



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1125
PUBLIC FINANCING ACT – CANDIDATE AND MATCHING FUND REVISIONS (MARYLAND FAIR
ELECTIONS ACT)**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Feldmark

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1125 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Our members work hard to support candidates for office in Maryland. We knock doors and phonebank and write postcards, and do anything we can to ensure that Marylanders participate in state and local elections. We believe in fair elections. We do NOT believe in big money in elections, nor do we want our elected officials to be beholden to any voices but those of their constituents.

Any expansion of public financing for elections of key positions in state or local government are not only preferred, but required in this day where the interests of taxpayers and completely eclipsed by those of big business and special interests.

Everyone benefits from public financing. More candidates will feel that they can compete, so you don't get the few wealthy, or highly connected people running. Better decisions will be made by those who are elected because they don't have to 'give back' to the few businesses and donors who supported them. Marylanders can make their voices heard more directly because their small donations really count.

It's more than time to do this. The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.