

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

In the Matter of	)	
Phillip Anthony Harris	)	Administrative
	)	Order #26-021

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**

**Introduction**

This matter came before the District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board”) on April 1, 2026. It concerns a recommendation by the Board’s General Counsel that the Board refer Phillip Anthony Harris to the D.C. Office of Attorney General (“OAG”) for criminal investigation. Chairman Gary Thompson and Board member Karyn Greenfield presided over the hearing. The Board’s General Counsel, Terri Stroud, was also present.

**Background**

As a result of a Voter Participation Project report issued by the Election Registration Information Center (“ERIC report”), the Board’s Office of General Counsel (“OGC”) became aware of evidence that ballots were cast in-person on the same day and approximately 40 minutes apart in the same voter’s name in the D.C. 2024 General Election (“GE”) and in the 2024 GE in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> In light of the ERIC report findings, Board staff reviewed the Poll Pad signature associated with the D.C. ballot cast in person in that voter’s name to the signature associated with the ballot cast in person in Maryland. While the D.C. Poll Pad signature was reasonably decipherable as “Phillip Harris,” the signatures did not match. Also, the Maryland signature was followed by “V,” while no “V” followed the D.C. signature.

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<sup>1</sup> Those elections covered the U.S. Presidential race. Such evidence of voting twice presented the prospect of, *inter alia*, violations of 52 (“Voting and Elections”) U.S. Code § 10307 (“Prohibited Acts”).

Accordingly, OGC commenced an investigation of other D.C. voters claiming the same D.C. address as the address associated in the 2024 GE Poll Pad record for the person who signed the name Phillip Harris when they checked in at the D.C. voting center. That effort revealed that two voters having different dates of birth but the same name “Phillip Harris,” were associated with that D.C. address. One of the two voters, however, included “V” after their name and had not claimed a middle name. The other had provided the middle name of “Anthony” during same-day registration in 2022, but had not associated “V” with their name. The handwriting provided for the Maryland 2024 in-person ballot matched the handwriting for voter going by “Phillip Harris V.”

Based on this evidence, the Board’s Office of General Counsel (“OGC”) opened an investigation targeted at Phillip Anthony Harris. OGC scheduled a prehearing conference and attempted to notify Mr. Harris of that proceeding via the email address that was in his voter file. After the date for the prehearing conference had passed, Mr. Harris responded as follows via email:

I do not understand what this is all about. Is someone using my identity to vote? The last election I voted in was the 2024 presidential election. My polling place is at the University of the District of Columbia. I do not know what type of information you need from me to prove that I have not done anything illegal with voting.

OGC emailed him back an offer to reschedule the prehearing conference, but Mr. Harris did not respond to that email. OGC then sent notice to Mr. Harris via email and certified mail that his case would be presented to the Board during the Board’s regular meeting in March .<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> According to USPS tracking information, the notice was not delivered.

At the Board's March meeting, Mr. Harris' case was called but he did not appear. Accordingly, the General Counsel advised that her office would seek referral of this matter to the OAG at the Board's next regular meeting.

At the Board's regular meeting on April 1, 2026, Mr. Harris' case was presented and again he did not come forward. The Board then heard from the General Counsel's Office with respect to the facts of the matter. The General Counsel attorney assigned to the matter explained and requested admission into the record of evidence that indicated that Mr. Harris may have improperly cast a D.C. ballot issued to another voter, Phillip Harris V.

Following the presentation of this and other similar enforcement matters, the General Counsel she made a recommendation that the matter be referred to the OAG for further investigation and possible prosecution, provided however that her office would delay referral to give Mr. Harris an opportunity to seek reconsideration.<sup>3</sup> The Board Chair made a motion to accept the General Counsel's recommendation. 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's enforcement powers with respect to criminal election law matters include referral to the OAG for investigation and prosecution. *See* D.C. Code § 1-1001.18(a)-(b).

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<sup>3</sup> 3 D.C.M.R. 429 sets forth the Board's rules for seeking reconsideration of an order. Under those rules, reconsideration must be sought by motion within ten days of the order. If that deadline is missed, a party seeking reconsideration would have to ask for leave to file a motion for reconsideration.

<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.

The record before us contains evidence that a person using the name Phillip Harris who was *not* Phillip Harris V voted the 2024 GE ballot intended *for* Phillip Harris V. The evidence further indicates that the possible culprit is another voter who uses the name Phillip Anthony Harris. Absent some innocent explanation, this conduct facially violates various election laws.

That said, the capacity of the Board's OGC to investigate such violations is limited. While OGC has contacted Phillip Anthony Harris, he evidently is not cooperating. The statutory power of the Board to refer matters to the OAG suggests that the law is intended to allow the Board to rely on OAG's investigatory resources in ferreting out election fraud. Unless Mr. Harris cooperates to assist us in resolving this matter, we have little choice other than to refer him for criminal investigation. Before we take that serious step, however, we agree, as suggested by the General Counsel, that the act of referral be delayed until Mr. Harris has had an opportunity to seek reconsideration of this order.

### **Conclusion**

For the reasons indicated above, it is hereby:

**ORDERED** that the recommendation of the General Counsel is **ACCEPTED**, and the Board's Office of General Counsel is directed, subject to the lapse of sufficient time for the filing of any accepted motion for reconsideration, to refer Phillip Anthony Harris to the D.C. Office of Attorney General for further investigation and possible prosecution.

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