

## Paris Bienert, LMSW

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Attention: Mayor Brandon M. Scott  
Council President Nick J. Mosby  
City Council Members  
Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee

Members of the Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee:

I am writing to request your confirmation of my nomination to the Baltimore City Fair Election Fund Commission. I regret that I am not able to be with you in person for the confirmation hearing, but unfortunately I am out of town for a work conference. I hope that this letter and my attached resume provide sufficient information and that you choose to confirm me.

I have long supported the idea of public campaign financing in Baltimore. In 2018, I sat down with Councilman Burnett to discuss how I could support his legislation, and later that year I wrote an op-ed in the Baltimore Sun encouraging voters to support the Question H ballot initiative.

I firmly believe that a person's access to a wealthy network of campaign donors is not indicative of their ability to serve the public in elected office. As a candidate, I saw firsthand that some candidates need to raise an often-unattainable amount of money to even be considered electable. The high cost of running for office keeps many women, people of color, people with disabilities, and other people from marginalized communities who would be great public servants from running.

I am excited for the Fair Election Fund to become operational, and hopeful that I will be chosen to serve on the Commission that will oversee it. A major responsibility of the Fair Election Commission will be to educate and inform Baltimore citizens about the Fund and its importance. I believe I am well-equipped to help with this because I have a wide network and expansive experience in community organizing. In addition to serving as the 46<sup>th</sup> District Chair of the Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee and running for City Council in District 1, I have been actively involved in Baltimore Women United, the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, Emerge Maryland, the Fells Prospect Community Association, and the Patterson Park Stars Youth Hockey Club.

I am deeply committed to Baltimore, and I know that public campaign financing is important for our City's future. I would be honored to serve on the Commission that oversees the administration and regulation of the Fair Election Fund.

Thank you for your consideration,



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