

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

MAY 7, 2025

+ + + + +

The District of Columbia Board of Elections convened via Video/Teleconference, pursuant to notice at 10:30 a.m. EDT, Gary Thompson, Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY THOMPSON, Chair
KARYN GREENFIELD, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

MONICA HOLMAN EVANS, Director
TERRI STROUD, General Counsel
MARISSA CORRENTE, Registrar of Voters
WILLIAM SANFORD, General Counsel, Office of
Campaign Finance

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

2 (10:30 a.m.)

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. I think
4 we're ready to start. I think we're connected with
5 everybody.

6 Good morning. I'm Gary Thompson, chair
7 of the DC Board of Elections.

8 Are we recording? I'll just --

9 AUTOMATED: Recording in progress.

10 MS. HOLMAN EVANS: Okay.

11 (Laughter.)

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: And Monica and Terri, you
13 can hear me okay?

14 MS. HOLMAN EVANS: Yeah. Okay.

15 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Good.

16 And good morning to everybody else who's
17 attending our meeting. I'm Gary Thompson, chair
18 of the DC Board of Elections. And with us today,
19 also by Zoom, is my fellow board member, Karyn
20 Greenfield.

21 We have a quorum. We have both looked at
22 the agenda in advance, and at this time I'd move

1 we adopt that agenda.

2 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor, say
4 aye.

5 (Chorus of aye.)

6 CHAIR THOMPSON: And also, we've looked
7 at the minutes from our last meeting, and at this
8 time I'd move we adopt those minutes.

9 MEMBER GREENFIELD: And I second.

10 CHAIR THOMPSON: All in favor?

11 (Chorus of aye.)

12 (Laughter.)

13 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Well, that was
14 simple. Hope everybody is doing well today. It's
15 a nice day. And we will proceed now with our
16 Executive Director's Report from Monica Evans.

17 MS. HOLMAN EVANS: Good morning, and thank
18 you. This is the Executive Director's Report for
19 April 2025.

20 On Tuesday, April 22nd, I attended a town
21 hall at Temple of Praise in Ward 8. The town hall
22 was coordinated by Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie.

1 I shared information about the Ward 8 special
2 election and about legislation that will affect the
3 residents of the District of Columbia.

4 On April 30, I participated in a webinar
5 conducted by the Center for Innovation and Research.

6 The webinar provided updates regarding
7 implications for election officials around the
8 passage of the SAVE Act in the House of
9 Representatives and updates from the Election
10 Assistance Commission. We are also planning for
11 the Ward 8 special election to be held on July 15.

12 On April 30, the mayor signed the funding
13 authorization to conduct this election.

14 Voter registration rolls. In April, we
15 registered 1,716 new voters and processed 7,495
16 registration changes. In total, we prepared 9,211
17 voter registration cards to be mailed.
18 Additionally, 126 registered voters moved out of
19 DC, 218 voters cancelled their DC registrations and
20 registered with other jurisdictions, and 691 voters
21 registered in DC after cancelling their
22 registrations in other states.

1 Online voter registration. We are
2 continuing to register voters using our website
3 portal. To date, we have processed over 97,405
4 applications using the portal. These include new
5 voter registrations and updates to existing
6 registrations. Total non-citizen registration is
7 1,013. Since the election, we have seen a
8 noticeable decline in the number of non-citizens
9 registering to vote. However, we are continuing
10 our outreach in DC communities to share information.

11 Restore the Vote or RTV. The Restore the
12 Vote division has completed the joint Corrections
13 Information Council Board Of Elections report on
14 the 2024 election cycle, and the report is now
15 available on our website. Since our last meeting,
16 the RTV division has performed several outreach
17 events with our government and community partners,
18 to include MORCA, CSOSA, the Department of
19 Corrections, and Federal Bureau of Prisons.

20 It's worth mentioning the events with
21 MORCA and the DOC were part of Second Chance Month
22 events. They also performed in-person outreach at

1 the Arlington Detention Facility alongside the
2 Spread the Vote Arlington chapter, one of our
3 Virginia partners.

4 Lastly, the Restore the Vote division is
5 working with the Department of Corrections and
6 Bureau of Prisons to notify incarcerated Ward 8
7 residents of the upcoming Ward 8 special election.

8 For 2025 next steps and off-year election
9 planning, we have received estimates to address our
10 needs to replace voting equipment that has reached
11 end of its life cycle, and we will address funding
12 during our budget oversight hearing once it is
13 scheduled. As we continue planning for the 2026
14 election cycle, we are taking steps to fully
15 implement new legislation. We are currently
16 reviewing the requirements of the Automatic Voter
17 Registration Expansion Act, and we are also
18 monitoring pending legislation and information on
19 the federal level.

20 List maintenance. List maintenance is an
21 ongoing process. Our data team continues to focus
22 on keeping voter registration records accurate and

1 up to date by conducting essential tasks, such as
2 identifying registrants who have moved, whether in
3 state of our state; verifying to deceased
4 individuals; addressing duplicate records; and
5 identifying ineligible voters and inactive voters.

6 As part of our voter registration list
7 maintenance efforts, we are conducting the biannual
8 mail canvass to verify the residential addresses
9 of voters who were eligible but did not participate
10 in the 2024 general presidential election. This
11 process includes sending a first class
12 non-forwardable canvass mailer to the address on
13 record. This initiative will help maintain the
14 integrity of the voter roll by identifying outdated
15 or inaccurate address information. To initiate
16 this process, 153,404 first class non-forwardable
17 canvass mailers were sent to voters' recorded
18 address. As a result, we have received 27,854
19 returned mailers through the postal service.

20 The second forwardable mailer will now be
21 sent to 22,003 voters. An additional 18,883 voter
22 records will be made inactive as a result of the

1 canvass. We have deferred an activation on 3,121
2 records for voters who reside in Ward 8. Due to
3 the upcoming Ward 8 special election, these voters
4 will remain active until the special election
5 concludes.

6 Technology and cybersecurity. Our
7 migration to a dot gov domain continues. We are
8 continuing to work with OCTO to facilitate the
9 process and clarify the timeline. Our teams are
10 discussing the technical requirements and ensuring
11 that all necessary infrastructure and security
12 measures are in place for a successful migration.

13 BOE contacts are also being added to the .gov DNS
14 portal to support the next phase of migration.

15 Voter education and outreach. During the
16 month of April, the Voter Education and Outreach
17 division participated in 20 events on behalf of the
18 agency. The outreach events included a Welcome
19 Home Expo for Returning Citizens at the Stadium
20 Armory, the Smart from the Start program at Knox
21 Hill, Buena Vista Terrace, and a voter registration
22 drive at Potomac Job Corps.

1 Election Worker division. In preparation
2 for the Ward 8 special election, the Election Worker
3 division has updated its standard operating
4 procedures for the various election worker
5 positions. Additionally, the division has
6 confirmed site coordinator availability for the
7 special election, updated the allocation lists, and
8 assessed the supply inventory. The Election Worker
9 division is also working with the IT division to
10 test Poll Pad conditions to ensure the special
11 election is properly programmed for Ward 8.

12 ANC vacancies. We currently have 16
13 active ANC vacancies for the 2025-2026 term. These
14 positions are in different stages of being filled.

15 After candidate filing requirements are met, an
16 open vote of registered voters of the affected SMD
17 will be held during regularly scheduled ANC
18 meetings.

19 Ward 8 special election. The candidate
20 filing period for the Ward 8 special election closed
21 on Thursday, April 17, at 5:00 p.m. The ten-day
22 challenge period began on Sunday, April 20, and

1 closed on Tuesday, April 29, at 5:00 p.m. There
2 are currently seven candidates. The ballot is
3 tentatively -- the ballot lottery, rather -- is
4 tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 23rd, at 9:00
5 a.m. The lottery will be accessible to candidates
6 and members of the public via Zoom.

7 Planning meetings with our vendors for the
8 special election are currently in progress. We are
9 steadily moving forward and working closely with
10 all parties to ensure a smooth and successful
11 election. Individuals may visit the DC BOE website
12 for more information regarding the election,
13 current candidates, and pertinent dates.

14 And that concludes my report. Thank you.

15 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you
16 very much.

17 Moving on to the General Counsel's Report
18 from Terri Stroud.

19 MS. STROUD: Good morning. The only item
20 on my agenda is litigation status. The first matter
21 is Stacia Hall v. the Board in the U.S. Court of
22 Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. This is an appeal

1 from the U.S. District Court's denial of a challenge
2 to legislation allowing non-citizens to vote in
3 local elections. The Court heard oral argument on
4 March 11, and this case is pending disposition.

5 The second matter is Charles Wilson v.
6 Muriel Bowser, the Board, et cetera, et al. That's
7 in the D.C. Superior Court. This is the remand from
8 the D.C. Court of Appeals of a challenge to the
9 Board's finding that Initiative Measure Number 83
10 met proper subject requirements and its formulation
11 of the measure.

12 On April 8th, the Board filed a motion to
13 dismiss the complaint. On April 18, new additional
14 counsel for the plaintiff filed an entry of
15 appearance and request extension of the time to file
16 an opposition to the Board's motion to dismiss until
17 May 23rd. On April 21st, the Court granted the
18 plaintiff's motion, set June 23rd, 2025, as the date
19 for the Board to reply to the opposition, and
20 scheduled a status hearing for August 15th, 2025.

21 On April 22nd, the proposer of the measure moved
22 to intervene and lodged a motion to dismiss.

1 The next matter is Long v. the Board of
2 Elections. This is in D.C. Superior Court, where
3 it was placed back from the U.S. District Court for
4 D.C. Mr. Long resubmitted in the D.C. Superior
5 Court a case that had previously been dismissed
6 without prejudice. He seeks \$10,000 in damages for
7 an overdraft fee caused by a stop payment on a \$500
8 check issued for his service as an election worker.

9 There has been no activity in this case since the
10 Board's last meeting.

11 This matter is Deirdre Brown v. the Board.
12 This is in the D.C. Court of Appeals. This matter
13 involves the petitioner's request for review of the
14 Board's certification of Initiative Measure Number
15 83. The Court heard oral argument on April 24th,
16 and the case is pending disposition.

17 The next matter is Sobin v. the Board.
18 This is in the U.S. District Court for D.C. Mr.
19 Sobin submitted a complaint to the District Court
20 in which he alleged that the Board's petition
21 circulation process requiring candidates to gather
22 signatures violates the Americans with Disabilities

1 Act and that an Advisory Neighborhood Commission
2 election to be held in his single-member district
3 is illegal. There have been no updates since the
4 Board's last meeting with respect to this matter.

5 The final matter is Muhammad v. the Board.

6 This is in the D.C. Court of Appeals. On April
7 4th, Sherice Muhammad filed a petition for review
8 of a Board enforcement order imposing \$150 in fines
9 because she failed to personally witness signatures
10 on her nominating petition. She also requested
11 that the Court stay the fine, and she offered an
12 affidavit from her counsel.

13 On April 23rd, the Court denied Ms.
14 Muhammad's request for a stay. On April 28th, the
15 Board filed the agency record, a motion for summary
16 affirmance of the Board's enforcement order, and
17 a request to strike the affidavit of counsel.

18 And that concludes the litigation status
19 report.

20 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you
21 very much.

22 Office of Campaign Finance from Director

1 Collier-Montgomery or General Counsel Bill Sanford.
2 Hello. Welcome.

3 MR. SANFORD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
4 and Distinguished Board Member Greenfield.
5 Appearing on behalf of the Director Cecily
6 Collier-Montgomery.

7 During the month of April, the Office of
8 Campaign Finance participated in several community
9 outreach events across the district. On April 8th,
10 2025, the office presented at the Advisory
11 Neighborhood Commission single-member district to
12 2C01's monthly meeting. On April 10th, the office
13 participated in a community outreach event at the
14 Paul Lawrence Dunbar Apartment Community Center
15 located in the Cardozo Shore neighborhood.

16 On April 23rd, the Office of Campaign
17 Finance kicked off its partnership with the DC
18 Public Library and held its first -- excuse me --
19 information session at the Southwest Library branch
20 in the Southwest Waterfront neighborhood. And on
21 April 24th, the Office of Campaign Finance
22 participated in the Golden Rule Plaza Group

1 education session located in the Bloomingdale
2 neighborhood.

3 In the Fair Elections Division, the 2025
4 special election for Ward 8 City Council, as of
5 today's date, there are three certified
6 participating candidates in the Fair Election
7 Program, and the Office of Campaign Finance has
8 authorized the disbursements in the total sum of
9 \$230,001.65 from the Fair Election Fund in base
10 amount and matching payments. The candidates will
11 receive disbursements during the month of April
12 2025.

13 Mike for Ward 8 Principal Campaign
14 Committee, matching payment in the amount of
15 \$32,695.00 and a base payment amount of \$20,000.00,
16 which were authorized on April 28th, 2025. Sheila
17 Bunn for Ward 8 Principal Campaign Committee,
18 matching payment in the amount of \$26,500.00 was
19 authorized for disbursement on the 21st of April.

20 And Friends of Salim Adofo 2025 Committee, matching
21 payment in the amount of \$24,000.00 disbursement
22 on April 25th, 2025. Excuse me.

1 During the month of April, the Fair
2 Elections Division completed 31 desk reviews and
3 issued seven requests for additional information
4 letters. As of April 2025, the total sum of
5 \$871,729.33 has been remitted for deposit in the
6 Fair Elections Fund.

7 As of April 2025, there remain four
8 post-election audits in process for the November
9 3rd, 2020, general election. And there were five
10 final audits issued during the month of April for
11 the November 2022 election cycle and three
12 statements of findings were issued during the month
13 of April.

14 In the Public Information and Records
15 Management Division, under the Constituent Services
16 Program, there were eight required filers, six
17 timely filed, one extension was granted, and one
18 matter was referred to the Office of the General
19 Counsel.

20 In the Senators and Representatives
21 Statehood Funds Section, there were four required
22 filers, and all four timely filed. For the second

1 required filing date of April 10th, 48 political
2 action committees were required to file on April
3 10th. Thirty-eight timely filed, and two were
4 referred to the Office of the General Counsel.

5 Eleven independent expenditure committees
6 were required to file. Ten timely filed, and one
7 extension was granted. Seven Fair Elections
8 candidates were required to file reports on the
9 April 10th filing date. Five timely filed, one
10 extension was granted, and one was referred to the
11 Office of the General Counsel.

12 During the month of April, six candidates
13 registered for the Ward 8 special election. The
14 candidates were Anthony DeVaughn, registered on the
15 2nd of April; Kenneth Diggs, registered on the 8th
16 of April; Trayon White, registered on the 9th of
17 April; Tonya Hawkins, registered on the 14th of
18 April; Eric Cleckley, registered on the 15th of
19 April; and Delonte Singh, registered on the 24th
20 of April.

21 During the month of April, two initiative
22 committees registered. They are Lock the Clock DC

1 - DC Time Stability Act, Daniel John Bernier,
2 treasurer, registered on the 1st of April; and Homes
3 Not Stadiums, Adam Eidinger, treasurer, registered
4 on the 15th of April.

5 The following candidates and treasurers
6 have completed their interest conferences, which
7 is required for April, which required for the
8 special election: Jauhar Abraham, candidate,
9 Abraham for Ward 8; Antoniese Ruffin, treasurer,
10 Abraham for Ward 8; Michael Austin, candidate, Mike
11 for Ward 8; Michael Austin, treasurer, Mike for Ward
12 8; Lauren Gordon, treasurer, Trayon White 2025;
13 Valencia Bond, treasurer, Tonya Hawkins for Ward
14 8.

15 In the Reports Analysis and Audit
16 Division, during the month of April, 69 desk reviews
17 were conducted. They included 36 political action
18 committees, 9 constituent services funds, 4
19 senators and representatives committees, 1
20 principal campaign committee, 15 independent
21 expenditure committees, 4 additional initiative
22 referendum and recall committees. And in addition,

1 10 audit letters were issued requesting additional
2 information, 12 cases were resolved, and 2 matters
3 were referred to the Office of the General Counsel.

4 With regard to ongoing audits, one Fair
5 Elections post-election audit is ongoing. A
6 preliminary audit report was issued on April 18th,
7 2025, and the subject of that audit is the Committee
8 to Elect Eboni-Rose Thompson.

9 In the traditional program, the Re-Elect
10 Trayon White 2024 Principal Campaign Committee
11 preliminary draft audit report was issued on April
12 18th, 2025. Jacque Patterson for DC audit
13 fieldwork was completed. And finally, the
14 Eboni-Rose for State Board of Education Ward 7
15 preliminary draft audit report was issued on April
16 18th, 2025.

17 In the General Counsel Division, during
18 the month of April 2025, the Office of the General
19 Counsel received 5 referrals, completed 20 informal
20 hearings, and issued 20 orders, which included the
21 following. Eleven orders were issued in which no
22 fines were imposed. Six orders were issued in which

1 the notices of hearings were vacated. Three orders
2 were issued in which a total of \$8,000 in fines were
3 imposed.

4 During the month of April 2025, the Office
5 of Campaign Finance imposed fines against the
6 following respondents. A fine of \$4,000 was
7 imposed against Trina Equino for DC Council. A fine
8 of \$2,000 was imposed against Markus for DC. An
9 additional fine of \$2,000 was imposed against Markus
10 for DC. During the month of April 2025, the Office
11 of Campaign Finance received one payment of \$100
12 for a fine that was submitted by Nate Fleming for
13 Ward 5 Principal Campaign Committee.

14 During the month of April 2025, there were
15 no open investigations, no requests for
16 interpretative opinions, and no show cause
17 proceedings were conducted.

18 The contents of the Director's Report and
19 the General Counsel Report in their entirety will
20 be published at the Office of Campaign Finance
21 website under the Data and Reports section by close
22 of business today on today's date, 7th of May, 2025.

1 And that should conclude my report.

2 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you
3 very much.

4 We've got some time for public comment.

5 We always like to hear from members of the DC
6 public. We ask you to limit your comment to three
7 minutes, and all you got to do is raise your Zoom
8 hand. And we'll give everybody a minute or so to
9 get the technology.

10 All right. I see we promoted dcwat. You
11 could state your name and your address and please
12 give us your comment.

13 MS. BRIZILL: This is Dorothy Brizill with
14 DCWatch. I would like to ask a couple of questions
15 that have to do with the administrative order that
16 was issued following last month's meeting, and it
17 has to do with Administrative Order 25-010 and the
18 stipulation that is attached.

19 My first question or concern has to do with
20 the fact that the stipulation that is attached to
21 the administrative order has no signatures. Is it
22 possible for the order to be amended and that a

1 stipulation be posted with signatures attached to
2 it? And why aren't there any signatures on the
3 stipulation as we speak?

4 My second question has to do with who
5 drafted the stipulation, and was the stipulation
6 available for review at the pre-hearing that all
7 parties attended along with the Office of General
8 Counsel?

9 And my third question has to do with the
10 fact that the stipulation seems to differ in many
11 respects from the administrative order. Why wasn't
12 a single copy of the stipulation signed and posted
13 on the website? Why are there two separate -- for
14 all the four parties to the order, why are there
15 separate signature pages for them? And did the
16 signers of the stipulation, in fact, see the
17 stipulated agreement before they were asked to sign
18 it?

19 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Ms. Brizill,
20 thank you so much for your comment. And I'll defer
21 to General Counsel Stroud to address your points.

22 MS. STROUD: Yes, they were all signed.

1 They signed from separate locations, and we advised
2 that they could submit their signatures. They all
3 saw it, of course. Everybody that signed the
4 stipulation saw it in advance of signing. And for
5 the record, nobody complained about the -- none of
6 the signers, none of the parties to this agreement
7 complained about the order, if there is a concern
8 there.

9 And if she could repeat her questions.
10 You know, whatever I didn't answer, what were they?

11 The Office of the General Counsel drafted
12 the stipulation with input from the counsel for the
13 parties that signed. Yeah. There's no
14 inconsistency between the administrative order.
15 Though they differ, there's no inconsistency
16 between the administrative order and the stipulated
17 agreement.

18 And the signatures were redacted as PII.

19 MS. BRIZILL: I don't understand that last
20 statement. The signatures were redacted?

21 MS. STROUD: Yes, because they're PII.

22 MS. BRIZILL: I don't understand what PII

1 is.

2 MS. STROUD: Personally identifiable
3 information. And I think we responded all of your
4 questions, Mr. Chair.

5 MS. BRIZILL: Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thanks.

7 MS. BRIZILL: Can she post a single
8 document with the administrative order that
9 contains the signatures of all the individuals, at
10 least the date, because I am being told that at least
11 one individual, one of the four individuals who is
12 supposed to have signed the stipulated agreement,
13 says that he did not approve the terms in the
14 stipulated agreement and is denying signing the
15 agreement.

16 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thanks for
17 your comment, and we can move on to -- looks like
18 we got a hand raised from Commissioner Robbie
19 Woodland. I assume that's ANC Commissioner.

20 MS. WOODLAND: Yes it is. Hi. Thank
21 you. Good morning. How are you?

22 CHAIR THOMPSON: Good morning, and thank

1 you for your services. An eight-year ANC
2 commissioner myself. Thank you for what you do.

3 MS. WOODLAND: Thank you, sir. I am
4 commenting today to pretty much just express my
5 disappointment with a recent experience that I had
6 with Board of Elections, sir. And I'm not sure if
7 you are aware of this situation, but I surrendered
8 petitions for Trayon White to challenge him being
9 on the ballot, and we would have successfully
10 knocked him off the ballot with 430 valid
11 signatures.

12 One of your employees, Maisha Thompson,
13 took my petitions without going through protocol,
14 did not go through the petitioners with me, took
15 them in the back, and then stated that 22 pages of
16 our petitions were missing, sir. And I'm just
17 extremely disappointed. My team and I, we worked
18 really hard on completing this challenge, and now
19 I have to go through other measures to have this
20 matter looked at within the District of Columbia
21 courts now.

22 I'm going to be meeting with the US

1 Attorney, not the OIG, in regards to prosecution,
2 especially with the amount of forgeries. And I just
3 wanted to know, sir, is there a way that I can ask
4 that Trayon White is not allowed ballot access while
5 this investigation is going to completed by the OIG
6 and the US Attorney. Thank you.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioner.
8 Appreciate the comment. I have seen your email
9 and some information about this, and I want you know
10 that it's something we've taken very seriously.
11 It's something we've looked into. It's something
12 we'll continue to look into, because we want to be
13 sure if a proper challenge was presented, and if
14 so, there are additional processes before we would
15 ever take the measure of denying ballot access.

16 But I guess I'll defer to General Counsel
17 Stroud to address this.

18 MS. STROUD: Well, Ms. Woodland has
19 indicated that she filed a sufficient challenge that
20 would have knocked Trayon White off of the ballot
21 such that he would have 430 signatures. We did not
22 receive, based on all the evidence that we have,

1 sufficient pages or challenges to knock Candidate
2 White off of the ballot.

3 We have asked Ms. Woodland to supply the
4 information that she says -- because she says she
5 has copies of it -- we've asked her to provide that.

6 She said that she would not on the advice of
7 counsel. She submitted one sheet, which I believe
8 challenged seven signatures, which, of course,
9 would not have been sufficient. And if it is the
10 Board's pleasure, we could have the registrar
11 provide information as to her findings with respect
12 to what was submitted and the impact of what was
13 submitted on the nominating petition.

14 We simply do not have the sheets that she
15 is referring to. We have asked to provide the
16 copies that she says that she has. She has not done
17 so, again, indicating that she was advised not to.

18 She said that she did have them and that she was
19 going to provide them to the counsel, but I advised
20 Ms. Woodland that because we do not have a properly
21 filed challenge, the Board lacked the authority to
22 adjudicate what was submitted because it was an

1 insufficient challenge.

2 And so that is where it stands. She has
3 been informed that the Board does not have the
4 authority to adjudicate this challenge because a
5 proper one wasn't filed. And despite repeated
6 requests to provide copies of what she says that
7 she submitted, she has not done so.

8 So I am at a loss as to what the Board could
9 be expected to do. We've also provided her with
10 information on how to properly file a complaint with
11 respect to the issues with the signature that she's
12 alleging indicated there was fraud in the petition.

13 She has not done that.

14 So we are at standstill. We are at an
15 impasse in terms of what the Board and/or Board staff
16 can do with respect to this matter. We've responded
17 to every request that she's made, even requests for
18 information about what happened, and she has not
19 been satisfied with the responses. And despite our
20 responses to her requests, you know, she's asking
21 the same questions repeatedly.

22 We've advised her how to get the

1 information that she wants. That's not
2 satisfactory. And so I told her in the last
3 correspondence that I sent to her directly that we
4 are waiting for her next step so that we can figure
5 out how to proceed. But that is where we are.

6 CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, thank you. We
7 appreciate that, and as the Board chair, I certainly
8 recognize that we have no authority here. This is
9 not an agenda item. We're just hearing public
10 comment. And I've seen some emails.

11 But from what I've seen and heard, our
12 staff looked at this several times, reexamined the
13 facts, and reached the determination, apparently
14 appropriately, that there are not sufficient
15 challenges sufficient to elevate this to the Board
16 level of adjudicating the challenge.

17 You know, if there were sufficient
18 challenges, we obviously would. We hear dozens of
19 challenges in the main election cycle, and we've
20 heard challenges before to Mr. White's candidacies,
21 so we wouldn't hesitate to proceed. But without
22 sufficient submissions to document that there is

1 a sufficient challenge, we have no jurisdiction as
2 a board to proceed.

3 You know, if there's other information,
4 you know, it can be submitted and reexamined, but
5 there are time parameters around this since there's
6 a special election in process. So I want to take
7 a moment to compliment our staff, especially Maisha
8 Thompson whose name just got mentioned as having
9 done a good job with what they did, and I feel
10 satisfied there's not an issue here, you know,
11 barring additional information being presented.

12 So I appreciate everything, and I don't
13 think we need to hear from anybody else to go over
14 this. Unless Ms. Stroud has anything to add, we'll
15 proceed with comment from Joseph Johnson, also an
16 ANC commissioner.

17 Mr. Johnson, thank you for your ANC
18 service.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Can you hear me?

20 CHAIR THOMPSON: I sure can. Thank you
21 for your ANC service.

22 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, thank you. Thank you.

1 You're welcome. I just have just a couple things.

2 You know, the Board over the time that I have been
3 involved and served, you know, as a commissioner,
4 the Board can never seem to get it right. And, you
5 know, the problem here, you got the people, you know,
6 that seem not to comprehend.

7 I can remember I filed a complaint where
8 I came down and the lady wanted to get hostile with
9 me, you know, because, you know, she wanted me to
10 wait outside. When a seat came available, she still
11 wanted to me to wait outside. The Board just --
12 I mean, they have a weird way of how they interact
13 with me, how they complete these challenges.

14 The Board allow many people to gain ballot
15 access with fraudulent signatures. I mean, I think
16 at some point, the Board have to, you know -- and
17 then the process to challenge these signatures, it
18 just makes no sense. You know, some of the stuff
19 doesn't make sense because if you see a fraudulent
20 signature or if you see, you know, an address not
21 there, somehow, if you don't challenge it and the
22 Board see it, the Board will still allow that to

1 be a valid signature, and they would say, oh, well,
2 you didn't challenge that one.

3 But you have eyes just the way I have eyes,
4 and if you see that it doesn't have an address or
5 a date, you know, that doesn't mean just because
6 I didn't -- I could have not challenged it to see
7 what the Board would do, right?

8 And so there's things like that, but I
9 don't believe that the Board can get it right. I
10 just think that the Board just not going to get it
11 right. They going to continue to allow people to
12 access the ballot with forged signatures. And in
13 spite of all the rhetoric that the attorney was just
14 speaking, I do think that regardless of Commissioner
15 Robbie turning in all the pages, the Board would
16 have come back with some type of bogus thing to still
17 say that this person had the required amount of
18 signatures to gain ballot access.

19 And so, with all due respect, I don't
20 think, you know, even if it was done or you had more
21 than enough, it seems like the Board goal is to keep
22 whoever that submit petitions -- it doesn't matter

1 if it's fraudulent signatures or the signature
2 doesn't match up or there's no address -- the Board
3 still grant them access.

4 And the Board have to want to get it right
5 because I'm starting to think now -- and I think
6 other people are starting to think -- the people
7 at the Board is incompetent where you cannot look
8 and see that, hey, there's no address there. It
9 doesn't take a rocket scientist to say, that's
10 somebody that need to be removed, or, hey, you know,
11 15 pages of these signatures look like they were
12 done by the same people, but for some apparent
13 reason, the Board will still grant them access.

14 And it's been going on for years. I've
15 been involved, you know, with the ANC stuff. This
16 has been going on for years. People get challenged,
17 the Board come very close to saying or doing the
18 right thing, but then somehow they say, oh, they
19 have enough to gain ballot access, so it doesn't
20 seem like they in the business of doing the right
21 thing, but they in the business of keeping people
22 on the ballot that coming back and giving these bogus

1 narratives that they had enough signatures to access
2 the ballot.

3 But if you have a different, independent
4 -- this is in my opinion -- if you have an independent
5 firm that look at these signatures, and they say,
6 oh, this doesn't look right, this doesn't look
7 right, it would technically embarrass the Board of
8 Elections because as citizens, as elected
9 officials, we know the Board is not doing their job,
10 you know. Their job is to keep people on the ballot,
11 and then when you challenge somebody, they remain
12 on the ballot, so they achieving that part, but they
13 not, you know, sticking to what it should really
14 be.

15 And so they doing a disservice to all
16 people, and I think that as the chair of the Board,
17 I think that, you know, under your leadership, you
18 know, things have to change. Ms. Karen Brooks --
19 I believe that's her name -- she left, things got
20 worse, worse, worser, you know. And the people
21 that's there now, it seems like they are just
22 incompetent.

1 And so I'm going to rest there, and I
2 appreciate you guys giving me the opportunity to,
3 you know, hear this, but the Board has to get better
4 because I'm losing trust in the process, you know,
5 just the whole election process altogether because
6 of the Board of Elections. And so I'll rest, and
7 again, thank you so much for the opportunity.

8 MS. HOLMAN EVANS: Yes. And, Chair, if
9 I may speak. Thank you, Commissioner. One thing
10 I will say, I do take strong exception to your
11 allegations regarding the acts of the Board as being
12 bogus and the Board's goal.

13 The Board's goal is to follow the process
14 that is in place. You have repeatedly said that
15 we have eyes and we can see things, but I urge you
16 to look at the policies and procedures that we have
17 to follow. We do not have a process to challenge
18 petitions. That is not our job. We follow the
19 policies and procedures that are outlined in law
20 for us to follow. I can look at a petition and see
21 irregularities, but there is not a process for me
22 to file a challenge. And if a challenge is not

1 filed, then we follow the process that is in place.

2 And as far as incompetence, you know, I
3 stand behind staff members. If there are any
4 questions, we have made very strong efforts to
5 address irregularities. I am not saying mistakes
6 don't happen. That is absolutely not what I'm
7 saying. We are human just like anybody else is
8 human, and mistakes may have been made in the past,
9 and they will be made in the future because we are
10 human.

11 However, when there are allegations that
12 counter the integrity of the Board's work, I must
13 take exception to that. We operate in a
14 non-partisan fashion, and we operate in a way that
15 ensures we are following the process as we are
16 required to follow, and we engage accordingly. So
17 I will say that. Thank you.

18 MS. STROUD: Yeah. And just to piggyback
19 on that, you know, it would be helpful, Mr. Johnson,
20 if you could review the Board's orders on our website
21 and identify specific instances that you are
22 referring to when you're talking about the Board

1 getting it wrong. We have administrative orders
2 dating back decades.

3 So if you could identify specifically what
4 you're talking about, that would be helpful, as
5 opposed to just launching or, you know, throwing
6 out blanket accusations and casting aspersions and
7 talking up incompetence and things of that nature,
8 it would be helpful. And if you really are
9 interested in addressing things that you view as
10 concerns, then let's have a conversation about that
11 where you identify instances where the Board has
12 gotten it wrong.

13 And to piggyback on the executive
14 director's point, in the statute, as she indicated,
15 actually it indicates that the Board is authorized
16 to accept any nominating petition for a candidate
17 for any office as bona fide, with respect to the
18 qualifications of the signatures thereto, if it has
19 been posted for challenge. That means, like she
20 said, that we do not challenge, we do not review
21 these petitions unless they are subject to
22 challenge. This is unlike the process with ballot

1 measures where we do do an independent review and
2 look line by line.

3 So that is the difference between ballot
4 access for nominating petitions and ballot measures
5 or ballot questions. So there is that. And that's
6 all I have to say. Your comments have been noted.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you for that,
8 Director Evans and Counsel Stroud. I mean, Mr.
9 Johnson, you're, of course, entitled to your point
10 of view. I'll just give you mine, for what it's
11 worth.

12 The Board of Elections is an independent
13 agency, and our staff is independent, and in
14 addition to that, our three-member board is
15 independent. So Karen Greenfield and I are private
16 citizens. We're independent as well in our
17 oversight role.

18 I've been a DC resident for 40 years, and
19 I'll just give you my perspective. I think our laws
20 and regulations surrounding the Board of Elections
21 are very well designed, coming from the Home Rule
22 Act and our DC election laws as specified with more

1 detail in our regulations. And we follow those laws
2 and those regulations, and we do it really well.

3 And I have found in my now three-and-a-half
4 years as chair of the Board, that the BOE is
5 extraordinarily competent and independent and
6 ethical in everything they do. I've worked for
7 several different law firms in my career, some of
8 them the most reputable law firms in the country.

9 I've worked for other institutions in my now aging
10 career, and I have never worked with a finer group
11 of individuals. These are people who are dedicated
12 to the mission. The mission is really centered on
13 the voters, making sure our voting processes are
14 fair and transparent and that people get a chance
15 to vote, whether for a candidate or for an issue.

16 And we do it really, really well.

17 I've been incredibly impressed these last
18 three and a half years with each and every person
19 -- from our amazing director, Monica Holman-Evans;
20 our general counsel, Terri Stroud; our registrar,
21 Marissa Corrente; and everybody else on the team.

22 We really work hard day in and day out to make this

1 work well, and so I do take issue as well with
2 rhetoric like incompetent or weird. I mean,
3 they're just adjectives and they don't matter.

4 You know, as the general counsel
5 commented, if you make it more specific, we'll look
6 into it, obviously. And we do that, and we do it
7 dispassionately. It's kind of an old analogy, but,
8 you know, we calls balls and strikes, you know.
9 That one was out of the strike zone; that one was
10 in the strike zone.

11 You know, we do the absolute very best job
12 we can, and thereby saying, look, as a private
13 citizen who's also independent, I'm incredibly
14 impressed by our agency, so I respectfully disagree
15 with pretty much every word from that prior comment.

16 PARTICIPANT: You do have Sandra Seegars.

17 CHAIR THOMPSON: I think maybe Board
18 Member Greenfield wants to say something as well.

19 MEMBER GREENFIELD: No. I'm going to
20 echo what you said. I welcome public matters and
21 the comments we get in, and a lot of them are helpful
22 and what we need to look for, but I'm going to say

1 what counsel said is we need facts so we can go back
2 and research and see what it is. When we get
3 challenges, then it is the Board's, you know,
4 required to look at them, whatever. They take that
5 very seriously.

6 This is great team that works for the Board
7 of Elections. They're very serious about it. And
8 we'll give a reason or rationale whether we agree
9 or disagree with the challenges or whether we find
10 something different once the challenge is issued.

11 In the same vein, we need that information. And
12 so if we don't have the adequate information, we
13 have to follow what the regulations say and what
14 the laws tell us we have to do. And the Board has
15 to follow what they have to do.

16 But yeah, you know, I get concerned. You
17 know, I love comments -- positive, negative -- it
18 helps us. But I like facts, and when you start
19 hearing, they're incompetent, they're this, they're
20 that, what bothers me is that there's nothing behind
21 it. One, there's nothing for me to unpack or do
22 or see what we need to do. Two, it's a malignment

1 that I just think is undeserved.

2 And so if there's a specific issue, raise
3 it. Raise it to us, raise it to the Board, and so
4 we can address it. But if there's a concern that
5 in terms of the petition challenges that the Board
6 is not doing the job it should, that is absolutely
7 incorrect.

8 And I would take great exception that we're
9 accepting fraudulent signatures or fraudulent
10 petitioners. I take great exception to that. They
11 and we work very hard doing oversight to make sure
12 that that stuff does not happen. I've been on the
13 Board since 2020, right before COVID, and I couldn't
14 be prouder of the people we have that work there,
15 and I know they work very hard, and I know they take
16 it very seriously, so I'm very concerned when they
17 get them wrong.

18 Does it mean that we don't get certain
19 things wrong? Everybody's human. Things may get
20 missed or whatever, we do try to work them out, and
21 we will ask for information to try to help work that
22 out. But I'm going to agree with Gary. I take

1 exception to that comment.

2 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you for
3 that, Karen.

4 So let's move on to a comment from Sandra
5 "SS" Seegars, who we've not heard yet from.

6 MS. SEEGARS: Okay. Is it morning still?
7 Good morning, everyone.

8 Mr. Chair, this is my first time seeing
9 Monica Evans, and I communicated with her last week
10 for the first time. So with the statement I just
11 heard from Commissioner Woodland, and it's a video
12 of what was told to -- Marissa said there's a video
13 of Maisha Thompson leaving the area with the
14 petitions. So have you all corrected that or said
15 something about that because it's far as following
16 the rules and the policies, she was not supposed
17 to leave the area with the petitioners in her hand,
18 so something need to be done about that.

19 But the other thing is a general statement.
20 On the machines or the computers for us to use to
21 verify signatures, oftentimes the signature is not
22 on the computer that we have, so what can be done

1 about that so it'd be easier for us to do a challenge
2 as far as comparing the signatures? We would have
3 to go and get the card and then cause the staff to
4 take time to go and print a card out. So how can
5 we fix that and make sure the signatures are on the
6 computers that we used when we look up the
7 signatures?

8 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you so
9 much for your questions. And I see, perhaps, our
10 staff would like to address that or maybe the
11 registrar.

12 MS. STROUD: Mr. Chair, I'm sorry to
13 interrupt, but I will say that Ms. Woodland did ask
14 for a recording of the time that she came into the
15 Board's offices and the time that she left. And
16 we sent a response to her, indicating that she would
17 have to go to the Department of General Services,
18 because if there's any footage, then it would be
19 in their possession.

20 So we gave her the contact information of
21 the person to call or contact with respect to any
22 camera footage that there might be. Not sure that

1 there is. We don't have it. And so she didn't like
2 that response. She said, "Why do I have to go to
3 another agency with respect to this video?" She
4 said that Ms. Corrente, the registrar of voters,
5 who is sitting here, who is ready to respond to that,
6 said that she saw footage. And she is here to, you
7 know, address that statement that was made by Ms.
8 Woodland.

9 MS. CORRENTE: Good morning, Chair.
10 Thank you. Can everyone hear me okay?

11 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes.

12 MS. CORRENTE: I had several different
13 conversations with Commissioner Woodland after she
14 received documentation stating that the challenge
15 to the petition wasn't sufficient. And at no point
16 did I say that I watched a video. She was asking
17 how to acquire any video, if it existed, and I said
18 that she would have to put in a FOIA request.

19 At no point did I say that I had reviewed
20 any videos. I did say that I reviewed what happened
21 and that we had looked into the matter, but that
22 did not imply that there was a video that I watched.

1 There's, to my knowledge, a camera in our exterior
2 lobby. And again, so what Counsel Stroud said,
3 that's attached to the building, and so it's not
4 something that we have access to. I haven't looked
5 at a video, nor would I have communicated that I
6 did when I hadn't.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Well, thank
8 you very much. This is maybe --

9 MS. SEEGARS: What about the signatures
10 on the computer?

11 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you for your
12 comment. We could just let the registrar answer
13 that, and then I'll make some final comments.

14 MS. SEEGARS: Okay.

15 MS. CORRENTE: Thank you. And thank you
16 for that question, Ms. Seegars. So sometimes
17 depending on how documents are clipped, signatures
18 don't always show up because only one clip shows
19 up on the public kiosk, just the way the system
20 works. So there are times when, if we're notified
21 that there aren't signatures, we can reclip so that
22 folks can look. And sometimes it takes reaching

1 out to our Data Services Team in order to get that
2 clip to be on the front page. It's not something
3 that we always have access to doing ourselves, us
4 being the Voter Services Team.

5 And so those signatures can be made
6 available if people ask us, and I know in different
7 instances, Ms. Woodland did ask. And as we were
8 able to, within the Voter Services purview, we
9 provided those signatures.

10 MS. SEEGARS: Okay. Yeah. That was done
11 for me too. When I would challenge, they would go
12 back and get the copies for us. Thank you. All
13 right. Thank you. Have a great day.

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right.

15 MS. CORRENTE: You too. Take care.

16 CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, thank you so much.
17 And this is a good example of our independence.
18 I mean, we all understand that Trayon White is
19 seeking to be a candidate for Ward 8 in the special
20 election. We have absolutely no view whatsoever
21 about the candidate. We're not trying to support
22 a challenge or defeat a challenge. We're following

1 our policies and procedures, and the sufficient
2 number of signatures were provided. A sufficient
3 challenge wasn't presented.

4 And the voters will be the ones that
5 decide. I mean, that's really where our focus
6 always is, you know, the voters. So everybody reads
7 the news and can make up their own mind among a field
8 of many candidates who have followed the processes
9 and qualified, and regarding whom there have been
10 no challenges.

11 Soon enough, there will be a lottery.
12 Their positions on the ballot will be confirmed.

13 And then it will simply go to the voters to make
14 their decision, and that's really our focus. We've
15 been independent about this from the start, as we
16 do with everything.

17 So, you know, we appreciate the questions
18 raised about this particular set of papers that was
19 submitted to support a possible challenge. And
20 we've looked into it, and objectively, it very much
21 appears to me that we've done absolutely the right
22 thing with each and every staff member involved.

1
2 So I'll leave it at that. And before I
3 move to adjourn, I'll maybe give the last word to
4 the director or general counsel if you have any final
5 comments.

6 MS. HOLMAN EVANS: No additional
7 comments. Thank you.

8 MS. STROUD: I have nothing further,
9 Mr. Chair.

10 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Well, you know,
11 we're busy at the BOE. This, you know, may be a
12 quote, off year, from the normal election cycle,
13 but we do an incredible amount of work in between
14 election years, not just for special elections like
15 this one, but everything else we have to do to keep
16 pace with a very fast-changing world. And as I
17 mentioned, we do an incredible job.

18 So we got a busy month ahead of us. We'll
19 have our next regular board meeting sometime the
20 first week of June. It may not be Wednesday, June
21 4th, but we'll figure it out and notify the public
22 in advance. So I hope everybody has a healthy and

1 prosperous month of May ahead. And with that, I
2 shall move we adjourn.

3 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

4 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor?

5 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

6 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you, everybody.

7 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9 went off the record at 11:30 a.m.)
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\$150 14:8	14th 18:17	22 26:15	430 26:10 27:21
\$2,000 21:8,9	15 5:11 19:20 34:11	22,003 8:21	48 18:1
\$20,000.00 16:15	153,404 8:16	22nd 4:20 12:21	4th 14:7 50:21
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\$26,500.00 16:18	17 10:21	25-010 22:17	5:00 10:21 11:1
\$32,695.00 16:15	18 12:13	25th 16:22	6
\$4,000 21:6	18,883 8:21	27,854 8:18	69 19:16
\$500 13:7	18th 20:6,12,16	28th 14:14 16:16	691 5:20
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1,716 5:15	2022 17:11	30 5:4,12	8 4:21 5:1,11 7:6,7 9:2,3 10:2,11,19,20 16:4,13, 17 18:13 19:9,10,11,12, 14 48:19
10 20:1	2024 6:14 8:10 20:10	31 17:2	83 12:9 13:15
10:30 3:2	2025 4:19 7:8 12:18,20 15:10 16:3,12,16,20,22 17:4,7 19:12 20:7,12,16,18 21:4,10,14,22	36 19:17	8th 12:12 15:9 18:15
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