

**COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FUNDING
FOR THE PUBLIC ELECTION FUND
Thursday, September 12, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.
Potomac River Conference Room
Council Office Building**

Committee Members Present:

David Scull, Chair
Nancy McMahan Farrar, Vice Chair
Lee Annis, Jr.
Sam Statland
Stephen Whitted

Staff:

Amanda Mihill, County Council

Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Committee members unanimously approved the minutes from the June 18 meeting; motion made by Sam Statland and seconded by Nancy McMahan Farrar.

The Committee met with Austin Graham, Campaign Legal Center, to discuss the structure of various public financing programs throughout the country, particularly the funding mechanism. Mr. Graham noted that most programs are funded by appropriation (i.e., discretionary amounts appropriated by the legislature. Other funding mechanism include portions of fines, taxes, voluntary check-off boxes, casino revenue, and proceeds from abandoned properties.

Chair Scull noted his view that the Committee should provide guidance of the best funding mechanism to ensure a robust program. Responding to Commissioner questions, Mr. Graham briefly discussed legal issues surrounding funding mechanisms, including the Supreme Court cases of *Buckely v. Valeo* and *Arizona Free Enterprise Club's Freedom Club PAC v. Bennett*. Mr. Graham also noted that the Seattle program, which is funded by property taxes, is currently the subject of a lawsuit.

Committee members agreed to next meet in November.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.