

Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission was held via Webex on December 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members ("Commission") Present:

- Suzanne Geckle
- Nadine Bernard
- Douglas Miller
- Ralph Frith
- Meagan Braganca
- Matt Dellinger
- Steven Wilson

Staff Members Present:

- **Angela Moore**, Deputy Director, Department of Finance, designated to assist the Commission pursuant to Code Section 10.310 (h).
- **Brenna Punte-Pinos**, Assistant Director, Department of Finance
- **Kristen Perry**, Deputy County Solicitor, Howard County Office of Law
- **Rafiu Ighile**, Director, Department of Finance
- **Amanda Mihill**, Senior Assistant County Solicitor, Howard County Office of Law

As the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Geckle called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:01 p.m.

1. Administrative Items

- o Ms. Geckle stated that the minutes from September 16, 2025, had previously been approved by the Commission via email.
- o Commission members agreed that their next meeting will be held on March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. via Webex.

2. Budget Recommendation

- o Ms. Moore provided explanation of the Citizens' Election Fund (CEF) activity and reconciliation.
- o Ms. Moore shared that the current balance in the fund is \$2,694,449
- o The Commission discussed the current number of candidates and revisited their initial projection of funds necessary to provide public contributions for all potential CEF candidates of \$3.4 million for the current election cycle.
- o After further discussion with the Commission, Mr. Frith moved to approve a request of \$650,000 for the FY2027 budget. Ms. Bernard seconded the motion.

There was a unanimous vote to approve the budget request of \$650,000 for the FY2027 budget.

3. Review updated Training Video

- Ms. Moore reviewed the updates to the Training Video.
- Once the State Board of Elections (SBE) system goes live, the screenshots will be updated and finalized for the County's CEF website.
- Mr. Frith moved to approve the updates, Mr. Miller seconded the motion and there was a unanimous vote to approve the updates to the Training Video.

4. Review updated Summary Guide and FAQs

- Ms. Moore reviewed the updates that she received from the Commission via email.
- The Commission discussed a few additional updates to be made, which Ms. Moore will incorporate.
- Mr. Miller moved to approve the updates, Ms. Bernard seconded the motion and there was a unanimous vote to approve the updates to the Summary Guide and FAQs.

5. Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Bernard, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 6:58 p.m.