

Sayers, Margery

From: Jennifer Bevan-Dangel <jbevandangel@yahoo.com>
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Good day,

Thank you for your consideration of CR 135-2020, and many thanks to Councilmember Christiana Rigby for nominating me to serve on the Citizens' Election Fund Commission. I am honored for this nomination and deeply excited for the opportunity to serve on this critical Commission. Please find my written testimony attached to this email. I look forward to testifying virtually this evening.

Jennifer Kate Bevan-Dangel

Jennifer Bevan-Dangel
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Testimony in Support of CR135-2020

September 21, 2020

Thank you for your consideration of CR 135-2020, and many thanks to Councilmember Christiana Rigby for nominating me to serve on the Citizens' Election Fund Commission. I am honored for this nomination and deeply excited for the opportunity to serve on this critical Commission.

From 2013 through 2017, I served as the Executive Director for Common Cause Maryland. During that time I was instrumental in establishing the first local public funding programs in the state, starting with enabling language that passed the state legislature in 2013 and then working with Councilmember Phil Andrews to create the first local program in Montgomery County in 2014. I had the privilege of helping develop Howard County's fair elections legislation in 2016, including researching the history of campaign expenditures for local races and finalizing the policy specifics for the program. I also remained engaged with Montgomery County as they refined and finalized their program. This experience has given me a deep understanding of how these programs work – from the theoretical to the practical levels. I would be delighted to share that expertise as a member of the Citizens' Election Fund Commission and believe that I could bring useful insight and policy proficiency to this role.

In addition to my technical understanding of these programs, I am deeply committed to seeing the Citizens' Election Fund work – for candidates of all parties, backgrounds, and interests. With Common Cause, I was proud to work with Democrats and Republicans to pass the state enabling language. We saw candidates of both parties use the program in Montgomery County, and worked hard to ensure that as the policy was implemented and refined, that it was accessible to third party candidates as well. Fair Elections programs are not focused on party or partisanship; they are about everyday people taking control of their democracy. I am committed to those values and will strive to uphold those goals when making recommendations as part of this Commission.

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to serve Howard County and all my new neighbors here. My family moved last August from Anne Arundel County to put down roots here in Mt Airy. I have loved Howard County ever since I had the chance to work on the Citizens' Election Fund and the chance to travel across the County while supporting the program on the Ballot in 2016. I was so excited to become a resident and had hoped for opportunities to become more engaged in local government. Serving on this Commission would be the perfect way to give back to a County that is providing so much to my family.

While I no longer work for Common Cause, I do serve on the advisory board of Common Cause Maryland. I now work for the Humane Society of the United States as their Maryland State Director. I live on a farm in Western Howard with my husband and twin 10 year-old daughters, as well as a variety of animals.

Thank you again for your consideration for the Citizens' Election Fund. It would be my deepest honor to serve, and I urge you to vote favorably on CR135-2020.