County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2017 Legislative Session

Bill No. 30-2017

Introduced by Jennifer Terrasa and Jon Weinstein

AN ACT establishing a voluntary Citizens' Election Fund system for candidates for County Executive or County Council; regulating specified campaign finance activities of a candidate who accepts public funding; providing for the administration and enforcement of specified aspects of the Citizens' Election Fund system; providing certain penalties for violations of the Citizens' Election Fund system; creating a Citizens' Election Fund Commission and specifying its composition and duties; requiring the Director of Finance to take specified actions; providing for a certain voluntary contribution to the Fund; and generally related to elections for County offices.

Introduced and read first time April 3, 2017. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on April 19, 2017.

Tabled 5/1/17

By order Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on June 5, 2017 and Passed , Passed with amendments , Failed .

By order Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 6th day of June, 2017 at a.m.m.n.

By order Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Approved vetoed by the County Executive June 13, 2017

AIIan H. Kittleman, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.
WHEREAS, in November 2016, the voters of Howard County approved a charter amendment to require the County Council to create a Citizens' Election Fund system; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens’ Election Fund system is intended to promote and encourage broader access to elected office in Howard County and to prevent large donations from having undue influence in government; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens' Election Fund system is intended to enable citizens of Howard County to run for office on the strength of their ideas, supported by small donations from ordinary people and matching funds from the Citizens' Election Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County Code is amended as follows:

By adding:

Title 10 - Elections and election districts.
Subtitle 3. – Citizens’ Election Fund.

By amending:

Title 20 – Taxes, charges and fees.
Subtitle 6 - Utility charges and assessments.
Section 20.605(d) – Billing.

By adding:

Title 22 - General Provisions.
Subtitle 8. - Governmental Transparency and Accessible Data.

Title 10 - Elections and election districts.

SUBTITLE 3. CITIZENS’ ELECTION FUND
SEC. 10.300. - DEFINITIONS

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “APPLICANT CANDIDATE” MEANS A CANDIDATE WHO IS SEEKING TO BE A CERTIFIED CANDIDATE IN A PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION.

(C) “CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN TITLE 1, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND CODE.

(D) “CERTIFIED CANDIDATE” MEANS A CANDIDATE WHO IS CERTIFIED AS ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING FROM THE FUND.

(E) “CITIZEN FUNDED CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT” MEANS A CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACCOUNT INTO WHICH ELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE RECEIVED AND FROM WHICH MONEY MAY BE SPENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

(F) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE CITIZENS’ ELECTION FUND COMMISSION.

(G) “CPI” MEANS THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS: ALL ITEMS IN WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE, DC-MD-VA-WV (CMSA) AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

(H) “CONTESTED ELECTION” MEANS ANY ELECTION, INCLUDING A SPECIAL ELECTION, IN WHICH THERE ARE MORE CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE THAN THE NUMBER WHO CAN BE ELECTED TO THAT OFFICE.

(I) “CONTRIBUTION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN TITLE 1, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND CODE.

(J) “COUNTY BOARD” MEANS THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

(K) “COUNTY RESIDENT” MEANS A NATURAL PERSON WHO RESIDES IN HOWARD COUNTY.

(L) “DIRECTOR” MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE.

(M) “ELECTION CYCLE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN TITLE 1, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND CODE.

(N) “_ELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTION” MEANS AN AGGREGATE DONATION IN A 4-YEAR ELECTION CYCLE FROM AN INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT RESIDE IN THE COUNTY, THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE CONTRIBUTION LIMIT SET IN THIS SUBTITLE.

(O) “FUND” MEANS THE CITIZENS’ ELECTION FUND.

(P) “PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE” MEANS A CERTIFIED CANDIDATE WHO HAS RECEIVED A PUBLIC
CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FUND DURING THE CURRENT ELECTION CYCLE.

(Q) "PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION" MEANS MONEY DISBURSED FROM THE FUND TO A CERTIFIED CANDIDATE.

(R) "QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION" MEANS AN ELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICANT CANDIDATE THAT IS:

1. MADE BY A COUNTY RESIDENT;
2. MADE AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE QUALIFYING PERIOD, BUT NO LATER THAN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION; AND
3. ACKNOWLEDGED BY A RECEIPT.

(S) "QUALIFYING PERIOD" MEANS:
1. THE TIME BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1 FOLLOWING THE LAST ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE THE CANDIDATE SEEKS AND ENDING 45 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION; OR
2. FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION, THE TIME THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL SETS BY RESOLUTION.

(T) "SLATE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN TITLE 1, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND CODE.

(U) "STATE BOARD" MEANS THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

10.301. Scope

(A) COVERED OFFICES.

This subtitle applies to elections for County Executive and County Council.

(B) IN GENERAL.

A CANDIDATE WHO WISHES TO RECEIVE PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS MAY APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

10.302. Collecting Qualifying Contributions.

(A) PRELIMINARY STEPS.

BEFORE RAISING A CONTRIBUTION GOVERNED BY THIS SUBTITLE, AN APPLICANT CANDIDATE SHALL:

1. FILE NOTICE OF INTENT WITH THE STATE BOARD IN THE MANNER THAT THE STATE BOARD REQUIRES; AND
(2) ESTABLISH A CITIZEN FUNDED CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT.

(B) CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.

(1) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN APPLICANT CANDIDATE SHALL NOT ACCEPT:

(i) ELIGIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AN INDIVIDUAL OF MORE THAN $250 IN THE AGGREGATE DURING AN ELECTION CYCLE; OR

(ii) A LOAN.

(2) AN APPLICANT CANDIDATE MAY ACCEPT UP TO $12,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS OR LOANS CONSISTING OF A COMBINED TOTAL OF NOT MORE THAN $6,000 FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FAMILY MEMBERS:

(i) THE APPLICANT CANDIDATE;

(ii) A CHILD WHO IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;

(iii) A SPOUSE;

(iv) A PARENT; OR

(v) A SIBLING.

(C) CPI ADJUSTMENT.

(1) THE CONTRIBUTION LIMIT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE ADJUSTED FOR THE NEXT ELECTION CYCLE ON JULY 1, 2022, AND JULY 1 OF EACH SUBSEQUENT FOURTH YEAR BY THE INCREASE IN THE CPI FOR THE PREVIOUS 4 CALENDAR YEARS, ROUNDED UP TO THE NEXT $10.

(2) THE DIRECTOR SHALL PUBLISH THIS AMOUNT NOT LATER THAN THE JANUARY 1 AFTER AN ADJUSTMENT IS MADE.

10.303. REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION.

(A) APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION.

(1) AN APPLICANT CANDIDATE SHALL APPLY TO THE STATE BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION.

(2) THE STATE BOARD MAY ONLY ACCEPT AN APPLICATION DURING THE QUALIFYING PERIOD.

(3) AN APPLICATION SHALL BE SUBMITTED ON THE FORM THAT THE STATE BOARD REQUIRES.
(4) Subject to paragraph (6) of this subsection, an applicant candidate may submit only one application for certification for any election.

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

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

   (ii) A campaign finance report that includes:

         (I) A campaign finance report that contains the information that the state board requires for a campaign finance report and that includes, but is not limited to:

         1. A list of each qualifying contribution received;

         2. A list of each expenditure made by the candidate during the qualifying period;

         3. A copy of the receipt associated with each contribution that identifies the contributor's name and residential address; and

         4. A copy of the receipt associated with each expenditure; and

   (iii) A certificate of candidacy for county executive or county council.

(6) If an application is denied, the applicant may revise the application once if done before the deadline.

(B) Qualifications.

To qualify as a certified candidate:

(1) A candidate for county executive must have collected from county residents at least:

   (i) 500 qualifying contributions; and

   (ii) An aggregate total of $40,000; and

(2) A candidate for county council must have collected from county residents at least:

   (i) 125 qualifying contributions; and

   (ii) An aggregate total of $10,000.

(C) Contributions.
1. AN APPLICANT CANDIDATE SHALL DEPOSIT ALL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED INTO THE
2. CANDIDATE'S CITIZEN FUNDED CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT.

3. AN APPLICANT CANDIDATE SHALL DELIVER TO THE STATE BOARD A COPY OF THE
4. RECEIPT FOR EACH QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION THAT IDENTIFIES THE CONTRIBUTOR'S NAME AND
5. RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND THAT IS SIGNED BY THE CONTRIBUTOR DIRECTLY OR BY A DIGITAL
6. SIGNATURE USING A METHOD APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD.

10.304. STATE BOARD DETERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.

Within 10 days after the State Board receives a complete application for
7. certification, the State Board shall certify an applicant candidate who qualifies for
8. certification.

(b) DECISION.

The decision by the State Board whether to certify a candidate is final.

(c) AUTHORIZATION TO DISBURSE MONEY.

If the State Board certifies a candidate, the State Board shall so notify the
9. Director. After notification, the Director shall disburse a public contribution to the
10. candidate's Citizen Funded Campaign account.

10.305. CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND ESTABLISHED.

(a) IN GENERAL.

The Director shall establish a Citizen's Election Fund as a special non-lapsing
11. fund in accordance with section 611 of the Howard County Charter.

(b) COMPONENTS OF THE FUND.

The Fund consists of:

(1) money appropriated to the Fund;

(2) any unspent money remaining in a certified candidate's Citizen Funded
12. campaign account after the candidate is no longer a candidate;

(3) any public contribution returned to the Fund;

(4) any donations made to the Fund;

(5) any fines collected under section 10.311 of this subtitle; and
(5) (6) ANY EARNINGS ON MONEY IN THE FUND.

(c) BUDGET ALLOCATION.

Each year, the County Executive shall include in the current expense budget the amount required under section 907 of the Howard County Charter.

10.306. DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.

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

   (i) the time beginning 365 days before the primary election for the office the candidate seeks and ending 15 days after the general election; or
   (ii) the time that the County Council sets by resolution for a special election.

(2) A certified candidate may continue to collect qualifying contributions and receive a matching public contribution up to a primary or general election.

(b) RECEIPTS; DEPOSITS.

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

(2) The receipt shall identify the contributor’s name and residential address.

(3) The Director shall deposit the appropriate public contribution into a participating candidate’s Citizen Funded Campaign account within 3 business days after the State Board authorizes the public contribution.

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS OF LESS THAN $5.
(d) Amount of Distribution.

(1) For a certified candidate for County Executive, the public contribution shall equal:

(i) $7 for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the first $50 of each qualifying contribution;

(ii) $4 for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the second $50 of each qualifying contribution; and

(iii) $1 for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the third $50 of each qualifying contribution; and

(iv) $0 for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received beyond the third $50 of each qualifying contribution.

(2) For a certified candidate for County Council, the public contribution shall equal:

(i) $5 for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the first $50 of each qualifying contribution;

(ii) $3 for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the second $50 of each qualifying contribution;

(iii) $1 for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received for the third $50 of each qualifying contribution; and

(iv) $0 for each dollar of a qualifying contribution received beyond the third $50 of each qualifying contribution.

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

(i) $750,000 $700,000 for a candidate for County Executive; and

(ii) $95,000 $85,000 for a candidate for County Council.

(e) Limitation.

The Director shall not distribute a public contribution based on:

(1) A contribution from the candidate or the candidate’s spouse; or
(2) AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY, GOODS, OR SERVICES.

(f) FUND INSUFFICIENCY.

If the Director determines that the total amount available for distribution in the Fund is insufficient to meet the allocations required by this section, the Director shall reduce each public contribution by the same percentage.

(g) DISBURSEMENTS AFTER PRIMARY ELECTION.

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

(h) RETURN OF UNSPENT FUNDS.

(1) Within 30 days after the County Board certifies the results of the primary election, a participating candidate who is not certified to be on the ballot for the general election shall return to the Fund any unspent money in the candidate's citizen funded campaign account.

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

(i) CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY PETITION OR BY NON-PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTIES.

(1) "PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PARTIES" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN SECTION 1-101 OF THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND CODE.

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

(3) A certified candidate under this subsection must qualify 45 days before the date of the general election.

(j) CPI ADJUSTMENT.

(1) The total public contribution limits established in this section shall be adjusted for the next election cycle on July 1, 2022, and July 1 of each subsequent fourth year by the increase in the CPI for the previous 4 calendar years, rounded up to the next $10.
(2) The Director shall publish these amounts not later than the January 1
after an adjustment is made.

(a) In General.
(1) A participating candidate may only make expenditures from the citizen
funded campaign account registered with the State Board for expenses incurred for
the election.

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

(3)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection, the Director
shall reduce the public contribution to a participating candidate’s citizen funded
campaign account by the total amount of all expenditures made after the end of the
previous election cycle from the candidate’s non-participating campaign account.

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

(b) Allegation of Impermissible Act.
A complaint alleging an impermissible receipt or use of funds by a participating
candidate shall be filed with the Commission.

(c) Access to Records.
On request of the Commission, a participating candidate shall provide the
Commission with reasonable access to the financial records of the candidate’s
citizen funded campaign account.

10.308. Withdrawal.
(a) In General.
A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE MAY WITHDRAW FROM PARTICIPATION IF THE CANDIDATE FILES A STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL WITH THE STATE BOARD AND THE COMMISSION IN THE FORM THAT THE STATE BOARD REQUIRES AND:

(1) TERMINATES CANDIDACY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ELECTION COMPLETELY; OR
(2) WITHDRAWS PRIOR TO RECEIVING ANY PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION.

(B) TERMINATION OF CANDIDACY.

A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE WHO WITHDRAWS UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL REPAY TO THE FUND THE FULL AMOUNT OF ANY PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED, PLUS INTEREST ACCRUING FROM THE DATE OF WITHDRAWAL AT THE SAME RATE AS THAT IMPOSED ON REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN ARREARS UNDER SECTION 20.102 OF THE COUNTY CODE THE CURRENT BANK PRIME LOAN RATE AS REPORTED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

(c) PERSONAL LOANS.

A CANDIDATE WHO WITHDRAWS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL REPAY THE FUND UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION BEFORE REPAYING ANY PERSONAL LOANS TO THE CANDIDATE’S CAMPAIGN.

(d) PERSONAL LIABILITY.

IF THE FUNDS REMAINING IN THE CANDIDATE’S CITIZEN FUNDED CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT AT THE TIME OF WITHDRAWAL ARE INSUFFICIENT TO REPAY THE FUND UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE CANDIDATE SHALL BE PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR REPAYMENT.

(e) REDUCED REPAYMENT.

THE COMMISSION MAY REDUCE ANY REPAYMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE WHO MUST WITHDRAW FOR HEALTH REASONS OR OTHER CAUSE NOT WITHIN THE CANDIDATE’S CONTROL AND MAY CONSIDER PERSONAL FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

10.309. APPLICANT AND PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE RESTRICTIONS.

AN APPLICANT CANDIDATE OR PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE SHALL NOT:

(1) ACCEPT A PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION FROM ANY GROUP OR ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING A POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, A CORPORATION, A LABOR ORGANIZATION, OR A STATE OR LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF A POLITICAL PARTY;
(2) Accept private contributions from an individual in an aggregate amount greater than $250 during an election cycle, or the maximum amount of an eligible contribution, as adjusted by section 10.302(c) of this subtitle;

(3) After filing a notice of intent with the State Board to seek public financing, pay for any campaign expense with any campaign finance account other than the candidate’s Citizen Funded Campaign account;

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

(5) Accept a loan from anyone other than the candidate or the candidate’s spouse, parent, or sibling;

(6) Transfer money:

   (i) To the candidate’s Citizen Funded Campaign account from any other campaign finance entity established for the candidate; or

   (ii) From the candidate’s Citizen Funded Campaign account to any other campaign finance entity; or

(7) Coordinate expenses except with another participating candidate if the expenses are shared equally among the coordinating candidates.


(A) In General.

In accordance with section 907 of the Howard County Charter, there is a Citizens’ Election Fund Commission.

(B) Membership.

(1) The Commission consists of 7 members.

(2) Each member of the County Council shall nominate 1 member of the Commission.

(3) The County Executive shall nominate 2 members of the Commission.

(4) Each nominee shall be confirmed by a separate resolution of the County Council.

(C) Qualifications.

(1) Each member of the Commission shall be a resident of the County.
(2) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE DURING THE PREVIOUS, CURRENT, OR NEXT ELECTION CYCLE.

(3) A MEMBER SHALL NOT BE A LOBBYIST REGISTERED WITH THE COUNTY.

(4) A MEMBER SHALL NOT BE THE CHAIR OR TREASURER FOR AN OPEN CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT.

(5) A MEMBER SHALL BE A REGISTERED VOTER.

(D) TERM, VACANCIES.

(1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION IS 4 YEARS AND BEGINS ON THE MAY 1.

(2) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION NOMINATED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE BEGINS DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF A COUNTY COUNCIL TERM. THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION NOMINATED BY A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL BEGINS DURING THE THIRD YEAR OF A COUNTY COUNCIL TERM.

(3) A VACANCY SHALL BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT AND FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM.


(E) OFFICERS.

THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

(F) COMPENSATION; EXPENSES.

A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION EXCEPT REASONABLE AND NECESSARY EXPENSES AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET.

(G) DUTIES.

(1) THE COMMISSION SHALL CALCULATE THE AMOUNTS AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 907 OF THE COUNTY CHARTER.

(2) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THIS SUBTITLE.

(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET:

(i) AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 90 DAYS DURING THE 12 MONTHS PRECEDING A PRIMARY ELECTION; AND
(II) AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR OTHERWISE.

(h) STAFF.

The Department of Finance shall provide staff support for the
Commission to:

(1) Work with the State Board of Elections to administer the system;

AND

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

10.311. VIOLATIONS.

(A) IN GENERAL.

A violation of this subtitle is a Class A civil violation under Title 24 of the
County Code.

(B) PAYMENT.

A fine may be paid by the campaign but only if all public contributions have
been repaid to the Fund. Otherwise, the candidate or officer found to be responsible
for the violation is personally liable for the fine.

Title 20 – Taxes, charges and fees.

Subtitle 6 - Utility charges and assessments.

20.605. - Utility service charges.

(d) Billing.

(1) The water, reclaimed water, and sewer service charges shall be billed by the
Department of Finance and shall be billed quarterly unless otherwise stipulated by the Director
of Finance. Penalties for late payment of such charges shall be made in accordance with section
20.316 of this subtitle. If only a portion of the service charge revenues are used to cover
operation and maintenance costs of the water system, reclaimed water system, or public sewer
system, the amount of the service charge dedicated to operation and maintenance costs shall be
indicated on each bill.

(2) The Department of Finance shall include on each bill a checkbox that,
when checked by the bill payer, adds a $3 contribution for the Citizens' Election Fund.

The Department of Finance shall deposit the money collected because of the check-
Title 22 - General Provisions.
Subtitle 8 - Governmental Transparency and Accessible Data.

SECTION 22.807. - CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND SYSTEM — DONATIONS.

(A) THE FACILITATOR SHALL ENSURE THAT THE COUNTY WEBSITE INCLUDES A MECHANISM TO ACCEPT DONATIONS TO THE CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND.

(B) THE MECHANISM SHALL BE PROMINENTLY LOCATED ON EACH APPROPRIATE COUNTY WEB PAGE.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Administrator of the Howard County Council shall submit this Act to the Maryland State Board of Elections for approval and the system established by this Act shall not be implemented until the approval is granted.

Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that Section 1 of this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.

Section 4. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Citizens' Election Fund System shall take effect for the 2022 election cycle.
BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on ________________, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on July 3, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on ________________, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on ________________, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on ________________, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on ________________, 2017.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council
June 13, 2017

The Honorable Jan Weinstein, Chairperson
Howard County Council
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Re: Howard County Council Bill No. 30-2017

Dear Chairperson Weinstein:

In accordance with Section 209(g) of the Howard County Charter, I have today vetoed Howard County Council Bill No. 30-2017 ("CB30"). I have always been in favor of public financing of elections, as long as donations are made voluntarily and not from taxpayer funds. For years, I have made these donations myself by checking off a box when filing my tax returns.

What the Howard County Council did in passing CB30 was different. The Council has authorized the funding of campaigns with money collected from taxes, diverting money from our collective priorities of education, public safety, infrastructure improvements and recreational facilities to finance someone’s political ambitions, including candidates that a taxpayer may be diametrically opposed to supporting.

No one less than Thomas Jefferson agreed when he wrote that: “to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.”

I ran for office on a platform of fiscal responsibility and to safeguard the money the residents entrusted to Howard County government. I don’t believe this is how our residents’ hard-earned tax dollars should be spent. Consequently, I have chosen to veto CB30.

Sincerely,

Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive

cc: Howard County Council
Jessica Feldmark, Council Administrator
Gary W. Kuc, County Solicitor
Amendment 2 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Greg Fox

Legislative Day No. 7
Date: May 1, 2017

Amendment No. 2

(This amendment makes technical corrections.)

1. On page 3, in line 16, strike one of the quotation marks preceding “HAS”.
2. On page 4, in line 27, strike “FROM AN INDIVIDUAL”.
3. On page 5, in line 7, strike the space preceding the period.
4. On page 7, in line 20, strike “(5)” and substitute “(6)”.

[Signature]
Signed: Greg Fox
Amended: 4/15/17

[Date]

Amendment 1 Amendment 2 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Jennifer Terrasa  
Jon Weinstein

Legislative Day No. 9
Date: 6/5/17

Amendment No. 1

(This technical amendment removes a redundancy.)

1 After line 1 insert:
2 "On page 4, in line 27, strike "FROM AN INDIVIDUAL".
3
Amendment \textsuperscript{2} to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Greg Fox

Legislative Day No. 7
Date: 5/1/17

Amendment No. \textsuperscript{2}

(\textit{This amendment makes technical corrections.})

1. On page 3, in line 16, strike one of the quotation marks preceding "HAS".
2. On page 5, in line 7, strike the space preceding the period.
3. On page 7, in line 20, strike "(5)" and substitute "(6)".
Amendment 7 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Jennifer Terrasa and legislative Day No. 9
Jon Weinstein Date: June 5, 2017

Amendment No. 7

(This amendment provides for a voluntary donation to the Fund, clarifies that a County resident must be a human being and not a corporation or other kind of entity, provides for staggered terms, clarifies when the determination of a contested election is made, requires the Department of Finance to administer the system and provide information, clarifies when disbursements may not be made because an election is not contested, provides that members of the Commission must be registered voters, clarifies the information that must be included in campaign finance reports, sets a minimum meeting schedule for the Commission, and adds a candidate’s adult children to those whose contributions or loans are subject to a separate cap)

1 On the title page, in last line of the purpose paragraph after the semicolon, insert: “providing for a certain voluntary contribution to the Fund; ”.

On page 2, after line 18, insert:

“By amending:

Title 20 - Taxes, charges and fees.
Subtitle 6 - Utility charges and assessments.

Section 20.605(d) – Billing.

By adding:

Title 22 - General Provisions.
Subtitle 8, - Governmental Transparency and Accessible Data.
Section 22.807 - Citizens’ Election Fund System – Donations.”.

On page 3, after line 13, insert:

“(K) “COUNTY RESIDENT” MEANS A NATURAL PERSON WHO RESIDES IN HOWARD COUNTY.”.

Renumber the rest of the section accordingly.
On page 5, in line 5 after “(II)”, insert

“A CHILD WHO IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;
(III)”.

Renumber accordingly in lines 6 and 7.

Also on page 5, strike line 30 and substitute “(II) A CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT THAT CONTAINS
THE INFORMATION THAT THE STATE BOARD REQUIRES FOR A CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT AND
THAT INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:”.

On page 8:

- in line 6, after “AUGUST” insert “PRECEDING THE ELECTION”.
- in line 8, strike “UNCONTESTED”.
- also in line 8, after “ELECTION” insert “IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS THE SOLE INDIVIDUAL
WHO HAS FILED A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY FOR THAT OFFICE”.

On page 13:

- after line 12, insert:

“(5) A MEMBER SHALL BE A REGISTERED VOTER.”.
- in line 14, strike the third instance of “THE” and after “MAY 1” insert a period.
- in line 15, before “DURING” insert “THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION
NOMINATED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE BEGINS”.
- also in line 15, after the period, insert “THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION
NOMINATED BY A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL BEGINS DURING THE THIRD YEAR OF A
COUNTY COUNCIL TERM.”.
- insert after line 17:

“(3) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TO CREATE STAGGERED
TERMS, THE TERMS OF THE INITIAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WHO ARE NOMINATED
BY A MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL BE 6 YEARS AND SHALL BEGIN ON THE MAY
1, 2019.”.
• after line 28, insert:

“(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET:

(1) AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 90 DAYS DURING THE 12 MONTHS PRECEDING A
PRIMAR Y ELECTION; AND

(II) AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR OTHERWISE.”

• at the end of line 30, before the period, insert:

“TO:

(1) WORK WITH THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO ADMINISTER THE SYSTEM;

AND

(2) PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SYSTEM TO CANDIDATES AND THE PUBLIC”.

On page 14, after line 9, insert:

“Title 20 – Taxes, charges and fees.
Subtitle 6 - Utility charges and assessments.

20.605. - Utility service charges.

(d) Billing.

(1) The water, reclaimed water, and sewer service charges shall be billed by the
Department of Finance and shall be billed quarterly unless otherwise stipulated by the Director
of Finance. Penalties for late payment of such charges shall be made in accordance with section
20.316 of this subtitle. If only a portion of the service charge revenues are used to cover
operation and maintenance costs of the water system, reclaimed water system, or public sewer
system, the amount of the service charge dedicated to operation and maintenance costs shall be
indicated on each bill.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SHALL INCLUDE ON EACH BILL A CHECKBOX THAT,
WHEN CHECKED BY THE BILL PAYER, ADDS A $ 3 CONTRIBUTION FOR THE CITIZENS’ ELECTION FUND.
THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SHALL DEPOSIT THE MONEY COLLECTED BECAUSE OF THE CHECK-
OFF INTO THE CITIZENS’ ELECTION FUND REQUIRED BY SECTION 907 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY
CHARTER.

Title 22 - General Provisions.
Subtitle 8. - Governmental Transparency and Accessible Data.
SECTION 22.807. - CITIZENS’ ELECTION FUND SYSTEM – DONATIONS.

(A) The facilitator shall ensure that the county website includes a mechanism to accept donations to the Citizens’ Election Fund.

(B) The mechanism shall be prominently located on each appropriate county web page.”
Amendment 8 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Jennifer Terrasa and Jon Weinstein

Legislative Day No. 9
Date: June 5, 2017

Amendment No. 8

(This amendment alters the public contribution cap.)

1 On page 9:
2 • in line 13, strike “$750,000” and substitute “$700,000”; and
3 • in line 14, strike “$95,000” and substitute “$85,000”.

ADOPTED 6/5/17
FAILED

[Signature]
Amendment 9 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Jennifer Terrasa and Jon Weinstein

Legislative Day No. 9
Date: June 5, 2017

Amendment No. 9

(This amendment deals with expenditures prior to participation in the system.)

1 On page 10, after line 29, insert:

2 “(3)(i) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3)(ii) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DIRECTOR SHALL
3 REDUCE THE PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TO A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE’S CITIZEN FUNDED CAMPAIGN
4 ACCOUNT BY THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALL EXPENDITURES MADE AFTER THE END OF THE PREVIOUS
5 ELECTION CYCLE FROM THE CANDIDATE’S NON-PARTICIPATING CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT.
6 (ii) EXPENDITURES MADE WITH CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE END OF THE
7 PREVIOUS ELECTION CYCLE TOWARDS DEBTS ACCRUED BEFORE THE END OF THE PREVIOUS
8 ELECTION CYCLE SHALL NOT REDUCE THE PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TO A PARTICIPATING
9 CANDIDATE’S CITIZEN FUNDED CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT.”.

[Signature]

adopted 6/5/17
Failed
[Signature]
Amendment 9 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Jennifer Terrasa and Jon Weinstein

Legislative Day No. 9
Date: June 5, 2017

Amendment No. 9

(This amendment deals with expenditures prior to participation in the system.)

1 On page 10, after line 29, insert:
2 "(3)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection, the Director shall
3 reduce the public contribution to a participating candidate's citizen funded campaign
4 account by the total amount of all expenditures made after the end of the previous
5 election cycle from the candidate's non-participating campaign account.
6 (ii) Expenditures made towards debts accrued before the end of the previous
7 election cycle shall not reduce the public contribution to a participating
8 candidate's citizen funded campaign account."
Amendment 10 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Jennifer Terrasa
Jon Weinstein

Legislative Day No. 9
Date: June 5, 2017

Amendment No. 10

(This amendment changes the interest rate for public contributions that must be repaid to the Fund.)

1 On page 11, beginning in line 18, strike “THAT IMPOSED” down through “COUNTY CODE” in line
2 19 and substitute “THE CURRENT BANK PRIME LOAN RATE AS REPORTED BY THE BOARD OF
3 GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM”.

4
Amendment 1 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Greg Fox

Amendment No. 1

(This amendment clarifies what is voluntary and describes the funding sources for the System.)

1. On the title page, in the purpose paragraph:
2. • in the first line, strike “voluntary”.
3. • in the third line, after “who” insert “voluntarily”.
4. • also in the third line, after “funding;”, insert “providing for funding sources such as tax dollars, donations and fines;”.

Date: 5/1/17
Amendment 3 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Greg Fox

Legislative Day No. 7
Date: 5/1/17

Amendment No. 3

(This amendment removes governmental appropriations as a component of the Fund and removes the requirement that the County Executive include a certain amount in the Budget.)

1 On page 7:
2 • Strike line 14 in its entirety. Renumber the subsection accordingly.
3 • Strike lines 21 through 23 in their entirety.
Amendment 4 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Greg Fox

Legislative Day No. 7
Date: 5/1/17

Amendment No. 4

(This amendment prohibits contributions from those who are not County residents and deletes a redundant figure.)

1 On page 12,

2 • beginning in line 7 down through line 8, strike “IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT GREATER THAN $250 DURING AN ELECTION CYCLE, OR” and substitute:

3 “THAT IS NOT A COUNTY RESIDENT;

5 (3) ACCEPT PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AN COUNTY RESIDENT GREATER THAN”;

7 • in line 22:

8 o strike “EXCEPT”;

9 o after “PARTICIPATING” insert “OR NON-PARTICIPATING”; and

10 o strike “IF THE”; and

11 • in line 23, strike “EXPENSES ARE SHARED EQUALLY AMONG THE COORDINATING CANDIDATES”.

14 Renumber the rest of the subsection accordingly.

15
Amendment 5 to Council Bill No. 30-2017

BY: Greg Fox

Legislative Day No. 7
Date: 5/1/17

Amendment No. 5

(This amendment prohibits coordination with organizations.)

1 On page 12:
2 • in line 21, strike "or".
3 • In line 23, before the period, insert "; OR
4 (9) COORDINATE EXPENSES WITH ANY ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO PACS,
5 POLITICAL CLUBS, UNIONS, BUSINESS ENTITIES OR CENTRAL COMMITTEES".

ADOPTED

SIGNED

FAILED 6/15/17

SIGNED
Amendment \( \text{to Council Bill No. 30-2017} \)

BY: Greg Fox

Amendment No. \( 6 \)

(This amendment alters when the System takes effect.)

1. On the title page, in the purpose paragraph, in the last line, after “actions;” insert “establishing when the Citizen Election Fund system will begin;”

2. On page 14, in line 19, strike “for the 2022 election cycle” and substitute “for the first election for which a non-partisan Councilmanic redistricting commission will be establishing the Councilmanic districts”.

ADOPTED

FAILED

Jesse Feldmark

Signature