition, Michael Steele's sister, Monica Turner, made a loan of \$25,000 to the campaign that was not paid back until 4½ years later after the Board of Election was against forced to intervene. While he served as head of the Maryland GOP, Michael Steele received a contribution from Jack Abramoff, the disgraced former lobbyist. After he announced his run for the Senate, Michael Steele has been the recipient of fundraisers hosted by Karl Rove, while under investigation for treason, and George Bush, who raised only \$500,000 for the candidate. Michael Steele has proven himself unable to manage the finances of a state comptroller campaign, how can he be expected to manage the budget of the United States of America?*

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE PRE-2004

*Michael Steele's campaign finance practices were suspect even before he needed to raise millions for a Senate run and, as detailed below, have only gotten worse since he announced his candidacy. Steele's campaign committee was fined four times for late or inadequate reporting of donations and took over 4½ years to pay back a loan made by Steele's sister. He scheduled a fundraiser during the state legislative session, which is illegal for state elected officials in Maryland and, as head of the state Republican Party; Steele accepted \$4,000 in donations from Jack Abramoff, perhaps the most corrupt lobbyist in history.*

### Campaign Filings

*Michael Steele's campaign committee has run into numerous problems with the State Board of Elections. Even though he has only run for office twice, Steele's campaigns have filed late reports four times and only repaid a \$25,000 loan from his sister 4½ years after it was provided, after it was brought to their attention by the elections board. Michael Steele can't even manage a campaign committee for a state comptroller's race, why does he think he is ready to play on the big stage?*

**Steele Campaign Ignored Correction Requests from MD State Board of Elections.** The Maryland State Board of Elections sent letters to the Friends of Michael Steele committee on four occasions, requesting corrections in campaign filings. The first two letters, sent in April and September 2000, appear to have been ignored, as the subsequent letters sent in October 2001 and March 2002 indicate that the corrections have not been complied with. [Letters from MD State Board of Elections to Friends of Michael Steele; 3/5/02, 10/12/01, 4/10/00, 9/28/00]

**Steele Campaign Fines for Late Filings.** The Friends of Michael Steele committee has been late filing their campaign reports numerous times, prompting fines from the Maryland State Board of Elections. The following is a summary of their fines as compiled from the MD State Board of Elections records:

Campaign Report Due	Campaign Report Received	Fine
11/23/99	12/3/99	\$60.00
11/8/01	7/25/02	\$250.00

8/13/02	8/21/02	\$120.00
10/25/02	11/20/02	\$220.00

[Maryland State Board of Elections Campaign Filings]

- **Steele Fined for Not Filing Annual Report.** The Washington Post reported in July 2002 that, “The State Board of Elections has assessed a \$250 fine against The Friends of Michael Steele campaign for failing to file an annual report, due last November, to update the status of the loan and other outstanding expenses.” [Washington Post, 7/4/02]
- **Steele Late Three Times On Campaign Filings.** In November 2002, the Washington Post reported that, “Steele was late filing campaign reports last November and in August, which prompted a combined \$370 in fines. After the second penalty, [Ehrlich spokesman Paul] Schurick promised, ‘It ain’t gonna happen again.’ But records show that Steele’s campaign committee missed the next reporting deadline as well on Oct. 25, leading to a third fine of \$220. Steele did not return a phone call seeking comment.” [Washington Post, 11/21/02]

**Steele’s Sister Made \$25,000 Loan to 2002 Comptroller Campaign.** According to campaign finance reports filed by the Friends of Michael Steele on October 22, 1998, Monica Turner made a loan of \$25,000 to the campaign on September 2, 1998. [1998 Campaign Fund Report Summary Sheet]

- **2002: Steele Had Unpaid Loan of \$25,000 From 1998 Campaign.** In July 2002, the Washington Post reported that, “[Steele] has an unpaid political loan of \$25,000 from a previous statewide race, according to financial disclosure reports.” [Washington Post, 7/4/02]
- **MD Board of Elections Reported Outstanding Loan.** The Maryland State Board of Elections sent a letter to the Friends of Michael Steele on December 26, 2002 making them aware of “an outstanding loan from a prior election cycle.” [Letter from MD State Board of Elections to Friends of Michael Steele, 12/26/02]
- **Loan Repaid in December 2002.** According to campaign finance reports filed by the Friends of Michael Steele on January 14, 2003, Monica Turner’s loan for \$25,000 was repaid with interest of \$10,317.98 on December 31, 2002. [Campaign Finance Report Summary Sheet]

## **Jack Abramoff**

**Steele Accepted Maximum Donation from Jack Abramoff to the MD Republican Party.** On October 9, 2001, as Chairman of the Maryland Republican State Central Committee, Michael Steele accepted a \$4,000 donation to the party from Jack Abramoff, the maximum amount an individual can donate to a state race. [Maryland State Board of Elections]

## **Illegal Fundraising**

*Michael Steele has been involved in a number of potentially illegal campaign fundraisers. First, the Lt. Governor scheduled a fundraiser during Maryland’s legislative session, which is illegal for state elected officials. Then, in March 2004, the Minority Contractors’ Association hosted an event for Steele that raised \$75,000 shortly before a commission chaired by the Lt. Governor reported on procurement rules for minority businesses. The association president admitted that the purpose of the fundraiser was to influence Steele, but denied that he wanted to influence the report issued by the commission.*

**Steele Scheduled Illegal Fundraiser During MD's Legislative Session.** The Daily Times reported in February 2003 that, "Michael Steele has canceled plans to attend a political banquet in Salisbury tonight amid concerns that the trip would violate state fund-raising laws. Steele was scheduled to be the guest of honor at a fund-raiser -- the annual Lincoln Day Dinner -- sponsored by the Wicomico County Republican Central Committee. However, state law prohibits the governor and lieutenant governor from attending fund-raiser events during the Maryland General Assembly legislative session, which ends April 7." [Daily Times, 2/8/03]

**Minority Associated Used Fundraiser to Influence Steele as Final MBE Report was Published.** In March 2004, the Washington Post reported that, "On Jan. 8, the Maryland-Washington Minority Contractors' Association Inc., hosted a \$500-a-plate fundraiser for Steele. The event, first reported in the Baltimore Sun, attracted 150 people, raising about \$75,000, said association President Wayne R. Frazier. The event came as minority contractors were eagerly awaiting the report of a commission, chaired by Steele, that was developing new procurement rules. The new rules, announced Feb. 27, would dedicate 10 percent of state contracts to small businesses and toughen laws requiring contractors to take on minority partners. Frazier said the fundraiser was intended to influence Steele but not the outcome of the report." [Washington Post, 3/22/04]

### **1998 Campaign Contributor**

*During his 1998 state comptroller campaign, Michael Steele accepted a \$1,000 donation from Edward Downey. Less than six months later, Downey's company settled a lawsuit brought against them by a woman who claimed to have been fired because she revealed her pregnancy to her employers. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission would also file suit against Downey Communications for discriminatory hiring practices.*

**Steele Contributor Accused of Job Discrimination.** The Baltimore Sun reported in January 1999 that, "Two Bethesda companies have agreed to pay \$95,000 to settle a federal discrimination suit by a woman who claimed that a job offer was rescinded hours after she told them she was pregnant. The cash settlement by Downey Communications Inc. and Marketing and Information Management Inc. came a week before the trial was scheduled to start and ended 4 1/2 years of 'hostility and retaliation' toward Margaret Walters, said one of her lawyers. According to court documents, Walters was offered a job in writing as manager of client services in June 1994 by the companies, which are owned by Edward and Loretta Downey of Potomac... When Walters called back several days later to accept the job, she told a company executive she was four months pregnant. Five hours later, the executive called her back to say the company had changed the scope of the job, and the offer was rescinded." [Baltimore Sun, 1/16/99]

**US EEOC Filed Suit Against Company.** The Baltimore Sun reported in January 1999 that, "In May 1997, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed suit against the two companies in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt. 'We were convinced that the only thing that could have changed their minds was her pregnancy,' said EEOC lawyer Dana Hutter." [Baltimore Sun, 1/16/99]

**Edward Downey Contributed \$1,000 to Steele's Comptroller Campaign.** [1998 Friend of Michael Steele Campaign Fund Report] *NOTE: While Downey was involved in the lawsuit prior to his donation, the lawsuit was not settled for over 5 months after the donation occurred.*

### **Senate Campaign Fundraising**

*While under investigation for revealing a covert CIA agent's identity to reporters, Karl Rove found time to appear at a fundraiser for Michael Steele. Instead of showing his constituents that honor and decency are more important than campaign contributions, Steele went ahead with the even and raised \$75,000. George Bush also appeared at a fundraiser for the Lt Governor, raising \$500,000 in the process. However, this number is misleading, as the president has raised more than twice as much for other senatorial candidates around the country, proving that not even the GOP's biggest draw can convince Maryland's citizens to consider Michael Steele for US Senate.*

## **Karl Rove**

*Karl Rove became the center of a federal investigation into the treasonous disclosure of an undercover CIA agent's identity. Instead of recognizing the fundamental problems involved with the man known as Bush's Brain, Michael Steele rejected calls to cancel his fundraiser with Rove. Apparently Steele believes that the \$75,000 he raised is worth more than national security in a time of war.*

**Steele Planned Fundraiser with Karl Rove.** The Associated Press reported in July 2005 that, "Michael Steele... is scheduled to have a fundraiser next week featuring Bush strategist Karl Rove." [Associated Press, 7/21/05]

**NRSC: Steele Won't Cancel Fundraiser With Rove.** "The suggestion was quickly rejected by Dan Ronayne, spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. 'There is no reason to cancel any event,' Ronayne said." [AP, 7/12/05]

**Rove Raised \$75,000 for Steele.** In July 2005, the Associated Press reported that, "White House strategist Karl Rove helped Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele raise \$75,000... At an event earlier in the day at Bowie State University, Steele brushed off the criticism. 'They are criticizing for political purposes,' he said of plans to hold the event. 'There is no legal or ethical reason for me to do otherwise at this point. I look forward to him hosting a fundraiser for me.'" [Associated Press, 7/26/05]

## **George Bush Fundraiser**

*In November 2005, George Bush raised \$500,000 for Michael Steele, a large number but hardly comparable to the prodigious results from previous presidential visits for other Senate candidates.*

**George Bush Held Fundraiser for Michael Steele.** The Baltimore Sun reported in December 2005 that, "President Bush choppered into town Wednesday on behalf of Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele." [Baltimore Sun, 12/1/05]

- **Bush Only Raised \$500,000 for Steele.** The Frederick News Post reported in December 2005 that, "Democrats are scoffing -- positively scoffing -- at Wednesday's presidential fundraiser for Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, saying it fell way short of other stump appearances by President Bush. The event, attended by 800, raised an estimated \$500,000, according to reports... Mr. Bush raised more than \$1.4 million at a Phoenix fundraiser for Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona. The president brought in 1,000 people and \$1.7 million for Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, and \$1.5 million for Sen. Jim Talent of Missouri. Even at events with less incumbency, the president raked in more cash. Noting that this is the first fundraising event of the cycle, Mr. Singer said a look at past events is in order. Mr. Bush's 2004 appearance with North Carolina Senate challenger Richard Burr brought in \$1.5 million, and \$250,000 the same year for Washington Rep. George Nethercutt's Senate bid." [Frederick News Post, 12/2/05]

## **PACs**

**Steele Received \$210,576.26 in Campaign Contributions from PACs.** [Steele for Maryland Annual FEC Report]

## **Jack Abramoff**

*Michael Steele took campaign contributions from an Indian tribes associated with the Abramoff scandal as well as one of Jack Abramoff's most trusted subordinates.*

**Steele Received \$1,000 Contribution from Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.** [Steele for Maryland Quarterly FEC Report]

- **Abramoff Clients Included Mississippi Choctaw Indians.** The Washington Post reported in January 2006 that, "several Abramoff clients, including the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians." [Washington Post, 1/4/06]

**Steele Received \$500 Contribution from Todd Boulanger.** [Steele for Maryland Quarterly FEC Report]

- **Boulanger Worked for Abramoff Clients.** The Hill reported in March 2005 that, "In 1999, [Boulanger] joined Preston Gates & Ellis, an emerging GOP lobbying firm that was founded by Bill Gates Sr. Jack Abramoff, the GOP superlobbyist, also worked at Preston Gates. 'I started working on his business because he had all of it,' Boulanger said, and in 2001 he followed Abramoff to Greenberg Traurig." [The Hill, 3/15/05]
- **Summary of Abramoff/Boulanger Work for Tribe.** The Washington Post reported in March 2005 that, "Jack Abramoff, one of Washington's most prominent Republican lobbyists, tapped into the gambling riches of a rival tribe to orchestrate a far-reaching campaign against the Jena Band of Choctaws -- calling on senior U.S. senators and congressmen, the deputy secretary of the interior and evangelical leaders James Dobson and Ralph Reed... In an attempt to influence the Interior Department -- which has the final say on a tribe's gambling ambitions -- Abramoff directed his tribal clients to give at least \$225,000 to the Council of Republicans for Environmental Advocacy, a conservative group that was founded by Gale A. Norton before President Bush chose her to be his interior secretary... Abramoff lobbyist Todd Boulanger drafted a stiff letter to Norton warning, 'we hold you accountable' to shoot down 'reservation shopping' by the Jenas. Boulanger's proposed signatories were House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-Mo.). The draft was circulated by e-mail to Abramoff and others on the team. In June, Norton received a slightly toned-down version of the letter, this one bearing the House leaders' signatures." [Washington Post, 3/13/05]

## **Greater Baltimore Urban League**

*Michael Steele received \$10,261 in campaign contributions from members of the Board of Directors of the Greater Baltimore Urban League only one day after the company was notified that it would be receiving \$100,000 from the Monumental Insurance settlement. Unlike other states that disbursed the money to general or scholarship funds, the Lt. Governor recommended that the settlement be awarded to*

*four organizations. Steele apparently recommended the GBUL to receive the money and, since it was awarded, has taken in nearly \$12,000 for his Senate campaign from members of its board.*

**Other States Awarded Money to Scholarship & General Funds.** The Baltimore Sun reported in January 2004 that, “Other states receiving settlement money spent it in different ways. Kansas created a scholarship fund for minorities, and Pennsylvania placed its cash in the state's general fund so that all taxpayers would benefit.” [Baltimore Sun, 3/12/06]

**Letters Notifying Organizations of Money Sent on January 12, 2004.** The Baltimore Sun reported in January 2004 that, “The organizations, two each in Prince George's County and Baltimore, were notified of the windfall in letters briefly outlining the details of the Monumental settlement - and identifying Steele as their benefactor. ‘On behalf of Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele, it is my pleasure to inform you that we have selected the Global Developmental Services for Youth, Inc. to receive \$50,000 of the settlement as an unrestricted donation,’ Redmer wrote in one letter dated Jan. 12, 2004, and sent on Maryland Insurance Administration letterhead. Similar letters and awards went to three other groups at the same time.” [Baltimore Sun, 3/12/06]

**“The Greater Baltimore Urban League received \$100,000.”** [Baltimore Sun, 3/12/06]

**Baltimore Sun Headline: “Donations to Steele Scrutinized; Contributors Tied to Grant Recipients.”**  
[Baltimore Sun, 3/21/06]

**Ethics Experts Questioned Contributions.** In March 2006, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “Ethics experts and campaign finance watchdog groups said the financial transactions warrant closer scrutiny. ‘It does sound very questionable,’ said Alex Knott, political editor for the Center for Public Integrity in Washington. ‘It would be interesting to know whether there were any nods and winks that took place as this money was being allocated.’ ... Mark C. Medairy Jr., a former chairman of the Maryland Ethics Commission and former state delegate, said he doesn't believe state ethics laws address campaign contributions. Regardless, he said, ‘it wasn't good practice for him [Steele] to be the sole decision-maker as to how these moneys were to be allocated.’” [Baltimore Sun, 3/21/06]

**Contributions from Greater Baltimore Urban League to Steele for MD**

Name	Position	Date	Amount	Type
David Dalton	Board of Directors	1/12/04	\$1,000	Individual
Raymond Haysbert	Chairman	1/13/04	\$1,261	In-Kind
Nikita Haysbert		1/13/04	\$4,000	In-Kind
Forum Caterer	Owned by Raymond Haysbert	1/13/04	\$4,000	In-Kind
Cornelius May	Board of Directors	7/22/04	\$200	Individual
Raymond Haysbert	Chairman	9/1/04	\$250	Individual
Cornelius May	Board of Directors	9/1/04	\$1,000	Individual

**Donations from Outside MD**

*Michael Steele has raised a total of \$1,024,092.53 from individual contributors to his Senate campaign. Of that money, \$274,972.48 or nearly 27% of the total has come from donors outside of Maryland. Perhaps we finally know why Michael Steele is constantly taking trips away from the state the made him Lt. Governor.*

**Total Individual Contributions:** \$1,024,092.53  
**Individual Contributions from Out of State:** \$274,972.48  
 [Steele for Maryland Quarterly and Annual FEC Reports]

**Lobbyist Donations**

<b>LOBBYIST</b>	<b>CLIENTS</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTION TO STEELE</b>
<b>Wayne Berman (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	Verizon, Reliant Energy, Fannie Mae, Chevron Texaco, American Petroleum Inst.	\$500
<b>Carolyn Bonnett (Maryland Lobbyist)</b>	AAA Mid-Atlantic, Barwood Inc., Corporation Service Company, CTB Government Relations, MD Motorcoach Assn., MD School Bus Contractors Assn., MD Taxicab Sedan & Paratransit Assn., South Baltimore Business Alliance	\$2,100
<b>Todd A. Boulanger (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	Wal-Mart, Bioport, Chitmacha Tribe of Louisiana, Saginaw Chippewa, Mississippi Band of Choctaw, Coushatta Tribe, SunCruz Casino	\$500
<b>Cesar Conda (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	Aetna, Tyco Intl., Visa, BNFL	\$1,000
<b>Lee Cowen (Federal &amp; Maryland Lobbyist)</b>	USA Group, USA Funds Inc., ACS State & Local Solutions, Americhoice Health Services, APS Healthcare, Lyondell Chemical Company, MV Transportation	\$500
<b>Robert Drummer (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	Natl. Technical Services Assn, American Moving & Storage Assn.	\$250
<b>Jennifer Lukawski (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	Comcast, GlaxoSmithKline, CitiGroup, Bristol Meyers Squibb	\$500
<b>Martin McGuinness (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	American Staffing Assn.	\$250

<b>Amy Mehlman (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	Nextel, Corning, IntelSat, SBC Communications	\$1,000
<b>Daniel Murphy (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	CitiGroup, Lockheed Martin, Coconut Creek Gaming,	\$500
<b>Scott Reed (Federal Lobbyist)</b>	Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, Lockheed Martin, Catawaba Indian Band, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin	\$500

[Steele for Maryland FEC Filings]

# ETHICS

*Michael Steele has had a number of ethics problems even before he started his Senate campaign and accepted Karl Rove as a fundraiser. After the 2002 election, it was revealed that a temporary employment agency that had been paid over \$50,000 by Michael Steele's campaign account had violated Maryland law by paying people to advocate for candidates on election day. Although the campaign denied any knowledge of the event, three people, including two Ehrlich campaign staffers, had been indicted; the charges would eventually be dismissed after a judge overturned the law. Steele has called for ethics investigations of a Democratic State Delegate even after his Republican colleagues loudly denounced the investigation. While head of the Prince George's County Republican Party, Steele also served as co-chairman of the Truth in Taxation Committee, which coincidentally received their largest donation from the PG GOP. Finally, while he may claim to represent a new breed of politician that will sweep out the corruption in Washington, it is important to know that Michael Steele worked for law firms that have lobbied Congress for years.*

## TEMP WORKERS

*After the 2002 election, it was revealed that a temporary employment agency had violated Maryland law by paying people to advocate for specific candidates on election day. Michael Steele's campaign account paid \$52,640 to the agency only days before the election but pled ignorance to the criminal activities. When the investigation concluded, one of the temp agency workers and two Ehrlich campaign workers had been indicted for paying people to advocate for the Ehrlich/Steele ticket. However, the criminal charges were eventually dismissed when a Prince George's County judge overturned the law; the defendants were joined in their attempt to overturn the law by the Washington DC based office of the ACLU.*

**Summary of Investigation.** The Associated Press reported that, "The investigation into walking-around money, which was banned in the 1970s, began after the Democratic Party reported plans to pay workers up to \$100 to canvass neighborhoods for congressional candidates. The party was forced to change its plan to ensure paid workers only encouraged people to vote, without advocating for any specific political parties or candidates. The day after the election, reporters, police and an investigator from the state prosecutor's office watched nearly 200 residents of the Community for Creative Non-Violence get paid. The workers said they had manned polls in Prince George's County on Election Day, handing out campaign literature for Ehrlich and Steele, including sample ballots from "Democrats for Ehrlich" marked with all Democrats except Ehrlich for governor. Police had been called to the homeless shelter when angry residents began demanding the pay they said they had been promised the previous night. Eventually, the workers lined up in front of a van and were paid \$150 apiece. The Ehrlich campaign heavily promoted Democrats for Ehrlich during the gubernatorial race, saying it showed Republicans had made inroads with traditional Democrats, especially the black voters who were considered pivotal in the tightly contested election." [Associated Press, 12/13/02]

**Temp Agency Worker Indicted.** The Associated Press reported in December 2002 that, "A woman associated with a Washington temporary employment agency was indicted Friday by a Prince George's County jury for allegedly paying residents of a homeless shelter to work polling places on Election Day for Gov.-elect Robert Ehrlich's campaign. Shirley Brookins, whose business address is Alternative Resource Cooperative, Inc., of Washington, offered and agreed to pay people recruited from the shelter to

distribute Ehrlich campaign literature, accost voters and communicate a voting preference at Prince George's polling places, according to the state prosecutor's office... State law forbids the payment of so-called walking-around money to Election Day poll workers. Each violation can bring up to a one-year jail sentence and up to \$25,000 in civil penalties.” [Associated Press, 12/13/02]

**Two Ehrlich Campaign Workers Indicted.** The Washington Post reported in January 2003 that, “A grand jury has indicted two employees of Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s campaign for allegedly hiring poll workers on Election Day, and the Maryland state prosecutor said yesterday that his investigation is continuing. Steven Martin and Rashida Hogg are charged with recruiting workers to hand out campaign literature at polling places in Prince George's County on behalf of Ehrlich and his running mate, Michael S. Steele, now lieutenant governor.” [Washington Post, 1/31/03]

**Steele's Committee Paid Temp Agency.** In December 2002, the Associated Press reported that, “Michael Steele's campaign committee paid more than \$50,000 to a temporary employment agency that is at the center of an investigation into alleged illegal payments to Election Day campaign workers. The disclosure of the payment was in recently filed campaign finance reports... Campaign finance reports show that Steele's campaign committee paid \$52,640 on Nov. 2 to a company listed as Alternative Resource Cooperative, a temporary employment agency in Washington.” [Associated Press, 12/9/02]

**Steele Spokesman Said Funds Were to Cover Pre-Election Day Activities.** In December 2002, the Associated Press reported that, “Paul E. Schurick, a spokesman for Steele and Gov.-elect Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., said that money was supposed to cover work done before Election Day, including distributing literature over the weekend. ‘No one was hired to work Election Day,’ Schurick said. Asked whether that was what actually happened, Schurick said: ‘Apparently not.’” [Associated Press, 12/9/02]

**Charges in Temp Worker Case Dismissed.** The Associated Press reported in April 2003 that, “A Prince George's County judge struck down Maryland's law that bans payments to workers handing out campaign material at polls, saying it is too broad and hinders free speech on Election Day... The decision dismisses indictments against three people charged under the so-called ‘walking around money’ law. The three allegedly hired workers, including homeless people bused in from Washington, to campaign on behalf of Gov. Robert Ehrlich Nov. 5 at polls in Prince George's.” [Associated Press, 4/25/03]

**ACLU Supported Defendants.** The Associated Press reported in April 2003 that, “The Washington region branch of the American Civil Liberties Union also filed a brief in support of the defendants. ACLU attorney Arthur Spitzer said Maryland's polling place law is the strictest in the nation, noting Michigan recently repealed a similar law.” [Associated Press, 4/25/03]

## **OFF DUTY POLICE**

*In 2002, the Ehrlich campaign planned to use off duty police officers as volunteers at polling sites in Baltimore. However, the Maryland Democratic Party filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the practice due to possible voter intimidation. The lawsuit was dropped after the Ehrlich campaign agreed that the volunteers would not wear police uniforms or identify themselves as police officers*

**Ehrlich Campaign to Use Off Duty Police as Volunteers.** The Baltimore Sun reported in November 2002 that, “Paul E. Schurick, an Ehrlich spokesman, said their campaign has recruited volunteers to work at 1,700 polling sites. In the city, where it is harder to find Republican volunteers, the campaign plans to use off-duty Baltimore police officers to man the polls.” [Baltimore Sun, 11/2/02]

**Ehrlich Campaign Agreed Off Duty Police Volunteers Wouldn't Identify Themselves.** The Washington Post reported in November 2002 that, "Maryland's fiercely contested race for governor spawned a flurry of allegations of election fraud and voter intimidation yesterday... In Baltimore, the Democratic National Committee filed a lawsuit seeking to prevent the Ehrlich campaign from using off-duty police officers as poll workers. That plan, the suit alleged, could have the 'effect of intimidating, threatening and coercing African-American citizens from exercising their right to vote.' But Democrats later agreed to drop the action after Ehrlich agreed that the officers would not wear uniforms, badges or sidearms or identify themselves as police officers." [Washington Post, 11/5/02]

## **PARTISANSHIP**

*Michael Steele has been a leader in the Maryland Republican Party for the last decade, using his powerful positions for partisan purposes. Steele called for an ethics investigation of a Democratic Delegate even after his Republican colleagues told him that there was nothing to investigate.*

**Steele Called For Ethics Investigation Into A Democratic Delegate.** In May 2001, the Associated Press reported that, "The chairman of the Maryland Republican Party asked for an ethics investigation of Delegate Joseph Vallario on Tuesday, arguing that the Democrat's law practice had benefited from his actions as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. Michael Steele, the GOP chairman, cited bills dealing with drunken driving and limiting the discretion judges have in granting new sentencing hearings as part of the basis for his complaint. Both bills died in the committee." [Associated Press, 5/8/01]

- **Republicans Admitted There Was Nothing to the Charge.** The Washington Post reported in May 2001 that, "Republican legislative leaders professed to be baffled by Steele's decision to attack Vallario on ethical grounds. 'This is not an ethics issue and we told him it wasn't an ethics issue,' said Del. Robert L. Flanagan (R-Howard), the House minority whip. 'We encouraged Michael to criticize Vallario for having too much power, for not using it properly, for obstructing remedial legislation or even criticize him as being the wrong person for the job because he's a criminal defense lawyer and may bring a slanted view to these types of issues... But that type of criticism is distinctly different from claiming an ethics violation.'" [Washington Post, 5/17/01]

## **LOBBYING**

*Michael Steele has worked for organizations that have conducted extensive lobbyist activity in Congress. He may claim to be bringing a breath of fresh air to Congress, but his employment record shows that he has been immersed in the Washington lobbyist culture for years.*

**Steele Worked for Mills Corp. from 1997-98.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 2002 on Michael Steele's employment history: "1997-1998: Counsel, the Mills Corp., Arlington, Va." [Baltimore Sun, 7/2/02]

- **Mills Corp. Lobbying Activity.** According to the US Senate lobbyist registrations, Mills Corp. paid Cassidy & Associates, Inc. \$20,000 to lobby on their behalf for federal permit assistance in 1998. The Holden Bosworth Co. was paid \$80,000 to lobby for Mills Corp. on the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and transportation funding. [US Senate Lobbyist Records]

**Steele Worked for Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton from 1991-97.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 2002 on Michael Steele’s employment history: “1991-1997: Associate, Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton Law Offices, Washington.” [Baltimore Sun, 7/2/02]

**CLEARY, GOTTLIEB, STEEN & HAMILTON LOBBYIST ACTIVITY**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>CLIENTS</b>
<b>1991</b>	American Cyanamid Co., Colonial Sugar Refineries, Day-Glo Color Corp., Electricity Consumers Resources Council, La Metalli Industriale, Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Petroleos de Venezuela, UNOCAL Corp.
<b>1992</b>	American Cyanamid Co., American Industrial Health Council, ChemDesign Corp., Colonial Sugar Refineries, CSR, Day-Glo Color Corp., Electricity Consumers Resources Council, Government of Kuwait, La Metalli Industriale, Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Petroleos de Venezuela, Securities Industry Assn.
<b>1993</b>	American Cyanamid Co., American Industrial Health Council, ChemDesign Corp., Copolymer Rubber and Chemical Corp., CSR, Day-Glo Color Corp., Electricity Consumers Resources Council, Government of Kuwait, Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Securities Industry Assn.
<b>1994</b>	American Industrial Health Council, CSR, Electricity Consumers Resource Council, Government of Kuwait, Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Securities Industry Assn.
<b>1995</b>	CSR, Electricity Consumers Resource Council, Institute of International Bankers, Government of Kuwait, Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit
<b>1996</b>	CSFP, CSR, Group for the Reform of International Taxation of the Securities Industry, Institute of International Bankers, Government of Kuwait, Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Salomon Inc., Securities Industry Assn.

**1997**

1997 edition unavailable at Library of Congress.

[United States Representatives, 1991-97 Editions]

# MICHAEL STEELE'S RHETORIC vs. THE EHRLICH-STEELE RECORD

ISSUE	RHETORIC	E-S RECORD
<p><b>Health Care</b></p>	<p><b>Steele “Committed to Improving Access to Affordable Health Care.”</b> According to the Steele campaign website, “Michael is committed to improving access to affordable health care for Marylanders. As Maryland's next United States Senator, Michael will continue to build on his positive record of turning hope into action for all people of the great state of Maryland.” [Michael Steele website; On the Issues–Health Care Section]</p> <p><b>Steele: Families Deserve Best Health Care.</b> <u>US States News</u> reprinted a press release from the Maryland Higher Education Commission that said: “‘When it comes to education and health care, Governor Ehrlich and I believe our families deserve the best,’ said Lt. Governor Michael Steele.” [<u>US States News</u>, 9/8/05]</p> <p><b>Steele Favored Vetoing Wal-Mart Bill.</b> On WBAL, Michael Steele said: “They [business owners] were concerned about it to the extent that as one business owner told me, a small business owner told me, today Wal-Mart, tomorrow my firm. And that’s how they saw it, because once the legislature knows it has the power to regulate how a company pays for its employees health care, how much it will pay for that health care, and other aspects of what is that company bottom line, then there is no stopping the legislature, in this case, those who felt that businesses should be regulated in this way from going after, you know, a company of 2000, 1000, or 500.” [WBAL, Stateline, 6/11/05]</p>	<p><b>Number of Uninsured Rose Under Ehrlich.</b> Robert Ehrlich took office in 2003 while 730,000 people were uninsured in Maryland. That number rose to 810,000 by the end of 2004; at least 80,000 more people are without health insurance under Ehrlich’s watch. [US Census Bureau, 2003 &amp; 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement]</p> <p><b>Wal-Mart Bill Summary.</b> The <u>Washington Post</u> reported in January 2006 that, “The bill will require private companies with more than 10,000 employees in Maryland to spend at least 8 percent of their payroll on employee health benefits or make a contribution to the state's insurance program for the poor. Wal-Mart, which employs about 17,000 Marylanders, is the only known company of such size that does not meet that spending requirement.” [<u>Washington Post</u>, 1/13/06]</p>
<p><b>Economic Record</b></p>	<p><b>Steele on the Ehrlich Economic Record.</b> According to the Steele campaign website,</p>	<p><b>Ehrlich Oversaw “Remarkable Turnaround for State Finances.”</b> The</p>

	<p>“Lt. Gov. Steele and Gov. Ehrlich reversed the \$4 billion deficit they inherited when they took office and created \$2.4 billion in budget surpluses. The Ehrlich-Steele administration also worked to increase efficiencies and reduced the overall size of state government by seven percent.” [Michael Steele website; On the Issues-Growing the Economy section]</p>	<p><u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported in March 2006 that, “The General Assembly approved a \$29.4 billion spending plan for the coming fiscal year... The budget, which takes effect July 1, represents a remarkable turnaround for state finances since the beginning of Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s term in 2003, when deep projected deficits forced spending cuts, fee increases and a rise in the property tax. Now, thanks to a hot economy and real estate market, spending is set to grow 11.4 percent over this year, the fastest rate of increase in at least a quarter-century, while still leaving the state government with \$870 million to help balance next year's budget.” [<u>Baltimore Sun</u>, 3/28/06]</p>
<p><b>Unemployment</b></p>	<p><b>Steele on Maryland Unemployment.</b> According to the Steele campaign website, “Pro-growth policies at the state and federal level are encouraging low unemployment rates and fostering a climate for continued job growth. The unemployment rate in Maryland rests at 3.6 percent — one of the lowest in modern history.” [Michael Steele website; On the Issues-Growing the Economy section]</p>	<p><b><u>WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT FELL...</u></b></p> <p><b>Unemployment Fell Under Ehrlich.</b> Robert Ehrlich was inaugurated in January 2003, inheriting an unemployment rate of 4%; by February 2006, the unemployment rate in Maryland had fallen to 3.5%. The civilian labor force has grown by 47,200 people while the number of unemployed has fallen by 15,000. [Bureau of Labor Statistics]</p> <p><b>Black Unemployment Fell Under Ehrlich.</b> In 2002, African-American unemployment in Maryland was 7.6%, by 2004 it had fallen to 6.2%. [Bureau of Labor Statistics]</p> <p><b><u>SO DID MEDIAN INCOME...</u></b></p> <p><b>Median Income Fell Under Ehrlich-Steele.</b> According to the U.S. Census, in 2002-2003, Maryland median income was \$56,485. By 2003-2004, Median income in Maryland had dropped to \$55,519 – a drop of 1.7%. [www.census.gov]</p>
<p><b>Minimum Wage</b></p>	<p><b>Steele: Governor to Veto Raise in Minimum Wage.</b> The <u>Cumberland Times-News</u> reported in May 2004 that,</p>	<p><b>Ehrlich Vetoed Minimum Wage Increase; Overridden by Legislature.</b> The <u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported in January</p>

	<p>“Concerning a minimum wage bill, Steele said the governor will veto it.” [<u>Cumberland Times-News</u>, 5/8/04]</p>	<p>2006 that, “Maryland's minimum-wage earners will see a \$1 raise in their hourly pay after the state Senate yesterday overturned Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s veto of a bill that bumps the rate to \$6.15.” [<u>Baltimore Sun</u>, 1/18/06]</p>
<p><b>Poverty</b></p>	<p>“We must continue to be vigilant in our fight against the blight of poverty, poor education and lost opportunity.” – Michael Steele at the 2004 Republican National Convention. [8/31/04]</p> <p><b>Steele Talks About Poverty.</b> According to the National Review, “Steele is ready to campaign everywhere, as he and Ehrlich did in 2002 – ‘going to every neighborhood, talking about poverty, talking about entrepreneurship, taking on taboos.’” [<u>National Review</u>, 12/5/05]</p> <p><b>Steele Focused on Poverty.</b> According to the <u>Washington Post</u>, “A spokesman for Steele said yesterday that his campaign has been focused on such issues as poverty and education and on ‘leveling the playing field for small and minority businesses.’” [<u>Washington Post</u>, 11/16/05]</p>	<p><b>MD One of Only Seven States to See Increase in Poverty Under E-S.</b> Under the Ehrlich-Steele administration, Maryland was one of only seven states to see an increase in poverty rates since 2002. According to the U.S. Census, Maryland had a 1.2 percent increase in the poverty rate from 2002-03 to 2003-04. Only KY, IN, MO and WI saw higher increases in that time period. [www.census.gov]</p>
<p><b>Thornton Commission Funding</b></p>	<p><b>Ehrlich Vowed to Fully Fund the Thornton Commission Plan.</b> The <u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported in October 2002 that, “Ehrlich says he would fully fund the Thornton Commission recommendations for increased public school spending of \$1.3 billion over six years.” [<u>Baltimore Sun</u>, 10/27/02]</p> <p><b>Steele Promised To Follow The Thornton Commission Plan.</b> The <u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported in January 2003 that, “In his speech, Steele promised to support education by delivering the increases in school aid called for by the Thornton Commission plan approved last spring.” [<u>Baltimore Sun</u>, 1/4/03]</p>	<p><b>Ehrlich Budget Included \$397 Million to Fund Thornton Commission Plan.</b> The <u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported in January 2005 that, “The governor said that the \$397 million in new money that he wants to spend for K-12 education fulfills a mandate contained in the Thornton Plan, which sought to equalize resources between richer and poorer districts and fulfill a constitutional obligation to schools. The increase is a record amount. But lawmakers disagreed that Ehrlich has met the Thornton mandate, saying he has omitted a \$54 million component of the 2002 law designed to give more money to hire teachers in areas where costs are higher.” [<u>Baltimore Sun</u>, 1/20/05]</p>

		<p><b>Ehrlich Administration Only Funded Some Thornton Commission Recommendations.</b> The <u>Washington Post</u> reported in March 2006 that, “The ‘geographic cost of education index’ was included in a 2002 law that bolstered school funding statewide following the recommendations of an expert group, the Thornton Commission. But unlike other provisions of that law, the index is not mandatory and has never been funded during the tenure of Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. (R).” [<u>Washington Post</u>, 3/25/06]</p>
School Vouchers	<p><b>Steele Used Vouchers to Attract Blacks to GOP.</b> The <u>Washington Post</u> reported in May 2001 that, “To woo African Americans, Steele is focusing on issues of common interest to blacks and Republicans, such as economic development and education. ‘Our polling numbers suggest that African Americans support the idea of charter schools and voucher issues to move their kids into a better-performing school system,’ tactics supported by the Republican Party, said Steele.” [<u>Washington Post</u>, 5/10/01]</p>	<p><b>Steele’s Education Commission Did Not Recommend Vouchers.</b> The <u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported in September 2004 that, “The Ehrlich administration will not be advocating school vouchers, the lieutenant governor said... ‘It’s not something I’m pushing or the governor is pushing,’ [Steele] said. ‘Maryland is not ready.’” [<u>Baltimore Sun</u>, 9/28/04]</p>
Gay Marriage	<p><b>Steele: Gay Marriage Is A State Issue, But Supports A Federal Amendment.</b> In August 2004, the <u>Washington Times</u> reported that, “[Steele] said each state should decide the issue, but added that he supports President Bush’s efforts in calling for a constitutional amendment to define marriage, because some states are unwilling to act.” [<u>Washington Times</u>, 8/26/04]</p>	<p><b>Ehrlich Supported Placing Gay Marriage Amendment on Ballot.</b> The <u>Associated Press</u> reported in February 2006 that, “Robert Ehrlich, who has advocated on behalf of some rights for same-sex couples, opposes gay marriage and has tried to put pressure on Democrats to place the issue [of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage] on the November ballot.” [<u>Associated Press</u>, 2/14/06]</p>
Malpractice Reform	<p><b>Steele Shaped Medical Malpractice Policy.</b> In April 2004, the <u>Washington Times</u> reported that, “[Steele] has been involved in shaping such policy issues as medical malpractice.” [<u>Washington Times</u>, 4/24/04]</p> <p><b>Steele Had “Limited Involvement” in</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of Ehrlich Bill.</b> In March 2004, the <u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported that, “The Ehrlich bill calls for cutting the maximum ‘pain and suffering’ damage award to \$500,000 from \$635,000, limiting lawyer fees and changing the way economic damages, such as medical costs, are calculated and paid out.” [<u>Baltimore Sun</u>,</p>

	<p><b>Governor’s Malpractice Reform Efforts.</b> The <u>Washington Times</u> reported in November 2004 that, “Steele said there is a ‘60-40 percent’ chance of a special legislative session on medical-malpractice insurance premiums this year. ‘I think we will see some movement,’ said Mr. Steele, a business lawyer who has had limited involvement in the governor's malpractice-insurance reform effort.” [<u>Washington Times</u>, 11/24/04]</p> <p><b>Steele Attacked Kerry for Voting Against Tort Reform.</b> In September 2004, the <u>Los Angeles Times</u> reported that, “[Steele] ticked off a number of votes on issues such as defense, tort reform and intelligence spending and noted that a majority of U.S. senators had voted in favor of the programs. ‘But not John Kerry,’ he said.” [<u>Los Angeles Times</u>, 9/1/04]</p> <p><b>Steele Said Ehrlich Admin Committed to Tort Reform.</b> In December 2004, <u>India Abroad</u> reported that, “[Steele said] the Ehrlich administration was committed to tort reform.” [<u>India Abroad</u>, 12/24/04]</p> <p><b>Steele Attacked MD Senate for Tort Reform Bill.</b> In December 2004, the <u>Daily Record</u> reported that, “The governor, flanked by Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele, continued to express disappointment in both chambers. Both chambers favored repealing a 2 percent tax exemption on health maintenance organizations to help offset doctors' insurance premiums, a provision Ehrlich insisted would cause him to veto the bill. He and Steele particularly faulted the Senate for having tort reform that amounts to ‘zero percent [of the tort reform] of our bill.’” [<u>Daily Record</u>, 12/30/04]</p>	<p>3/17/04]</p> <p><b>Legislature Overrode Ehrlich Veto.</b> The <u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported in January 2005 that, “The Maryland General Assembly voted yesterday to override Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s veto of a medical malpractice reform bill, rebuffing an intense lobbying effort by the governor and setting a tense partisan tone for the 90-day session that begins today. Democrats praised themselves for bridging divides between the House and Senate to craft a solution to the malpractice crisis. The legislation, which now becomes law, limits increases in doctors' malpractice insurance premiums and, to subsidize rates, subjects HMOs to a tax now paid by other health insurers.” [<u>Baltimore Sun</u>, 1/12/05]</p>
<p><b>Environment</b></p>	<p><b>Steele Said Campaign Would Focus on Environment.</b> The <u>Associated Press</u> reported in July 2002 that, “Steele, a former corporate lawyer, said the campaign would focus over the next five months on the issues</p>	<p><b>Criticism of Nominee for Environment Dept.</b> In January 2003, the <u>Baltimore Sun</u> reported that, “The nominee, Lynn Y. Buhl, was most recently a deputy chief at the Michigan Department of Environmental</p>

of education, crime and the environment.”  
[[Associated Press](#), 7/1/02]

**Ehrlich Promises on Environment.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in October 2002 that, “Ehrlich promises to upgrade the state's sewage treatment plants, which many agree is the largest source of water pollution in the Chesapeake and its tributaries. He says he would ‘revisit’ a law designed to limit agricultural runoff into the bay, to encourage compliance.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 10/27/02]

**Steele Supported Dept. of Environment Nominee.** In January 2003, the [Baltimore Sun](#) reported that, “Michael S. Steele described Buhl as ‘out of the box - not someone who is old-school.’ ‘She brings the environmental piece, as well as the corporate piece to the table,’ Steele said. ‘She's got the business piece as well as the regulatory piece.’ ... Asked about those who worry about the appointment, Steele said: ‘You know what I say to them? Stop the whining. Stop the complaining, and prepare to work with us to solve the environmental problems of the state.’ ‘You don't know anything about her; you don't know anything about the governor's plan,’ he said. ‘Let's wait a year and then we can assess how she does.’” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 1/31/03]

Quality, an agency that receives abysmal marks from advocacy groups... Eighteen Michigan environmental groups - including Clean Water Action, the Lake Michigan Federation and the Michigan Land Use Institute - have issued a series of reports that they say details ‘the failure of the state Department of Environmental Quality to protect clean air, clean water and public health.’ Among the complaints: The agency sided with General Motors and let large amounts of pollutants remain along the banks of the Saginaw River, and it allowed the volume of trash imported from Toronto to double.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 1/31/03] *Note: The State Senate would reject Buhl's nomination, the first time in MD history that an agency nomination was rejected.*

**2004 Budget Included Water Treatment Plant Upgrades.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in January 2004 that, “The spending plan also includes \$98.5 million for wastewater treatment plan upgrades. ‘The capital budget is about education and the environment,’ Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele said.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 1/28/04]

**Baltimore Sun Editorial Criticizing Ehrlich Environmental Record.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) published an editorial in April 2005 saying, “The administration fought hard against proposals to impose stricter standards on vehicle emissions and to limit the noxious pollutants spewing out of aging coal-burning power plants. And by ‘fought hard,’ we mean his dispatching of a veritable army of loyalists to testify at hearings (no fewer than three Cabinet secretaries spoke out against cleaner cars) and twist the arms of legislators... Environmentalists are particularly alarmed by what's happening at the agency level, where Mr. Ehrlich has trimmed budgets and blunted enforcement. They note, for instance, that a growing number of waterways are being dropped from regulatory oversight. Maryland has been slow to join surrounding states' lawsuits

aimed at reducing air pollution that blows into the region from the Midwest. And the administration has done pitifully little to curb farm runoff, a leading contributor to the bay's excess nitrogen." [Baltimore Sun editorial, 4/18/05]

**Ehrlich Approved "Flush Tax" to Upgrade Sewage Plants.** The Associated Press reported in December 2005 that, "The new Maryland 'flush tax,' a \$30 fee that generates money for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Restoration Fund, will be collected for the first time this year. It was seen as a major piece of environmental legislation for Gov. Robert Ehrlich. It is expected to raise \$60 million to \$70 million a year to upgrade the state's 66 major sewage treatment plants to reduce the discharge of nitrogen and phosphorus that pollute the Chesapeake Bay and other waterways. The money also will be used to upgrade septic systems and fund a cover-crop program that encourages farmers to plant crops that absorb nitrogen." [Associated Press, 12/11/05]

**Ehrlich 2006 Budget Environmental Summary.** In January 2006, the Baltimore Sun reported that, "Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. proposed more than \$440 million in environmental spending... For the first time, Ehrlich will propose full funding of Program Open Space, a cornerstone of the state's land preservation efforts... Ehrlich said he will budget \$258 million for the program this year, plus another \$115 million for agricultural land preservation and the Rural Legacy Program. The governor said he will also propose new funds for Chesapeake Bay restoration programs, renewable energy development and agricultural programs designed to limit runoff into the state's waterways." [Baltimore Sun, 1/17/06]

# STEELE: WRONG ON THE ISSUES

*From gambling to education to health care, Michael Steele has the wrong priorities for Maryland and the United States. The Lt. Governor wants to legalize gambling in order to fund education, conveniently ignoring the fact that gaming interests have given his campaigns over \$125,000. Steele claimed that teachers are merely baby-sitters and endorsed giving teacher certifications to anyone who passes a computer test regardless of their lack of education training. He was in favor of vetoing the so-called Wal-Mart bill, which would give health insurance to thousands of minimum wage workers and supported the Bush prescription drug boondoggle that has resulted in increased profits for drug companies and increased problems for senior citizens. Michael Steele has sided with corporations over people throughout his political career, forgetting that his constituents are not the special interests that fund his campaigns but instead are the people that put him in office.*

## ABORTION

*Michael Steele is opposed to all abortions for women, not even allowing for exceptions in the case of rape or incest. Steele claimed that allowing any abortions would put people on a “slippery slope” that is dangerous to opponents of abortion.*

**Steele Staunchly Opposes Abortion.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 2002 that, “Steele said he is staunchly opposed to abortion.” [Baltimore Sun, 7/2/02]

**Steele Opposes Abortion Even In Case of Rape or Incest.** In October 2002, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “He is also opposed to abortion. Steele is even reluctant to make exceptions for women who have been raped or are victims of incest. ‘I don’t think a man or woman should be in a position of playing God,’ said Steele, adding that if he were governor he would not seek laws to restrict access to abortion.” [Baltimore Sun, 10/27/02]

- **Steele Said Exceptions Are “A Slippery Slope.”** The Baltimore Sun reported in March 2003 that, “[Steele] added that any exceptions are ‘a slippery slope if you believe in the sanctity of life.’” [Baltimore Sun, 3/3/03]

**Steele Walked In March For Life Rally.** In March 2003, the Associated Press reported that, “Michael Steele briefly joined the annual Annapolis March for Life Rally in front of the State House on Monday evening.” [Associated Press, 3/3/03]

**Steele Said He Has No Position on Parental Notification.** The Baltimore Sun reported in March 2003 that, “Steele said the administration has yet to develop a position on the parental notification legislation. ‘To the extent this becomes an issue, (the governor) and I will talk, and we will decide what, if any, positions he wants to take,’ Steele said.” [Baltimore Sun, 3/3/03]

## GAY RIGHTS

*Michael Steele has spoken at a rally calling for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage even though he claimed that states should decide the issue only 5 months before. Steele wants states to define marriage but, because some haven’t acted, is supporting efforts to amend the constitution. Finally, the Lt.*

*Governor claimed that people don't care about gay rights unless they are gay, a viewpoint contradicted by every heterosexual person who supports gay rights.*

**Steele Said He Couldn't Define Gay Rights.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 2002 that, "Steele balked when asked about gay rights, saying he has trouble with the concept if not precisely defined. 'There's a lot of rights that already protect white gay men,' he said." [Baltimore Sun, 7/2/02]

**Steele Said People Don't Care About Gay Rights Until They're Gay.** The Maryland Gazette reported in August 2001 that, "Michael Steele, chairman of Maryland's Republican Party, gave a much more blunt assessment, saying that the issue would be decided on election day. 'Unless you're gay, you could care less about gay rights,' he said. 'Unless you're a homosexual or a lesbian, it's not going to rise up on your radar screen. I'm focused on other things. You can talk about gay rights all you want, but it doesn't mean crap if you don't have a job.'" [Maryland Gazette, 8/8/01]

**Steele Spoke at Rally for Constitutional Ban on Gay Marriage.** The Baltimore Sun reported in January 2005 that, "About 1,000 people huddled in front of the State House yesterday to call for a constitutional ban on gay marriage in Maryland, cheering a succession of preachers and politicians - including Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele." [Baltimore Sun, 1/28/05]

**Steele: Gay Marriage Is A State Issue, But Supports A Federal Amendment.** In August 2004, the Washington Times reported that, "[Steele] said each state should decide the issue, but added that he supports President Bush's efforts in calling for a constitutional amendment to define marriage, because some states are unwilling to act." [Washington Times, 8/26/04]

## **STEM CELL RESEARCH**

*Michael Steele has gone from opposing stem cell research to embracing it after he compared the doctors performing the research to Nazis performing human experiments.*

**Steele Opposed Stem Cell Research.** The Associated Press reported in May 2005 that, "Steele, a devout Roman Catholic, is a strong opponent of abortion and stem cell research." [Associated Press, 5/21/05]

**Steele Compares Stem Cell Doctors to Nazis.** The Associated Press reported in February 2006 that, "Michael Steele apologized Friday to a Baltimore Jewish group offended when he compared embryonic stem cell research to Nazi medical experiments. After a Thursday speech to the Baltimore Jewish Council about his recent trip to Israel, Steele was asked by one of the 40 members in the audience what he thought about stem cell research. Steele replied that he had concerns about it. 'You of all folks know what happens when people decide to experiment on human beings, when they want to take your life and use it as a tool,' Steele said. 'I know that as well in my community, out of our experience with slavery, and so I'm very cautious when people say this is the best new thing, this is going to save lives.'" [Associated Press, 2/10/06]

**Steele Supports Stem Cell Research.** The Baltimore Sun reported in February 2006 that, "In his latest comments, [Steele] said, 'I support embryonic stem cell research,' a position that seemed to be at odds with his previous remarks." [Baltimore Sun, 2/12/06]

**Steele Supported Governor on Stem Cell Research.** In an interview with WBAL in February 2006, Michael Steele said: "I support uh what the governor uh has put forward in terms of his stem cell package." [WBAL Interview, 2/11/06]

## SOCIAL SECURITY

*At an event organized by Republicans Abroad, Michael Steele gave a keynote address endorsing President Bush's Social Security plan.*

**Steele Gave Speech on Bush Social Security Plan.** “The Lt. Governor gave the keynote address in which he emphasized Republican values, President Bush's Social Security program, and the importance of the ownership society.” [Republicans Abroad Press Release, 5/11/05]

## LABOR

*As Lt. Governor, Michael Steele has proven to be an opponent of working people throughout Maryland. He has said that Gov. Ehrlich would veto a bill raising the minimum wage for the state. Most egregiously, Steele has said that there is a legitimate purpose to outsourcing and claimed that the state government would not ban the practice. As more and more Americans lose their jobs to people halfway around the world, they need a living wage to survive; two things that Michael Steele apparently doesn't understand.*

### Minimum Wage

**Steele Opposed to Minimum Wage Increase.** According to a Maryland Democratic Party press release, “Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele and the Republican administration in Annapolis are alarmingly similar to their counterparts in Washington. Steele opposed the \$1 per hour minimum wage increase for Maryland families struggling to make ends meet, a move that President Bush has also opposed on the national level.” [US Fed News, 2/1/06]

**Steele: Governor to Veto Raise in Minimum Wage.** The Cumberland Times-News reported in May 2004 that, “Concerning a minimum wage bill, Steele said the governor will veto it.” [Cumberland Times-News, 5/8/04]

### Outsourcing

*Michael Steele said that it was unlikely that the Ehrlich administration would support a ban on outsourcing jobs. He claimed that “there is a legitimate business purpose to outsourcing.”*

**Steele: Outsourcing Has Legitimate Business Purpose.** India Abroad reported in September 2003 that, “On the controversial issue of outsourcing, with many state legislators around the country and even US lawmakers introducing measures to ban it, Steele felt it was unlikely that the Ehrlich administration would propose such a ban or support any bill from the legislature to that effect. While ‘this is something we are looking at, I cannot tell you that the governor is going to ban outsourcing,’ he said. ‘There is a legitimate business purpose to outsourcing and we are looking at making government better at being government, more efficient at what it's doing.’” [India Abroad, 9/12/03]

## GAMBLING

*Michael Steele has been an enthusiastic advocate for legalized gaming throughout Maryland, tying its fate to education by claiming necessary school funds will only be available through gambling. He has claimed that slots are necessary to close the gap between rich and poor school districts. Steele dismisses criticism that gambling addiction is a problem for the populace, claiming that “you wanna stop – you stop.”*

**Steele: To Fund Education, Gambling Must be Legalized.** The Washington Post reported in December 2003 that, “Steele told the group, which included many members of the county legislative delegation, that for the state to fully fund the \$1.3 billion Thornton initiative to close the gap between wealthy and poor school districts, it needs to expand legalized gambling.” [Washington Post, 12/20/03]

**Steele: Need Slots To Save Education.** The Washington Post published a column by Courtland Milloy in March 2003 saying, “Steele contends that black and low-income students will suffer if the state passes up an infusion of gambling funds. He asked slot machine opponents, ‘If you don't do this, what will you do to help those kids?’” [Washington Post, Column by Courtland Milloy, 3/5/03]

**Steele Said Gambling Addicts Could Just Stop.** In February 2003, the Washington Post reported that, “Added his second-in-command, Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele: “It's a behavioral issue. Just like smoking. You wanna stop -- you stop.”” [Washington Post, 2/9/03]

## **EDUCATION**

*From insulting teachers to encouraging competition between boys and girls, Michael Steele has proven that he does not have what it takes to fix the education problems plaguing this country. He promised to support education by following the Thornton Commission plan and increasing school aid but, less than one year later, called the initiative an unfunded mandate. The Lt. Governor supports gender separation in schools in order to foster competition. Steele claimed that teachers are nothing more than “glorified baby-sitters” and endorsed a controversial program that would certify teachers without any required classroom training. Michael Steele cannot claim that he has any plan to fix education until he comes out of his cocoon and acknowledges that teachers are the most important part of the school system.*

## **Thornton Commission**

*In January 2003, Michael Steele promised to follow the Thornton Commission and provide the increases in school aid called for by the plan, but later claimed that it was “an unfunded mandate.” Steele claimed that if legislation approving slot machines in Maryland failed, the possibility existed that the Thornton Commission would not be fully funded. The education commission that Steele headed did not address any school funding issues, as the governor made clear that Thornton had already accomplished that goal. In 2006, the Maryland State Senate voted to raise education funding in an effort to address geographic differences in the cost of running public schools. This geography based funding was a recommendation of the Thornton Commission, but has never been funded by the Ehrlich administration.*

## **RHETORIC**

**Steele Promised To Follow The Thornton Commission Plan.** The Baltimore Sun reported in January 2003 that, “In his speech, Steele promised to support education by delivering the increases in school aid called for by the Thornton Commission plan approved last spring.” [Baltimore Sun, 1/4/03]

## **REALITY**

**Steele Said Thornton Is Unfunded Mandate.** The Washington Post reported in December 2003 that, “‘We were given an unfunded mandate in 2002’ with the Thornton initiative, Steele said.” [Washington Post, 12/20/03]

**Without Slots, Thornton Commission Plan in Doubt.** In February 2003, the Baltimore Sun reported that, “With Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.'s slot machine plan under fire, the unthinkable is suddenly up for discussion in Annapolis: An unprecedented pledge to increase annual spending on public schools by \$1.3 billion over six years could go unfulfilled. If Ehrlich's slots plan is rejected, lawmakers would return to the State House next year facing a potential \$1 billion deficit under the requirements of the education bill passed last year. With the governor ruling out tax increases, the prospect of fulfilling the plan named after the blue-ribbon Thornton Commission appears bleak -- a realization dawning on many state elected officials... Michael S. Steele has begun preparing lawmakers for the possibility of lower levels of school funding. ‘That may be the consequence if the slots bill fails,’ Steele told a gathering of Prince George's County delegates last week. ‘The reality is: No slots, everything is back on the table.’” [Baltimore Sun, 2/10/03]

**Steele Education Commission Wouldn't Deal with School Funding, Already Dealt with by Thornton Commission.** The Associated Press reported in August 2004 that, “A commission headed by Lt. Gov. Michael Steele will undertake a review of Maryland public schools, looking at issues such as how to make greater use of charter schools and how to attract better teachers to low-performing schools, Gov. Robert Ehrlich... Ehrlich said it will not focus on school funding, which was the subject of a lengthy study by the Thornton Commission that resulted in passage of a plan to increase state aid to education by \$1.3 billion over six years. ‘This is about everything but cash,’ the governor said.” [Associated Press, 8/21/04]

**MD Senate Approved Increase in Education Spending.** The Washington Post reported in March 2006 that, “The Maryland Senate approved a bill yesterday to raise education spending by tens of millions of dollars starting in 2008 through a formula benefiting Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The bill, passed 34 to 13, would require the state to send extra money to the two large suburbs that border Washington and 11 other jurisdictions in an effort to address geographic disparities in the costs of hiring teachers and running school systems.” [Washington Post, 3/25/06]

**Ehrlich Administration Never Funded Thornton Commission Recommendation.** The Washington Post reported in March 2006 that, “The ‘geographic cost of education index’ was included in a 2002 law that bolstered school funding statewide following the recommendations of an expert group, the Thornton Commission. But unlike other provisions of that law, the index is not mandatory and has never been funded during the tenure of Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. (R).” [Washington Post, 3/25/06]

**School Systems Would Receive \$72 Million if Fully Funded.** The Washington Post reported in March 2006 that, “If the index were fully funded for the fiscal year that starts July 1 -- considered highly doubtful -- 13 school systems could receive about \$72 million.” [Washington Post, 3/25/06]

## **Competition Between Sexes**

**Steele Encouraged Competition Between The Sexes.** The Star-Democrat reported in March 2005 that, “Steele asked the students what they thought of the gender separated classrooms. In unison the students let out a sigh. One student said she ‘didn’t like it’ because the teacher said she had to perform better than the boys. Steele replied the competition against the boys was healthy because in the business world she would face a ‘glass ceiling.’ ‘It’s crazy,’ Steele said. Steele said if the school creates competition now between boys and girls, it will help the girls to ‘break the glass ceiling.’” [Star-Democrat, 3/22/05]

**Steele Supports Education Divided By Sexes.** The Star-Democrat reported in March 2005 that, “The environment created by gender separation allows students to have better concentration on their subjects, Steele said. ‘There is a rational reason for this’ program.” [Star-Democrat, 3/22/05]

## **ABCTE Program**

**Commission on Quality Education Recommends Implementing ABCTE Program.** The final report from the Governor’s Commission stated, “The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) illustrates a high-standards, exam-based method for ascertaining teacher subject matter knowledge and providing quality control, both for conventionally prepared and alternative-path teachers. Maryland should embrace this method to help meet federal requirements for ‘highly qualified teachers.’” [Final Report of Governor’s Commission on Quality Education]

- **Steele Chaired Commission.** According to Michael Steele’s state website, “Lt. Governor Steele chaired the Governor’s Commission on Quality Education in Maryland.” [Lt. Governor’s Initiatives website, <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/lvgovinitiatives.html>]
- **Summary of ABCTE.** The Associated Press described the ABCTE program in May 2004 as, “a plan to certify public school teachers solely on the basis of a computer test.” [Associated Press, 5/28/04]
- **Only 5 States Approve ABCTE Program.** The Lewiston Morning Tribune reported in January 2006 that, “nationwide 1,100 people are pursuing alternate certification in Florida, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Utah and New Hampshire.” [Lewiston Morning Tribune, 1/17/06]
- **Summary of Program Criticism.** The Lewiston Morning Tribune reported in January 2006 that, “Critics have charged the program offers no in-classroom training and candidates can become teachers without peer review or guidance usually offered to education students in traditional colleges and universities.” [Lewiston Morning Tribune, 1/17/06]
- **Criticism of ABCTE Testing Program.** David Berliner wrote in the Journal of Teacher Education that, “My point in presenting these few examples out of dozens to be found [in ABCTE’s testing program] is to suggest that it is a near impossibility to adequately assess quality in teaching through paper-and-pencil tests of professional knowledge. Such tests usually fail to adequately measure the construct of genuine interest, which is quality in teaching and, thus, they fail to identify for the public the promised highly qualified teachers. These tests fail in part because of the complexity of classroom environments and the near impossibility of capturing that reality in paper-and-pencil formats.” [Journal of Teacher Education, 5/1/05]
  - **Bio of David Berliner.** According to the Journal of Teacher Education, “David C. Berliner is Regents' Professor of Education at Arizona State University... He is a member of the National Academy of Education and a past president of both the American

## **Charter Schools**

**Steele Said Leaving Blacks In Failing Public Schools Is Racist.** On Insight on the News, Michael Steele said: “Large numbers of African-Americans support either vouchers or charter schools as ways to get their kids out of failing institutions. Why should black children be left behind in a failing school system because their parents aren't economically advantaged? That is not only a disservice to those families, but I consider it racist.” [Insight on the News, 11/26/01]

## **Higher Education**

**Steele Knew College Needed State Funds, But Won't Commit Them.** The [Baltimore Afro-American](#) reported that, “While Steele was noncommittal about funding specific projects, he did acknowledge the need for state involvement in helping to meet the [Sojourner-Douglass College] capital improvement fund.” [[Baltimore Afro-American](#), 1/2/04]

**Steele Promised Coppin State College \$30 Million A Year.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in October 2002 that, “Ehrlich running mate Michael Steele said an Ehrlich administration would give [Coppin State College] \$30 million a year for the next decade, but could not say where it would come from.” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 10/9/02]

## **School Vouchers**

*While he was head of the Maryland Republican Party, Michael Steele claimed that he would use the school vouchers issue to attract African-Americans to the party. However, once he came into office, Steele's education commission recommended against using school vouchers in Maryland. Apparently, the Lt. Governor only cares about using vouchers to attract more people to his party and doesn't actually want to see them implemented.*

**Steele Used Vouchers to Attract Blacks to GOP.** The [Washington Post](#) reported in May 2001 that, “To woo African Americans, Steele is focusing on issues of common interest to blacks and Republicans, such as economic development and education. ‘Our polling numbers suggest that African Americans support the idea of charter schools and voucher issues to move their kids into a better-performing school system,’ tactics supported by the Republican Party, said Steele.” [[Washington Post](#), 5/10/01]

**Steele's Education Commission Did Not Recommend Vouchers.** The [Baltimore Sun](#) reported in September 2004 that, “The Ehrlich administration will not be advocating school vouchers, the lieutenant governor said, steering away from the divisive proposal that critics say drains money from public schools by allowing tax dollars to be spent on tuition at private schools. ‘It's not something I'm pushing or the governor is pushing,’ [Steele] said. ‘Maryland is not ready.’” [[Baltimore Sun](#), 9/28/04]

## **Parents Are “Selfish” and “Lazy”**

*While on his school tour to gain information for the Governor's education commission, Michael Steele would consistently call parents “selfish” and “lazy.” In an interview on NPR, Steele stated that he starts school visits with this characterization of Maryland's parents.*

**Steele Called Parents “Selfish” and “Lazy.”** The Maryland Gazette reported in April 2005 that, “Steele was quoted in the Calvert Recorder as saying, ‘Parents need to wake up and stop being selfish,’ during an April 18 meeting at Mill Creek Middle School... After meeting with a group of Mill Creek students last week, Steele talked to a dozen parents and teachers. ‘I’ve really been beating up on parents,’ he said. ‘I think parents have gotten lazy when it comes to educating their children.’” [Maryland Gazette, 4/29/05]

**Steele Consistently Called Parents “Selfish” and “Lazy.”** In an interview on NPR’s News and Notes with Ed Gordon, Michael Steele said: “The reality of parent involvement hit me full square during my tours around the state, visiting schools, and I start off conversations by saying, ‘Some parents--not all parents, but those parents who just are disconnected, they’re selfish and they’re lazy.’” [NPR News and Notes with Ed Gordon, 6/9/05]

## **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

*Michael Steele claims that, in the years since its inception, affirmative action has been “bastardized” and should be “revisited across the board.” He opposes basing affirmative action solely on race, claiming that its effectiveness has been diminished by race-based quotas. In an interview, the Lt. Governor called the program “the modern day version of 40 acres and a mule.” Steele’s rejection of a program that gives opportunities to minorities around the country can be a major vulnerability as he tries to court the African-American vote in Maryland.*

**Steele Said Affirmative Action Has Been “Bastardized.”** The Associated Press reported in January 2003 that, “Michael Steele said Tuesday that affirmative action has been ‘bastardized’ since its inception and needs to be ‘revisited across the board.’” [Associated Press, 1/21/03]

**Steele Opposed to Basing Affirmative Action Solely on Race.** The Associated Press reported in January 2003 that, “Steele, a Republican who took office last week as Maryland’s first black lieutenant governor, said that he supports the original incarnation of affirmative action as envisioned by Arthur Fletcher, a black man and lifelong Republican who held high-ranking posts in the Nixon and Ford administrations. In 1969, Fletcher devised the first legal way to require companies that contract with government agencies to comply with affirmative action hiring goals. Since then, it’s ‘devolved into a race-based quota formula’ which ill-serves blacks while sometimes leading to backlash, Steele said. ‘My concern is that when it’s based on race wholly, that it diminishes its effectiveness as a tool to raise opportunities for African-American and other minorities,’ Steele said.” [Associated Press, 1/21/03]

**Affirmative Action = 40 Acres and A Mule.** On the WHUT Evening Exchange, Michael Steele said: “Affirmative action is the modern day version of 40 acres and a mule.” [WHUT Evening Exchange, 7/8/05]

**Steele Said Republicans Should “Embrace” Affirmative Action.** On the WHUT Evening Exchange, Michael Steele said: “We shouldn’t be afraid of affirmative action, we shouldn’t be afraid to embrace it, because it’s from our party, it’s part of our history, and let’s move forward, and let’s spread the love, as they say, in terms of economic opportunity.” [WHUT Evening Exchange, 7/8/05]

## **HEALTH CARE**

*Michael Steele has consistently supported large corporations over people when it comes to health care. He supported the veto of the so-called Wal-Mart bill, which would require the company to provide health benefits to all its workers or contribute to the state's health program for the poor. Steele supported President Bush's prescription drug plan that has proved to be a billion dollar giveaway to the drug companies. Instead of finding ways to increase health care coverage throughout the state, Lt. Governor Michael Steele has supported decreased coverage and increased prescription drug costs. The last thing Maryland needs is another rubber stamp in Congress for the Bush health care agenda that has prioritized corporations over people.*

**Steele Supported Bush Prescription Drug Plan.** In an interview on CNBC, Michael Steele said: "Certainly senior citizens, elderly African-Americans, will benefit from the president's prescription drug program, a first step, one of many steps that need to be taken, in national health care policy. But it's an important first step." [CNBC, 9/16/04]

- **Bush Plan Would Leave At Least 71,000 People Without Coverage in MD.** According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 71,000 Maryland residents would be ineligible for prescription drug coverage under the Republican plan because these individuals also have Medicaid coverage. This represents more than one-tenth of all Medicare recipients in Maryland. [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 7/31/03; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Studies]

**Steele Favored Vetoing Wal-Mart Bill.** On WBAL, Michael Steele said: "They [business owners] were concerned about it to the extent that as one business owner told me, a small business owner told me, today Wal-Mart, tomorrow my firm. And that's how they saw it, because once the legislature knows it has the power to regulate how a company pays for its employees health care, how much it will pay for that health care, and other aspects of what is that company bottom line, then there is no stopping the legislature, in this case, those who felt that businesses should be regulated in this way from going after, you know, a company of 2000, 1000, or 500." [WBAL, Stateline, 6/11/05]

- **Wal-Mart Bill Summary.** The Washington Post reported in January 2006 that, "The bill will require private companies with more than 10,000 employees in Maryland to spend at least 8 percent of their payroll on employee health benefits or make a contribution to the state's insurance program for the poor. Wal-Mart, which employs about 17,000 Marylanders, is the only known company of such size that does not meet that spending requirement." [Washington Post, 1/13/06]

**Steele Supported Medicaid Cuts.** The Gannett News Service reported in September 2004 that, "Michael S. Steele said...at the Republican National Convention last month that Medicaid cutbacks such as those adopted in Mississippi will help states 'avoid more Draconian solutions.'" [Gannett News Service, 9/16/04]

## TAXES

**Steele Led Referendum to Preserve Property Tax Cap.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 1998 that, "[Ellen] Sauerbrey hailed the 39-year-old conservative activist as a man who 'took on the establishment and won' when he led a 1996 referendum campaign to preserve the county property tax cap known as TRIM." [Baltimore Sun, 7/15/98]

**Opposition to TRIM.** The Baltimore Sun reported in July 1998 that, "Prince George's officials, including County Executive Wayne K. Curry, contended that TRIM was hamstringing the county's ability

to raise money for education and other needs, but grass-roots opposition led by Steele overcame a well-funded repeal effort... Del. Howard P. Rawlings, a Baltimore Democrat who chairs of the House Appropriations Committee, said TRIM is one of the major factors preventing the county from raising local matching funds needed to qualify for state construction aid.” [Baltimore Sun, 7/15/98]

## **GOVERNMENT CUTS**

**Steele Supported County Cuts.** The Washington Post reported in February 1995 that, “To make up the shortfall, Curry announced plans Wednesday to fire one in nine county employees and cut back nearly every county service. Health clinics, libraries and daily functions such as street sweeping and trash pickup also would be slashed significantly. The county school system would get \$33 million less than the \$730 million it asked for... Michael Steele, chairman of the Prince George’s Republican Party, also praised Curry’s attempt to shrink government. ‘Mr. Curry is on the right track,’ he said...” [Washington Post, 2/18/95]