

Chairman Ball and members of the County Council:

My name is Erin Oliver and I am the Action Chair for the League of Women's Voters. I am here this evening to present the Howard County League of Women Voters support for CB CB54-2015, the Howard County Capital and Expense budgets. We appreciate Councilmembers Mary Kay Sigaty and Jon Weinstein for sponsoring the Bill.

The League's budget position supports budget transparency and a principle of the League of Women Voters is the public's right to know. This Bill embodies those positions. This Bill allows for publicity of contents of the capital budget, capital program and the extended capital program. It also puts additional requirements on the County Executive as the budgets are submitted to the County Council.

The Bill requires a funding source summary that describes prior appropriation by source, budget request by source and each program years by their funding source. Howard County residents will be able to see the allocation of funds and how money is spent.

The Bill also requires higher standards on what is required from the County Executive expense budget. It requires a comparative statement of the receipts and expenditures from the previous fiscal year, for authorized expenditures, revenues and estimated expenditures and revenues for the currently ending fiscal year. As tax payers and residents, it is important to have thorough documentation for expenditures and revenues.

The League urges the adoption of County Council Bill 54-2015.



CC: Lillie Gallant, President of the Howard County League