

**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 virtually via WebEx on September 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Suzanne Geckle
- Douglas Miller
- Jennifer Bevan-Dangel
- Ralph Frith
- Ginna Rodriguez-Panqueva
- Keith Ohlinger
- Nadine Bernard

Staff Members Present:

- **Diane Zagorski**, Chief – Bureau of Tax & Specialty Services, Department of Finance, assigned to assist the Commission pursuant to Code Section 10.310 (h).
- **Brenna Punte-Pinos**, Chief – Bureau of Water/Sewer & Misc Revenue, Department of Finance
- **Kristen Perry**, Deputy County Solicitor

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

1. Administrative Items

- o Mr. Miller motioned to approve the minutes from June 28, 2022 meeting. Ms. Rodriguez-Panqueva seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
- o Ms. Geckle confirmed date of the next meeting will be scheduled for December 6, 2022 at 6:00p.m.
- o The Commission decided to keep meetings as virtual sessions and will reassess if a change is needed at each meeting.

2. FAQ Review

- o Mr. Miller motioned to approve the revisions to the FAQ's. Mr. Ohlinger seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the FAQ revisions.
- o Discussion was made about COMAR 33.13.14.07B(2), a local central committee may make an in-kind coordinated expenditure on benefit of a publicly funded candidate up to \$10,000 as it relates to 10.309(1) and Rules of Procedure section IV(b) which provides that a CEF candidate is not prohibited from appearing on a

sample ballot. Commission to discuss further at the next meeting and may add to FAQs.

3. Complaint Process

- The Commission reviewed the drafted complaint form. Commission agreed to allow complaints in a different format as long as there is a signature with a statement certifying under penalty of perjury.
- Ms. Geckle will send a draft of language to be published to the website along with the compliant form to the Commission for review before the next meeting.
- Commission discussed leaving a decision up to the Commission Chair to decide in a meeting needs to be held as a result of a complaint.
- Mr. Ohlinger motioned to approve the complaint form. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the complaint form.

4. Open Meetings Act

- Ms. Geckle advised the Commission regarding the updates to the Open Meetings Act.

5. Candidates & Budget

- Ms. Geckle confirmed the following candidates are using the CEF program:
 - County Executive Candidate: Allan Kittleman
 - County Council District 1: Elizabeth (Liz) Walsh
 - County Council District 3: Christiana Rigby
 - County Council District 5: Joan Pontius
- Ms. Geckle advised that County Council District 4, Deb Jung is no longer in a contested election.
- Commission requested a report prior to the December 6th meeting outlining an accounting of how much funds have been distributed to the candidates and any fund surplus.

6. Adjournment:

- Upon motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Ohlinger, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 7:30pm.