

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

July 2, 2025

The District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board” or “DCBOE”) held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, July 2, 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 10:32 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 June 5.

IV. DIRECTOR’S REPORT (DIRECTOR EVANS)

A. June Engagements

On June 6, the D.C. Council’s Committee on Executive Administration and Labor (“CEAL”) held the Budget Oversight Hearing on the Board of Elections. DCBOE testified regarding the proposed FY 2026 budget, enhancement requests, and filling ANC vacancies. Many of the witnesses who signed up to testify urged the Council to fund Initiative Measure No. 83 (“I83”).

On June 16 and 17, DCBOE met with the Institute for Responsive Government and accompanied them to several D.C. Public Library locations to conduct user testing of some of the materials that will support implementation of the Automatic Voter Registration (“AVR”) Expansion Act. The Act will become effective on October 1.

B. Voter Registration Rolls

In June, the Board registered 2,040 new voters and processed 3,654 registration changes. In total, 5,694 voter registration cards were prepared to be mailed. 1,445 registered voters moved out of D.C., 116 voters canceled their D.C. registrations and registered with other jurisdictions, and 770 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 98,351 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 981. In June, two non-citizen residents registered to vote. Since the general election, there has been a noticeable decline in non-citizen registrations. Additionally, some non-citizens have been removed from the registry due to our list maintenance efforts. The Board is continuing our outreach in D.C. communities to share information.

E. 2025 Next Steps/Off-Election Year Planning

On June 16, DCBOE began beta testing some of the documents and processes that will be used to comply with the AVR Expansion Act and making changes based on the findings. We are also working with our vendor to implement the requirements of the AVR Expansion Act.

DCBOE is also monitoring pending legislation and information on the federal level. Legislation to repeal the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act has passed the House. The legislation is now in the Senate.

F. List Maintenance

DCBOE is conducting our required biennial mail canvass to verify the residential addresses of voters who were eligible but did not participate in the 2024 Presidential General Election. This process includes sending a first-class, non-forwardable canvass mailer to the addresses on record to identify outdated or inaccurate address information. On February 28, 2025, 153,404 first-class, non-forwardable canvass mailers were sent to voters' recorded addresses to identify outdated or inaccurate address information. On May 25, a second forwardable canvass mailer was sent to 21,983 registered voters. To date 36,569 of those mailers have been returned by the U.S. Postal Service ("USPS") and 2,769 individuals have confirmed their address online.

Additionally, DCBOE is actively conducting regular voter list maintenance to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voter registration database. This ongoing process involves identifying and updating records for voters who have moved out of the District, changed addresses within the District, have duplicate registrations, or are deceased. The Board utilizes data from the USPS National Change of Address system, DMV, and other reliable sources to flag and verify changes in voter status.

G. Voter Education and Outreach

During June, the Voter Education and Outreach Division participated in 26 outreach events on behalf of the agency. Many of these events were in Ward 8. The events included the Beat the Streets/Late Night Hype Event, the Salvation Army's Annual Community Fair, and the Ward 8 Clergy and Faith Leaders Meeting.

H. Election Worker Division

In preparation for the Ward 8 Special Election, the Election Worker Division held its final training class on June 23. DCBOE successfully trained 215 Election Workers for the Ward 8 Special Election. On Election Day, we will have a small group of reserve Election Workers report for duty. These individuals have been trained, but not assigned for Election Day.

I. Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Vacancies

There are currently 16 ANC vacancies for the 2025-26 term at 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.

J. Ward 8 Special Election

The Ward 8 Special Election is officially underway. There are four candidates on the Ward 8 Special Election ballot. Ballots were mailed on June 10 and Mail Ballot Drop Boxes opened on June 13. We have already received 1,531 ballots via the USPS and 367 ballots via Mail Ballot Drop Boxes.

Early Voting will begin on Friday, July 11 and will end on Monday, July 14. Four locations will be open from 8:30 am – 7:00 pm. There will be 12 Election Day vote Centers on Tuesday, July 15. Election Day Vote Centers will be open from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm. As a reminder, in-person voters may vote at any Vote Center, regardless of their residential address. Voters may also deposit their mail ballots at Vote Centers without waiting in line. Mail Ballot Drop Boxes will close at 8:00 pm on Election Day. Ballots mailed via the USPS must be postmarked by July 15 and received at BOE by July 25.

K. Clarification for the record

There have been allegations that the Board of Elections did not investigate - and improperly dismissed - claims that the Board had misappropriated a challenge to the nominating petition submitted by Ward 8 Special Election candidate Trayon White ("Candidate White"). The Board of Elections did, in fact, launch a full investigation into the matter in response to these allegations. No evidence was found that any of the petition sheets were mislaid or misappropriated. Both the Board and the D.C. Council repeatedly requested evidence of the alleged missing sheets; however, no such evidence was

provided. The only misstep identified was that the staff person who received the challenge neglected to count the challenge sheets submitted page-by-page and to enter on the challenge receipt form the actual number of sheets submitted. This misstep has been properly addressed through the Board's personnel proceedings.

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. On June 20, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed and remanded this case back to the District Court, finding that the appellants had sufficiently made a claim of standing to proceed.

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

This is a 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. The D.C. Court of Appeals disagreed with the Superior Court's decision that the case was untimely filed as it was submitted before the close of the 10-day period for judicial review. On April 8, the Board filed a motion to dismiss the complaint in the D.C. Superior Court. On June 5, the plaintiffs filed their opposition to the Board's motion. Both the I83 proposers and Grow Democracy D.C. sought and were granted authority to intervene and have filed their own motion to dismiss. On June 30, the Board filed a reply to the plaintiff's opposition, as well as a motion to strike improper claims and materials from that opposition.

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

This case was remanded back to D.C. Superior Court from the U.S. District Court for D.C. This matter is the resubmission of a case previously dismissed without prejudice. Mr. Long seeks \$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. To date, the Superior Court has not docketed any activity.

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

In January 2025, Mr. Sobin submitted a complaint to the U.S. 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 a separate claim that an ANC election to be held in his SMD is illegal. On June 11, the OAG filed a motion to dismiss on behalf of the Board. On June 16, the court directed the plaintiff to respond by June 30. On June 23, the plaintiff filed an opposition to the motion to dismiss. On June 30, defendants replied to the opposition.

5. 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 a \$150 civil fine against her because she failed to personally witness signatures on her nominating petition. There has been no activity in this case since the Board's last meeting.

B. Clarifications for the record

1. Number of challenges filed against Mr. White's nominating petition

There appears to be a misunderstanding regarding the number of challenges filed against the nominating petition submitted by Trayon White for the 2022 primary election. Contrary to some reports, there was only one challenge filed. The named challenger in this matter was Luz Martinez Maldonado. Although this challenge was widely referred to in the press as being filed by either Robert White or his campaign, Robert White was not the named challenger. No other challenge was filed to Trayon White's nominating petition.

2. Clarifying Candidate Name Standards for Ballots and Petitions

Concerns have been raised that the Board has treated certain candidates differently in terms of how their names appear on the ballot. The Board enforces rules for names on ballots. A candidate may use a modified form of their given name on the ballot only if it would not confuse or mislead voters. If a candidate is widely known by a nickname, they may request Board approval to use it on the ballot. If the Board allows a candidate to use a name on the petition, it does not necessarily follow that it will be allowed on the ballot as the rule regarding names does not apply to petitions that are being circulated, but only to the ballot that voters actually cast in the election.

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 June 2025 activities of the OCF will be posted at ocf.dc.gov.

2. Budget Oversight

On July 6, OCF appeared at the Budget Oversight Hearing before the CEAL. Among the topics discussed were funding for the Fair Elections Program ("FEP") during the July 15, 2025 Special Election in Ward 8 and during the 2026 election cycle as well as possible legislative changes regarding reducing the five-to-one matching funds that are provided to candidates in the Fair Elections Program when the government faces budgetary shortfalls.

3. Community Outreach

On June 11, OCF participated in the Community Resources Fair at the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments Reception Hall. On June 12, OCF participated in the Harvard Towers Resources Workshop in Mount Pleasant. On June 16, OCF participated in the Anacostia Community Fair held along Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue, S.E. On June 18, OCF held an information session at the Lamond-Riggs/Lillian J. Huff Neighborhood Library in partnership with D.C. Public Library.

B. Fair Elections Program (“FEP”) Division

1. Authorized Base Amount and Matching Payments

a) 2025 Special Election Cycle for Ward 8

There are three certified participating candidates in the FEP. OCF has authorized the disbursement of \$335,375.95 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 (“PCC”). Matching payment of \$4,900.00 was authorized for disbursement on June 26. The second half base amount payment of \$20,000 was authorized for disbursement on June 3.
- b)** Sheila Bunn for Ward 8 2025 PCC. Matching payment of \$7,600.00 was authorized for disbursement on June 26. The second half base amount payment of \$20,000 was authorized for disbursement on June 3.
- c)** Friends of Salim Adofo PCC. Matching payment in the amount of \$8,323.00 was authorized for disbursement on June 4. The second half base amount payment of \$20,000 was authorized for disbursement on June 3.

3. Desk Reviews and Other Activities

There were 49 desk reviews of Amended Reports of Receipts and Expenditures (“R & E Reports”) and 13 Requests for Additional Information (“RFAI”) letters were issued.

4. 2022 Preliminary Audit Findings Reports and Final Audit Reports Issued

- a)** Toni Criner for Ward 7 State Board of Education (“SBOE”) PCC Post-Election Final Audit Report, issued on June 10.
- b)** Lajoy for Ward 8 SBOE PCC Preliminary Statement of Findings, issued on June 19.
- c)** Nate Fleming for Ward 7 PCC Preliminary Statement of Findings, issued on June 24.

- d) Elect Paul Johnson for Ward 4 PCC Preliminary Statement of Findings, issued on June 24.
- e) Rodney “Red” Grant for City Council PCC Post-Election Final Audit Report, issued on June 24.
- f) Committee to Re-Elect Janeese Lewis George PCC Post-Election Final Audit Report, issued on June 26, 2025.
- g) Ebony Payne for Ward 7 PCC Post-Election Final Audit Report, issued on June 26.

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

1. R & E Reports

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

There was one filing date for R & E Reports in June: June 10 for TCFP Candidate Committees (2025 Special Election Candidates). There were nine required filers. Six timely filed and three matters were referred to the Office of the General Counsel.
- b) FEP Candidate Committees

There was one filing date for R & E Reports in June: June 10 for FEP Candidate Committees (2025 Special Election Candidates). There were four required filers. Two timely filed, one extension was granted, and one matter was referred to the Office of the General Counsel.
- c) ANC Candidates

413 ANC candidates were required to file summary financial statements. 377 timely filed and 36 failed to file and were referred to the Office of the General Counsel.

2. New Candidates/Committees

- a) Office of Mayor, Reagan Jones
- b) Office of Council Member, Ward 1, Brian Footer

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

- a) Brian Footer

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

1. Desk Reviews and Other Activities

Completed 32 desk reviews of R & E Reports.

2. Consultations

RAAD conducted two consultations with the following candidates: Oye for D.C. and Eboni-Rose, SBOE.

3. Audits Issued

A preliminary draft audit report regarding Michelle Colson, SBOE was issued on June 11.

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

1. Monthly Intake/Output Report

During June, the OGC received 39 referrals, completed six informal hearings, and issued six orders. In two orders, no fines were imposed, and four orders of satisfaction of outstanding fines were issued. OCF collected a total of \$395 in fines.

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 24-28 of the transcript.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.