



February 11, 2026

House Bill 568
Public Financing Act - State Senate and House of Delegates Candidates
House Government, Labor, & Elections Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 568 – Public Financing Act - State Senate and House of Delegates Candidates. This legislation would add candidates for State Senator and member of the House of Delegates to the candidates authorized to receive public contributions from the Fair Campaign Financing Fund and establish the qualifications for receiving those funds.

At a time when many residents are skeptical of government, questioning its fairness, and feeling that their voices are drowned out by more powerful interests, public financing is a critical tool in restoring faith in our electoral process. That is why Anne Arundel County passed local legislation creating a public financing program for County Executive and County Council candidates in 2022, and it is why many other counties have done the same. By leveling the playing field for candidates and reducing the reliance on large donations, this Bill ensures that the voices of average voters are amplified when it comes to who they choose to support for elected office. It empowers grassroots campaigns, enabling candidates without significant personal wealth or fundraising ability to prioritize engaging with residents and addressing community needs, ensuring those concerns are represented by elected officials.

House Bill 568 is a vital measure to strengthen the integrity and accessibility of elections in Maryland. Public financing encourages greater participation in the political process, both by diverse candidates who might otherwise be unable to afford a campaign or unwilling to undertake traditional fundraising, and by everyday citizens whose small donations are amplified and valued. By supporting this legislation, the General Assembly will take an important step toward a more equitable, representative, and transparent democracy, where the voices of the people determine election outcomes. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 568.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steuart Pittman".

Steuart Pittman
County Executive