



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 962

Local Public Campaign Financing - County Boards of Education

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Government, Labor, and Elections
Committee

Date: February 25, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 962, which expands the offices for which a county may establish public campaign financing.

Current law authorizes counties to establish public campaign financing systems for elected offices in the executive and legislative branches of county government. In many jurisdictions, voters also elect members of county boards of education, who exercise significant policy and budget authority. Under the bill, a county, by local law, may extend its existing public campaign financing framework to those elected board of education members.

This legislation appropriately preserves local decision-making, ensuring that counties retain full authority over whether to implement and expand public campaign financing based on their unique needs and priorities.

HB 962 allows counties to craft election policies that align with local goals while maintaining accountability in campaign finance. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 962.