



House Bill 174

Election Law - Local Public Campaign Financing - Expansion

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways & Means Committee

Date: January 30, 2018

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 174. 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 offer public campaign financing to candidates seeking to serve as an elected member of the county board of education, clerk of the circuit court, register of wills, sheriff, or State's Attorney.

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 174 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 for HB 174.