

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
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HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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June 13, 2017

The Honorable Jon Weinstein, Chairperson
Howard County Council
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Re: Howard County Council Bill No. 30-2017

Dear Chairperson Weinstein:

In accordance with Section 209(g) of the Howard County Charter, I have today vetoed Howard County Council Bill No. 30-2017 (“CB30”). I have always been in favor of public financing of elections, as long as donations are made voluntarily and not from taxpayer funds. For years, I have made these donations myself by checking off a box when filing my tax returns.

What the Howard County Council did in passing CB30 was different. The Council has authorized the funding of campaigns with money collected from taxes, diverting money from our collective priorities of education, public safety, infrastructure improvements and recreational facilities to finance someone’s political ambitions, including candidates that a taxpayer may be diametrically opposed to supporting.

No one less than Thomas Jefferson agreed when he wrote that: “to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.”

I ran for office on a platform of fiscal responsibility and to safeguard the money the residents entrusted to Howard County government. I don’t believe this is how our residents’ hard-earned tax dollars should be spent. Consequently, I have chosen to veto CB30.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan H. Kittleman'.

Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive

cc: Howard County Council
Jessica Feldmark, Council Administrator
Gary W. Kuc, County Solicitor