Clean Elections *for* Montgomery County!

Public funding gives voters control of politics and policy making…

Special interests like corporations and wealthy donors have too much influence in our government.

> **70%** Marylanders who favor using public money to pay for political campaigns.
> *(Gonzales Poll, 2009)*

In the last election cycle, on average successful County Council candidates raised over $200,000, with more than one candidate bringing in over $300,000. And on average, only a third of that funding came from small donors of $250 or less.

> **77%** State legislators in Connecticut elected in 2012 with public funding.
> *(DEMOS report, 2013)*

A well-structured clean elections program ensures that serious candidates who can show support from their communities get the funding they need to run a competitive campaign, without turning to special interests to fund their election.

Clean elections through public funding:

- Allow legislators to spend more time focusing on big issues and the needs of their constituents;
- Cut the corrupting influence of large campaign contributions out of our democracy;
- Allow a more diverse set of candidates, including women and minorities, to run competitive races.

> **33%** Increase in Latino representation in the Connecticut state legislature after enacting public funding.
> *(DEMOS report, 2013)*

Public funding works!

Under this program candidates raise low-dollar donations from individual donors in their district to qualify for public funds. Once a candidate meets the threshold to qualify, donations of $150 or less are matched with public funds, with smaller donations receiving a higher match. In exchange, candidates agree to turn down large donations from special interests.

County councils and commissions are the bedrock of our democracy. They make decisions that have an immediate and tangible impact on constituents, such as school funding.

Public funding strengthens our democracy by getting special interests out of elections and voters back in.

> Policies adopted after public financing is implemented are often **more aligned** with the public's preferences.
> *(DEMOS report, 2013)*

Publicly funded candidates under this program would raise small dollar donations from significantly more low-dollar donors than traditional campaigns.

Publicly Funded Candidate

Special Interest Candidate

$50
$100
$150
$250
$2000
$4000