

**COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FUNDING
FOR THE PUBLIC ELECTION FUND
Monday, November 2, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.
5th Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building**

Committee Members Present:

David Scull, Chair
Sharon Cohen, Vice Chair (via phone)
Lee Annis, Jr.
Margaret Greene
Paul Schwartz (via phone)

Staff:

Amanda Mihill, County Council

Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Mr. Scull welcomed Brendan Glavin from the Campaign Finance Institute to the meeting.

Committee members discussed with Mr. Glavin the effects of public financing in other jurisdictions, particularly New York City. Mr. Glavin noted that the Campaign Finance Institute does not assist in projecting appropriate funding for the public financing system in New York City, but does look at the effects of the system. In New York City, there is more participation by people who give smaller amounts to candidates. Candidates tend to reach out to more donors, which results in increased geographic, income, and demographic diversity because candidates reach out to more neighborhoods. Committee members inquired as to whether the program in New York City affected voter participation, number of people running, and diversity of candidates, and if there was an effect on incumbents. Mr. Glavin noted that he could share this information with the Committee.

Committee members discussed with Mr. Glavin whether his research yielded any rules of thumb regarding determining how much funding will be required to finance a public campaign program. Mr. Glavin responded that Committee members should try to figure out how many candidates will barely make the threshold for qualifying for public funds, how many candidates will have an average number of donors, and how many candidates will have the most donors. Mr. Glavin did not assume that every candidate would qualify and predicted that there would not be an explosion in the number of candidates because of the way that the thresholds are set in the law. Mr. Glavin stated that if the Committee were to give him the number of candidates that the Committee expects to fall into each of the categories, he would perform the calculations to arrive at an estimated amount.

Committee members unanimously approved the minutes from the September 8 and October 5 meeting; motion made by Lee Annis and seconded by Margaret Green. Committee members agreed to meet next on December 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

