



TESTIMONY FOR HB0962

Local Public Campaign Financing – County Boards of Education

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Woorman

Committee: House Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Cochair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **HB0962** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

HB0962 authorizes counties to establish public campaign financing systems for candidates running for county boards of education. School board elections have become increasingly high-stakes and increasingly expensive, creating barriers for qualified community members who want to serve but cannot compete with well-funded interests. By giving counties the option to adopt small-dollar public financing, HB0962 helps ensure that school board candidates can run viable campaigns rooted in community support rather than large donors or outside groups.

HB0962 moves Maryland in the correct direction—toward transparency, accountability, and a more representative democracy at the local level. Public financing encourages broader participation, reduces the influence of big money, and strengthens the connection between candidates and the communities they seek to serve.

Maryland Legislative Coalition mission is to inform voters about legislation and their legislators, and this connection is important to us. We respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0962.