

**MEMORANDUM**

April 14, 2015

TO: Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee  
FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*  
SUBJECT: FY16 Operating Budget: Public Election Fund

Those expected to attend this worksession include:  
Robert Hagedoorn, Chief, Division of Fiscal Management, Department of Finance  
David Crow, Fiscal Projects Manager, Division of Fiscal Management, Department of Finance

**Overview**

On September 30, 2014, the Council enacted, and the Executive later signed, Bill 16-14, Elections – Public Campaign Financing. Bill 16-14 established a Public Election Fund to provide public campaign financing for a candidate for a County elective office. Bill 16-14 also established a Committee to Recommend Funding for the Public Election Fund. This Committee is charged with reporting to the Council by March 1 each year estimating the funds necessary to implement the campaign finance system and recommending an appropriation to the Public Election Fund for the following year. The Council has appointed members to this Committee, whose terms begin on May 1. For FY17, the Council will have the benefit of the Committee's views.

On November 25, 2014, the Council sent a letter to County Executive Leggett urging the allocation of \$2 million in the FY16 Recommended Operating Budget (©1). There is no funding for this purpose in the recommended budget.

**Public Hearing Testimony**

The Council has received several e-mails from constituents expressing general support for funding the Public Election Fund.

### **Council Staff Recommendation**

There are many pressures on the FY16 operating budget. If Councilmembers remain committed to allocating \$2 million for the Public Election Fund, Council staff recommends putting \$2 million on the reconciliation list in the following increments:

- \$100,000
- \$200,000
- \$200,000
- \$250,000
- \$250,000
- \$500,000
- \$500,000

This will allow the Council flexibility in determining Council priorities through the reconciliation process.

This packet contains:  
Council letter

Circle  
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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

November 25, 2014

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

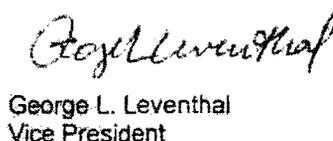
Bill 16-14, which the Council enacted unanimously on September 30 and you signed on October 6, will allow candidates for County Council and County Executive to qualify for partial public financing for their campaigns starting with the primary and general elections in 2018. As you know, this is the first such measure for county elective offices in the Washington region and the State of Maryland.

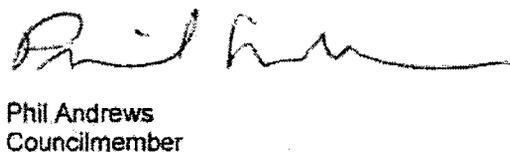
Our task now is to assure that the Montgomery County budgets for the next four fiscal years, FY 2016-2019, will include adequate support for the Public Election Fund established by the bill. The analysis by Common Cause suggests that a prudent allocation in each of the next three County budgets, FY 2016-2018, would be \$2.0 million, to provide the Fund with \$6.0 million for the 2018 elections. If additional funding is needed, it could be provided in the spring of 2018, either as a FY 2018 supplemental appropriation or as part of the FY 2019 budget.

We urge you to start this process by including a \$2.0 million allocation for the Public Election Fund in the FY 2016 recommended budget that you will transmit in March 2015. For the allocations in FY 2017, 2018, and 2019, we will receive recommendations from the five-member citizens committee established in Bill 16-14. The Council is to appoint the initial members of this committee to a four-year term starting on May 1, 2015.

The initial \$2.0 million allocation we propose for inclusion in your FY 2016 recommended budget will help confirm the County's commitment to the successful implementation of this historic law. Thank you for working with us to achieve this goal.

  
Craig Rice  
President

  
George L. Leventhal  
Vice President

  
Phil Andrews  
Councilmember

  
Roger Berliner  
Councilmember





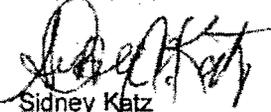
Cheri Branson  
Councilmember



Nancy Floreen  
Councilmember



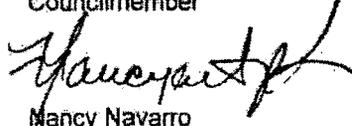
Hans Riemer  
Councilmember



Sidney Katz  
Councilmember-Elect



Marc Elrich  
Councilmember



Nancy Navarro  
Councilmember



Tom Hucker  
Councilmember-Elect