

# District of Columbia Board of Elections

## *2020 QUICK REFERENCE: CANDIDATE GUIDE TO BALLOT ACCESS*

June 2·Primary Election

November 3·General Election



# District of Columbia Board of Elections

## 2020 Quick Reference: Candidate Guide to Ballot Access

In order to get on the ballot in the District of Columbia, candidates must meet certain qualifications, including a variety of District-specific filing requirements and deadlines. Summarized below are the qualifications for several offices; however, this document is not a substitute for the laws and regulations of the District of Columbia. The Guide is not intended to be an authoritative statement of law. For further legal information, please consult the Code of the District of Columbia, other appropriate legal resources, or your attorney.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS

1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20003  
 (202) 727-2525 (Phone), 711 (TTY) or 800-833-7833 (Toll-free/voice)

**Website:** <https://dcboe.org/> **App:** @Vote4DC

**Facebook:** District of Columbia Board of Elections

**YouTube:** District of Columbia Board of Elections

**Twitter:** @Vote4DC

**Instagram:** @Vote4DC

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE

1015 Half Street, SE, Suite 775, Washington, DC 20003  
 (202) 671-0547 (Phone), 711 (TTY) (202) 671-0658 (Fax)

**Website:** <https://ocf.dc.gov/>

**Main Contact:** Wesley Williams, Public Affairs Manager  
 Wesleyw.williams@dc.gov or (202) 671-0551

*Candidates should file the required documents with the Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) within five days of picking up the nominating petition.*

### IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

While key dates and deadlines for various offices appear in this Guide, please contact the Board for a copy of the [Official Primary Election Calendar](#) and/or [Official General Election Calendar](#) or review them on our [website](#).

PRIMARY ELECTION – JUNE 2, 2020	IMPORTANT DATES	GENERAL ELECTION- NOVEMBER 3, 2020	IMPORTANT DATES
First day to pick up nominating petitions	January 10, 2020	First day to pick up nominating petitions (Except ANC)	June 12, 2020
Last day to file an initiative petition for the ballot	February 3, 2020	First day to pick up nominating petitions (ANC)	June 26, 2020
First day to file petitions	February 10, 2020	Last day to file an initiative petition for the ballot	July 6, 2020
Last day to file petitions	March 4, 2020	First day to file petitions for SBOE	July 13, 2020
Last day to file Slate Registration forms	March 9, 2020	Last day to file petitions	August 5, 2020
Deadline to file a referendum/recall	March 10, 2020	Last day to file a referendum/recall	August 10, 2020
Challenge period <sup>i</sup>	March 7-16, 2020	Challenge period	August 8-17, 2020
Validity of challenges to petitions determined	April 6, 2020	Last day for major parties to file nominations by message	September 1, 2020
Public lottery to determine ballot position <sup>ii</sup>	April 10, 2020	Public lottery to determine ballot position	September 11, 2020
Last day to petition for poll watcher credentials	May 19, 2020	Last day to petition for poll watcher credentials	October 20, 2020
Last day for write-in candidate filing <sup>iii</sup>	June 3, 2020	Last day for write-in candidate filing	November 6, 2020

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### 2020 GUIDE TO CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION AND BALLOT ACCESS

OFFICE	NOTES	QUALIFICATIONS	MINIMUM SIGNATURES NEEDED (PRIMARY ELECTION)	MINIMUM SIGNATURES NEEDED (GENERAL ELECTION)
<b>PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE</b>	Primary election within the District of Columbia in which registered qualified voters may express their preference for candidates of each political party in the District of Columbia, for nomination for President.	To hold the office of President, an individual must <u>(United States Constitution Article II, Section 1)</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at least 35 years of age.</li> <li>• Be a natural born citizen of the United States.</li> <li>• Be a resident of the United States for 14 years.</li> </ul>	2,000 signatures or 1% of duly registered voters in the same party as candidate	
<b>ELECTOR OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES</b>	Along with being qualified, each person elected as elector of President and Vice President must take an oath or solemnly swear to vote for the candidates of the party he or she has been nominated to represent, in the presence of the Board.	To hold the office of Elector of President and Vice President of the United States, an individual must <u>(DC Official Code § 1-1001.08(g))</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered to vote in the District of Columbia;</li> <li>• Have been a bona fide resident of the District for a period of 3 years immediately preceding the date of the presidential election.</li> </ul>		1% of registered voters
<b>DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>	The Delegate to the US House of Representatives is a non-voting member of the United States House of Representatives who is elected from the District of Columbia. While unable to vote in the full House, the Delegate may vote in the Committee of the Whole and other committees of which the Delegate is a member.	To hold the office of Delegate to the US House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, an individual must <u>(DC Official Code § 1-401(b)(1))</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia.<sup>iv</sup></li> <li>• Be at least 25 years of age.</li> <li>• Hold no other paid public office.<sup>vi</sup></li> <li>• Have resided in the District of Columbia continuously since the beginning of the three-year period ending on the date of the general or special election.</li> </ul>	2,000 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party as the candidate	3,000 signatures or 1.5% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters
<b>AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL</b>	Two at-large members of the Council of the District of Columbia are elected to a four-year term every two years. The Council	To hold the office of At-Large Member of the Council, an individual must <u>(DC Official Code § 1-204.02)</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia.</li> </ul>	2,000 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same	3,000 signatures or 1.5% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters

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<b>WARD MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL</b>	<p>enacts laws, approves the annual operating budget, and establishes and oversees the programs and operations of all District government agencies.</p> <p>One member of the Council of the District of Columbia is elected from each of the District's eight wards. Members of the Council hold staggered four-year terms. The Council enacts laws, approves the annual operating budget, and establishes and oversees the programs and operations of all District government agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one year preceding the general or special election.</li> <li>• Have not been convicted of a felony while holding the office of Member of the Council.</li> <li>• Hold no other public office for which they are compensated in an amount in excess of their actual expenses.</li> </ul> <p>To hold the office of Ward Member of the Council, an individual must (<a href="#">DC Official Code § 1-204.02</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia.</li> <li>• Be domiciled in the District of Columbia and if nominated for election from a particular ward, resides in the ward from which he is nominated.</li> <li>• Reside and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one year preceding the general or special election.</li> <li>• Have not been convicted of a felony while holding the office of Member of the Council.</li> <li>• Hold no other public office for which they are compensated in an amount in excess of their actual expenses.</li> </ul>	<p>party as the candidate</p> <p>250 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party and residing in the same ward as the candidate</p>	<p>500 signatures of duly registered voters who reside in the same ward as the candidate</p>
<b>UNITED STATES SENATOR</b>	<p>The position of United States Senator was created by the 1982 Constitution of the State of New Columbia with the intention that the officeholder would become United States Representative upon the ratification of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment of 1978. The duties of the office are: to inform Congress that DC residents meet the</p>	<p>To hold the office of United States Senator, an individual must (United States Constitution Article I, Section 3 and <a href="#">DC Official Code § 1-123(d)(2)</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at least 30 years of age.</li> <li>• Have been a citizen of the United States for at least 9 years.</li> <li>• Be a resident of the District of Columbia on the date of the general or special election.</li> </ul>	<p>2,000 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party as the candidate</p>	<p>1,000 signatures of duly registered voters</p>

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OFFICE	NOTES	QUALIFICATIONS	MINIMUM SIGNATURES NEEDED (PRIMARY ELECTION)	MINIMUM SIGNATURES NEEDED (GENERAL ELECTION)
<b>UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<p>traditional standards for achieving statehood; to monitor the process of the District's petition to gain statehood; and to advise the District of Columbia on public policy matters that bear on achieving statehood.</p>	<p>To hold the office of United States Senator, an individual must (United States Constitution Article I, Section 3 and <a href="#">DC Official Code § 1-123(d)(2)</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be at least 30 years of age.</li> <li>• Have been a citizen of the United States for at least 9 years.</li> <li>• Be a resident of the District of Columbia on the date of the general or special election.</li> </ul>	<p>2,000 signatures or 1% of voters in the same party as candidate</p>	<p>3,000 signatures or 1.5% of voters</p>
<b>AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	<p>One At-Large member of the State Board of Education is elected to a four year term every four years. The State Board of Education is responsible for advising the State Superintendent of Education on educational matters, including: state standards; state policies, including those governing special, academic, vocational, charter and other schools; state objectives; and state regulations proposed by the Mayor or the State Superintendent of Education.</p>	<p>To hold the office of At-Large Member of the State Board of Education, an individual must (<a href="#">DC Official Code §38-2651(e)(1)</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia and in the school election ward from which they seeks election.</li> <li>• Reside in the school ward from which they seek nomination.</li> <li>• Have resided in the ward from which they are nominated for one year immediately preceding the election.</li> <li>• Not hold another elective office, other than delegate or alternate delegate to a convention of a political party nominating candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.</li> <li>• Not be an officer or employee of the District of Columbia government or of the Board.</li> </ul>		<p>1,000 signatures of duly registered voters</p>

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OFFICE	NOTES	QUALIFICATIONS	MINIMUM SIGNATURES NEEDED (PRIMARY ELECTION)	MINIMUM SIGNATURES NEEDED (GENERAL ELECTION)
<b>WARD MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>	One member of the State Board of Education is elected from each of the District's eight wards. Members of the State Board hold staggered four-year terms. The State Board of Education is responsible for advising the State Superintendent of Education on educational matters, including: state standards; state policies, including those governing special, academic, vocational, charter and other schools; state objectives; and state regulations proposed by the Mayor or the State Superintendent of Education.	<p>To hold the office of Ward Member of the State Board of Education, an individual must (<u>DC Official Code §38-2651(e)(1)</u>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia.</li> <li>• Reside in the school ward from which they seek nomination.</li> <li>• Have resided in the ward from which they are nominated for one year immediately preceding the election.</li> <li>• Not hold another elective office, other than delegate or alternate delegate to a convention of a political party nominating candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.</li> </ul> <p>Not be an officer or employee of the District of Columbia government or of the Board.</p>		200 signatures of duly registered voters in the same ward as the candidate
<b>ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONER</b>	Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners advise the District government on matters of public policy including decisions regarding planning, streets, recreation, social services programs, health, safety, and sanitation in their respective neighborhood commission areas.	<p>To hold the office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner from a Single Member District, an individual must (<u>DC Official Code § 1-309.05(a)(1)</u>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a registered qualified elector in the District of Columbia, residing in the Single-Member District from which they are elected.</li> <li>• Have resided in the Single Member District continuously for the 60-day period immediately preceding the day on which the nominating petition is filed.</li> <li>• Hold no other elected public office<sup>vii</sup>.</li> <li>• Have not been convicted of a felony committed while serving as a Commissioner.</li> </ul>		At least 25 signatures of duly registered voters who reside in the same Single Member District as the candidate.

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### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

<p><b>AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE CANDIDATE'S NOMINATING PETITION</b></p>	<p>Prior to picking up nominating petitions, all candidates are encouraged to verify that their voter registration is current. Nominating petition sheets can be obtained from the Board, in person, beginning 144 days before the election (<b>January 10, 2020 for the Primary Election and June 12, 2020 for the General Election</b>).</p> <p>Either the <u>candidate</u> or a <u>representative of the candidate</u> may pick up the petition; however, written authorization must be made by the candidate designating a representative to obtain petition sheets in the candidate's name. Authorization may be a letter or the candidate may complete an Authorization to Release Nominating Petition form.</p>	<p><b>A valid authorization letter must include the following information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The name of the candidate</b></li> <li>• <b>The title of the elective office which the candidate seeks</b></li> <li>• <b>The agent's name and phone number</b></li> <li>• <b>The candidate's name as it should appear on the nominating petition</b></li> <li>• <b>Information for the candidate listing publication to include: <u>Contact person, Address, Daytime phone number, Email address, Signature of the candidate, and the date.</u></b></li> </ul>
<p><b>DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY</b></p>	<p>An accompanying <b>Declaration of Candidacy</b>, signed and notarized, must be filed with the Board not later than the deadline for filing the nominating petition (March 4, 2020 for the Primary Election, and August 5, 2020 for the General Election).</p>	
<p><b>CANDIDATES AND PETITION SIGNERS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION</b></p>	<p>A potential candidate who is registered as affiliated with any of the major parties must seek the nomination of their party in the Primary Election. Signers of the nominating petition must be registered to vote in the same party as the candidate on the date of signing the petition. Winners of the respective party primaries will advance to the General Election ballot.</p>	
<p><b>THE PETITION CIRCULATOR</b></p>	<p>At the time of circulation, nominating petition circulators must be at least 18 years of age and either a District resident or registered as a non-resident petition circulator with the DCBOE. <u>Non-resident circulators must register in-person at the DCBOE office and present proof of residence.</u></p> <p><b>Acceptable forms of proof of residence include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A copy of a current and valid government-issued photo identification</b></li> <li>• <b>A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck</b></li> <li>• <b>A copy of a government-issued document</b></li> <li>• <b>A copy of any other official document, including leases or residential rental agreements, occupancy statements from homeless shelters, or tuition or housing bills from colleges or universities.</b></li> </ul>	<p>The circulator must complete, sign, and date the required affidavit on the back of each nominating petition sheet. The Board may reject any signatures that appear on a petition sheet with an incomplete affidavit. Any circulator who knowingly and willfully violates the law...shall upon conviction be subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. Each occurrence is a separate offense. (<u>DC Official Code § 1-1001.14</u>).</p>

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### NOTICES

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The 2020 Quick Reference is subject to change. Please visit the [News section](#) of our [website](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) for updates. Please be advised that the official elections calendars, as well as the laws and regulations of the District of Columbia supersede this guide. If you have questions or concerns, contact the [Voter Services Division](#) or [the Office of the General Counsel](#). If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation or review this document in an alternative format, please contact the Board's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at (202) 727-2524.

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<sup>i</sup> **Petition Challenge Period:** Nominating petitions will be posted in the Board's office for a 10-day challenge period during which any registered District voter may challenge the validity of any petition by a written statement signed by the challenger and filed with the Board. The statement must specify concisely the alleged defect(s) in the petition.

<sup>ii</sup> **Ballot lottery:** A public drawing will be held to determine the order of the candidates' names on the ballot. The lotteries for ballot positions are tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2020 for the Primary Election and September 11, 2020 for the General Election. Candidates who have qualified for ballot access will be notified by letter of the lottery date and given the opportunity to confirm the spelling of their name for the ballot.

<sup>iii</sup> **Write-in Candidacy:** In lieu of circulating nominating petitions to obtain ballot access, write-in candidacy is permitted during both the primary and general elections. If victory by a write-in candidate is apparent, the write-in candidate must complete an Affirmation of Write-In Candidacy form at the Board's office.

<sup>iv</sup> **Qualified Registered Elector:** The term "qualified registered elector" means a registered voter who resides at the address listed on the Board's records. [[DC Official Code § 1 – 1001.02\(21\)](#)]

<sup>v</sup> **Qualified Elector:** Qualified Elector means a citizen of the United States who is at least 17 years of age and who will be 18 years of age on or before the next general election; is a citizen of the United States; has maintained a residence in the District for at least 30 days preceding the next election and does not claim voting residence or the right to vote in any U.S. state or territory; is not incarcerated for a conviction of crime that is a felony in the District; and has not been found by a court of law to be legally incompetent to vote [[DC Official Code § 1-1001.02 \(2\)](#)].

<sup>vi</sup> **Public Office:** A person holding the office of Mayor, Delegate, Chairman or member of the Council, or member of the Board of Education shall, while holding such office, be eligible as a candidate for any other of such offices in any primary or general election. [[DC Official Code § 1-1001.15 \(b\)](#)]

<sup>vii</sup> **Elected Public Office:** The term "elected public office" means the Office of Mayor of the District of Columbia, Chairman or member of the Council of the District of Columbia, member of the District of Columbia Board of Education, and the Delegate to the House of Representatives. [[DC Official Code § 1-309.05\(2\)](#)]



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### BALLOT ACCESS TRAINING SCHEDULE

The Board's Voter Services Division staff conducts training sessions for candidates, proponents of ballot measures, and petition circulators. Please attend a training session for an overview of the Board's guidelines and policies for circulating nominating and ballot measure petitions. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

DATE	TIME
Tuesday, January 21, 2020	12:15pm
Tuesday, February 4, 2020	12:15pm
Tuesday, February 18, 2020	12:15pm
Tuesday, March 3, 2020	12:15pm
Tuesday, March 17, 2020	12:15pm

- Need help in your language? Call (202) 727-2525
- Amharic: በቋንቋዎት እርዳታ ማግኘት ይሻሉ? በስልክ ቁጥር (202) 727-2525 ይደውሉ።
- Chinese: 需要以您的语言帮助? 拨打 Call (202) 727-2525
- French: Avez-vous besoin d'aide dans votre langue ? Appelez le (202) 727-2525.
- Korean: 모국어로 도움이 필요하세요? (202) 727-2525 로 전화해주세요
- Vietnamese: Cần sự trợ giúp ngôn ngữ của bạn? Hãy gọi (202) 727-2525
- Spanish: ¿Necesita ayuda en su idioma? Llame al (202) 727-2525