

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2022, Legislative Day No. 1

Resolution No. 1-22

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien, Chair  
(by request of the County Executive)

By the County Council, January 3, 2022

1 A RESOLUTION ENTITLED  
2 Charter Amendment – System of Public Campaign Financing  
3

4 RESOLUTION proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to  
5 require the establishment of a system of public campaign financing for candidates for  
6 County Executive and County Council.  
7

8 *Be it resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, That the*  
9 *following amendment to the Anne Arundel County Charter is proposed for submission to*  
10 *the qualified voters of the County at the General Election in November 2022:*  
11

12 **Article X. MISCELLANEOUS**  
13

14 **Sec. 1018. Public campaign financing.**  
15

16 **(A) Public campaign financing system.**  
17

18 (1) BY JULY 1, 2024, THE COUNTY SHALL ESTABLISH BY LAW A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN  
19 FINANCING SYSTEM FOR CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE, COUNTY COUNCIL, OR  
20 BOTH, IN A GENERAL ELECTION IN 2026 OR AFTER.  
21

22 (2) THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING SYSTEM LAW SHALL INCLUDE PROVISIONS  
23 THAT:  
24

25 (I) ALLOW CANDIDATES TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC  
26 CAMPAIGN FINANCING SYSTEM;  
27

28 (II) ESTABLISH A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING SYSTEM COMMISSION  
29 CONSISTING OF SEVEN COUNTY RESIDENTS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL AND  
30 TWO COUNTY RESIDENTS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE;  
31

32 (III) PROVIDE FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS, TERMS, AND OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC  
33 CAMPAIGN FINANCING SYSTEM COMMISSION;  
34

35 (IV) REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO CALCULATE, NOT LATER THAN 180 DAYS  
36 PRIOR TO THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR, THE TOTAL AMOUNT ESTIMATED FOR THE FULL  
37 ELECTION CYCLE AND THE AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET  
38 FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR TO FULLY FUND THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING SYSTEM;  
39 AND  
40

41 (V) ESTABLISH A PUBLIC ELECTION FUND FOR COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICES  
42 THAT IS ADMINISTERED BY THE CONTROLLER.

1       **(B) Funds included in annual budget and appropriation ordinance.** EXCEPT AS  
2 PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C), IN EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL  
3 INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE REQUIRED BY  
4 ARTICLE VII OF THIS CHARTER THE AMOUNT CALCULATED BY THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN  
5 FINANCING SYSTEM COMMISSION AS NECESSARY TO FULLY FUND THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN  
6 FINANCING SYSTEM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR.

7  
8       **(C) When funds not required in annual budget and appropriation ordinance.** THE  
9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE IS NOT REQUIRED TO INCLUDE THE AMOUNT CALCULATED BY THE  
10 PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING SYSTEM COMMISSION AS NECESSARY TO FULLY FUND THE  
11 PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING SYSTEM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET  
12 AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IF:

13  
14           (1) IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, FUNDS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING  
15 TRANSFERRED FROM THE REVENUE RESERVE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND PURSUANT TO  
16 § 4-11-106 OF THE COUNTY CODE; OR

17  
18           (2) NOT LATER THAN 120 DAYS PRIOR TO THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE  
19 COUNTY EXECUTIVE CERTIFIES TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL THAT THE COUNTY'S FISCAL  
20 CONDITION MAKES IT IMPRUDENT TO INCLUDE THE FUNDS, AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
21 APPROVES THE CERTIFICATION BY A VOTE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE MEMBERS.

22  
23       **(D) Public Election Fund.** FUNDS TO FINANCE THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING  
24 SYSTEM INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE SHALL BE  
25 INCLUDED IN AND DISBURSED FROM THE PUBLIC ELECTION FUND REQUIRED UNDER  
26 SUBSECTION (A)(2)(V).

27  
28       *And be it further resolved,* That the following question is adopted for submittal to the  
29 qualified voters of the County at the General Election in November 2022 for their adoption  
30 or rejection:

31  
32       “To amend the Anne Arundel County Charter to require the establishment of a system  
33 of public campaign financing for candidates for County Executive and County Council.”

34  
35       *And be it further resolved,* That this question shall be designated as Question “\_\_” on  
36 the ballot at the General Election in November 2022.

37  
38       *And be it further resolved,* That if the majority of qualified votes cast in the election  
39 are for the Charter Amendment, this amendment shall stand adopted from and after the 30<sup>th</sup>  
40 day following the election.