



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 550

Local Public Campaign Financing - Expansion to Additional Offices

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: February 4, 2025

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 550, which expands the offices for which a county may establish public campaign financing.

Currently, counties may authorize public campaign financing for elected offices in the executive and legislative branches of county government. HB 550 authorizes counties that have implemented such a system for at least one election cycle to extend eligibility to candidates for state's attorney, sheriff, register of wills, judge of the circuit court, clerk of the circuit court, judge of the orphans' court, and elected members of the county board of education.

This legislation appropriately preserves local decision-making, ensuring that counties retain full authority over whether to implement and expand public campaign financing based on their unique needs and priorities.

HB 550 allows counties to craft election policies that align with local goals while maintaining accountability in campaign finance. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 550.