



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 227

State Legislature Local Public Campaign Financing Act

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways & Means Committee

Date: February 6, 2018

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 227. The bill expands the offices for which a county may establish a system of public campaign financing.

Currently, counties may authorize public campaign financing for elective offices in the executive and legislative branches of county government. This bill enables county governments to establish a system of public campaign financing for elected offices in the Maryland General Assembly. Public financing for state districts crossing county lines would be enabled only if all affected jurisdictions have opted to support it.

This legislation properly leaves the decision for establishing a system of public campaign financing in the hands of the local governments, who are best situated to determine whether such a policy is in their best interest.

HB 227 ensures local governments have flexibility in enacting local policies designed to serve and react to community needs. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 227.