

**COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FUNDING
FOR THE PUBLIC ELECTION FUND
Thursday, January 17, 2019 – 8:30 a.m.
Potomac River 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 8:37 a.m.

Committee members discussed the Committee’s 2019 report and the draft report circulated. Committee members discussed how much funding the Committee should recommend for the next election cycle. Mr. Annis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cohen, to reduce the recommended appropriation to \$1 million each year. Mr. Annis noted his belief that the resulting amount in the Public Election Fund would be more than what was spent in the past election cycle and that less funds were likely to be needed in the 2022 elections. Other members concurred that 2022 would likely need less funds, but felt that it was prudent to err on the side of caution and overbudget to ensure there are adequate funds. The motion failed 2-3 (Mr. Annis and Ms. Cohen supported the motion; Mr. Scull, Ms. Greene, and Mr. Schwartz opposed the motion).

In the last sentence of the final paragraph on page 1, Committee members unanimously agreed to remove the word “[Republican]” and the phrase “, possibly owing to antagonism between the Trump Administration and the Washington electorate”. Motion made by Ms. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Annis.

Committee members raised concerns that the law does not require auditing after an election to ensure that matching funds were used only to match contributions by County residents. Committee members unanimously agreed to include a general comment in the 2019 report that the Council should consider whether to further define the term “resident” for purposes of matching funds and whether the law should require post-election auditing.

Committee members approved the letter as amended 4-0-1 (Ms. Cohen abstaining). Ms. Cohen noted that a statement of dissent would be forthcoming and Mr. Annis noted that he might send a concurring opinion.

Committee members unanimously approved the minutes from the September 27 meeting; motion made by Mr. Annis and seconded by Mr. Schwartz.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

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