

**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 in the 1st Floor, Columbia-Ellicott City Conference Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland, 21043 on June 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members ("Commission") Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

- **Angela Moore**, Deputy Director, 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
- **Melanie Bishop**, Chief – Bureau of Tax and Specialty Services, Department of Finance
- **Kristen Perry**, Deputy County Solicitor, Howard County Office of Law
- **Rafiu Ighile**, Director, Department of Finance

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 the December 6, 2023, had previously been approved by the Commission via email.
- o Ms. Geckle confirmed that the date of the next meeting will be scheduled for December 3, 2024 and will be scheduled to be held virtually.

2. Report of January 9, 2024, work session with the Council

- o Ms. Geckle met with the Council to review the Commission's recommendations for legislation changes for the Citizens' Election Fund.
- o The Council had some follow up questions for Ms. Geckle and are currently working on amendments based on the recommendations.
- o Ms. Geckle mentioned that the Council was pleased with the language of the recommendations.
- o The Council will allow the Commission the opportunity to review the changes

prior to them going through the legislative process.

3. Citizens' Election Fund ("CEF") Audit

- Ms. Moore confirmed the estimated cost of the CEF audit is expected to be between \$8,000 - \$10,000 and will be completed by the County's external auditor, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA).
- CLA is currently reviewing the State Board of Elections (SBE) recommended audit items and will work with SBE during the process.
- There is no expected date of completion at this time.

4. Citizens' Election Fund Balance

- The Department of Finance confirmed that the balance in the Citizens' Election Fund as of May 31, 2024, is \$1,470,572.54.

5. Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mr. Ohlinger and seconded by Ms. Bevan-Dangle, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 6:21 p.m.