

# FAIR ELECTION FUND COMMISSION

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March 26, 2025

Ms. Tara H. Jackson  
Acting County Executive  
1301 McCormick Drive, Suite 4000  
Largo, MD 20774

Re: FY 2026 Budget Appropriation for Fair Election Fund

Dear Acting County Executive Jackson:

Thank you for including \$400,000 in the FY 2026 proposed budget for the Fair Election Fund. Upon adoption, this allocation will provide a total of \$800,000 to launch the County's new campaign matching fund program for the 2026 election cycle. We write to affirm our strong belief that this funding is critical to ensure a successful launch and to express our full support for retaining the full amount in the adopted budget.

As budget deliberations unfold during this particularly challenging fiscal year, we want to reiterate the importance of this program. For many Prince Georgians, the only thing more concerning than revenue shortfalls at the County and State levels is the growing threat to democracy posed by undue political influence from individuals and corporations with unprecedented wealth. Now more than ever, it is essential to support this program to uphold the democratic values it was designed to protect.

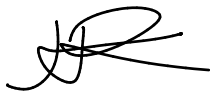
The Prince George's County's Fair Election Fund is a public campaign financing program established to promote and encourage broader access to elected office in the County and prevent large donations from unduly influencing government. The program is intended to empower citizens to run for office based on the strength of their ideas, supported by small donations from ordinary people and matching funds from the Fair Election Fund.

A variety of scenarios exist for the number of candidates that \$800,000 in

funding will support during 2026 election cycle, including for example, one at-large council candidate (at \$200,000) and eight district council candidates (at \$75,000 each), should they qualify for the maximum eligible amount. Experience from similar programs in Maryland has shown that even more candidates may be supported, as many who qualify do not draw the full amount for which they are eligible.

We are here to work with you and other County officials and staff to ensure the launch of a successful matching fund program now possible with the inclusion of \$400,000 in FY 2026. Thank you again for your leadership and continued support of this vital initiative. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or requests.

Sincerely,



Mrs. J.M. Parker, Chair  
Fair Election Fund Commission

CC: Stanley A. Earley, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Stephen J. McGibbon, Director, Office of Finance