



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 20, 2024

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 769, *Local Public Campaign Financing – Expansion to Additional Offices*
Support

Current State law authorizes counties throughout the State to create public campaign financing systems for elected officials in the executive or legislative branches of county government. House Bill 769 authorizes a county that has implemented a public campaign finance system for candidates for County Executive and/or County Council for at least one election cycle to expand its system to include the following offices: (1) Circuit Court judge; (2) Clerk of the Circuit Court; (3) Orphans' Court judge; (4) Register of Wills; (5) Sheriff; (6) State's Attorney; or (7) Board of Education. The bill is enabling only and does not mandate that a county change its public campaign financing law in any way.

Montgomery County established a Public Election Fund in 2014 for County Executive and County Council candidates. I believe that it serves the public interest to authorize the County's elected officials to consider whether to expand the Public Election Fund to make public financing available to candidates for the offices listed in this bill and respectfully request that the Ways and Means Committee give House Bill 769 a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Ways and Means Committee