



## House Bill 176

### *Local Public Campaign Financing - Expansion to Additional Offices*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: January 31, 2023

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 176. This bill would expand the offices for which a county may establish a system of public campaign financing.

Currently, counties may authorize public campaign financing for elective offices in the executive and legislative branches of county government. This bill would enable counties to offer public campaign financing to candidates seeking to serve as a state's attorney, sheriff, register of wills, judge of the circuit court, clerk of the circuit court, judge of the orphans' court, or an elected member of the county board of education.

This legislation properly leaves the decision for establishing a system of public campaign financing in the hands of the local governments, who are best situated to determine whether such a policy is in their best interest.

HB 176 would ensure local governments have flexibility in enacting local policies designed to serve and react to community needs and priorities. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 176.