

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

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Sharon Cohen, Vice Chair

Staff:

Amanda Mihill, County Council

Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Mr. Scull welcomed Jared DeMarinis, Director of the Maryland State Board of Elections' Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance to the meeting.

Committee members discussed with Mr. DeMarinis the operation of the Public Election Fund. Committee members learned that the timing of eligibility for payments is tied to a candidate's filing the certificate of candidacy. Mr. DeMarinis indicated that publically funded candidates must have campaign accounts that will close at the end of the election cycle and that any other campaign account must remain dormant during this time.

Committee members also learned that the State is likely to incur administrative costs to implement and manage the public election fund and that these costs are likely to be passed onto the County. Mr. DeMarinis estimated that during the next fiscal year, the State will likely need \$160,000-\$180,000 for a computer program. Committee members asked Council staff to determine how those needs will be factored into the budget and suggested that the Committee recommend funding for administrative costs in addition to the amount the Committee determines should be funded for payouts to candidates.

Chair Scull indicated his interest in sending a letter to Professor Michael Malbin at the Campaign Finance Institute seeking any guidelines or algorithms that may exist to determine the impact that public financing is likely to have on the number of candidates that run for public office and total amounts spent for public office. Committee members concurred with this action. Committee members agreed to meet next on November 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.