

**COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FUNDING
FOR THE PUBLIC ELECTION FUND
Monday, February 13, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.
5th Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building**

Committee Members Present:

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

Staff:

Amanda Mihill, County Council

Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. David Crow, Fiscal Projects Manager at the Montgomery County Department of Finance, also attended the meeting to address the Committee's implementation questions.

Committee members approved the minutes from the January 12 meeting; motion made by Mr. Annis and seconded by Ms. Cohen.

Committee members discussed the Committee's 2017 report and how much funding the Committee should recommend be allocated for the Public Election Fund. Ms. Cohen did not believe additional funding above the Committee's 2016 recommendation was warranted. Mr. Schwartz noted that the Committee did not know how much funding would be required during the 2018 elections and his view that the County should not underfund the Public Election Fund. Ms. Cohen responded that if additional funding becomes necessary, then the Council can add to the amount available by supplemental appropriation. Ms. Cohen reiterated her view that while there may be many candidate who seek to use public financing, not all of the candidates will qualify or be eligible to receive the maximum distribution.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion that the Committee recommend that the Council set aside \$11 million for public financing; Ms. Greene seconded the motion. Ms. Green, Mr. Schwartz, and Mr. Scull voted for the motion; Mr. Annis and Ms. Cohen opposed. Ms. Cohen noted that she would submit a dissenting view to be included in the Committee's report to the Council.

The Committee discussed with Mr. Crow whether additional staff members are required to implement the public financing program. Mr. Crow noted that State Board of Elections staff and the Department of Finance are discussing whether to hire a contractor to assist with developing program documents. Committee members also discussed with Mr. Crow whether the contractor would be responsible for confirming residency of contributors to campaigns. Ms.

Cohen suggested that the Committee urge that there be an expeditious real-time process to confirm residency of contributors.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

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