



**Legislative Committee/ Election Reform Issues Team
Columbia Democratic Club
Testimony on Public Financing Act - HB0536/SB0416**

Senate Sponsors: Guzzone & Pinsky

Senate Committee: Edu, Health, & Enviro / Budget & Taxation

House Sponsors: Acevero

House Committee: Ways & Means

Persons Submitting: Meagan Braganca, Legislative Committee Chair

Position: Favorable

Please support **Public Financing Act - HB0536/SB0416**, as written. Howard Countians voted overwhelmingly to establish public financing of our county elections, as have multiple other jurisdictions. These measures democratize our society by allowing those without connection to big-moneyed interests to still raise enough to be competitive with other candidates.

Nationwide, more than 80% of elections are won by the candidate who raises the most money. How can citizens believe in government when their voices are irrelevant?

We urge support for the Public Financing Act to expand the range of offices for which public financing will apply.

Thank you.

- CDC legislative committee - Electoral Reform Issues team
- Jake Burdett, CDC President

Columbia Democratic Club

References:

Represent Us: Corruption is Legal in America
https://youtu.be/5tu32CCA_lg & <https://Represent.Us/TheProblem>

FiveThirtyEight: How Money Affects Elections.
<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/money-and-elections-a-complicated-love-story/>

OpenSecrets: Unprecedented donations poured into 2020 state and federal races.

<https://opensecrets.org/news/2020/11/2020-state-and-federal-races-nimp/>

Brennan Center: Campaign Finance Victories in 2020 Elections

<https://brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/campaign-finance-victories-2020-elections>