

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 6-2022

Introduced: January 4, 2022

Auditor: Owen Clark

Fiscal Impact:

Per the Director of Finance, the Citizens' Election Fund is administered by the County in a fiduciary capacity. The fund was established as a special non-lapsing fund separate to the County's general fund. Any disbursements from this fund will have no fiscal impact to the County.

Purpose:

If approved, this legislation will repeal text from the County Code that specifies an election is determined to be contested "on the first Tuesday in August preceding the election."

Other Comments:

In a letter from the Chair of the Citizens' Election Fund Commission to the County Executive and County Council, this emergency legislation is required to address "an item in the County Code that needs immediate correction in order to successfully implement the Citizens' Election Fund Program."

The determination that an election is contested is required before the Department of Finance can disburse a public contribution to a candidate. According to the Director of Finance, the County is currently adhering to the Citizens' Election Fund Commission's interpretation of the text proposed for repeal, which is that any candidate participating in a primary election that was not contested as of the first Tuesday in August 2021 is not currently eligible to receive disbursements from the Citizens' Election Fund.