



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON, DC



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2026

Contact: Sarah Winn Graham
202-235-4310 (cell)
sgraham@dcboe.org

DCBOE Receives Petition for Initiative Measure No. 86

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Monday, July 6, 2026, a petition for Initiative Measure No. 86, “Prohibiting Force-Feeding of Birds Act of 2026” was timely submitted to the District of Columbia Board of Elections (DCBOE).

DCBOE must now prepare an initial count of the submitted signatures. If the initial count indicates that the petition contains on its face the minimum number of signatures required citywide (the signatures of five (5) percent of the total number of registered voters in the District) and meets other preliminary requirements, DCBOE will accept the petition, begin its own 30-day verification process, and post the petition for a 10-day challenge period during which any registered DC voter may challenge the validity of signatures contained in the petition.

If a challenge period is required, it will begin on Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 8:15 am and end on Saturday, July 18, 2026 at 4:45 pm. During the challenge period, in addition to its normal weekday hours of 8:15 am to 4:45 pm, DCBOE will also be open on weekends (Saturday, July 11; Sunday, July 12; and Saturday, July 18, 2026) from 8:30 am to 4:45 pm.

For an in-depth explanation of the rules and regulations governing the initiative process, please consult [D.C. Official Code 1-1001.16](#) or [Chapter 10 of Title 3 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations](#).

The District of Columbia Board of Elections is an independent agency of the District of Columbia Government responsible for the administration of elections, ballot access, and voter registration.

##