



**Testimony to the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
HB 0568 – Public Financing Act – State Senate and House of Delegates Candi-
dates**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Behler

POSITION: FAVORABLE

By: Marna Brown-Krausz, Member: Defend Democracy Team, Indivisible HoCo

Date: February 11, 2025

On behalf of our 1700+ Indivisible Howard County members, I am writing in support of HB 0568, which modifies existing Sections of the Public Financing Act. Indivisible HoCo is an informal group of citizens in Howard County MD registered with our Indivisible Project's National Network of local grassroots groups. We believe in fairness, tolerance, inclusion and democracy.

We believe this bill will strengthen Maryland's commitment to fair and transparent elections by expanding the scope of the Fair Campaign Financing Fund (FCFF). Under current law, the FCFF primarily pertains to gubernatorial tickets. This bill broadens the scope of the law to include candidates for State Senate and the House of Delegates, giving legislative candidates a viable path to run competitive campaigns without having to rely on large dollar donors or any special interest money.

By also establishing clear qualifying requirements based on small-dollar contributions—another function of the bill—public financing is grounded in genuine community support, thereby encouraging candidates to build expansive grassroots donor bases rather than courting major contributors.

Indivisible Howard County urges a favorable report on HB 0568.

Thank you for your consideration.