

# **SB0951\_Delegation\_Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Abbey Rubeling

Position: FAV

SENATOR CLARENCE K. LAM  
SENATE CHAIR

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11 BLADEN STREET, ROOM 420  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SENATOR GUY GUZZONE  
SENATOR KATIE FRY HESTER



DELEGATE COURTNEY WATSON  
HOUSE CHAIR

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
6 BLADEN STREET, ROOM 214B  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

DELEGATE VANESSA ATTERBEARY  
DELEGATE JESSICA FELDMARK  
DELEGATE PAM LANMAN GUZZONE  
DELEGATE TERRI L. HILL  
DELEGATE JEN TERRASA  
DELEGATE CHAO WU  
DELEGATE NATALIE ZIEGLER

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
The Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen Street, 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman:

The Howard County joint House and Senate Delegation has voted in favor of the following bill that will appear before your committee:

*SB0951 -- Howard County - Board of Education - Terms and Public Campaign Financing*

A copy of the delegation vote sheet in favor of this bill is attached and we request a favorable Committee Report. Please contact the Howard County Delegation office at [hoc1@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:hoc1@mlis.state.md.us) if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Clarence K. Lam.

Senator Clarence K. Lam, MD, MPH  
Senate Chair  
Howard County Delegation

Handwritten signature of Delegate Courtney Watson.

Delegate Courtney Watson  
House Chair  
Howard County Delegation

# Howard County Delegation

Voting Record – 2023 Session

**Bill Number:** HB1093/SB0951

**HoCo Bill Number:** 14-23

**Vote Date:** 2/8/23

**Final Action:** Passed

**Motion:**

- Favorable                       Favorable with Amendment                       Withdrawn

Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Excused
Lam, Clarence, Chair, Sen.	✓			
Watson, Courtney, Chair, Del.	✓			
Guzzone, Guy, Sen.	✓			
Hester, Katie Fry, Sen.	✓			
Atterbeary, Vanessa, Del.		✓		
Feldmark, Jessica, Del.	✓			
Guzzone, Pam Lanman, Del.	✓			
Hill, Terri, Del.	✓			
Terrasa, Jen, Del.	✓			
Wu, Chao, Del.	✓			
Ziegler, Natalie, Del.	✓			

Committee Reporter Abbey Rubeling

**SB0951 Howard Co BOE Testimony 031523 for EEE - Ho**

Uploaded by: Staff Howard County

Position: FAV



**Board of Education of Howard County  
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate,  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
March 15, 2023**

**Board of Education  
of Howard County**

Antonia Watts, *Chair*

Yun Lu, Ph.D., *Vice Chair*

Linfeng Chen, Ph.D.

Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Jacky McCoy

Jolene Mosley

Abisola Ayoola  
*Student Member*

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent  
Secretary/Treasurer*

**SB0951: FAVORABLE**

**Howard County – Public Campaign Financing – Board of Education**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) supports **SB0951 Howard County – Public Campaign Financing – Board of Education** for the opportunity to create robust participation in governance of the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) through availability of public campaign funds for Board candidates.

In Howard County, the Board is composed of seven members, two of which are at-large, and a student member elected by students for a one-year term. The Board is responsible for a more than one-billion-dollar budget and sets local education policy consistent with state and federal laws governing public education. Members of the Board play a vital role in engaging student, parent, and community member voice in the oversight and management of the HCPSS. Yet candidates for the Board cannot currently take advantage of public campaign financing that is authorized for executive and legislative positions elected to provide similar representation to the citizens of Howard County.

Aiming to remedy this prohibition, SB0951 allows the governing body of Howard County to establish a system of campaign financing specific to Board elections. The system must follow existing law related to establishments of such financing.

In order to phase in the expected financial burden of public campaign financing on the County, the bill makes financing available on a staggered basis and adjusts Board member terms based on top vote getting. Specifically:

- In 2024 the two members elected from a councilmanic district with the highest percentage of votes will serve a six-year term and the three members who receive the lowest percentage of votes will serve a four-year term.
  - The councilmanic district seats for the three members with the lowest percentage of votes would then be up for election in 2028 and every four years thereafter. The councilmanic district seats for the two members with the highest percentage of votes would then be up for election in 2030 and every four years thereafter.
- In 2026 the member elected at-large with the highest number of votes will serve a six-year term, and the member with the second highest number of votes will serve a four-year term.
  - The at large seat with a four-year term will then be up for election in 2030 and every four years thereafter, and the at-large seat with a six-year term will then be up for election in 2032 and every four years thereafter.

- In the event of a tie, the local board of elections will administer a random drawing to determine the term of office for each elected member involved in the tie.

These amendments would make public financing an option for the County to initiate for Board candidates beginning in 2026. The Board supports public campaign financing as a measure often used to diversify candidate pools for elected office as well lessen the influence of large/special interest donors.

For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report of SB0951 from this Committee.

# **Witness Signup Comments SB0951.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Fletcher

Position: UNF

Chairman Feldman, and  
Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

RE: SB0951 Howard County - Board of Education - Terms and Public Campaign  
Financing [UNFAVORABLE]

This bill, SB0951, and several other bills that promote public financing, should be opposed for the following reasons

Public funding increases the distance between political elites (party leadership, candidates) and ordinary citizens (party members, supporters, voters) When political parties and candidates do not depend on their supporters or members neither for monetary contributions (membership, donations) nor for voluntary labor, they might be less likely to involve them in party decisions or consult their opinions on policy issues.

Public funding preserves a status quo that keeps the established parties and candidates in power. Public funds are often allocated among political parties and candidates in the legislature. This may make it more difficult for new political forces to gain representation.

Through public funds, taxpayers are forced to support political parties and candidates whose views they do not share Many believe that ordinary taxpayers should not be forced, through the public purse, to support political parties or candidates that they would never choose to vote for. Instead, they should have the possibility to decide if and when they want to donate money to a political party or candidate.

Public funds to political parties and candidates takes money away from schools and hospitals to give to politicians When introduced, public funding is often unpopular among the public. Public resources are scarce and needed for everything from schools and hospitals to roads and salaries for staff. To many people, using public funds to give to political parties and candidates

Political parties risk becoming organs of the State rather than parts of civil society If all or a substantial amount of the party income comes directly from the State rather than from voluntary sources, political parties risk losing their independence and become organs of the State, thereby losing their ties to the civil society.

For the above reasons, this bill should be reported as unfavorable.

Thank you,

Michael Fletcher  
Derwood, MD