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BILL NO.: SB 416

TITLE: Public Financing Act - State Senate and House of Delegates
Candidates and Matching Fund Revisions

SPONSOR: Senator Pinsky

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 18, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 416 – Public Financing Act - State Senate and House of Delegates Candidates and Matching Fund Revisions. This legislation amends the Public Financing Act to include candidates for State Senator and member of the House of Delegates in the public campaign financing program and modifies other aspects of the program.

Public financing is key to establishing a level playing field and taking the influence of money out of politics. Baltimore County Executive Olszewski has made clear that pay-to-play politics have no place in either Baltimore County or the State of Maryland. For this reason, the County is in the process of establishing a campaign finance model for local elections. Public financing ensures that money will not prevent qualified and talented candidates from seeking local elected leadership, and furthers the fight to establish a level playing field in participation in local government.

SB 416 would expand the pool of candidates eligible to use the campaign finance program when seeking elected state positions. It would also increase funding for the program, ensuring a more robust and financially secure system. Public financing not only reduces the influence of moneyed interests by allowing voters to pool their finances, but gives the people the opportunity to fund a stronger candidate pool.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 416. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.