



Fearless Black Residents on the Brink of History as They Challenge an All-White Town Council's Racist Election System

By **Neydin Milián**

Have you heard that Black residents in Federalsburg are suing their Town after 200 years of no representation in the all-white town council?

Seven Black women who live in Federalsburg – Roberta Butler, Sherone Lewis, Darlene Pitt Hammond, Elaine Hubbard, Nikendra Bordley, Ryan Haynes, and Lywanda Johnson – were joined by the Caroline County Branch of the NAACP and the Caucus of African American Leaders in asking the court to order into place a new election system that fully addresses longstanding vote dilution.

Roberta Butler (speaking), along with leaders with the NAACP and ACLU-MD Legal Director Deborah Jeon and Staff Attorney Nick Taichi Steiner. Photo credit: Nehemiah Bester

Read more about the history of disenfranchisement and racism in the town of Federalsburg and how it informs the present at our blog: aclu-md.org/news

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

POLICE ENCOUNTERS

Do you know your rights in police encounters, with the new legalization of recreational marijuana, and more?

The ACLU of Maryland's **Know Your Rights** (KYR) program informs Marylanders of their rights so they can make informed decisions, be good witnesses when violations occur, and know their options for taking action. Soon, we'll publish KYR info about trans rights and gender expression, too! [Learn more: aclu-md.org/kyr](https://aclu-md.org/kyr)

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FREE STATE LIBERTIES

Summer
2023

FREE STATE LIBERTIES

The newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland and the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Maryland.

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Documents and information filed under the Maryland Solicitations Act may be obtained from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401.

ACLU
Maryland



5 Years of Making GOOD TROUBLE

**DANA
VICKERS
SHELLEY**

Executive
Director,
ACLU of
Maryland

This year marks the fifth anniversary of having our wonderful Executive Director at our affiliate. Dana Vickers Shelley dives into their experiences of activism and love for the people beside her doing the work. Hear from them as they explain how we are leaning into our mission so we can see lasting change, and how we advocate for the humanity of all Marylanders.

↑ Read Dana's full letter at our blog: aclu-md.org/news

Give online or use enclosed envelope to support the ACLU of Maryland's work: aclu-md.org/donate

2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

The 90-day Maryland General Assembly session has come to an end. Every action alert you signed, every phone call you made and email you sent to legislators, every meeting or rally you attended to demand better for all Marylanders, made a difference.

Thank you for raising your voice in support of ending the police practice of stopping and searching Black Marylanders based on the alleged smell of marijuana, independent investigatory powers for local Police Accountability Boards, voting rights, education equity, and other important priorities.



Dajuan shares his story of racial profiling by police based on the alleged smell of marijuana, with the support of Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability leaders, including ACLU-MD Public Policy Director Yanet Amanuel to his left. Photo credit: Meredith Curtis Goode

Read our new report to catch up on the victories, disappointments, and continued work from the 2023 legislative session: aclu-md.org/legislation

Hear from ACLU Staff Attorney Nick Taichi Steiner on why President Joe Biden should end Frederick's federal 287(g) program that emboldens racist law enforcement here. Read all about it at our blog: aclu-md.org/news

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

We're Calling on President Biden to End Frederick's 287(g) Program

Have you heard the news about Frederick Sheriff Chuck Jenkins' recent charges of conspiracy and illegal machine guns? We did and weren't surprised to find out. Jenkins has made incendiary comments about the Latinx/é community and immigrants through the media and through written and oral testimony that consistently devalues their lives as justification for his office's discriminatory conduct.

It is obvious that under Jenkins his department has racially profiled the Latinx/é community and unfairly targeted immigrants. Now, while the sheriff is on leave, the racist 287(g) program is still in effect as residents continue to challenge it.

Car rally organized and led by the RISE Coalition's Latiné-led "Comité" in opposition to the Frederick County Sheriff's use of the racist and anti-immigrant 287(g) program. Photo courtesy of the RISE Coalition.



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Your personal commitment and strong support will make all the difference in the fight for civil liberties in 2023. **Renew your support of the ACLU today.**

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