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BILL NO.: **SB 298**

TITLE: Election Law - Local Public Campaign Financing - Boards of Education

SPONSOR: Senator Lam

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 6, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB 298 – Election Law - Local Public Campaign Financing - Boards of Education. This bill would authorize counties to establish a system of public campaign financing for elected members of a county board of education.

Government ethics and accountability are central to County Executive Olszewski's administration, which is why he proposed an Ethics and Accountability package to the Baltimore County Council last year. The Council passed this package, which included legislation to create a 2020 ballot initiative for a public campaign finance option.

A voter's wallet should not determine their influence. Public financing levels the playing field for individuals who would choose not be financed by large, and at times influential donors, creating a system of accountability between the candidate and the constituents. The option of public financing should extend to all elected positions, including local education board seats.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 298. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.