

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject:

FW: FY22 BudgetTestimony by LWVMoCoMD

From: Barbara Sanders <bsanderslwv@gmail.com>

Date: April 8, 2021 at 2:23:34 PM EDT

To: "Jurgensen, Margaret" <Margaret.Jurgensen@montgomerycountymd.gov>, "McLaughlin, Alysoun N" <Alysoun.McLaughlin@montgomerycountymd.gov>, James Shalleck <jimshalleck@hotmail.com>, David Naimon <dnaimon@verizon.net>

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello, Jim and David, Margaret and Alysoun,

Please be advised the League included this paragraph about the Board of Elections in their budget testimony submitted to the Council on April 6.

Testimony by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) has carefully examined the proposed Montgomery County FY 2022 operating budget. We applaud the continued use of technology to streamline budget expenditures and the use of energy-saving devices across many aspects of the budget. However, as the county continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, some areas in the budget will require continued subsidization in order for these areas to survive and then to recover. We believe that more could and should be done with the received federal dollars to foster healthy growth that benefits all residents. The League submits the following comments on areas of particular concern...

Elections:

LWVMC strongly urges fully funding the County Board of Elections (BOE) budget request, not just at the county executive's level of submission. The BOE has experienced a structural deficit in its funding for several budget cycles. Initial FY funding did not recognize the high costs the board predicted it would incur. Those costs included items that the State Board of Elections (SBE) required counties to help pay for as well as other mandated state-controlled purchases. Montgomery County's 2020 election cycle was an unqualified success, which garnered a national organizational award, the deep gratitude of the county's voters and the council's own recognition of the board's outstanding efforts under terrible and constantly changing circumstances and outside directives. LWVMC reminds the council that free and fair elections are at the heart of our government. The BOE and LWVMC share "the goal of providing Montgomery County voters the best voting experience possible." This requires realistic funding of the Board of Elections so that it may continue to provide and maintain the policies, practices and hardware the county expects in every voting cycle.

Best wishes,

Barbara Sanders,

LWV of Montgomery County MD Liaison to Montgomery Board of Elections,

bsanderslwv@gmail.com, 301-587-1323

