

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

May 7, 2025

The District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board” or “DCBOE”) held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 via Zoom and in the Board’s Hearing Room, located at 1015 Half Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, Suite 750. Board Chairman Gary Thompson and Board Member Karyn Greenfield were present. The Board’s Executive Director, Monica Holman Evans (“Director Evans”), General Counsel, Terri Stroud, and the Office of Campaign Finance (“OCF”) General Counsel, William SanFord, were also present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

II. ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM

Board Chair Thompson and Board Member Greenfield constituted a quorum.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BOARD ACTION: The Board unanimously adopted the agenda and minutes from the last meeting held on April 9, 2025.

IV. DIRECTOR’S REPORT (DIRECTOR EVANS)

A. March Engagements

On April 22, 2025 Director Evans attended a Town Hall, coordinated by Councilmember Kenyon McDuffie, held at Temple of Praise in Ward 8 to provide information about the Ward 8 Special Election and legislation that will affect residents of the District of Columbia.

On April 30, 2025 Director Evans participated in a webinar conducted by the Center for Innovation & Research. The webinar provided updates regarding implications for election officials around the passage of the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (“SAVE”) Act in the House of Representatives and updates from the Election Assistance Commission.

DCBOE is planning for the Ward 8 special election to be held on July 15, 2025. On April 30, 2025, the mayor signed the funding authorization to conduct this election.

B. Voter Registration Rolls

In February, the Board registered 1,716 new voters and processed 7,495 registration changes. In total, 9,211 voter registration cards were prepared to be mailed. 126

registered voters moved out of D.C., 218 voters canceled their D.C. registrations and registered with other jurisdictions, and 691 voters registered in D.C. after canceling their registrations in other states.

C. Online Voter Registration Rolls

We are continuing to register voters using our website portal. To date, we have processed over 97,405 applications using the portal, including new voter registrations and updates to existing registrations.

D. Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act

Total non-citizen registration is at 1,013. Since the general election, there has been a noticeable decline in non-citizen registrations, however, the Board is continuing our outreach in DC communities to share information.

E. Restore the Vote Legislation

The Restore the Vote (“RTV”) Division has completed the joint Corrections Information Council/DCBOE report on the 2024 Election Cycle required by the Restore the Vote Amendment Act. The report is now available on the DCBOE website.

The RTV Division has performed several outreach events with our government and community partners to include the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (“MORCA”), Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (“CSOSA”), the Department of Corrections (“DOC”), and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The events with MORCA and the DOC were part of Second Chance Month events.

The Division is also working with the Department of Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Prisons to alert incarcerated DC residents from Ward 8 of the upcoming Special Election.

F. 2026 Election Planning

DCBOE has received estimates to address the need to replace voting equipment that has reached the end of its life cycle. We will address funding during our budget oversight hearing once it is scheduled.

DCBOE is taking steps to fully implement new legislation and we are currently reviewing the requirements of the Automatic Voter Registration Expansion Act as well as monitoring pending legislation and information at the federal level.

G. List Maintenance

The Board’s data team continues to focus on keeping voter registration records accurate

and up-to-date by conducting essential tasks such as identifying registrants who have moved, whether in-state or out-of-state, verifying deceased individuals, addressing duplicate records, and identifying ineligible and inactive voters.

DCBOE is conducting our biennial mail canvas to verify the residential addresses of eligible voters who did not participate in the 2024 General Presidential Election. This process includes sending a first-class, non-forwardable canvass mailer to the addresses on record, maintaining the integrity of the voter roll by identifying outdated or inaccurate address information. A total of 153,404 first-class, non-forwardable canvass mailers were sent to voters' recorded addresses. As a result, we have received 27,854 returned mailers through the Postal Service. The second, forwardable mailer will now be sent to 22,003 voters. An additional 18,883 voter records will be made inactive as a result of the canvass. We have deferred the inactivation of 3,120 records for voters who reside in Ward 8. Due to the upcoming Ward 8 Special Election, these voters will remain active until the special election concludes.

H. Technology and Cybersecurity

The Board's migration to a .gov domain continues. We are continuing to work with OCTO to facilitate this process and clarify the timeline. Our teams are discussing the technical requirements and ensuring that all necessary infrastructure and security measures are in place for a successful migration. DCBOE contacts are also being added to the .gov DNS portal to support the next phase.

I. Voter Education and Outreach

During April, the Voter Education and Outreach Division participated in 20 events on behalf of the agency. The outreach events included the Welcome Home Expo for Returning Citizens at the Stadium Armory, the Smart from the Start Program at Knox Hill/Buena Vista Terrace, and a voter registration drive at Potomac Job Corps.

J. Election Worker Division

In preparation for the Ward 8 Special Election, the Election Worker Division has updated its standard operating procedures for the various election worker positions. Additionally, the Division has confirmed Site Coordinator availability for the special election, updated the allocation lists, and assessed the supply inventory. The Election Worker Division is also working with the IT Division to test Poll Pad conditions to ensure the special election is properly programmed for Ward 8.

K. Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC") Vacancies

There are currently 16 ANC vacancies for the 2025-26 term; they are all in various stages of being filled. After the candidate filing requirements are satisfied, an open vote by registered voters of the affected single member district ("SMD") will take place during the regularly scheduled ANC meetings.

L. Ward 8 Special Election

The candidate filing period for the special election in Ward 8 closed on Thursday, April 17, at 5:00 p.m. The ten-day challenge period began on Sunday, April 20, 2025 and closed on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. The ballot lottery is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. The lottery will be accessible to candidates and members of the public via Zoom.

Planning meetings with our vendors for the Special Election are currently in progress. We are steadily moving forward and working closely with all parties to ensure a smooth and successful election.

Individuals may visit the DCBOE website for more information regarding the election, current candidates, and pertinent dates.

V. GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT (TERRI STROUD)

A. Litigation Status

1. Stacia Hall, et al., v. D.C. Board of Elections (U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit)

This is an appeal from the U.S. District Court’s denial of a challenge to legislation allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections. The court heard oral argument in this matter on March 11 and the case is pending disposition.

2. Charles Wilson v. Muriel Bowser, et al. (D.C. Superior Court)

This is the remand from the D.C. Court of Appeals of a challenge to the Board's finding that I83 met proper subject requirements and its formulation of the measure. On April 8, the Board filed a motion to dismiss the complaint. On April 18, new additional counsel for the plaintiffs filed an entry of appearance and requested an extension of the time to file an opposition to the Board's motion to dismiss until May 23. On April 21, the court granted the plaintiffs’ motion and set June 23 as the date for the Board to reply to the opposition and scheduled a status hearing for August 15. On April 22, the proposer of the measure moved to intervene and lodged a motion to dismiss.

3. Jason Christopher Long v. D.C. Board of Elections (D.C. Superior Court.)

This case was remanded back to this court from the U.S. District Court for D.C. on February 3. This matter is the resubmission of a case previously dismissed without prejudice in which the plaintiff sought \$10,000 in damages for an overdraft fee caused by a stop payment on a \$500 check issued for his service as an election worker. There has been no activity in this case since the Board’s last meeting.

4. Deirdre Brown v. D.C. Board of Elections (D.C. Court of Appeals)

This matter involves the review of the Board’s certification of I83. The court heard oral argument on April 24, and the case is pending disposition.

5. Sobin v. D.C. Board of Elections (U.S. District Court for D.C.)

The plaintiff submitted a complaint to the district court in which he alleged that the Board's petition circulation process requiring candidates to gather signatures violates the Americans with Disabilities Act and that an ANC election to be held in his SMD is illegal. There have been no updates since the Board's last meeting with respect to this matter.

6. Muhammad v. D.C. Board of Elections (D.C. Court of Appeals)

Ms. Muhammad filed a petition for review of a Board enforcement order imposing \$150 in fines because she failed to personally witness signatures on her nominating petition. She also requested that the court stay the fine and offered an affidavit from her counsel. On April 23, the court denied Ms. Muhammad’s request for a stay. On April 28, the Board filed the agency record, a motion for summary affirmance of the Board's enforcement order, and a request to strike the affidavit of counsel.

VI. CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT (PRESENTED BY WILLIAM SANFORD ON BEHALF OF CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY)

A. Office of the Director

1. The full report of the April 2025 activities of the OCF will be posted at ocf.dc.gov.

2. Community Outreach

On April 8, OCF presented at the ANC SMD 2C01 monthly meeting. On April 10, OCF participated in a community outreach event at the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments Community Center located in the Cardozo/Shaw neighborhood. On April 23, in partnership with D.C. Public Library, OCF held its first Information Session at the Southwest Library Branch in the Southwest Waterfront neighborhood. On April 24, OCF participated in the Golden Rule Plaza Group Education session located in the Bloomingdale neighborhood.

B. Fair Elections Program (“FEP”) Division

1. Authorized Base Amount

a) **2025 Special Election Cycle for Ward 8**

There are three certified participating candidates in the FEP. OCF has authorized the disbursement of the total sum of \$230,001.65 from the FEP fund in base amount and matching payments.

2. Candidates Certified/Disbursements Made During the Month of April for the 2025 Special Election

- a) Mike for Ward 8 2025 Principal Campaign Committee. Matching payment of \$32,695.00 and base amount payment in the amount of \$20,000 were authorized for disbursement on April 28.
- b) Sheila Bunn for Ward 8 2025 Principal Campaign Committee. Matching payment of \$26,500.00 was authorized for disbursement on April 21.
- c) Friends of Salim Adofo 2025 Principal Campaign Committee. Matching payment of \$20,000 was authorized for disbursement on March 19.

3. Desk Reviews and Other Activities

There were 31 desk reviews of Amended Reports of Receipts and Expenditures (“R & E Reports”) and seven Requests for Additional Information (“RFAI”) letters were issued. The sum of \$871,729.33 has been remitted for deposit in the FEP fund.

4. 2020 Post-Election Full Field Audits

Four post-election audits for the 2020 election cycle are in process.

5. 2022 Post-Election Full Field Audits

During March, FEP issued five post-election reports and three statements of findings for the 2022 election cycle.

C. Public Information and Records Management Division (“PIRM”)

1. Receipts & Expenses Reports (“R&E”)

There was two filing dates for R&E Reports in April: April 1, 2025 for Constituent Service Programs and Senator/Representative Statehood funds and April 10, 2025 for Political Action Committees, Independent Expenditure Committees, and Fair Elections Candidate Committees (2025 Special Election Candidates). The division referred four committees for reporting violations to the OCF OGC.

2. New Candidates/Committees

a) Traditional Campaign Finance Program (“TCFP”) Candidates

- i. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Anthony DeVaughn
- ii. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Kenneth Diggins

- iii. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Trayon White
- iv. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Tonya Hawkins
- v. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Eric Cleckley
- vi. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Delonte Singh

b) FEP Candidates

- i. Ward 1 Council – Thomas Cortez

c) Initiative Committees

- i. Lock the Clock DC – The DC Time Stability Act
- ii. Homes Not Stadiums

3. Candidates and Treasurers who have completed the OCF Entrance Conference for March 2025

- a) Jauhar Abraham, Candidate, Abraham for Ward 8
- b) Antoniese Ruffin, Treasurer, Abraham for Ward 8
- c) Michael Austin, Candidate, Mike For Ward 8
- d) Michael Austin, Treasurer, Mike For Ward 8
- e) Lauren Gordon, Treasurer, Trayon White 2025
- f) Valencia Bond, Treasurer, Tonya Hawkins for Ward 8

D. Reports Analysis and Audit Division (“RAAD”)

1. Desk Reviews and Other Activities

RAAD completed 69 desk reviews of R&E Reports and issued RFAI letters. RAAD also resolved 12 cases and referred two cases to the OCF OGC.

2. Ongoing Post-Election Audits

- a) Committee to Elect Eboni-Rose Thompson – Preliminary Draft Audit Report issued on April 18.
- b) Re-elect Trayon White 2024 – Preliminary Draft Audit Report issued on April 18.
- c) Jacque for DC 2024 – Pre-Audit field work completed.
- d) Eboni-Rose for SBOE Ward 7 – Preliminary Draft Audit Report issued on April 18.

E. OCF OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT (GENERAL COUNSEL WILLIAM SANFORD)

1. Monthly Intake/Output Report

During March, the OGC received five referrals, completed 20 informal hearings, and issued 20 orders. In 17 orders, no fines were imposed and three orders imposed fines

of \$8,000. These included fines of \$4,000 against Patricia Equino for DC Council, \$2,000 against Markus for DC, and \$2,000 against Markus for DC.

2. Request for Interpretive Opinions

None.

3. Open Investigations

None.

4. Show Cause Proceedings

None.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The discussion in the public matters portion of the meeting can be found on pages 22-51 of the transcript.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.