

1 GOVERNMENT
2 OF
3 THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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5 BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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7 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

8 + + + + +

9 FRIDAY

10 MAY 16, 2025

11 + + + + +

12 The District of Columbia Board of
13 Elections convened a Special Board Meeting via
14 Video Teleconference, pursuant to notice at 9:30
15 a.m. EDT, Gary Thompson, Chair, presiding.

16 BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

17 GARY THOMPSON, Chair
18 KARYN GREENFIELD, Member

19 BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

20 TERRI STROUD, General Counsel
21 MARISSA CORRENTE, Registrar of Voters
22 JORGE QUINTANA, Attorney Advisor

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (9:36 a.m.)

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. We are
4 recording. We have a court reporter. Good
5 morning. My name is Gary Thompson, the Chair of
6 the D.C. Board of Elections and with me is Karyn
7 Greenfield, my fellow Board member. We have a
8 quorum. We distributed an agenda and I would
9 move we adopt that agenda.

10 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

11 CHAIR THOMPSON: All in favor.

12 (Chorus of aye.)

13 CHAIR THOMPSON: And with that, I'll
14 turn things over to General Counsel, Terri
15 Stroud.

16 MS. STROUD: Okay, we have one item
17 on our agenda for this Special Board Meeting
18 which is a challenge to the nominating petition
19 submitted by Doc Adams. The challenge was filed
20 by Brian Strege and the office that issued is the
21 office to fill the vacancy in the Office of Ward
22 8 Member of the Council for the July 15, 2025,

1 special election.

2 We will have the parties state their
3 names and addresses for the record. I believe I
4 see Mr. Strege. I hope I'm pronouncing your name
5 right, but I probably am not. But if you could
6 state your name and address for the record.

7 MR. STREGE: Yes, sure. Can you hear
8 me? Have I been unmuted?

9 MS. STROUD: Yes.

10 MR. STREGE: My name is Brian Strege
11 and my address is 880 New Jersey Avenue SE, Unit
12 228, Washington, D.C. 20003. That is in Ward 8.

13 MS. STROUD: Thank you. And we will
14 have the representatives from the Board of
15 Elections state their names and work addresses
16 for the record.

17 It appears that candidate Doc Adams
18 is not present, but Section 403.4 of Title 3 of
19 the D.C. Municipal Regulations permits the Board
20 to proceed ex parte in the event that a party is
21 not present. And we have contacted Candidate
22 Adams to see if he was available to appear and

1 I'm going to have the member from the Office of
2 General Counsel state for the record the means by
3 which the candidate was provided notice of the
4 meeting, including reading into the record any
5 documents that were sent to inform him of today's
6 proceeding.

7 MR. QUINTANA: Council members of the
8 Board, the candidate and the challenger both
9 received email notifications of the pre-hearing
10 conference. The candidate was present at the
11 pre-hearing conference. We had exchanged emails
12 at the pre-hearing conference on the 13th earlier
13 this week. Both parties were informed of the
14 date and time of this hearing, that it would be
15 today at 9:30 and then on the 14th, both of them,
16 both parties were emailed the actual notice that
17 we publish on our website, along the body of the
18 email and informed them of the date and time, as
19 well as the copied-and-pasted Zoom login
20 information. I have not heard from the candidate
21 since.

22 MS. STROUD: Okay, so what I would

1 like to do at this time is have the Board move to
2 proceed ex parte by a roll call vote. So if we
3 could entertain a motion to proceed ex parte.

4 CHAIR THOMPSON: Chair, so moves.

5 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Second.

6 MS. STROUD: Okay, Chairman Thompson?

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

8 MS. STROUD: Member Greenfield?

9 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

10 MS. STROUD: Okay, with that, the
11 Board has moved to proceed ex parte by a roll
12 call vote. So we'll have the member of the Board
13 staff, beginning with the Registrar of Voters and
14 the member from the Office of the General Counsel
15 identify their names and their work addresses for
16 the record.

17 MS. CORRENTE: Certainly, good
18 morning. Thank you. My name is Marissa
19 Corrente. I'm the Registrar of Voters here at
20 the D.C. Board of Elections and the address here
21 is 1015 Half Street SE. We're in Suite 750.

22 MR. QUINTANA: And my name is Jorge

1 Quintana. I'm an attorney advisor for the Board
2 of Elections at that same address, 1015 Half
3 Street.

4 MS. STROUD: Okay. So what we're
5 going to do is we're going to have the Registrar
6 of Voters read the summary of her report
7 regarding the challenge into the record and then
8 the parties will have the opportunity to respond.
9 And so with that, we'll hear from the Registrar
10 of Voters.

11 MS. CORRENTE: Thank you. So this
12 memo was sent to all parties on May 9th, 2025.
13 The subject is challenge to the petition of Doc
14 Adams, candidate for Ward 8 member of the D.C.
15 Council. On April 17th, 2025, Doc Adams
16 submitted a nominating petition to appear on the
17 ballot as a candidate in the July 15th, 2025
18 Special Election for the Office of Ward 8 member
19 of the D.C. Council. The minimum requirement to
20 obtain ballot access for this office is 500
21 signatures. The petition contains 705
22 signatures.

1 The petition was posted for public
2 inspection for ten days as required by law. The
3 petition was challenged on April 28th, 2025, by
4 Brian Strege, a registered voter in the District
5 of Columbia. Challenger Stege filed challenges
6 to 439 of the 705 signatures submitted and
7 enumerated by line and page number on individual
8 challenge sheets for each petition page.

9 The signatures are challenged
10 pursuant to the Board's regulations in Title 3,
11 Chapter 16 of the DCMR on the following grounds:
12 The signer, according to the Board's record is
13 not registered to vote at the address listed on
14 the petition at the time the petition was signed;
15 the signature is a duplicate of a valid
16 signature; the petition does not include the
17 address of the signer; the petition does not
18 include the name of the signer and the signature
19 is not sufficiently legible for identification;
20 the signature is not made by the person whose
21 signature it purports to be; and the signer is
22 not a registered voter in the ward from which a

1 candidate seeks nomination at the time the
2 petition was signed.

3 Additionally, the challenger also
4 highlighted blank signature lines throughout the
5 petition on the challenge sheet. My review of
6 the challenges indicates that 422 of the 439
7 challenges are valid, 122 are valid because the
8 signer is not registered to vote, 162 are valid
9 because the signer is not registered to vote at
10 the address listed on the petition at the time
11 the petition was signed, 58 are valid because the
12 signer's voter registration was designated as
13 inactive on the voter roll at the time the
14 petition was signed, one is valid because the
15 signature is a duplicate of a valid signature,
16 four are valid because the signature does not
17 include the address of the signer, 44 are valid
18 because neither the name of the signer nor the
19 signature are sufficiently legible for
20 identification, and 31 are valid because the
21 signer is not a registered voter in the
22 jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks

1 nomination at the time the petition was signed.
2 This leaves the candidate's nominating petition
3 with 283 signatures, 217 signatures below the
4 required number for valid access.

5 And next, we'll have the
6 representative from the Office of the General
7 Counsel discuss what happened at the pre-hearing
8 conference that was held in this matter.

9 MR. STREGE: I can't hear Jorge.

10 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Can't hear him.

11 MR. QUINTANA: Gotcha. At the
12 pre-hearing conference, both parties appeared at
13 the correct time. The Assistant Registrar
14 Millicent Green-Wright read the Registrar's
15 Report. The challenger agreed with the findings.
16 The candidate objected to the findings. He argued
17 that the National Voting Rights Act -- and he
18 just kept repeating 42 U.S.C. 1973gg, put the
19 burden on the Board of Elections to correct the
20 addresses of the signers of his petition. He
21 argued that we should have given them notice and
22 that they should have had until 21 days before

1 the election to correct their signatures. That
2 was the main point of his argument.

3 He was informed at the time that even
4 if we gave him credit for all 162 of those
5 signatures, that is everyone whose address was
6 registered at a different address in the same
7 jurisdiction, it would only bring him up to 445
8 signatures, still leaving him 55 short of the
9 required 500. Nonetheless, he wanted to proceed
10 to a Board hearing.

11 MS. STROUD: Thank you. So it
12 appears based on the Registrar's finding that the
13 candidate is below the minimum number of
14 signatures required for ballot access by 217
15 signatures. At this time, we'll hear from the
16 challenger.

17 MR. STREGE: I have nothing to add to
18 the Registrar's Report. And yeah, that's also
19 pretty much what happened at the pre-hearing, so
20 I have nothing to add.

21 MS. STROUD: Thank you. We have
22 another individual that has logged into the

1 meeting and I just want to determine whether or
2 not the individual is Doc Adams. Oh, that's not.
3 Okay. Okay, so based upon the report of the
4 Registrar of Voters and there being no basis upon
5 which to find that the petition has the minimum
6 number required for ballot access, it would be
7 the recommendation of the Office of General
8 Counsel that the challenge be upheld and that the
9 candidate be denied ballot access. And so at
10 this time, if the Board has a motion regarding
11 whether or not -- or if you have any questions
12 for parties, we can discuss at this time.

13 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, the Chair so
14 moves to uphold the challenge and deny the
15 candidate ballot access.

16 MS. STROUD: Okay.

17 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

18 MS. STROUD: Okay, so we'll take a
19 roll call vote.

20 Mr. Chair?

21 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

22 MS. STROUD: Member Greenfield?

1 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

2 MS. STROUD: And with that, the Board
3 moves to uphold the challenge filed by Brian
4 Strege to the nominating petition submitted by
5 Doc Adams in support of his candidacy to fill the
6 vacancy in the Office of Ward 8 member of the
7 Council in the July 15, 2025, election. That
8 means that the candidate, Doc Adams, will not
9 appear on the ballot in the election at issue.
10 And with that, we have nothing further before the
11 Board.

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, well, thank
13 you so much, everybody. And I hope everybody has
14 a great day and with that, I move that we
15 adjourn.

16 MS. STROUD: I'm sorry. Thank you.
17 A written order will follow and the challenge --
18 or the candidate will have three days from today
19 to appeal the Board's decision to the D.C. Court
20 of Appeals. So the deadline for that would be
21 Monday, May 19th is the day by which the
22 candidate would have to seek appeal -- review of

1 the Board's decision in the D.C. Court of Appeals
2 because the decision was announced today. Okay,
3 thank you.

4 CHAIR THOMPSON: And with that, I
5 move to adjourn.

6 MEMBER GREENFIELD: And I second.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: All in favor?

8 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

9 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

10 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay. Have a
11 good day.

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14 went off the record at 9:48 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this matter was taken; and further that I am not a relative nor an employee of any of the parties nor counsel employed by the parties, and I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Cristina Allegra Chilstrom

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