

**COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FUNDING  
FOR THE PUBLIC ELECTION FUND  
Wednesday, May 18, 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.  
Margaret Greene  
Paul Schwartz

**Staff:**

Amanda Mihill, County Council

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Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Scull welcomed Jennifer Bevan-Dangel of Common Cause, Maryland to the meeting. Mr. Scull noted that Ms. Bevan-Dangel volunteered to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Committee members continued their discussion of the Committee's approach to the main task of recommending an amount that the County should fund for the Public Election Fund. Some Committee members reiterated their concern that because the County program is generous program, the numbers of candidates may increase, which would result in additional funding needed. Ms. Bevan-Dangel noted that while the County program is generous, the threshold to qualify for funds is high so it is unlikely that there will be a flood of applicants that qualify. Ms. Bevan-Dangle noted that during the last election, there were 11 candidates, but only 4 of those would have qualified. Committee members discussed the cost of running a viable election and Ms. Bevan-Dangel stated that the average for a Council race is approximately \$200,000 and for Executive is approximately \$1,000,000. Committee members discussed the results of their individual research.

Committee members discussed with Ms. Bevan-Dangle information that may help the Committee in its deliberations, including information from the 2010 election, whether it is possible to project the number of candidates that may run in the 2018 election, and reasons more people don't run for elected office. Mr. Scull stated that he would work with Ms. Bevan-Dangle to identify priority areas for further research.

Committee members unanimously approved the minutes from the April 29 meeting; motion made by Lee Annis and seconded by Sharon Cohen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.