

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2018 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-99-2018

Chapter No. 86

Proposed and Presented by Council Members Toles, Lehman, Franklin

Introduced by Council Members Toles, Lehman, Franklin

Co-Sponsors Council Member Patterson

Date of Introduction September 25, 2018

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Public Campaign Financing

3 For the purpose of establishing a Fair Election Fund to provide public campaign financing for a
4 candidate for a County elective office; regulating certain campaign finance activity of a
5 candidate for County elective office who voluntarily accepts public campaign financing;
6 authorizing the Maryland State Board of Elections to administer and enforce the public campaign
7 financing system; and providing for penalties for violations of the public campaign financing
8 system.

9 BY adding:

10 SUBTITLE 10. FINANCE AND TAXATION.

11 Sections 10-317, 10-318, 10-319, 10-320, 10-321,
12 10-322, 10-323, 10-324, 10-325, 10-326, 10-327, and
13 10-328,

14 The Prince George's County Code
15 (2015 Edition; 2016 Supplement).

16 WHEREAS, the Fair Election Fund system is intended to promote and encourage broader
17 access to elected office in Prince George's County and to prevent large donations from having
18 undue influence in government; and

19 WHEREAS, the Fair Election Fund system is intended to enable citizens of Prince
20 George's County to run for office on the strength of their ideas, supported by small donations
21 from ordinary people and matching funds from the Fair Election Fund.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
2 Maryland, that Sections 10-317, 10-318, 10-319, 10-320, 10-321, 10-322, 10-323, 10-324, 10-
3 325, 10-326, and 10-327 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

4 **SUBTITLE 10. FINANCE AND TAXATION.**

5 **DIVISION 25. FAIR ELECTION FUND.**

6 **Sec. 10-317. Definitions.**

7 (a) The words defined in this Section shall have the meanings set forth below whenever
8 they appear in this Division unless the context in which they are used clearly requires a different
9 meaning or a different definition is prescribed for a particular provision.

10 (1) **Applicant candidate** means a candidate who is seeking to be a certified candidate
11 in a primary or general election.

12 (2) **Campaign finance entity** means a political committee established pursuant to the
13 Annotated Code of Maryland, Election Law Article, Title 1, Subtitle 1.

14 (3) **Certified candidate** means a candidate who is certified as eligible for public
15 campaign financing from the Fund.

16 (4) **Citizen funded campaign account** means a campaign finance account into which
17 eligible contributions will be received and from which money may be spent in accordance with
18 this Division.

19 (5) **Commission** means the Fair Election Fund Commission.

20 (6) **Contested election** means any election, including a special election, in which
21 there are more candidates for office than the number who can be elected to that office.

22 (7) **Contribution** means the same as defined in the Annotated Code of Maryland,
23 Election Law Article, Title 1, Subtitle 1.

24 (8) **County Board** means the Prince George's County Board of Elections.

25 (9) **County resident** means a natural person who resides in Prince George's County.

26 (10) **Director** means the Director of Finance or the Director's designee.

27 (11) **Election cycle** means the same as defined in the Annotated Code of Maryland,
28 Election Law Article, Title 1, Subtitle 1.

29 (12) **Eligible contribution** means an aggregate donation in a 4-year election cycle
30 from an individual, including an individual who does not reside in the County, that does not
31 exceed the contribution limit set in this Division.

1 (13) **Fund** means the Fair Election Fund.

2 (14) **Participating candidate** means a certified candidate who has received a public
3 contribution from the Fund during the current election cycle.

4 (15) **Public contribution** means money disbursed from the Fund to a certified
5 candidate.

6 (16) **Qualifying contribution** means an eligible contribution in support of an applicant
7 candidate that is:

8 (A) made by a County resident;

9 (B) made after the beginning of the qualifying period, but no later than the next
10 general election;

11 (C) acknowledged by a receipt; and

12 (D) not an in-kind contribution of property, goods or services.

13 (17) **Qualifying period** means:

14 (A) the time beginning on January 1 following the last election for the office the
15 candidate seeks and ending 45 days before the date of the primary election; or

16 (B) for a special election, the time that the County Council shall set by Council
17 resolution.

18 (18) **Slate** means the same as defined in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Elections
19 Law Article, Title 1, Subtitle 1.

20 (19) **State Board** means the Maryland State Board of Elections.

21 **Sec. 10-318. Public Election Fund established.**

22 (a) The Director shall establish a Fair Election Fund as a special non-lapsing fund.

23 (b) The Fund consists of:

24 (1) money appropriated to the Fund;

25 (2) any unspent money remaining in a certified candidates' citizen funded campaign
26 account after the candidate is no longer a candidate;

27 (3) any public contribution returned to the Fund;

28 (4) any donations made to the Fund;

29 (5) any fines collected pursuant to Section 10-327 of this Division; and

30 (6) any earnings on money in the Fund.

31 **Sec. 10-319. Collecting qualifying contributions.**

1 (a) Before raising any contribution governed by this Division, an applicant candidate shall:

2 (1) file notice of intent with the State Board in the manner that the State Board

3 requires; and

4 (2) establish a citizen funded campaign account.

5 (b) Contribution limits.

6 (1) Except as otherwise provided in Subsection (b)(2), an applicant candidate shall
 7 not accept:

8 (A) eligible contributions of more than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) in the
 9 aggregate during an election cycle;

10 (B) or a loan.

11 (2) An applicant candidate may accept up to Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) from:

12 (A) the applicant candidate; or

13 (B) a spouse.

14 (c) Consumer Price Index adjustment.

15 (1) The contribution limit specified in Subsection (b)(1) shall be adjusted for the next
 16 election cycle on July 1, 2026, and July 1 of each subsequent fourth year by the increase in the
 17 Consumer Price Index for the previous four (4) calendar years, rounded up to the next Ten
 18 Dollars (\$10).

19 (2) The Director shall publish this amount not later than the January 1 after an
 20 adjustment is made.

21 **Sec. 10-320. Requirements for certification.**

22 (a) Application for certification.

23 (1) An applicant candidate shall apply to the State Board for certification.

24 (2) The State Board may only accept an application during the qualifying period.

25 (3) An application shall be submitted in the form that the State Board requires.

26 (4) Subject to Subsection (a)(6), an applicant candidate may submit only one
 27 application for certification for any election.

28 (5) An applicant candidate shall include with the application all documentation
 29 required by the State or, in the absence of State requirements, the following:

30 (A) a declaration from the applicant candidate agreeing to follow the
 31 requirements governing the use of a public contribution;

1 (B) a campaign finance report that contains the information that the State Board
2 requires for a campaign finance report and that includes, but is not limited to:

3 (i) a list of each qualifying contribution received;
4 (ii) a list of each expenditure made by the candidate during the qualifying
5 period;

6 (iii) a copy of the receipt associated with each contribution that identifies
7 the contributor's name and residential address; and

8 (iv) a copy of the receipt associated with each expenditure; and

9 (C) a certificate of candidacy for County Executive or County Council.

10 (6) An applicant candidate shall not be eligible for certification if the State Board
11 determines the candidate has failed to submit a campaign finance report in the four (4) years
12 preceding the election cycle.

13 (7) An applicant candidate shall not coordinate with a political action committee.

14 (8) An applicant candidate shall agree to participate in at least one (1) debate by a
15 civic organization.

16 (9) If an application is denied, the applicant may resubmit the application once if
17 done before the deadline.

18 (b) To qualify as a certified candidate:

19 (1) a candidate for Executive shall collect from County residents at least:

20 (A) Five Hundred (500) qualifying contributions; and

21 (B) an aggregate total of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000);

22 (2) a candidate for At-Large Council Member shall collect from County residents at
23 least:

24 (A) Two Hundred Fifty (250) qualifying contributions; and

25 (B) an aggregate total of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000); and

26 (3) a candidate for District Council Member shall collect from County residents at
27 least:

28 (A) One Hundred Fifty (150) qualifying contributions; and

29 (B) an aggregate total of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500).

30 (c) Contributions.

31 (1) An applicant candidate shall deposit all contributions received into the candidate's

1 citizen funded campaign account.

2 (2) An applicant candidate shall deliver to the State Board a copy of a receipt for each
 3 qualifying contribution that identifies the contributor's name and residential address and that is
 4 signed by the contributor directly or by a digital signature using a method approved by the State
 5 Board.

6 (d) The Executive, after consulting with the State Board, shall promulgate regulations that
 7 specify:

8 (1) how and when receipts for qualifying contributions from contributors shall be
 9 submitted to the State Board;

10 (2) the documents that shall be filed with the State Board for certification;

11 (3) the allowable uses of money in a publicly funded campaign account; and

12 (4) other policies necessary to implement this Division.

13 Any such regulations shall be submitted to the County Council by resolution for approval.

14 **Sec. 10-321. Board determination.**

15 (a) Within ten (10) days after the State Board receives a complete application for
 16 certification, the State Board shall certify an applicant candidate who qualifies for certification.

17 (b) The decision by the State Board whether to certify a candidate is final.

18 (c) If the State Board certifies a candidate, the State Board shall so notify the Director.

19 After notification, the Director shall disburse a public contribution to the candidate's citizen
 20 funded campaign account.

21 **Sec. 10-322. Distribution of public contribution.**

22 (a) In General.

23 (1) The Director shall distribute a public contribution from an election only during:

24 (A) the time beginning 365 days before the primary election for the office the
 25 candidate seeks and ending 15 days after the general election; or

26 (B) the time that the County Council sets by resolution for a special election.

27 (2) A certified candidate may continue to collect qualifying contributions and receive
 28 a matching public contribution up to a primary or general election. Once the total public
 29 contribution payable to a certified candidate for the election cycle is reached, the certified
 30 candidate may still receive public contributions up to the maximum amount of Two Hundred
 31 Fifty Dollars (\$250) per donor but the contribution will no longer be matched. All contributions

1 shall include receipts.

2 (3) For purposes of this Subsection, whether an election is contested shall be
 3 determined no later than seven (7) days after the filing deadline preceding the election. The
 4 Director shall not disburse a public contribution to a certified candidate in an election in which
 5 the candidate is the sole individual who has filed a certificate of candidacy for that office;
 6 however, a certified candidate may collect contributions during an uncontested election.

7 (b) Receipts; deposits.

8 (1) To receive a public contribution, a participating candidate shall submit a receipt to
 9 the State Board for each qualifying contribution.

10 (2) The receipt shall identify the contributor's name, residential address, and the date
 11 of the contribution.

12 (3) The Director shall deposit the appropriate public contribution into a participating
 13 candidate's citizen funded campaign account within three (3) business days after the State Board
 14 authorizes the public contribution.

15 (c) Contributions of less than \$1. An individual contribution of less than One Dollar
 16 (\$1) may be considered under Section 10-320 of this Division but shall not be considered when
 17 calculating the public contribution under this Section.

18 (d) Amount of distribution.

19 (1) for a certified participating candidate for County Executive, the matching dollars
 20 shall equal:

21 (A) Seven Dollars (\$7) for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for
 22 the first Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25) of each qualifying contribution;

23 (B) Five Dollars (\$5) for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the
 24 next Fifty Dollars (\$50) of each qualifying contribution;

25 (C) One Dollar (\$1) for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the
 26 next Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) of each qualifying contribution; and

27 (D) contributions of One Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$151) to Two Hundred
 28 Fifty Dollars (\$250) shall not be matched.

29 (2) for a certified candidate for County Council, the matching dollars shall equal:

30 (A) Seven Dollars (\$7) for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for
 31 the first Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25) of each qualifying contribution;

1 (B) Five Dollars (\$5) for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the
 2 next Fifty Dollars (\$50) of each qualifying contribution;

3 (C) One Dollar (\$1) for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the
 4 next Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) of each qualifying contribution; and

5 (D) contributions of One Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$151) to Two Hundred
 6 Fifty Dollars (\$250) shall not be matched.

7 (3) The total public contribution payable to a certified candidate for the election
 8 cycle, including the primary or a general election, shall not exceed:

9 (A) Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) for a candidate for
 10 County Executive;

11 (B) Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for a candidate for At-Large
 12 Council Member; and

13 (C) Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) for a candidate for District
 14 Council Member.

15 (e) The Director shall not distribute a public contribution based on:

16 (1) a contribution from the candidate, the candidate's spouse, adult sibling or parent;

17 or

18 (2) an in-kind contribution of property, goods, or services.

19 (f) Fund insufficiency. On or before July 1st of the year preceding the primary election,
 20 the Director shall determine if the amount in the Fund is sufficient to meet the maximum public
 21 contributions reasonably expected to be required during the next election cycle. If the Director
 22 determines that the total amount available for distribution in the Fund is insufficient to meet the
 23 allocations required by this Section, the Director shall reduce each public contribution by the
 24 same percentage.

25 (g) Disbursements after primary election. Within three (3) business days after the County
 26 Board certifies the results of the primary election, the State Board shall authorize the Director to
 27 continue to disburse the appropriate public contribution for the general election to each
 28 participating candidate who is certified to be on the ballot for the general election.

29 (h) Return of unspent funds. Within thirty (30) days after the County Board certifies the
 30 results of the primary election, a participating candidate who is not certified to be on the ballot
 31 for the general election shall return to the Fund any unspent money in the candidate's citizen

1 funded campaign account. On or before December 31, after the general election, a participating
 2 candidate shall return to the Fund any unspent money in the candidate's citizen funded campaign
 3 account.

4 (i) Candidates nominated by petition or by non-principal political parties.

5 (1) "Principal Political Parties" has the meaning stated in the Annotated Code of
 6 Maryland, Elections Law Article, Section 1-101.

7 (2) A certified candidate nominated by petition or by a party that is not a principal
 8 political party may receive a public contribution for the general election if the candidate's
 9 nomination is certified by the County Board.

10 (3) A certified candidate under this Subsection shall qualify 45 days before the date
 11 of the general election.

12 (j) Review of small donor financing by the Commission.

13 (1) In general. After each regularly scheduled general election for office, the Fair
 14 Election Fund Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Small Dollar financing
 15 program under this Division, including

16 (i) the maximum and minimum dollar amounts of qualified small dollar
 17 contributions;

18 (ii) the number and value of qualified small dollar contributions a candidate
 19 is required to obtain to be eligible for certification as a participating candidate;

20 (iii) the maximum amount of payments a candidate may receive under this
 21 title;

22 (iv) the overall satisfaction of participating candidates and the public with
 23 the program;

24 (v) the analysis, recommendation and creation of a plan to the County
 25 governing body to reduce racial, ethnic, socio-economic and geographic disparities regarding
 26 access to public matching funds by participating candidates; and

27 (vi) such other matters relating to financing of campaigns as the Fair
 28 Election Fund Commission determines are appropriate.

29 (2) Criteria for review. In conducting the review under this Subsection, the Fair
 30 Election Fund Commission shall consider the following:

31 (i) Qualified small dollar contributions. The Fair Election Fund Commission

1 shall consider whether the number and dollar amounts of qualified small dollar contributions
 2 required strikes an appropriate balance regarding the importance of voter involvement, the need
 3 to assure adequate incentives for participating, and fiscal responsibility, taking into consideration
 4 the number of primary and general election participating candidates, the electoral performance of
 5 those candidates, program cost, and any other information the Fair Election Fund Commission
 6 determines is appropriate.

7 (ii) Review of payment levels. The Fair Election Fund Commission shall
 8 consider whether the totality of the amount of funds allowed to be raised by participating
 9 candidates (including through qualified small dollar contributions) and payments under this
 10 Division are sufficient for voters in the County to learn about the candidates to cast an informed
 11 vote, taking into account the historic amount of spending by winning candidates, media costs,
 12 primary election dates, and any other information the Fair Election Fund Commission determines
 13 is appropriate.

14 (3) Recommendations for adjustments of amounts. Based on the review conducted under
 15 this Subsection, the Fair Election Fund Commission may recommend to the County Council
 16 adjustments of the following amounts:

17 (i) The number and value of qualified small dollar contributions a candidate
 18 is required to obtain to be eligible for certification as a participating candidate.

19 (ii) The maximum amount of payments that may be received under this
 20 Division.

21 (4) The Director shall publish these amounts not later than the January 1 after an
 22 adjustment is made.

23 **Sec. 10-323. Use of public contribution.**

24 (a) In General.

25 (1) A participating candidate may only make expenditures from the citizen funded
 26 campaign account registered with the State Board for expenses incurred once the candidate is
 27 certified by the State Board. No previous expenses or prior loans may be paid for with public
 28 financing dollars.

29 (2) A participating candidate shall not pay in advance for goods and services to be
 30 used after certification with non-qualifying contributions received before applying for
 31 certification.

1 (3) The Director may provide for further limitations for use of public contributions
 2 through regulation.

3 (4) (A) Except as provided in paragraph (B) of this Subsection, the Director shall
 4 reduce the public contribution to a participating candidate's citizen funded campaign account by
 5 the total amount of all expenditures made after the end of the previous election cycle from the
 6 candidate's non-participating campaign account.

7 (B) Expenditures made with contributions received prior to the end of the
 8 previous election cycle towards debts accrued before the end of the previous election cycle shall
 9 not reduce the public contribution to a participating candidate's citizen funded campaign
 10 account.

11 (b) Allegations of impermissible act. A complaint alleging an impermissible receipt or use
 12 of funds by a participating candidate shall be filed with the State Board.

13 (c) Access to records. On request of the Commission, a participating candidate shall
 14 provide the Commission with reasonable access to the financial records of the candidate's citizen
 15 funded campaign account. A participating candidate shall keep all records for a period of four
 16 (4) years after the election to which the documents relate. The records shall be kept by the
 17 treasurer unless the State Board has been notified otherwise.

18 **Sec. 10-324. Withdrawal.**

19 (a) A participating candidate may withdraw from participation if the candidate files a
 20 statement of withdrawal with the State Board and Commission in the form that the State Board
 21 requires and:

22 (1) terminates candidacy to withdraw from the election completely; or

23 (2) withdraws prior to receiving any public contribution.

24 (b) Termination of candidacy. A participating candidate who withdraws under Subsection
 25 (a)(1) shall repay to the Fund the full amount of any public contribution received, plus interest
 26 accruing from the date of withdrawal at the same rate as the current bank prime loan rate
 27 reported by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

28 (c) Personal liability. If the funds remaining in the candidate's citizen funded campaign
 29 account at the time of withdrawal are insufficient to repay the Fund under Subsection (b) of this
 30 Section, the candidate shall be personally liable for repayment.

31 (d) Reduced repayment. The Commission may reduce any repayment under Subsection

1 (b) of this Section for a participating candidate who must withdraw for health reasons or other
 2 cause not within the candidate's control and may consider personal financial hardship.

3 **Sec. 10-325. Applicant and participating candidate restrictions; affiliation.**

4 (a) An applicant candidate or a participating candidate shall not:

5 (1) accept a private contribution from any group or organization, including a political
 6 action committee, a corporation, a labor organization, or a State or local central committee of a
 7 political party;

8 (2) accept private contributions from an individual in an aggregate greater than Two
 9 Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) during an election cycle, or the maximum amount of an eligible
 10 contribution, as adjusted by Section 10-319(c);

11 (3) after filing a notice of intent with the State Board to seek public financing, pay for
 12 any campaign expense with any campaign finance account other than the candidates' citizen
 13 funded campaign account;

14 (4) be a member of a slate in any election in which the candidate receives a public
 15 contribution;

16 (5) transfer money:

17 (A) to the candidate's citizen funded campaign account from any other campaign
 18 finance entity established for the candidate; or

19 (B) from the candidate's citizen funded campaign account to any other campaign
 20 finance entity; or

21 (6) coordinate expenses except with another participating candidate if the expenses
 22 are shared equally among the coordinating candidates.

23 (b) Affiliation. Pursuant to COMAR 33.13.14, a candidate who accepts public funds may
 24 affiliate with any other candidates, including non-publicly financed candidates, on campaign
 25 material if:

26 (1) the authorized candidate campaign committee makes a direct disbursement to the
 27 payee for its share of the costs of the campaign material; and

28 (2) the campaign material displays the authority line of the authorized candidate
 29 campaign committee.

30 (c) If it is determined that qualifying contributions were received in violation of the
 31 Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Title 5, Subtitle 8 and a matching

1 public contribution was disbursed, the matching public contribution shall be returned to the Fund
 2 in the full amount.

3 **Sec. 10-326. Fair Election Fund Commission.**

4 (a) The Fair Election Fund Commission consists of seven (7) members. The County
 5 Council shall nominate five (5) members of the Commission, ensuring that the nominees reflect
 6 political and geographic diversity. At least one (1) member shall represent an organization
 7 focused on government reform. The County Executive shall nominate two (2) members of the
 8 Commission. Each nominee shall be confirmed by the County Council.

9 (b) Qualifications.

10 (1) Each member of the Commission shall be a resident of the County.

11 (2) A member of the Commission shall not be a candidate for public office during the
 12 previous, current, or next election cycle.

13 (3) A member shall not be a lobbyist registered with the County or State.

14 (4) A member shall not be the Chair or Treasurer for an open campaign account.

15 (5) A member shall be a registered voter.

16 (c) Term; vacancies.

17 (1) The term of a member of the Commission is four (4) years and begins on May 1.
 18 The term of a member of the Commission nominated by the County Executive begins during the
 19 first year of a County Council term. The term of a member of the Commission nominated by a
 20 member of the County Council begins during the third year of a County Council term.

21 (2) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and for
 22 the unexpired term.

23 (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this Subsection, to create staggered terms, the
 24 terms of the initial members of the Commission who are nominated by a member of the County
 25 Council shall be six (6) years and shall begin on May 1, 2019.

26 (d) Officers. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from
 27 among its members.

28 (e) Compensation; expenses. A member of the Commission shall not receive
 29 compensation for service on the Commission except reasonable and necessary expenses as may
 30 be provided in the budget.

31 (f) Duties.

1 (1) The Commission shall issue a report to the Council on or before March 1 of each
 2 year estimating the funds necessary to implement the public campaign finance system and
 3 recommending an appropriation to the Public Election Fund for the following fiscal year.

4 (2) Except as otherwise specified, the Commission shall administer this Division and
 5 ensure the funds are distributed on an equitable basis.

6 (3) The Commission shall meet:

7 (A) at least once every ninety (90) days during the twelve (12) months preceding
 8 a primary election; and

9 (B) at least twice a year otherwise.

10 (g) Staff. The Office of Finance shall provide staff support for the Commission to:

11 (1) work with the State Board of Elections to administer the system; and

12 (2) provide information about the system to candidates and the public.

13 **Sec. 10-327. Penalties.**

14 Any violation of this Division is a civil violation and shall be subject to a fine of Five
 15 Hundred Dollars (\$500) for each violation. A fine may be paid by the campaign but only if all
 16 public contributions have been repaid to the Fund. Otherwise, the candidate or officer found to
 17 be responsible for the violation is personally liable for the fine.

18 **Sec. 10-328. Initial election cycle.**

19 The first election cycle during which a certified candidate shall be eligible to receive public
 20 matching funds under this Act shall be the 2026 election cycle.

21 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Commission shall, in consultation
 22 with the Prince George’s County Board of Elections, conduct an analysis prior to July 1, 2021, of
 23 the voting and donor patterns in Montgomery County and Prince George’s County for the 2000
 24 to 2018 elections. The analysis shall review by census bloc voting and donor patterns by race,
 25 gender, income level, home ownership, and ethnicity/national origin in Montgomery County and
 26 Prince George’s County and the impact of the small donor program on the studied patterns in
 27 Montgomery County. The analysis shall be used to inform recommendations from the
 28 Commission to the Prince George’s County Council and County Executive on the rules and
 29 regulations governing the program, for the 2026 election and beyond. The Commission may
 30 partner with a non-profit or university with political science expertise to complete the analysis.
 31 After the 2026 election, the Commission shall also conduct a similar quadrennial impact and

1 trend analysis for Prince George's County.

2 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the County web site includes a
3 mechanism to accept donations to the Fair Election Fund. The mechanism shall be prominently
4 located on each appropriate County web page.

5 SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the annual allocation of funds for this Act
6 is subject to the discretion of the County governing body and may be based on the fiscal health
7 of the County budget.

8 SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
9 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
10 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
11 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
12 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
13 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
14 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
15 or section.

16 SECTION 6. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
17 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this 23rd day of October, 2018.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Dannielle M. Glaros
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.