

**COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FUNDING
FOR THE PUBLIC ELECTION FUND
Wednesday, September 8, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.
5th Floor Conference Room. Council Office Building**

Committee Members Present:

David Scull, Chair
Sharon Cohen, Vice Chair
Lee Annis, Jr.
Paul Schwartz

Committee Members Absent:

Margaret Greene

Staff:

Amanda Mihill, County Council

Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Scull welcomed Jennifer Bevan-Dangel of Common Cause, Maryland to the meeting.

Committee members continued their discussion with Ms. Bevan-Dangle regarding information that may help the Committee in its deliberations, including historical trends regarding the County's elections such as number of local candidates and campaign contributions. Ms. Bevan-Dangle summarized her research by noting that generally speaking Republican candidates have been underfunded for elections and that a publically funded financing will likely be especially appealing to Republican candidates. Ms. Bevan-Dangle also noted that past election data show a large amount of out-of-county donations, which speaks to the thresholds in the County law. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Scull thanked Common Cause and Common Causes' interns for the historical research they performed.

Regarding anticipated costs of the program, Ms. Bevan-Dangle noted that when Bill 16-14, Elections – Public Campaign Financing, was enacted, Common Cause suggested that \$8 million would sufficiently fund a County program. However, additional research has led her to believe that the cost is likely to be approximately \$10 million.

Committee members discussed whether there were organizations out there that could help the Committee determine whether there are algorithms to help determine how much a County program is likely to require. Organizations that were mentioned include the New York Campaign Finance Board, Common Cause, The Brennan Center, and the Bi-Partisan Policy Center. Committee members agreed to invite Jared DeMarinis, the Director of the Maryland State Board of Elections' Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance to the next meeting, which will be on October 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Committee members unanimously approved the minutes from the July 8 meeting; motion made by David Scull and seconded by Paul Schwartz.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

