



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0213
ELECTION LAW - LOCAL PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING – BOARDS OF
EDUCATION**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Watson

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0213 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members support public financing for elections. We believe strongly that we should make it easy for as many people to run for office as possible, and that our elected officials represent the people of their community, not the special interests who may have funded their campaign.

This bill provides enabling legislation that allows a county that has already completed one election cycle using public campaign financing to expand public campaign financing to Elected Members of the Board of Education with the exception that a student member for the Board of Education cannot use public campaign financing.

We believe that public financing should be extended as much as possible. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.