



Feb. 2, 2021

Ways and Means Committee

HB 424 - Public Financing Act -Matching Fund Revisions (Maryland Fair Elections Act)

Position - Favorable

Dear Chair Kaiser, Vice-Chair Washington and Members of the Committee:

We are in strong support of revising our current gubernatorial public financing program into a small-donor funded model and ensuring that it is fully funded for each gubernatorial cycle.

The 2014 gubernatorial election demonstrated that it was not only possible to run energetic campaigns with public funds, but it was possible to win them as well. However our current gubernatorial program does not incentivize small contributions in the way that the county programs legislated so far do, and it is not adequately funded; we must much better on both of those fronts.

HB 424 addresses these issues and will create a robust small-donor program, which we hope will be replicated in future years for other statewide offices.

We ask for a favorable vote.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Suchitra C. Balachandran'.

Suchitra Balachandran

ORMD State Organizing Committee