

Sayers, Margery

From: Becki Vivrette <rvivrette@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 1:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good afternoon County Council,

I am writing to you in strong support of emergency legislation CB6 to reinstate the Citizens Election Fund as it was intended to be applied. I know you all are well aware of the issues at hand here. Whether CEF dollars are currently being withheld purposefully or in accordance with the "letter of the law" is an important political and moral issue, but it is inconsequential to your vote on CB6 today. There was never any intent to make public funds under CEF unavailable for primary elections. The CEF was supported and passed by the previous Council, including our current County Executive. Mr. Yungmann filed legislation to correct the erroneous wording of the county code. Ms. Rigby and Ms. Jung have already stated their intent to participate in CEF as candidates during the current election cycle. I strongly suspect Ms. Walsh will follow suit if she runs for re-election, as she previously ran her campaign in accordance with CEF rules. We are all on the same team here. There should be absolutely no reason why this legislation is not passed unanimously today. There is no need for discussion. Pass CB6 and move on, so we can protect public funding for elections and promote transparency in our democratic process. I continue to be disappointed by the political maneuvering demonstrated by some in our county government. You have an opportunity today to come together as a unified body, to correct this unfortunate error as soon as possible, and to put partisan politics aside. I look forward to your unanimous support.

Becki Vivrette
Hanover, MD 21076
District 1



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Suzanne Geckle, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Citizens' Election Fund Commission to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB 6 - 2022 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / ~~opposition to~~ / ~~request to amend this legislation.~~
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Suzanne Geckle

Signature: Suzanne Geckle

Date: January 12, 2022

Organization: Citizens' Election Fund Commission

Organization Address: Ellicott City, MD 21043

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Number of Members: 5

Name of Chair/President: Suzanne Geckle

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Sue Geckle on behalf of the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF) Commission

Citizens' Election Fund
3430 Court House Dr
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Good evening. My name is Sue Geckle, and I am the Chair of the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF) Commission. I am speaking tonight on behalf of the Commission. I want to thank Council Chair Jones and the rest of the County Council for allowing me provide testimony tonight in favor of passing CB6-2022 as emergency legislation.

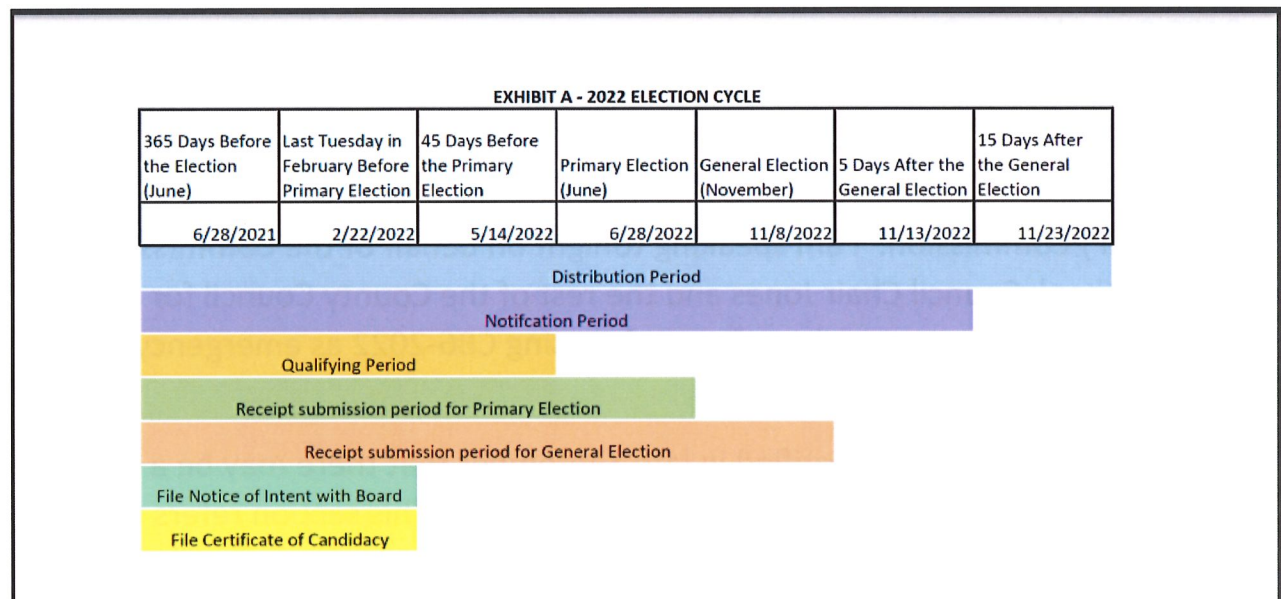
The CEF Commission was notified in late September that there may be a problem with one section of the code, Section 10.306(a)(3)(i). This section refers to when an election can be called a contested election. This section is not needed and is proving detrimental to the successful implementation of the fund. On October 19, 2021, the Commission sent a letter to the County Executive and to the County Council requesting immediate emergency legislation to fix this error. I want to thank Council Member Yungmann for filing CB6-2022 to correct this administrative error.

The August date specified in this section is almost seven months before the candidate's filing deadline. Historically in the county, most candidates do not file to run for office that early. In this election cycle only three of the eight candidates currently running for county offices filed prior to the August date.

The intension of the law and the Commission is to disburse matching funds during the primary election as well as the general election for candidates qualified to receive them. When the Commission came up with its recommended funding levels (most recently on October 12, 2021) it was based on candidates using matching funds for the primary and general. The section in question was not interpreted to mean that funds would not be distributed to qualified candidates in contested elections.

A review of CEF Summary Guide and FAQ document show that there is not one mention of this August date. Appendix A of the Summary Guide lists pertinent dates, such as the distribution period, the qualifying period, etc. There is no

mention of a date to determine a contested election. Nor is one needed. I include the Appendix in my testimony which was emailed to you.



This is the first time that the publicly funded option to finance a campaign is available for use in Howard County. Voters approved an amendment to the county charter in 2016 to allow that to happen and the then County Council introduced and passed legislation to establish the Citizens’ Election Fund system in 2017. Many people worked extremely hard to make this a reality and were looking forward to 2022 to see the successful implementation of this program. The Commission is very concerned that the refusal to provide matching funds to a qualified candidate in a contested election will harm the program and create uncertainty for any candidate wishing to use it, whereas releasing funds does no harm to candidates or the program. The rightful expectation of candidates in 2022 is that matching funds would be made available three days after the state authorizes the public funds to be released as specified in the code 10.306(b)(3).

We are asking that CB6 be passed as emergency legislation because the timing of funds being released is crucial to running an effective campaign. To delay the release of funds until April would prove to be a hardship in a contested election with the election coming in June. Candidates would be disadvantaged by opting into a program that was intended to create a level playing field for all.

To pass CB6 as emergency legislation will require four votes but I hope to see all five Council Members vote yes. Most of you have expressed support for public financing of elections in the past and I hope you will again. Please do not feel the need to recuse yourself for having filed to use the fund. The proposed bill simply corrects an error in previously passed legislation so the legislation can be implemented properly. I have spoken with former Council Members Jen Terrasa & Jon Weinstein who have expressed to me the same assessment that recusal is not necessary. I am hoping you understand that the benefit is not to your individual campaigns but to the voters who felt it important enough to fight for this program and offer public funds to candidates that agreed to play by the rules. Voters wanted public funds to be available so that small donations would have a larger impact and to keep special interest money out of our county elections.

In summary, the Commission strongly urges the Council to approve CB6 as emergency legislation to correct the administrative error described above as it was never the intention of the Commission to deny matching funds to qualified candidates.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of the Commission's request.

Sayers, Margery

From: Mj Monck <mjmonck@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 10:31 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CEF Funds

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council,

I wrote previously on this topic but feel the need to write again.

I am writing to ask you to amend the pending CEF legislation to make it emergency legislation and then vote to pass it.

I don't want to believe that the technical error that exists in the current statute was done intentionally. Therefore, I have to believe it was a mistake.

I taught elementary school for many years. I told my students, as I told my own children, when you make a mistake, you apologize and you make it right.

This is that opportunity.

I will not recite all the information published about this and what you already know. Many others are doing just that.

Instead, I ask that you do the right thing. Correct the mistake.

Thank you.

Marijane Monck

Worried about our Democracy? Learn about the Freedom to Vote act [here](#).



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Pravin Ponnuri, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

The People's Voice LLC

(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force) to deliver testimony to the

CB6, CB7, CB8 and CB9

County Council regarding _____ to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Pravin Ponnuri

Signature: _____

Date: 1/15/22

Organization: The People's Voice LLC

Organization Address: 3205 B Corporate Ct, Ellicott City MD 21042

3205 B Corporate Ct, Ellicott City MD 21042

Number of Members: 4,351

Name of Chair/President: Lisa Markovitz

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

January 18, 2022

RE: Support CB6

Dear Council Members:

We whole-heartedly support CB6, but recommend changing section 3(i) of the bill from “For purposes of this paragraph, whether an election is contested shall be determined on the first Tuesday in August preceding the election”, to clarify “election” to be “general election”, and to further amend by adding “or the proposed date of the disbursement”.

So 3[i] should now read as “For the purpose of this paragraph whether an election is contested shall be determined on the first Tuesday in August preceding the GENERAL election or PRIOR TO THE PROPOSED DATE OF THE DISBURSEMENT.

Also very importantly, this Bill should be passed as an emergency measure. One of the criteria for such is the public welfare, and protecting the public election funds to remove corporate influence from elections is for the public welfare. Concerns expressed that other bills were not declared an emergency are irrelevant to this Bill decision. Not remedying this particular situation as quickly as possible is stating the desire to keep the status quo and hurt specific individual's welfare, which is highly inappropriate.


Please do the right thing, pass this bill, enacted as quickly as possible. This is the moral and ethical thing to do. Uphold the will of the people who voted to support Ballot initiative A in 2016 to make the Citizen Election Fund happen.

Thank you.

Pravin Ponnuri
Director

From: [Jake Burdett](#)
To: [Sayers, Margery](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Re: Affidavit to Speak
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:50:44 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Jake Burdett, have been duly authorized by _____
(name of individual)

Progressive Democrats of Howard County to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB2, CB6, CB7, CB8 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Jake Burdett

Signature: Jake Burdett

Date: 1/18/2022

Organization: Progressive Democrats of Howard County

Organization Address: 6801 Oak Hall Lane P.O. Box #673
Columbia, MD 21045

Number of Members: 20

Name of Chair/President: Jake Burdett

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

On Mon, Jan 17, 2022 at 11:19 AM Sayers, Margery <msayers@howardcountymd.gov> wrote:

Good Morning

You have signed up to testify on behalf of an organization tomorrow evening. If you have already sent it to us, thank you and please ignore this email.

If you have not, please sign the attached affidavit and return it to us asap. We will need the affidavit in order for you to testify on behalf of the organization.

Thank you,



January 17, 2022

Dear County Executive Ball and Finance Director Ighile:

We are writing on behalf of Indivisible Howard County (IndivisibleHoCoMD), which is a group of about 750 residents in Howard County, MD registered with the Indivisible Project's national network of local grassroots groups. Our vision is an America where elected officials represent all people fairly and with respect and where people who value fairness, tolerance, inclusion, and truth participate actively in democracy.

We are deeply concerned that the Citizens Election Fund (CEF) is not fully functional in line with the expectations of Howard County's voters. The CEF represents an important step towards getting money out of politics and allowing more people to participate in democracy. We are concerned that the CEF's viability has been undermined by a technical error in specifying the date for determining a contested election that prevents the disbursement of funds for this primary cycle as envisaged by the law which Howard County voters passed in 2016. This is not only a slap in the face to the people who voted for this bill, it harms public welfare by weakening the confidence of Howard County residents in the political system. It is also damaging to the credibility of the current county administration. As other counties and states are look at Howard County's example in considering similar election funds, it's important we show that such funds can indeed work to promote a more fair and accessible democracy.

Fortunately, we believe there is a solution. We respectfully request your support for passing CB6-2022 on January 18 as emergency legislation and enacting it immediately so as not to disrupt this election cycle further. If that is done, we can put this unfortunate and embarrassing episode behind us. If not, we are concerned it will distract from other policy issues for the rest of 2022 and depress voter turnout.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Kato".

Liz Kato

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Lattimer".

Tim Lattimer

Co-Coordinators, IndivisibleHoCoMD

cc; Howard County Councilmembers

Sayers, Margery

From: Doug Miller <robotdougmillergmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 6:51 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: testimony re CB6

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Doug Miller
5437 Antrim Ct, Columbia, MD 21045

I serve on the Citizens' Election Fund Commission but the following comments are from me alone, as an individual Howard Countian.

As one of many who worked for the passage in 2016 of the referendum to create the charter amendment authorizing Howard County's Citizens' Election Fund and the subsequent legislation creating it, I am deeply troubled by recent events related to this program, which is still in its infancy.

I was stunned to learn that, citing a technical problem with the language in the county code, the administration has seen fit to withhold CEF money that, by every conceivable intent of the law, should rightly go, right now, to the campaigns of certified candidates facing primary opposition. Instead of serving as a leveling agent for candidates who have agreed to raise campaign funds solely from county citizens making small donations, the program has been turned into a hindrance for those candidates, effectively giving an *advantage* to candidates filling their campaign coffers with big-money donations from the wealthy and deep-pocketed corporations.

This situation calls for nothing short of emergency legislation to correct the language problem so that qualifying candidates won't have to compete with one hand tied behind their backs.

Whatever problems the administration and council members might have with candidates who have chosen to participate in the CEF program should be dealt with in the political sphere, in the court of public opinion. The administration and council should not be weaponizing the CEF. It is meant to be a tool to serve the public good.

What appears to be going on now makes a mockery of it. Council members, fix the technical problem, stop the political game-playing.

Sayers, Margery

From: wprather42@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please pass emergency legislation for the Citizen's Election Fund!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please make CB6-2022 the first order of business on January 18!

We need emergency legislation so that the election fund can function like it should in the 2022 elections.

Thank you for your service to the county!

Wanda Prather

6320 Velvet Path

Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 2:57 PM
To: cgkonny@gmail.com
Subject: Council - Public financing of campaigns

First Name: Crystal
Last Name: Konny
Email: cgkonny@gmail.com
Street Address: 11605 Dark Fire Way
City: Columbia
Subject: Public financing of campaigns

Message: I am outraged that the public financing program is being held up by a technicality. The County Council can remedy this problem by passing emergency legislation. The Council is considering CB 6-2022 to make technical changes to clarify the law. The bill is not currently emergency legislation, meaning that it would only go into effect 60 days after passage – leaving participating candidates who have qualified at a disadvantage. Please do the right thing to ensure this legislation goes into effect as it was intended. If you don't, as elected officials you will have disregarded the will of County voters. Thank you, Crystal Konny

Sayers, Margery

From: Charlie Bailey <cbailey9598@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 2:54 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; Ighile, Rafiu
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Please pass CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Executive Ball and Finance Director Ighile,

I am writing to encourage you to pass CB6-2022. At a time when our democracy is being challenged across the country, it is critical that we ensure it here in our own backyard. To protect fair elections here in Howard County please pass CB6-2022 to protect fair elections in Howard County. It is important that this emergency legislation be enacted immediately so as not to disrupt this current election cycle further.

Thank you,

Charlie Bailey
9598 Basket Ring Road
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Alice Pham <alicekpham@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 2:10 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Public funding for council candidates

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

The intent of the bill was clear. This decision not to fund campaigns based on such a technicality just points out Calvin's politics are more important to him than the health of the council!

Alice K. Pham

*Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you;
they are unique manifestations of the human spirit. (Wade Davis)*



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Emily Scarr, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB6-2022 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Emily Scarr

Signature: 

Date: 1/17/2022

Organization: Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby

Organization Address: 2209 Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby

~~2209 Maryland PIRG Citizen Lobby~~

Number of Members: Thousands

Name of Chair/President: Brad Heavner

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the
Public Hearing.*



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Joanne Antoine, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Common Cause Maryland to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB 6-2022 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Joanne Antoine

Signature: 

Date: 1/17/2022

Organization: Common Cause Maryland

Organization Address: 121 Cathedral Street Ste. 2A. 3-4 Annapolis MD 21401

Number of Members: 20,000+ members in Maryland

Name of Chair/President: Karen Hobert-Flynn, President

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 11:17 AM
To: mstang0311@gmail.com
Subject: Council - CEF legislation

First Name: Maureen

Last Name: Stang

Email: mstang0311@gmail.com

Street Address: 15861 Union Chapel Rd

City: Woodbine

Subject: CEF legislation

Message: I urge all the council members to support and VOTE for the emergency legislation that ensures Citizens Elections Funds are available immediately without delay. Thank you, Maureen Stang

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 3:35 PM
To: zervascarol@gmail.com
Subject: Council - Emergency Legislation to Release Citizens' Election Funds

First Name: Carol
Last Name: Zervas
Email: zervascarol@gmail.com
Street Address: 11800 Willow Branch
City: Ellicott City
Subject: Emergency Legislation to Release Citizens' Election Funds

Message: The Citizens Election Fund must immediately be released to qualified candidates, now and in the future. Acts like the withholding of the Funds and terminating HoCo by Design are obvious moves to silence the voices and votes of people who favor restraining the actions of a wealthy minority. Do amend the pending CEF legislation to make it emergency legislation. Do what truly representative bodies are expected to do by those who elect them – protect the vote of each citizen and respect the will of the majority electorate. You hear it too often; however, it's true that democracy is on the line here and throughout the country. In large part, it's due to the fact that people have become too accustomed to wealth's having its privileges. "It's the way it is" is another way of saying that we've given up on a democracy which is part dream and very largely courage and stubborn determination. Please show some. Carol Zervas

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 12:56 PM
To: BarbaraMatheson@verizon.net
Subject: Council - Release of CEF Funds

First Name: Barbara
Last Name: Matheson
Email: BarbaraMatheson@verizon.net
Street Address: 11301 Willow Bottom Drive
City: Columbia
Subject: Release of CEF Funds

Message: It is imperative that the County Council take action to overturn recent actions taken by the Director of Finance and County Executive in regard to the Citizens Election Fund. In keeping with the Citizens Election Fund purpose and commitment to voters, I urge you to release matching funds to qualified candidates. The County Council must act to insure fair and transparent elections. It is your responsibility to fix the "technical issues with the statute" not dismantle the CEF program for our county and the state. Barbara Matheson Indivisible Howard County

Sayers, Margery

From: Sue Franckel <suefranckel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 11:05 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Representatives,

Please give support to passage of CB6-2022 which will make a technical correction to the Citizens Election Fund. The mix-up in dates should not be allowed to interfere with a candidate's receipt of qualifying funds. I strongly support this fund and all should be able to receive the funds.

It is rumored that you will veto this bill if passed. Do not veto this bill. I will not support your re-election if you veto this bill.

Thank you,

Susan Franckel

3702 Dorsey Search Cir, Ellicott City, MD 21042

4102945796

Sayers, Margery

From: Ruth Nimmo <ruthnimmo77@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 16, 2022 10:47 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please vote to pass CB6-2022. This should be the first order of business on January 18, then vote to pass it as **emergency legislation** so that the Citizen's Election Fund can function as intended in the 2022 election. Do not deny a candidate public funds based on a technical error in the original bill.

Ruth E. Nimmo
10001 Windstream Drive, Apt. 805
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Ginny Thomas <ginny.thomas65@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 10:31 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; righile@howardcounty.gov
Cc: Virginia Thomas
Subject: CB 6

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

HI Council Members,

Please make CB 6 emergency legislation and vote for it. It is not sufficient to just vote for the bill. Considering the June primary date this bill must be effective in February.

I cannot believe this is happening in Howard Co. People are trying to run campaigns without the influence of large contributions and HC is placing obstacles in the way. Where is government for the people when you need them.

Thanks

Virginia M Thomas

410-992-7984

Sayers, Margery

From: Sue Franckel <suefranckel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 3:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

*Dear Council Member Walsh,
Please make **CB6-2022** the first order of business on January 18.
Next, vote to pass it as **emergency legislation** so that the Citizen's Election Fund
can function as intended in the 2022 election. All elections need to be fair. We need
to keep large donors from monopolizing elections.
Thanks for all you have done in my district,
Sue Franckel
3702 Dorsey Search Cir, Ellicott City, MD 21042
4102945796*

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 3:20 PM
To: mstang0311@gmail.com
Subject: District 5 - CB6-2022

First Name: Maureen

Last Name: Stang

Email: mstang0311@gmail.com

Street Address: 15861 Union Chapel Rd

City: Woodbine

Subject: CB6-2022

Message: Councilman Yungmann, Please make CB6-2022 a priority on January 18 and pass CB6-2022 as emergency legislation so the CE Fund can function as intended during the upcoming election cycle.

Sayers, Margery

From: Liz Feighner <liz.feighner@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 11:04 AM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: CB6-2022 - Please pass

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council,

I am a resident of district # 3 and I am requesting you support and pass CB6-2022. Please make CB6-2022 the first order of business on January 18 and vote to pass it as emergency legislation so that the Citizen's Election Fund can function as intended in the 2022 election.

Regards,

Liz Feighner
Laurel, MD 20723

"Winning Slowly Is the Same as Losing" ~ Bill McKibben

"We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors; we borrow it from our children" ~ Native American Proverb

Sayers, Margery

From: Karin Emery <karin.emery@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Classify CB6-2022 as an emergency bill

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As a constituent in Council District 1, I am demanding that you classify CB6-2022 as an emergency bill.

Karin Emery
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Karin Emery <karin.emery@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Classify CB6-2022 as an emergency bill

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As a constituent in Council District 1, I am demanding that you classify CB6-2022 as an emergency bill.

Karin Emery
Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Eric Miller <em8643a@alumni.american.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:05 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Pass the emergency Citizen's Election Fund bill!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I was disappointed to learn earlier this week that Cm. Jung has been denied the release of public campaign funds.

Because the election season is already well underway, the legislation that Cm. Yungmann has introduced for a vote this coming Tuesday needs to be voted on and passed as an emergency bill.

Cm. Jung's use of the CEF is being held up for political reasons. In order for the CEF to function as it is intended, the Council and CE need to vote for these changes.

Eric Miller
4906-1 Columbia Road
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Laurie Liskin <lliskin49@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Make CB6-2022 Emergency legislation

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

Please heed the voices of Howard County citizens and amend CB6-2022 to make it emergency legislation. The citizens of Howard County and the County Council have voted for a Citizen Election Fund and a program for small donor public financing with the expectation that these funds would be available for the entire 2022 election cycle. To delay disbursing these funds until April is extraordinarily unjust and puts Citizens' Election Fund (CEF) candidates at a huge disadvantage.

Howard County voters expect that the County Council will do everything possible to make the Citizens Election Fund a workable option for political candidates. Please vote to make CB6-2022 emergency legislation.

Laurie Liskin
4642 Smokey Wreath Way, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Christine Lemyze <clemyze@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:49 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Mr Ball and Council Members,

As a long-time resident of Howard County, who voted, along with approximately 76000 other citizens in the County for ballot measure to create the Citizen's Election Fund, I urge you to make CB6-2022 the first order of business on January 18 so that the bill can be passed as emergency legislation. We cannot let a technicality stop this and prevent *public funds* from being disbursed as intended in the 2022 election.

Thank you for your leadership.

Christine Lemyze, 3861 Woodville Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: E Kato <euk369@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:22 PM
To: Rigby, Christiana
Cc: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail
Subject: Citizen's Election Fund

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilwoman Rigby,

It is deeply embarrassing that, when Democrats across America are fighting to pass the Freedom to Vote Act," the Democrats who hold office in Howard County are sabotaging our County's efforts towards ensuring fairer elections. It is imperative that the technical glitches that are impeding the operation of the Citizen's Election Fund be fixed immediately and that the funds are disbursed in a timely manner to all who qualify.

Please make [CB6-2022](#) the first order of business on January 18, then vote to pass it as **emergency legislation** so that the Citizen's Election Fund can function as intended in the 2022 election.

Sincerely,

Liz Kato
7335 Carved Stone
Columbia, MD 21045

Are you registered to vote?

Check out www.vote411.org for all your voting questions!

Sayers, Margery

From: larry Carson <karasov1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:35 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony on CB 6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi. I'm Larry Carson, a resident of Owen Brown in District 3. I worked as a volunteer to help get voter and then county council approval for the Fair Elections public financing system

I am very upset that now, as the election year is underway, candidates are not able to get money from this fund! This mess is endangering the entire effort thousands of people made to get this small donor system operating!

Please, every council member needs to vote for council bill 6 to fix this and make it an emergency bill!!!!!! If any member abstains or votes against this bill, I will personally support anyone running against that member. Thank you.

VOTE YES!!!!

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Craig <susanwcraig@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:24 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ighile, Rafiu; Ball, Calvin
Subject: CB6 2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please declare CB6 a piece of emergency legislation and support its passage in January 2022. Please allow it to take effect immediately such that CEF funds can be disbursed to qualified candidates in February 2022.

Susan W. Craig
42-yr Howard County resident
District 1
6750 Belmont Woods Rd.
Elkridge, MD 21075



January 11, 2022

Liz Walsh
Opel Jones
Christiana Rigby
Deb Jung
David Yungmann

Dear Howard County Council members,

On behalf of Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc. in Howard County, I am writing in support CB 6 and 7 2022. Bridges to Housing Stability has been a Howard County Nonprofit for thirty-one years, and helps tenants find and move into safe, affordable housing, and also is a provider of forty-six units of scattered site affordable housing rental units.

Bridges supports CB6 & 7, as Moderate Income Housing Units are needed throughout the county, to keep the county economically and culturally diverse. These units give opportunities to lower income working households. The housing crisis has made housing prices soar, leaving many households without options in the county. These county bills will ensure there are some housing options in the Planned Golf Course Community for moderate income households.

I hope you will support CB 6 2022 & CB 7 2022. Many thanks to all of you for your service to the County.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at 410-312-5760 ext. 117 or jennifer@bridges2hs.org

Thank you,

Jennifer Broderick, LCSW
Executive Director
Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.
9520 Berger Rd. Suite 311
Columbia, MD, 21046

Sayers, Margery

From: larry Carson <karasov1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 4:46 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Fair elections money

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I worked to help pass Howard County's Fair elections law and I am VERY upset that the county is now seemingly refusing to hand out the money to qualified candidates!!!!

I only learned about this from the Scotte blog! Please fix this right away!!!!!!!!!!

Larry Carson

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Craig <susanwcraig@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:12 AM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ighile, Rafiu; Ball, Calvin
Subject: CB6 and CB30-2017

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am distressed to learn that CB30-2017 enabling public funding of candidates for Howard County offices was passed containing what appears to be an error in section 10.306, lines 16,17. As written, a contested election (one eligible to receive public funding) must be determined by the first Tuesday in August preceding the primary. For the upcoming primary on June 28, 2022, a contested election would have had to be established on August 3, 2021 even though candidates can file to run against an incumbent until February 22, 2022. Because of this obvious error in the legislation, Deb Yung is being denied public matching funds for the 2022 election cycle. Because her challenger, Hank Boyd, filed to run in December 2021, the election is being classified by the County as “uncontested”.

The first Tuesday in August appears to be the State’s filing deadline for 3rd party and independent candidates. The date makes no sense with respect to establishing a deadline for determining a contested election, as illustrated in the preceding paragraph. The situation is especially unfortunate because 2022 is the first year that CB30-2017 can be implemented. Many Howard County citizens support CB30-2017 as a means to have a stronger voice in the County in which we live and pay taxes. It is extremely disappointing that our leaders in 2017 allowed CB30-2017 to pass with two lines that essentially gut the purpose of the bill.

I understand that CB6 will fix the date error in CB30-2107. Please make CB6 an emergency piece of legislation and vote for it. Also, please amend the bill to make the changes effective immediately after passage, rather than after 60 days.

Sincerely,

Susan Craig
42-year Howard County resident
District 1
6570 Belmont Woods Rd.
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Bonnie Bricker <bonbricker@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 9:26 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FiX CEF technicality with emergency bill

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please pass CB6-2022 as an emergency bill to fix the Citizens Election Fund. With trust in elections at such a low, we cannot indulge any doubts about the integrity of our processes. An emergency measure to correct this technicality will ensure that the actions of the council are respected as free and fair.

Thank you for your good work, and thank you for your consideration.

--

Bonnie Bricker

pronouns:she/her/hers

Sayers, Margery

From: Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:58 AM
To: CouncilMail; Rigby, Christiana; Yungmann, David; Jung, Deb; Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel
Subject: Citizens Election Fund - Fix the Problem!

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

I urge each of you to correct a technicality in the current law which is in opposition to the intent of the program to allow candidates to use public funding for their campaigns.

If this bill is not corrected ASAP, it threatens not only the current candidates, but the entire program itself. The future of fair voting in Howard is at stake - and your political legacy.

The purpose of this law was to "promote and encourage broader access to elective office in Howard County" and allow people access who may not otherwise have the ability to represent their communities in elected office.

This is not the time to be "political" - see the bigger picture in this case and correct the blatant error with emergency legislation.

If you truly care about opportunities for those who have been left out of the election process, you will support the emergency legislation to comply with the intent of the law.

Thank you for your support!

Sharonlee Vogel, 8725 Warm Waves Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Mj Monck <mjmonck@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 9:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I write today to request you classify CB6-2022 as an emergency bill.

This will correct a technical issue in the Citizen's Election Law that is preventing the distribution of funds during this election cycle.

Thank you.

Marijane Monck

Sayers, Margery

From: Barb Krupiarz <barbkrup@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 9:05 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: howard-citizen@googlegroups.com
Subject: Citizens Election Fund correction

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council members,

I attended the Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission meeting tonight (January 10, 2022). I am urging you to support an emergency bill to correct the technicality in the current law that goes against the intent of the program to allow candidates to use public financing. Commission members stated that if this bill is not corrected ASAP, it threatens not only the current candidates, but the entire program itself.

The purpose of this law was to "promote and encourage broader access to elective office in Howard County" and allow people access who may not otherwise have the ability to represent their communities in elected office. Please look at the bigger picture in this case and correct the blatant error with emergency legislation. If you truly care about opportunities for those who have been left out of the process, you will support the emergency legislation to comply with the intent of the law.

Thank you.

Barb Krupiarz

Testimony before the Howard County Council in Support of CB6-2022

January 18, 2022

Chairperson Jones and members of the Howard County Council. My name is Allan Kittleman and I live in West Friendship.

Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to testify in strong support of CB6-2022. I particularly want to thank Councilperson Yungmann for sponsoring this legislation.

I have always been a firm believer in public campaign financing. When I was in the Maryland State Senate, I supported and voted for HB 1499, the Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2013, which enabled local jurisdictions to establish public campaign finance programs such as Howard County's Citizens' Election Fund (CEF).

Along with Councilpersons Mercer Rigby and Jung; and Democratic candidate for Howard County Executive Harry Dunbar, I have filed my intent to participate in the Citizens' Election Fund for the 2022 election.

Some folks have been criticizing my participation because of my decision to veto CB 30-2017 which established the CEF. As former Councilperson Jon Weinstein, the primary sponsor of the CEF legislation will confirm, my only reason for opposing CB30-2017 was my concern over using taxpayer revenue to fund the program. As I noted in my veto letter to the County Council dated June 13, 2017: "I have always been in favor of public financing of elections, as long as donations are made voluntarily and not from taxpayer funds."

Federal and State public campaign financing programs are funded through voluntary check offs on tax returns....and I have always voluntarily contributed to those programs. In 2017, I supported a similar funding source for the Citizens Election Fund.

I lost that policy decision, but it never changed my support for public campaign finance programs. I believe that the CEF ends the undue influence of large donations, and it instills greater trust in those who are elected to serve our community.

While I support CB6-2022 and I strongly urge the Council to make it emergency legislation so it can take effect immediately, it is unfortunate that our current County Executive has continued to deny Councilperson Jung the matching funds that the State Board of Elections has determined she is qualified to receive.

As the CEF Commission noted in their letter dated January 11th to Finance Director Rafiu Ighile: "It has been clear all along – from the legislative history, to the description of the program provided to the voters during the 2016 referendum, to the conversations between this Commission and your office – that these funds were intended and expected to be made available to candidates for use during their primary elections."

And make no doubt about it, the decision to deny the funds to Councilperson Jung has been made by the County Executive. Even Gary Kuc, the Howard County Solicitor noted in an email to Councilperson Jung:

“We do believe that there are several ways Section 10.306(a)(3)(i) could be interpreted. Ultimately, the CEF System imposes the duty on the Finance Director to decide how to apply the section regarding distributions of CEF funds.”

The Finance Director serves at the pleasure of the County Executive. The County Executive simply has to ask Mr. Ighile to release the matching funds to Councilperson Jung and it would happen tomorrow.

Even if the County Executive will not do the right thing, at least the County Council can make CB6-2022 emergency legislation to ensure that the spirit and intent of the Citizens' Election Fund is satisfied.

This isn't about politics nor should it be. I stand with Councilperson Jung, a Democrat, and the thousands of other Democrats, Republicans and Independents throughout the county on this issue, because it is the right thing to do. It's about good government and giving candidates a chance to run for office without being indebted to deep-pocketed campaign donors.

The residents of Howard County are watching. Will you risk the future of the Citizens' Election Fund and undermine the confidence of the voters by engaging in the type of petty politics we see in Washington?

Please support CB6-2022 and amend it to be emergency legislation.

Thank you.

Allan Kittleman
3030 Kittleman Lane
West Friendship, MD 21794



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Hiruy Hadgu, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB6-2022 and CB9-2022 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Hiruy Hadgu

Signature: Hiruy Hadgu

Digitally signed by Hiruy Hadgu
Date: 2022.01.18 11:18:27 -05'00'

Date: 1-18-2022

Organization: Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA)

Organization Address: P.O.Box 89, Ellicott City, MD 21041

P.O.Box 89, Ellicott City, MD 21041

Number of Members: 500

Name of Chair/President: Stu Kohn

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the
Public Hearing.*



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

CB6-2022: Addressing Technical Error in Citizens' Election Fund (CEF) Law

01/18/2022

The Howard County Citizens Association is supportive of this legislation and would like to thank Councilmember David Yungmann for introducing it. We understand Councilmembers Deb Jung and Liz Walsh have expressed support and we are waiting on Councilmembers Opel Jones and Christiana Rigby as well as County Executive Calvin Ball to do the same. We ask that this bill is passed as an emergency legislation to be enacted right away.

Frankly, we are confused by the hand-wringing. This is a common sense fix. The entire law contemplates primary candidates receiving campaign funds. It is completely unrealistic to expect candidates declare and file for office a full seven months before the primary deadline and consider this bill an appropriate fix to address this technical glitch.

We also consider this bill to fall squarely in the category of an emergency legislation. This law was enacted thanks to the efforts of Howard County residents who worked tirelessly to collect signatures for a charter amendment vote, because they wanted to eliminate special interest developer influence from county government. Now all that effort is under threat of being wasted due to a technicality. If the erosion of trust in government and the preservation of the very concept of "government for the people by the people" is not an emergency, I don't know what is. As Councilmember Rigby stated in her 2017 testimony in support of the law: "we are facing a crisis where regular citizens doubt if our systems, government, and elected officials are really working for us."

Furthermore, if the CEF program fails it will not deliver on an important aspect of the goal of the program as described by Councilmember Rigby

who in 2017 also said, “This program will encourage people who are passionate and interested in public service but are shut out of traditional wealth networks to run for office on the strength of their ideas and commitment to the community.” Those shut out of traditional wealth networks are typically people of color and women. A vote against this bill is a vote to continue their exclusion in favor of a corrupt system that erodes trust in government.

Councilmember Rigby has stated that voting for this bill while benefiting from it as a conflict of interest. We disagree. First, we disagree with the basic premise that this benefits a single candidate. This is a democracy bill and addressing a technicality that facilitates an action that is directly contemplated by the law does not fall in the category of conflict of interest. It is entirely inconsistent to worry about a conflict of interest and benefiting yourself for taking action on fixing a technical error after entering the program to benefit yourself, so to the extent that the concern you raised is valid it existed long before the error was discovered. Also, only one candidate qualifies for this program after being certified. The other candidate who has signed up has not been certified by the State, which is what indicates qualification.

We urge you to vote for this bill by first declaring it as an emergency legislation save the CEF program.

Hiruy Hadgu

HCCA



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Timothy P. Lattimer, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Indivisible Howard County, MD to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB6-2022 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Tim Lattimer

Signature: *Tim Lattimer*

Date: 01/17/2022

Organization: Indivisible Howard County

Organization Address: Columbia, Maryland

Number of Members: 750

Name of Chair/President: Tim Lattimer and Liz Kato, Co-Coordiators

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



**TESTIMONY ON CB6-2022 (regarding the Citizens Election Fund)
Tim Lattimer, Co-Coordinator of Indivisible Howard County
January 18, 2022**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am here on behalf of Indivisible Howard County (IndivisibleHoCoMD), which is a group of about 750 residents in Howard County registered with the Indivisible Project's national network of local grassroots groups. Our vision is an America where elected officials represent all people fairly and with respect and where people who value fairness, tolerance, inclusion, and truth participate actively in democracy.

We are deeply concerned that the Citizens Election Fund (CEF) is not fully functional in line with the expectations of Howard County's voters. The CEF represents an important step towards getting money out of politics and allowing more people to participate in democracy. We are concerned that the CEF's viability has been undermined by a technical error in specifying the date for determining a contested election that prevents the disbursement of funds for this primary cycle as envisaged by the law which Howard County voters passed in 2016. This is not only a slap in the face to the people who voted for this bill, it harms public welfare by weakening the confidence of Howard County residents in the political system. It is also damaging to the credibility of the current county administration. As other counties and states are look at Howard County's example in considering similar election funds, it's important we show that such funds can indeed work to promote a more fair and accessible democracy.

Fortunately, we believe there is a solution. We respectfully request the Council to pass CB6-2022 as emergency legislation so that it could be enacted immediately and thus prevent disruption of the CEF during this election cycle. If that is done, we can put this unfortunate and embarrassing episode behind us. If not, we are concerned it will distract from other policy issues for the rest of 2022 and depress voter turnout.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted in writing to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
January 18, 2022

Sayers, Margery

From: Bonnie Bricker <bonbricker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:59 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony on CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

A copy of my testimony (1/18/22) on passing CB6-2022 as an emergency measure is at the bottom of this email.

It is clear from the testimony last night that many public interest groups, as well as many voters, have drawn a line for ethical behavior in public officials that should not be crossed. The actions and votes on this measure will stay on the minds of voters for many years to come, impacting the reputations of each of you.

I hope your votes reflect the advice given by all of the election experts testifying in favor of fixing the technical error in the CEF.

My testimony:

Good Evening. I'm Bonnie Bricker and I live in Elkridge, MD. I'm here to testify in support of passing CB6-2022 as an emergency measure.

We are living in frightening times. The integrity of our voting system has been challenged repeatedly; citizens see undue influence of public officials at every action, deserved or not. The Citizen's Election Fund, approved by our voters, was designed to help bring more integrity and trust to our local processes, and the passage of that measure was groundbreaking. To quote from the 2020 Summary Guide of the bill from the state board of elections:

"The Howard County Council stated that the goal and intent of establishing the program was to encourage greater voter participation in County elections, increase opportunities for more residents to run for office, and reduce the influence of large contributions from wealthy individuals, corporations, businesses, political action groups, and other large organizations."

If you don't correct the technicality that has broken the heart of this measure and sadly, the trust of many of our citizens, your actions will lead to greater distrust and apathy. We can't afford to let that happen.

Laws should be written to serve the public good. The original bill was passed with that intent. It is now up to you to uphold that good with your actions.

The State Board of Elections has already approved the disbursement. I look to all of you to do what is right and help to restore faith in our local system by passing CB6 as an emergency bill. It is a matter of doing the greater good. Thank you so much for your attention, and for serving the residents of this county.

--
Bonnie Bricker
Elkridge, MD
301-648-8939

pronouns:she/her/hers

Sayers, Margery

From: Joanne Antoine <JAntoine@commoncause.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 10:27 PM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Public Financing - Emergency Amendments made in Montgomery County

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in support of CB 6-2022. As mentioned in my testimony, the Montgomery County Council quickly worked to address concerns with their campaign financing program as they arose. Emergency legislation to amend the program was introduced twice in the year preceeding the election (2017), and the technical fix was sponsored both times by the members of the Council who used public funding and passed unanimously. Emergency legislation was again introduced in 2021 which is sponsored by three members of the Council who have opted into the program.

I have compiled those bills below with links to the bill pages. I am happy to provide additional information, if needed.

Thank you in advance for passing CB6-2022 as emergency legislation.

Number	Title	Sponsor(s)	Co-Sponsors
Bill 25-17E	Public Campaign Financing - Amendments	Navarro, Katz, Riemer, Elrich, Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee	
Bill 31-17E	Public Campaign Financing - Contributions - Amendments	Navarro, Katz, Riemer	
Bill 45-21E	Elections - Public Campaign Financing - Restrictions	Glass, Katz, Riemer, Alborno	Navarro, Rice, Hucker

Joanne Antoine (she/her)
Executive Director | [Common Cause MD](#)
(o) 443.906.0442 (c) 848.220.4971
121 Cathedral St., Ste 2A, 3-4; Annapolis MD 21401



Sayers, Margery

From: Greg Fox <kaygeefox@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:59 PM
To: Sayers, Margery; CouncilMail
Subject: CB6-2022 Re: WebEx Link for this evening
Attachments: CB 6 2022 Testimony - Greg Fox.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council Members and Ms. Sayers:

Please see my attached testimony on CB6-2022.

Further, if you do make modifications and proceed with this legislation, whether now as emergency legislation or down the road to just to clean things up, you just need to do the following:

(3)(1): Just change "an election" to "a general election"

At first glance, I am not sure that you should eliminate that section as it was to provide a specific and logical time for determining the start of applicable funding for the general election and based on the nuances of determining the final candidates in the general election, including the ability for a candidate to decline their nomination on that 1st Tuesday in August. Also, I believe it was set to hold off payments for a candidate that will eventually have a general election opponent but did not have a primary opponent. Theoretically, if you remove that section, you would then be allowing payments related to the general election sooner than was contemplated initially. While that is fine, just understand the implications of that change. I actually preferred that direction.

Lastly, regardless of the issues around the timing of the general election qualification, this section was not related to nor intended to impact anything related to qualifying during the primary election.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Greg Fox

-----Original Message-----

From: Sayers, Margery <msayers@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Tue, Jan 18, 2022 2:39 pm
Subject: WebEx Link for this evening

Good afternoon

Below you will find the information need to join the Legislative Public Hearing for this evening. We will not be hearing CR16-2022 or CR17-2022.

You will be signing in as an attendee. You will be elevated when it is your turn to testify. At that time, you will be able to turn on your camera and testify. Please note, you will not be able to turn on your camera before you are elevated but you will be able to see and hear the hearing.

Event address for attendees: <https://howardcountymd.webex.com/howardcountymd/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee89139afd>

Video Address: 23019599357@howardcountymd.webex.com
You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Audio conference: Call-in toll number (US/Canada)
1-650-479-3207

Access code: 2301 959 9357

If you have any issues logging in and need technical assistance, please email us for assistance at councilwebex@howardcountymd.gov.

Sincerely,
Margery

Margery Sayers
Executive Assistant
Howard County Council
410-313-0832

Good evening, Council Members! My name is Greg Fox.

I remember this issue and both CB27-2016 and CB30-2017 very well. However, just to be safe, I watched both our work and voting sessions on this issue last night.

Yes, I opposed the bills. However, that was based on taxpayer funding and not the concept of a Citizen's Election Fund. So, why am I opposing CB-6 at this point.

I am opposing it because it isn't needed. It is a colossal waste of time. It is something that County Executive Calvin Ball can fix right now. A bill is not needed. Calvin Ball is wasting the communities time and energy.

Yes, there are some issues with semantics in the bill that was passed and voted on by Calvin Ball. However, everyone that voted on the bill, for or against it, knew the legislative intent and that includes Calvin Ball. If there was a lawsuit, that is what it would come down to, legislative intent. The question is what side of the lawsuit Calvin Ball wants to be on.

From the excerpts from CB 30 -2017 I have copied below, there is no doubt that it was the intent of the CEF to provide funding for contested primaries. I won't read through all 6 of them, but you get the point.

1 SEC. 10.300. - DEFINITIONS
2 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
3 (B) "APPLICANT CANDIDATE" MEANS A CANDIDATE WHO IS SEEKING TO BE A CERTIFIED
4 CANDIDATE IN A PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION.

6 10.306. DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION.
7 (A) *IN GENERAL*.
8 (1) THE DIRECTOR SHALL DISTRIBUTE A PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION FOR AN ELECTION ONLY
9 DURING:
10 (I) THE TIME BEGINNING 365 DAYS BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE
11 THE CANDIDATE SEEKS AND ENDING 15 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION; OR
12 (II) THE TIME THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL SETS BY RESOLUTION FOR A SPECIAL
13 ELECTION.

14 (2) A CERTIFIED CANDIDATE MAY CONTINUE TO COLLECT QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS
15 AND RECEIVE A MATCHING PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION UP TO A PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION.
16 (3) (I) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, WHETHER AN ELECTION IS CONTESTED
17 SHALL BE DETERMINED ON THE FIRST TUESDAY IN AUGUST PRECEDING THE ELECTION.

25 (3) THE TOTAL PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PAYABLE TO A CERTIFIED CANDIDATE FOR THE
26 ELECTION CYCLE, INCLUDING THE PRIMARY OR A GENERAL ELECTION, SHALL NOT EXCEED:
27 (I) ~~\$750,000~~ \$700,000 FOR A CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE; AND
28 (II) ~~\$95,000~~ \$85,000 FOR A CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY COUNCIL.

6 (G) *DISBURSEMENTS AFTER PRIMARY ELECTION.*

7 WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE COUNTY BOARD CERTIFIES THE RESULTS OF THE
8 PRIMARY ELECTION, THE STATE BOARD SHALL AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE TO
9 DISBURSE THE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO EACH
10 PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE WHO IS CERTIFIED TO BE ON THE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION.

11 (H) *RETURN OF UNSPENT FUNDS.*

12 (1) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE COUNTY BOARD CERTIFIES THE RESULTS OF THE PRIMARY
13 ELECTION, A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE WHO IS NOT CERTIFIED TO BE ON THE BALLOT FOR THE
14 GENERAL ELECTION SHALL RETURN TO THE FUND ANY UNSPENT MONEY IN THE CANDIDATE'S
15 CITIZEN FUNDED CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT.

So that it brings us to timing and when the determination of a contested primary election is made.

16 (3) (I) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, WHETHER AN ELECTION IS CONTESTED
17 SHALL BE DETERMINED ON THE FIRST TUESDAY IN AUGUST PRECEDING THE ELECTION.
18 (II) THE DIRECTOR SHALL NOT DISBURSE A PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TO A CERTIFIED
19 CANDIDATE IN AN ~~UNCONTESTED~~ ELECTION IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS THE SOLE
20 INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS FILED A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY FOR THAT OFFICE; HOWEVER, A
21 CERTIFIED CANDIDATE MAY COLLECT CONTRIBUTIONS DURING AN UNCONTESTED
22 ELECTION.

What Calvin Ball's administration is pointing to is the date "First Tuesday in August Preceding the election" for determining if an election is contested. This date was based solely on the election calendar related to determining if the General election was contested, not the Primary.

Would it be better to have it clarified at some point? Yes. Do you need it to determine the intent of the bill now? Absolutely not!!!

I have provided an excerpt of the Maryland Election Calendar below that supports this position.

Monday, August 01, 2022	Monday, August 01, 2022	COB	Judicial Review of Referendum Petition Certification - Balance of Signatures Submission	Deadline for petition sponsor to seek judicial review of referendum petition certification.	10th day following SBE's determination on the certification of the balance of signatures or 69th day before a general election (August 31, 2022), whichever is earlier.	EL § 6-210(e)
	Monday, August 01, 2022	COB	Filing New Party Petition	Deadline for petition sponsor to file with SBE a new political party petition.	1st Monday in August.	EL § 4-102(c)(2)(ii)
	Monday, August 01, 2022	5 pm	Filing Candidacy Petition & Certificate of Candidacy	Deadline for general election petition candidate to file with SBE or the appropriate local board the Certificate of Candidacy and candidacy petition.	1st Monday in August.	EL § 5-703(d) & (f)
	Monday, August 01, 2022	5 pm	Filing Certificates of Nomination and Candidacy	Deadline for candidates seeking nomination from a non-principal political party to file with SBE or the appropriate local board the Certificate of Nomination and Certificate of Candidacy.	1st Monday in August.	EL § 5-703 1(e) & (e)
	Monday, August 01, 2022		Filing Appellate Judges	Deadline for Clerk of the Court of Appeals and Clerk of the Court of Special Appeals to provide notice to SBE of the names of judges to be placed on the ballot.	1st Monday in August.	EL § 5-301(f)
	Monday, August 01, 2022	COB	Filing Charter Amendment Petition	Deadline for petition sponsor to file with local government authority a charter amendment petition.	99th day before an election.	EL § 7-104(b)
Monday, August 01, 2022	Monday, August 01, 2022		Non Technical Summary of Ballot Questions	Deadline for the Department of Legislative Services to provide SBE with non technical summary of statewide ballot questions.		
	Tuesday, August 02, 2022	COB	Declination of Nomination	Deadline for declination of nomination by a filed candidate before general election.	1st Tuesday in August.	EL § 5-801(b)(2)(ii)
	Friday, August 05, 2022		Certification of Statewide Ballot Questions and Questions Relating to an Enactment of the General Assembly Petitioned to Referendum	Deadline for Secretary of State to certify to SBE statewide ballot questions and questions relating to Acts of the General Assembly (except for questions referred to the voters of one county or a part of one county) petitioned to referendum.	95th day before a general election.	EL § 7-103(c)(1)
	Friday, August 05, 2022		Certification of Ballot Question Language	Deadline for municipal attorney to certify the ballot question language for ballot questions for voters of that municipality.	95th day before a general election.	EL § 7-103(c)(4)
	Friday, August 05, 2022		Certification of Local Ballot Questions	Deadline for County Attorney or Baltimore City Solicitor to certify to SBE each question to be voted on in the county or part of the county.	95th day before a general election.	EL § 7-103(c)(3)(i)
	Friday, August 05, 2022		Alternate Certification of Local Ballot Questions	Deadline for Clerk of the Circuit Court to prepare and certify to SBE local ballot questions if the County Attorney or Baltimore City Solicitor does not do so.	1st Friday in August.	EL § 7-103(c)(3)(ii)

Because the determination of whether there will be an opposing candidate comes down to several possible things occurring on the 1st Monday of August preceding the General Election, including someone potentially declining a nomination, you can't make the determination if the general election is going to be contested until after that 1st Monday. There is no similar tie to the election calendar for the primary or anything else in the election process that is tied to the 1st Monday in August more than a year prior to the election. It is that simple. End of story.

But if you need more evidence that the date was only referring to the General Election, just look at the section I provide earlier and the *Citizens' Election Fund Overview Training* Published: July 20, 2021.

6	10.306. DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION.
7	(A) <i>IN GENERAL</i> .
8	(1) THE DIRECTOR SHALL DISTRIBUTE A PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION FOR AN ELECTION ONLY
9	DURING:
10	(I) THE TIME BEGINNING 365 DAYS BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE
11	THE CANDIDATE SEEKS AND ENDING 15 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION; OR
12	(II) THE TIME THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL SETS BY RESOLUTION FOR A SPECIAL
13	ELECTION.

Distribution Period

- This period begins 365 days before the primary election and ends 15 calendar days after the date of the general election in which the candidate is participating.

Distribution Period for the November 2022 Election:

June 28th, 2021 - November 23rd, 2022.

Reference Summary Guide, Page #27

If the bill was referring to, in the case of this election, August 3, 2021, as the date of determination of a competitive primary race, how would they be able to start distributing funds on June 28, 2021. Again, the determination of competitive primary is made by the State Board of Elections.

So, withdraw the legislation, tell the emperor he has no clothes and that he and the County will lose in court...which will likely occur unless this becomes emergency legislation.

Thank you for your time this evening.

Sayers, Margery

From: Jen Terrasa <hocojenterrasa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Testimony in Support of CB 6 - 2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening, Council Chair Jones, Vice-Chair Rigby, and esteemed members of the County Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. For the record, my name is Jen Terrasa, resident of Columbia and Delegate for state legislative District 13, but I am testifying as an individual this evening. I write to testify in favor CB6-2022, but I am disappointed that it is needed in the first place.

As all of you know, prior to being a state delegate, I served for 12 years on the County Council. During that time, I was proud to be one of two primary sponsors of CB30-2017 which established the Citizens Election Fund (CEF) legislation. The CEF was intended to elevate the voices of everyday people, increase the impact of small donors, and expand opportunities for folks from all backgrounds to run for office.

I think we can all agree, However, that this law could benefit from some clarifying language as requested by the CEF Commission in October of 2021. I am, therefore, urging all of you to support CB6-2022 in order to accomplish this goal.

However, from the perspective of one of the lead sponsors of this legislation, the way it is being interpreted doesn't make sense and could undermine the very program we worked so hard to set up. It is clear that the bill was intended to cover primary elections. You can see this in the plain language of the bill. For example, on page 8, line 15 of the enrolled bill, you will see a specific reference to both primary and general elections. Clearly, we intended to include primary elections. An interpretation that suggests we were referring to the August before the primary makes no sense. Looking back at the drafts of CB30-2017, it is clear that the intent was to address a concern that we didn't want someone to be able to keep collecting funds after a contested primary if the general election is not contested and August was the deadline to file. Therefore, that was the date to determine whether the general was contested. Interpreting this bill to mean the August before the primary would invalidate the whole bill. It would ensure no one could use this for a primary. And if no one can use this for a primary, then no one can use it period! Candidates would have to raise big money for

a primary only to switch gears during the general to the citizen elections fund. I would urge you to work with the Office of Law to see if they can take another look at this.

If you are not able to work this out with the OOL, I would urge the Council to pass this as emergency legislation. To not do this would put anyone using the CEF at an extreme disadvantage because they would be unable to access the bulk of their campaign funds until mid-April, less than 2 ½ months before the primary.

I know you want this program to work and so do I. I am very concerned that if we don't get this right this time, it will be very hard to get people thinking about running for office and to trust it in the future. I know I wouldn't. Please do what you can to restore faith in this program. Howard County is seen as a leader on many things, including the effort to create a fair elections system. Let's get this right. The world is watching!

I urge you to pass CB 6 and to make it effective as an emergency bill.

All the best,

Jen

Jen Terrasa, Delegate, District 13
Maryland General Assembly
HoCoJenTerrasa@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Ainy Haider-Shah <ainyhaider@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: "Emergency" CEF bill

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,
This issue is not an emergency and to treat it as such is wrong.

Deb Jung knew about this. Please see the attached image of her email from October.

This is an orchestrated effort by certain political actors to manufacture outrage. For shame.

From: [Jung, Deb](#)
To: [Thompson, Paul A](#)
Subject: RE: Citizens' Election Fund Emergency Legislation Request
Date: Saturday, October 30, 2021 7:07:15 PM

Thank you for discovering the error in the legislation that would prevent ca
CEF funds after having declared that they will be utilizing the CEF. Has the
responded to you regarding your request? If not, would you like me to file
issue? Would that be considered a conflict of interest since I have declared
candidate?

Deb Jung

Councilmember District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).

Regards,
Ainy Haider-Shah

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Cynthia Fikes <fikesfavors@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:56 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Citizens Election Fund - NOT an Emergency

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

Regarding Citizens Election fund, I enthusiastically agree that the Citizens' Election Fund is necessary for free and fair elections in Howard County.

Unfortunately, the change of schedule from funds being disbursed during the 2022 General Election instead of the Primary does not qualify as Emergency Legislation. The Ellicott City Floods were an emergency. Citizen relief during COVID is an emergency.

Additionally, due to the nature of two Councilperson's being situated to directly financially benefit from this legislation, both Councilpersons Rigby and Jung should recuse themselves from voting.

Thank you,

--
Cynthia Fikes

Sayers, Margery

From: Jenny Solpietro <jsolpietro@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 6:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB6-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers -

I am writing to oppose CB6-2022 being treated as emergency legislation. The legislation is needed, without a doubt, in order to implement the Citizens' Election Fund for primary elections.

However, given that the bill's passage would result in a financial benefit to the campaigns of multiple members of the County Council, I believe that ethics demand that those members recuse themselves from voting on this bill. Additionally, given that the minimum wage bill was not allowed to be introduced in October as a late-filed bill despite being needed desperately by many families, CB6-2022 should also not be treated as an emergency to benefit members of the Council.

Thank you,
Jennifer Solpietro
District 4

County Council Testimony in support of CB6-2022
David and Mary Marker
Columbia, MD 21046

We have been involved in supporting public financing of Howard County elections since 2012; in fact, the first organizing meeting for what became our local law was held in our living room. We worked closely with the previous County Council to gain approval of the legislation; we then worked to pass Amendment A when it went before the public for approval. We each spoke at various events around the County explaining how this would make more fair our primary and general elections.

Unfortunately, it appears that language inserted as an amendment to the original bill focused only on the general election deadline for determining if an election is contested or not, as it references the day after the deadline for third party or independent candidates to file for the general. We strongly urge you to approve CB6, and do it as emergency legislation so that this error can be corrected as soon as possible.

CB6 would remove the one offending sentence:

"10.306(a)3(i) For purposes of this paragraph, whether an election is contested shall be determined on the first Tuesday in August preceding the election."

It was clear to the County Council when they voted to approve the Fund that it was meant to apply to both primary and general elections. The same was true of the public when they approved Amendment A.

This simple fix will allow Howard County to move forward with elections where candidates have an alternative funding source when they aren't connected to those with deep pockets. Every candidate deserves an opportunity to run a well-financed campaign. Everyone can help fund local elections.

Howard County stood as an example to the country, we were the first locality to ever approve public financing of elections by popular vote. We should continue to lead by example, don't let personal disagreements stand in the way of the voice of the people.

We are all frustrated how in Congress procedural issues are putting our very democracy at risk, their lack of timely action may bring to an end the America where we believe every vote counts. Don't let procedural issues here in Howard County keep us from empowering all residents who live here.

Please support CB6-2022.

Thank you,

David and Mary Marker

Sayers, Margery

From: Frances O'Connor <chettyoak@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 2:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin
Subject: Support CB-6

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear elected officials-

I am writing to express my support for CB-6 as emergency legislation to ensure that the Citizens Election Fund is able to function as intended and that funds can be used for challenged primaries.

Whether the August date is a technicality, misinterpretation, etc., it is clear that it goes against the spirit of the Citizens Election Fund and should be corrected immediately.

There is nothing more sacred to our democracy than free and fair elections. The Citizens Election Fund is critical to ensuring that our local elections are not determined by the deep pockets of special interests, but rather the will of the people.

I implore each member of our County Council to act with urgency and integrity to ensure that this matter is resolved.

Frances Keenan
District 1