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## Times Endorsement: Maciarelo is better choice for Wicomico state's attorney

Proactive approach and support from law enforcement are important

OCTOBER 24, 2010

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### IN SUMMATION

Because of his approach to the role of a state's attorney, along with the endorsement of county law enforcement, we believe Matt Maciarelo is the better candidate for state's attorney in Wicomico County.

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It has been a long time since Wicomico County voters have had to consider electing a new state's attorney. Davis Ruark has served as state's attorney since February 1987 --nearly 24 years.

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But Ruark lost the Democratic primary in September to W. Seth Mitchell, and Republican Matt Maciarelo is opposing him in the Nov. 2 election.

Both candidates are intelligent, well-versed in the law and practicing attorneys. This race comes down to the differences in the two candidates themselves -- courtroom experience, managerial style and approach to the job. The role of the state's attorney in Wicomico County could be altered based on which candidate wins the election.

Mitchell, who is 53 years old, has more experience in the courtroom than Maciarelo, who is 36. This is one of Mitchell's strengths, and something he talks about to voters. It could not be any other way, given their age difference. Mitchell also touts his experience as a defense attorney and public defender as an asset because, as he said, he understands how the defense thinks and prepares a case and therefore is better able to prepare a prosecution case.

Mitchell's passion for the courtroom quickly becomes apparent to anyone who engages in a conversation with him. References to precedents, laws, procedures and cases roll off his tongue with ease.

Maciarelo is also energetic, well-versed in the legal profession and quick-thinking. He balances his lack of criminal prosecution experience with a focus on some of the broader aspects of the

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office of state's attorney. He sees a bigger picture --management and the role played by a state's attorney in the community that are also crucial to success.

The size of a state's attorney's office is relevant to how the job is performed. Wicomico County employs 15 prosecutors, including the state's attorney; of those, one is part-time and the other 14 are full-time county employees. The Wicomico County state's attorney must not only be a strong prosecutor, but also a good manager who can both work with his prosecutors and staff, but also be a good liaison with the community.

Maciarelo has made good use of his time during this campaign, establishing working relationships with police agencies as well as with voters. He has earned the endorsement of Wicomico County law enforcement officers as well as the family of the late Deputy State's Attorney Sam Vincent. Because the state's attorney must finish the work begun by law enforcement, their support is important.

We believe that, because of his broader approach to the office, evidence of support from the law enforcement community and a willingness to establish a closer relationship with the residents of Wicomico County, Maciarelo is the better choice for state's attorney.

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