



In response to this information, OGC launched an investigation into the 2024 D.C. GE ballot that was cast by someone other than the voter to whom it was issued. OGC was able to ascertain that the signature on the ballot return envelope was for Bedig Galladian and sent him notice of a pre-hearing conference in the matter. Mr. Galladian appeared at the pre-hearing conference and cooperated fully in OGC's investigation.

Following and pursuant to discussions during the pre-hearing conference, Mr. Galladian was sent a stipulated agreement in the matter that included as an exhibit the scan of the 2024 GE ballot return envelope that was issued to another voter but bore Mr. Galladian's signature. Mr. Galladian subsequently executed that agreement. By that stipulation, Mr. Galladian acknowledged that the signature on the signature line appearing above another person's pre-printed name on the D.C. 2024 GE ballot return envelope was his. Mr. Galladian agreed in the stipulation that he erroneously voted a D.C. 2024 GE ballot that was issued to another voter.<sup>2</sup> He admitted that he failed to exercise care and caution in completing and returning the ballot to the Board. Mr. Galladian further stipulated that he did not intend to vote a ballot issued to another voter.

Mr. Galladian was duly notified that his case would be presented to the Board on April 1, 2026. At that hearing, the General Counsel requested that the OGC assigned attorney place on the record the facts of the case. The OGC attorney reiterated the facts described above and stated that Mr. Galladian had unintentionally voted a ballot issued to another person. She noted that Mr. Galladian had not voted a ballot issued in his own name in the D.C. 2024 General Election. The attorney asked that the stipulation and supporting documents be accepted into the record and the

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<sup>2</sup> The General Counsel's investigation did not reveal any evidence that a D.C. 2024 General Election ballot that had been issued to Mr. Galladian had been voted. Accordingly, there is no evidence here of double voting in D.C.

Board Chair granted that request. By the stipulation, the General Counsel agreed to cap her recommendation of a fine at \$100.00.

With this presentation of case and the evidence, the General Counsel made a recommendation that the Board accept the stipulated resolution of the matter.<sup>3</sup> After hearing from the General Counsel, her staff, and Mr. Galladian, the Board Chair made a motion to adopt the stipulated resolution of the matter. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Discussion**

The election laws provide that it is a crime to “make any false representations as to the person’s qualifications for . . . voting” or to fraudulently cast a ballot.<sup>4</sup> The Board can, upon the General Counsel’s recommendation, initiate enforcement with respect to criminal matters by referral to the U.S. Department of Justice and/or to the Attorney General for the District of Columbia.<sup>5</sup> We may also impose civil fines of up to \$2,000 for each election law violation upon the recommendation of the General Counsel.<sup>6</sup> Our task, therefore, is to determine whether there is sufficient proof of an attempt to vote falsely or fraudulently in violation of the election laws and, if so, to determine the appropriate enforcement action.

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<sup>3</sup> In other words, the General Counsel recommended that a civil fine of \$100.00 would be imposed on Mr. Galladian for unintentionally voting another’s ballot.

<sup>4</sup> See D.C. Code § 1–1001.14(a) and § 1–1001.14(a-1)(1)(D), respectively. The penalty for violating either of those provisions is a fine up to a \$10,000 and/or a term of incarceration of up to 5 years. In addition, D.C. Official Code § 22-2405(b) criminalizes willfully making false statements to D.C. government entities. The penalty for that violation is a fine of up to \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than 180 days, or both.

<sup>5</sup> See D.C. Code § 1–1001.18(a)-(b). Civil penalties for voter fraud may be imposed in addition to criminal ones. See D.C. Code § 1–1001.14 (c) (“The provisions of this section shall be supplemental to, and not in derogation of, any penalties under other laws of the District of Columbia.”).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* (authorizing such civil penalty for a violation of “any provision” of the election laws). See also D.C. Code § 1–1001.05(a)(16) (authorizing the Board to “[p]erform such other duties as are imposed upon it by this subchapter”).

In this matter, the facts are undisputed. Mr. Galladian has admitted that, contrary to the qualifications for voting specified in the instructions provided with the ballot, he signed a name on the ballot return envelope signature line that was not the “[s]ignature of voter to whom this ballot was sent[.]” He has acknowledged facts showing that he cast a ballot issued to another party.

That said, Mr. Galladian has stipulated that his conduct was erroneous and that he did not intend to vote a ballot that was issued to another voter. Mr. Galladian’s claim is supported by the fact that he did not sign the name of the intended recipient of the ballot or otherwise attempt to forge the name of the voter. Instead, the ballot return envelope evidence shows a hand-written signature that is reasonably decipherable as a name that differs considerably from the type-printed voter name appearing immediately below it, a fact which reasonably suggests Mr. Galladian attempted to vote another’s ballot by mistake. Because Mr. Galladian did not vote in his own name in the D.C. 2024 GE, Mr. Galladian’s actions did not result in his casting more than one ballot. Thus, there is no evidence of anything nefarious here. Rather, the evidence is that, because Mr. Galladian did not exercise care and caution in voting the ballot, he unintentionally completed and returned to the Board another voter’s ballot.

Based on the record before us, we decline to find that Mr. Galladian had the level of intent required for a criminal conviction. That said, the General Counsel has recommended that a civil penalty be imposed. We concur that Mr. Galladian’s conduct should have consequences. Under the circumstances, we believe that a fine of \$100.00 is appropriate.

### **Conclusion**

For the reasons indicated above, it is hereby:

**ORDERED** that the recommendation of the General Counsel is **ACCEPTED**, and that Mr. Galladian is directed to pay a civil fine of \$100 by no later than May 31, 2026.<sup>7</sup>

The Board issues this written order today, which is consistent with its oral ruling rendered on April 1, 2026.

Date: April 2, 2026



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Gary Thompson  
Chairman  
Board of Elections

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<sup>7</sup> Payment must be made by check or money order made out to the “D.C. Treasurer.” It may be mailed to the attention of the General Counsel at the Board’s offices (1015 Half Street, Suite 750, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003) or hand delivered at that address.