

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2019, Legislative Day No. 4

Bill No. 3-19

Mr. Tom Quirk, Chairman
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, February 19, 2019

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

County Charter – Citizens' Election Fund System

FOR the purpose of requiring the County Council to establish a Citizens' Election Fund System for candidates for County Council and County Executive; providing that the law shall allow candidates to choose whether to participate in the system, establishing a Citizens' Election Fund Commission; requiring the commission to make a certain calculation; providing for the funding of the system; requiring the creation of a certain subfund; authorizing voluntary contributions; providing for the order of certain disbursements; authorizing the County Executive to not fund the system under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the establishment of a Citizens' Election Fund System.

By adding

Section 1013
Article X. Miscellaneous
Baltimore County Charter

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that under the authority granted to it by Section 1202 of the Baltimore
3 County Charter, the Baltimore County Charter shall read as follows:

4 Article X. Miscellaneous

5 SECTION 1013. CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND SYSTEM.

6 (A) (1) THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL, BY LAW, ESTABLISH A CITIZENS'
7 ELECTION FUND SYSTEM FOR CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY COUNCIL AND
8 COUNTY EXECUTIVE BEGINNING WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD
9 IN 2026.

10 (2) THE LAW SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, PROVISIONS
11 THAT:

12 (I) ALLOW CANDIDATES TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
13 CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND SYSTEM;

14 (II) ESTABLISH A CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND COMMISSION CONSISTING
15 OF SEVEN COUNTY RESIDENTS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL
16 AND TWO COUNTY RESIDENTS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE,
17 AND PROVIDE FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS, TERMS, AND OFFICERS OF THE
18 COMMISSION; ~~AND~~

19 (III) REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO CALCULATE, NOT LATER THAN 180
20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE TOTAL AMOUNT ESTIMATED
21 FOR THE FULL ELECTION CYCLE AND THE AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE

1 CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET FOR THE ENSUING FISCAL YEAR TO FULLY FUND
2 THE CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND ~~SYSTEM.~~ SYSTEM; AND

3 (IV) ESTABLISH A SUBFUND WITHIN THE SYSTEM TO WHICH CITIZENS
4 MAY MAKE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND FROM WHICH DISBURSEMENTS
5 SHALL BE MADE TO A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE'S CITIZEN FUNDED
6 CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT BEFORE DISBURSEMENTS ARE MADE FROM THE FUND
7 RECEIVING THE APPROPRIATION PROVIDED FOR UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
8 SECTION.

9 (B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, IN EACH
10 FISCAL YEAR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL
11 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE REQUIRED BY ARTICLE VII OF
12 THE CHARTER THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO FULLY FUND THE CITIZENS'
13 ELECTION FUND SYSTEM FOR THE ENSUING FISCAL YEAR, AS
14 CALCULATED BY THE COMMISSION.

15 (C) THE EXECUTIVE IS NOT REQUIRED TO INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET
16 AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE THE AMOUNT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION
17 (B)~~(4)~~ OF THIS SECTION IF:

18 (1) ~~DURING~~ FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, FUNDS HAVE BEEN OR ARE
19 BEING TRANSFERRED FROM THE REVENUE STABILIZATION RESERVE
20 ACCOUNT TO ~~THE~~ A GENERAL FUND ~~IN THE CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET~~
21 REVENUE ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO § 10-8-101 OF THE BALTIMORE
22 COUNTY CODE, AS AMENDED; OR

1 (2) NOT LATER THAN 120 DAYS PRIOR TO THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR,
2 THE EXECUTIVE CERTIFIES TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL THAT THE
3 COUNTY'S FISCAL CONDITION MAKES IT IMPRUDENT TO INCLUDE THE
4 AMOUNT, AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES THE CERTIFICATION BY
5 A VOTE OF NOT LESS THAN A MAJORITY PLUS ONE OF ITS MEMBERS.
6

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that pursuant to Section 1202 of the
8 Baltimore County Charter, the question of whether or not the Charter is to be amended as
9 proposed by this Act shall be submitted to the voters of Baltimore County at the general election
10 on November 3, 2020, and that this Act shall be published in at least two newspapers of general
11 circulation in the County for five successive weeks prior to the election.
12

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that upon ratification by the voters of
14 Baltimore County, this Act shall become effective from and after the thirtieth day following said
15 election.