

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 June 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members ("Commission") Present:

- Suzanne Geckle
- Nadine Bernard
- Douglas Miller
- 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
- **Rafiu Ighile**, Director, Department of Finance
- **Kristen Perry**, Deputy County Solicitor, Howard County Office of Law
- **Amanda Mihill**, Senior Assistant County Solicitor, Howard County Office of Law

Special Guests:

- Kevin Gillogly, Public Finance Program Manager, State Board of Elections (SBE)

As the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Geckle called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:03 p.m.

1. Administrative Items

- o Ms. Geckle requested that public attendees enter their name and organization affiliation into Webex chat.
- o Mr. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held March 3, 2026, Ms. Bernard seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
- o Commission members agreed that their next meeting will be held on December 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. via Webex.

2. Current Balance in the CEF

- o Ms. Moore provided the current balance in the CEF is \$2,056,678.
- o Ms. Geckle mentioned an additional \$650,000 will be added on July 1st from the FY27 budget.

3. Funds received by each Candidate

- The Commission discussed availability of reports and believes it is important for visibility to the public to have details on disbursements of the CEF funds available online.
- Mr. Gillogly gave a walkthrough to review campaign details on the new MDCRIS system that is available for public use.
- Ms. Moore presented the County's CEF reconciliation and disbursement worksheet to the Commission.
- At the request of the Commission, Mr. Ighile agreed that the County could post the disbursement details on the CEF website and have it updated weekly until after the November election.
- Mr. Miller motioned to accept the solution offered by Mr. Ighile with an additional message and link to SBE's campaign website. Mr. Dellinger seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to accept the solution.
- Ms. Geckle will draft language for the website message and send it to the County for review, approval and posting online.

4. Additional items

- The Commission discussed endorsed Candidates on sample ballots from political clubs and reaffirmed the policy set forth in the CEF's Rules of Procedure.
- Ms. Geckle discussed the possibility of an Independent entering the race for County Executive and provided important dates of action.
- The Commission discussed revisions to the Commission's documents due to the change in the State's reporting system.
 - To avoid confusion and changes so close to the 2026 election, the Commission agreed that the training video should be updated sometime during the 2030 election cycle.
 - Two items will be updated on the FAQs (correction of typo and addition of a recent question asked to Ms. Geckle regarding sample ballots).
 - Since screenshots of the State's new system are not allowed under the terms of the State's agreement with the software vendor, the Summary Guide has been updated to remove directions for navigating the State's reporting system and the link to the reporting website and contact information for SBE has been added.
- Mr. Wilson informed the Commission of misinformation that was stated in recent interviews of the County Executive Candidates with WMAR. These inaccuracies included:
 - CEF is only available for use by first time Candidates.
 - If a Candidate already has an account set up in the State's reporting system, they cannot participate in the CEF.
 - CEF Candidates cannot accept endorsements.
- The Commission discussed ways to get the correct information out to the public and decided that they would send a letter to WMAR requesting that the correct information be published in the newspaper and/or mentioned on air. The Commission also decided that the information should be added to the FAQs.

5. Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Bernard, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 7:38 p.m.