

6TH

SIXTH DISTRICT

NOV 5

Write-In
"Silver Persinger"

CITY
COUNCIL

PROGRESS

THE PROSPERITY of a community is not measured by population, but by its civic and commercial progress.

A handful of workers achieve more than a city full of drones.

Team work is what counts in everything. A prominent football coach once said: "Give me a team of average ability that will work together each with the other and all for the team and I will win over any team made up of solely individual stars."

Individual ability makes great men--shining lights, but it is mass cooperation of energetic men and women of civic spirit, home pride and community enterprise that builds a city's progress and prosperity.

People of this community, be ye more than residents--be citizens.

The slacker says: "Let Joe do it." The worker says: "Let me help."

Vote November 5, 2002

Dear Friend,

May 2002

Thank you for taking the time to read my platform. Government is now reaching an important period in our nation's history. Never before has our government had access to so much information and knowledge. Never before has our government looked so much like a government of the rich, by the rich, for the rich. We need to take a closer look at our history, to make an attempt to understand it. To see its faults and recognize a way to heal ourselves. The Enron collapse is a symptom of a looming problem. The theft of the 2000 Election by a 5 to 4 decision of a conservative Supreme Court should be a concern to us all, especially considering the Bush administration's close ties to wealthy energy and oil interests that seem eager for war.

Closer to home, in the Fall of 2001, Richmond City Council voted unannously to grant a special use permit to Virginia Dominion Power to construct a giant building along the James River below Oregon Hill, despite protests of 250 citizens and outcry from over 20 local civic organizations. This is just one example of the immense power that money has over the interests of people. This is the event that has provoked me to run for election. I think I can better represent a genuine interest in improving conditions and services and for all people living in Richmond and Virginia.

Thank you for your interest,

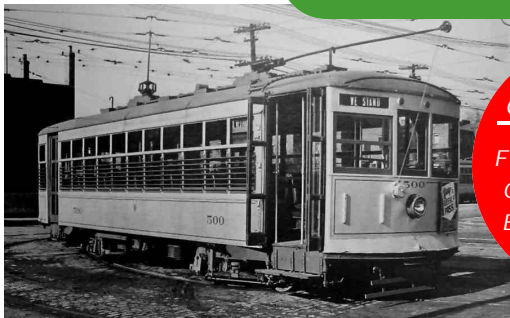
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Silver-Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Feel free to contact me.

Phone: 683-7845 **Email:** votesilver@hotmail.com

Here's how:

LOCAL



GOVERNMENT

FOR THE PEOPLE
OF THE PEOPLE
BY THE PEOPLE

TRANSPORTATION

Richmond had the first successful electric trolley car system in the United States of America. However, after the second world war, Richmond lost her trolleys to the gasoline powered bus. The trolleys had operated on energy generated by the James River. The past has already done what we seem unable to do now. People living in the city require cheap, fast and efficient transportation. It is the duty of a city to provide this kind of essential benefit for its citizens. It causes prosperity for the city, its residents, its communities, the workers that build and operate the rails, and the individuals who live, work and play in Richmond. We should also seek to develop train service with our sister cities: Williamsburg, Jamestown, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, and Petersburg.

Visit my
website:

<http://factskill.tripod.com/Election2002/>

<http://www.votesilver.com>

ISSUES

Affordable Housing



There has been much talk lately of tearing down Mosby and Gilpin Courts to make room for new housing, most likely private housing that will be developed for lower and mid-level income families. I agree that mixed-income

neighborhoods should be developed but I also think that Richmond undervalues the importance and necessity for low income housing. *The Richmond Voice* of March 27, 2002 quoted RRHA Executive Director Tyrone Curtis, "Public housing was never intended to be permanent housing." The point that Cutis seems to be missing is that *Public Housing is a permanent housing situation*, despite the fact that the city's master plan calls for a 25% reduction in the number of public housing units by 2011. Housing for all is a sign of a civil and organized society. The city's approach toward housing in the past has been misdirected or simply unorganized. All people require safe and comfortable homes. Responsibly developed and *well made* apartment housing is an efficient way to utilize available space and money. We should also encourage development that seeks to fulfill a *long-term* investment of resources to provide decent housing, neighborhood parks, small business areas, and access to transportation.

The Jail Problem *

The jail is operating at double its designed capacity. Non-violent drug conviction inmates should be released as we develop a more useful and humane approach to help addicted individuals return to life “outside.” I support the development of addiction treatment programs and job training programs. I also support alternatives to incarceration for non-violent drug offenders.



*Revised Aug. 4, 2002

Living Wage

I fully support the efforts of the Richmond Coalition for a Living Wage. This group has fought to get all city workers a minimum wage of \$8.50/hour with benefits or \$10.13 without. And the battle continues to get city contractors and businesses that receive aid to pay a living wage to their workers. Happy workers build strong communities.

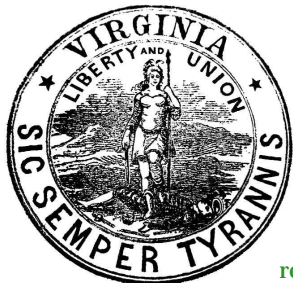
“No Money” Campaign

I have not and will not solicit or accept any contribution from any other person during the course of my campaign and have not and will not contribute or spend more than \$1000. This money shall come out of my own pocket. Thank you for your support, Vote November 5th!

Your vote is the one that makes a difference!

"When the people fear the government you have tyranny . . .
when the government fears the people you have liberty."

— Thomas Jefferson



But where will the money come from for these great civic projects?

The *easiest* way for Virginia to generate BILLIONS and BILLIONS of dollars is by *legalizing* marijuana. It would generate billions of dollars from taxes. It would result in creating thousands of new jobs, give small farmers an opportunity to grow a valuable cash crop, and generate a boom for

"Thus always to Tyrants"

Virginia tourism. Presently, only four out of fifteen European Union nations still maintain criminal penalties for marijuana consumption. In August of 2001, Canada became the first country in the world to legalize medicinal marijuana. A recent poll commissioned by the NORML Foundation asked 1,024 likely voters their views regarding the government's war on marijuana, according to the poll 61% of Americans oppose marijuana prohibition. Since 1996, voters in eight states have adopted initiatives to allow *Medicinal Marijuana*.

Virginia has a well-documented history of growing marijuana, known in the old days as "hemp." The first American hemp crop was planted in 1611 near Jamestown, Virginia. In 1619, America's first hemp law was enacted at Jamestown, "ordering" all farmers to grow Indian hemp seed. The hemp plant is currently harvested for commercial purposes in over 30 nations, including Canada, Japan and the European Union. Various parts of the hemp plant can be utilized in the making of textiles, paper, paints, clothing, plastics, cosmetics, foodstuffs, insulation, animal feed and other products.

In The Rappahannock Times of June 6, 1985, Governor Charles Robb was quoted, "There is no question that marijuana growers have found Virginia soil and climate to their liking."

Now is the time for Virginia to initiate a fast track program to legalization. Considering Richmond's rich tobacco history and close ties to cigarette manufacturing, Virginia is the natural leader for this movement.

Additional benefits of legalization include saving millions of dollars currently spent on law enforcement, legal expenses, and prisons.

Perhaps, the greatest benefit would come to non-violent drug offenders who are the true victims of these harsh and irrational laws, who could then return to their families and once again become active members of society.



"Prohibition . . . goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes . . . A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government was founded." – *Abraham Lincoln*

“. . . O Lord, because you have said that you made this first world for our sake, and that all the rest of the nations descended from Adam are nothing, that they are no better than spittle, and for all their numbers, no more than a drop from a bucket. And yet, O Lord, those nations which count for nothing are today ruling over us and devouring us; and we your people, have been put into their power -- your people, whom you have called your first-born, your only son, your champion, and your best beloved. Was the world really made for us? Why, then, may we not take possession of our world? How much longer shall it be so?"

2 Esdras 6:55

What is Socialism?

For more information, visit : www.wsws.org



“That is the most perfect government in which an injury to one is the concern of all.”

A fundamental political change in the United States is long overdue. Working people are starting to realize that their real concerns for decent living standards, job security, guaranteed medical care, and a bright future for their children are not seriously addressed by either Republicans or Democrats. Only the Socialist Party represents the working class. The Socialist Party defends the interests of the overwhelming majority of the people: the working men and women whose productive labor creates the wealth of society.

The Socialist Party *opposes the capitalist system*. We reject the claim that what's good for corporations is good for the American people and the world. Our party fights for the socialist principle that the economy should be organized democratically to serve the needs of the working class, not to satisfy the desires of bankers, corporate bosses and stock market speculators for profit.

A decent and secure job, a comfortable retirement, quality education, health care, housing and all other essential social needs should be guaranteed to every man, woman and child as a basic right. This is not a utopian dream. The material resources to realize these modest demands exist in abundance. The enormous potential of modern technology and globally-integrated production should be used to vastly raise the living standards and cultural level of people in America and all over the world. But this potential is wasted by a system which ignores the needs of people and promotes the ever greater accumulation of personal wealth by a privileged few.

Continued on next page ▶▶

All around us we see decay and desperation. Children go hungry in America and conditions of social squalor exist all over the world. But everything is justified by the politicians, corporate executives and media with hypocritical claims that nothing can be done because "there is no money." One fact explodes this lie: the richest 358 people on earth, all billionaires, have a net worth equal to the combined income of the poorest 45 percent of the world's population--2.3 billion people!

America has become the most unequal of all the advanced industrialized countries. The gap which separates the rich from the general population is far greater in the United States than in Europe. In the U.S. today the richest 1 percent of the population controls 40 percent of the wealth. The number of homeless and destitute are growing at the same time Wall Street celebrates record profits and booming share values.

The Socialist Party appeals to the humanitarian ideals and egalitarian traditions of the working class: the principle of unity of all workers in struggle, the readiness to fight for the common good, confidence in a better future and the determination to make it a reality. The Socialist Party seeks to mobilize the working class to end political domination by financial institutions and place into power a democratic government of the workers, for the workers and, above all, by the workers. The workers' government for which we fight would carry out those radical economic measures necessary to secure the social needs of the people. It would subordinate the capitalist market to the interests of society as a whole.

This text has been adapted from the Socialist Equality Party's 1996 Election Statement, read the complete text at:

<http://www.wsws.org/sections/category/icfi/sepus.shtml>

Register to Vote

Register to Win

Voting is the only political voice that most people have.

Sure, you have the right to go to a public space (the few that are left) and exercise your **Free Speech**, but you will probably sound like a nut to the people on the street.

Voting is the way for people to tell the government that they are not satisfied. When you vote for me, you are saying that you're dissatisfied with the policies of our current government.

You can get a form to register to vote at your local post office, or go to City Hall, Room 105. Call the City Registrar at: 646-5950 for more information about registering to vote.

**You must Register to Vote by October 7, 2002, 5 PM
for the November 5, 2002 Election.**

Come Join the Fun

Meet with individuals who will be running for the offices of City Council and the School Board on Nov. 5, 2002. Candidates will offer brief presentations of their platform and then answer questions from the audience posed by a moderator.

**Candidate Forums are scheduled for
August 15, September 19, and October 30.** Please
call Scott (539-4524) or
Mason (358-7891) for more details.