



FELDMARK: HB424

PINSKY: SB415

The Fair Elections Maryland Act

This bill modernizes our Gubernatorial public financing system, making it similar to programs at the local level.

EMPOWERING SMALL DONORS

Maryland's democracy has long been dominated by a powerful donor class that has more say than everyday people. As the donor class drives elections, people of color, women, those with lower income, young people, and immigrants are too often left out of our democracy.

Under Montgomery County's first election using the new program, on average:

Qualifying candidates had nearly twice as many individual donors as those who chose not to participate.



Qualifying Candidates
850 individual donors.



Non-Participating Candidates
434 individual donors

The average contribution for non-participating candidates was 13 times higher than for qualifying candidates.



Non-Participating Candidates \$1,145

Qualifying Candidates \$86

STRENGTHENING OUR DEMOCRACY

Keep big money out.

Participating candidates can only accept donations of \$250 or less and cannot take checks from corporations. Candidates remain accessible and accountable to their constituent base.

Expand opportunities to run for office.

People from all backgrounds can run for office based on the strength of their ideas, not access to wealth, which helps to build a diverse and representative state government.

Give everyone a voice.

By matching small contributions on a sliding-scale the fund will elevate the voices of the smallest donors, so all Marylanders, regardless of race, gender, or income have equal opportunity to participate in elections.

Encourage more participation.

We can encourage more Marylanders to participate in our elections by providing limited matching funds for small campaign contributions from Maryland residents.

Montgomery County, Howard County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore City have all established small donor fair elections programs.

CONTACT:

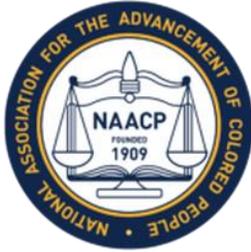
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Supporting Groups

We support small donor public financing for statewide offices.



Maryland Conservation Council
Protecting Maryland's Natural Heritage Since 1969

