



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.  
*Director of Government Affairs*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Deputy Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.:**            **HB 1066**

**TITLE:**            Local Public Campaign Financing - Expansion to Additional  
Offices

**SPONSOR:**        Delegate Feldmark

**COMMITTEE:**    Ways and Means

**POSITION:**       **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**            February 23, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1066 – Local Public Campaign Financing - Expansion to Additional Offices. This enabling legislation authorizes counties to, after establishing public financing for the executive or legislative branches of county government, expand the public financing program to additional offices.

Public financing is key to establishing a level playing field and taking the influence of money out of politics. When County Executive Olszewski ran for office, he made clear that pay-to-play politics have no place in Baltimore County or indeed the State of Maryland. By allowing voters to pool their finances to be distributed among candidates, public financing not only reduces the influence of moneyed interests, but gives the people the opportunity to fund a stronger candidate pool.

Baltimore County is currently in the process of establishing a campaign finance model for local elections. Once such a system is established, this legislation would allow the County to further its goals for a more accessible election system by endowing it with the ability to expand public financing to its State's Attorney, Sheriff, Board of Education Member, and other critical positions that benefit from public input and support.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1066. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).