

# Economic Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

## Bill 31-20

## Public Campaign Financing – Amendments

### SUMMARY

Overall, the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) expects the enactment of Bill 31-20 to have an insignificant impact on the Montgomery County economy.

### BACKGROUND

The purpose of Bill 31-20 is to improve the public campaign financing law that governs the election for County elective offices. If enacted, the Bill would make the following changes to the law:

- “amend the County public campaign financing system;
- alter the maximum contribution limits;
- allow participating candidates to carryover certain funds under certain circumstances;
- require an audit of the public campaign financing system after the general election in an election cycle; [and]
- alter the penalties for willful violations of the public campaign financing system.”<sup>1</sup>

In terms of altering the maximum contribution limits, the Bill, if enacted, would increase the limit from \$150 to \$250.<sup>2</sup> However, the limits on the total public contributions to candidates would remain the same.<sup>3</sup>

### METHODOLOGIES, ASSUMPTIONS and UNCERTAINTIES

No methodologies were used in this statement. The assumptions underlying the claims made in the subsequent sections are based on the judgment of OLO staff.

### VARIABLES

Not applicable

### IMPACTS

#### Businesses, Non-Profits, Other Private Organizations

OLO believes that enacting Bill 31-20 would have an insignificant impact on private organizations in the County in terms of the Council’s priority indicators, namely workforce, operating costs, property values, capital investment, taxation policy, economic development, and competitiveness.

<sup>1</sup> Montgomery County Council, Bill 31-20, Public Campaign Financing – Amendments, Introduced on July 21, 2020, Montgomery County, Maryland, 1.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 3.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 8.

# Economic Impact Statement

## Office of Legislative Oversight

Workforce, operating costs, property values, capital investment, taxation policy, economic development, competitiveness, etc.

---

### Residents

Workforce, property values, income, taxation policy, economic development, etc.

OLO believes that enacting Bill 31-20 would have an insignificant impact on County residents in terms of the Council's priority indicators, namely workforce, property values, income, taxation policy, and economic development.

---

### WORKS CITED

Montgomery County Council. Bill 31-20, Public Campaign Financing – Amendments. Introduced on July 21, 2020. Montgomery County, Maryland.

---

### CAVEATS

Two caveats to the economic analysis performed here should be noted. First, predicting the economic impacts of legislation is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, the multitude of causes of economic outcomes, economic shocks, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, the analysis performed here is intended to *inform* the legislative process, not determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent the OLO's endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

---

### CONTRIBUTIONS

This economic impact statement was drafted by Stephen Roblin (OLO).