

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

April 9, 2025

The District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board” or “DCBOE”) held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, April 9, 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 2:33 p.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 March 3, 2025.

IV. DIRECTOR’S REPORT (DIRECTOR EVANS)

A. March Engagements

The Board's equipment vendors were onsite the week of March 31 and we were able to discuss implementation of the Automatic Voter Registration Expansion Act as well as equipment and software upgrades needed for future elections. We also discussed plans to conduct a mock election in 2025.

DCBOE is planning for the Ward 8 special election to be held on July 15, 2025. However, we have not yet received funding to conduct this election and are unable to finalize plans without a budget. Many of the vote centers traditionally used in Ward 8 are unavailable due to summer camps in the recreation centers. We hope to be in a position to finalize the planning soon.

B. Voter Registration Rolls

In March, the Board registered 1,691 new voters and processed 21,406 registration changes. In total, 23,907 voter registration cards were prepared to be mailed. 67 registered voters moved out of D.C., 177 voters canceled their D.C. registrations and registered with other jurisdictions, and 269 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 97,025 applications using the portal, including new voter registrations and updates to existing registrations.

D. Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act

In March, two non-citizens registered to vote in local elections. Total non-citizen registration is at 986. Since the general election, there has been a noticeable decline in non-citizen registrations. The Board is also receiving inquiries regarding the process to cancel a registration.

E. Restore the Vote Legislation

The Restore the Vote Division worked with the Corrections Information Council (CIC) on the joint after-action report on the 2024 Election Cycle required by the Restore the Vote Amendment Act. The draft report is being circulated for comment. The Division is also working with the Department of Corrections and Federal Bureau of Prisons to alert incarcerated DC residents from Ward 8 of the upcoming Special Election. Eligible residents will be able to vote in the special election and will receive a mail ballot.

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, which has not yet been scheduled.

DCBOE is taking steps to fully implement new legislation and we are currently reviewing the requirements of the Automatic Voter Registration Expansion Act. We are meeting with jurisdictions that have similar legislation.

We are reviewing our outreach plans, communications strategies, and election worker recruitment efforts ahead of the 2026 Election Cycle. Additionally, we are finalizing our communications plan for the Ward 8 special election.

G. List Maintenance

Our 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 voters who were eligible but 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 on February 28, 2025. As a result, we have received 26,528 returned mailers through the Postal Service.

H. Technology and Cybersecurity

The Board's application for the migration to a .gov domain was approved. We will continue to work with OCTO to facilitate the process.

We are evaluating the latest poll pad kiosk station to replace legacy poll pads in order to provide greater security to voters and enhanced usability for election workers.

I. Voter Education and Outreach

On March 11, the Voter Education and Outreach Division participated in the Naturalization Ceremony at the US District Court. The Division also attended the Black Family Wellness Expo hosted by The Links and participated in Civic Education Week at H.D. Woodson High School, Ballou Senior High School, Bard High School and Anacostia Senior High School.

J. Election Worker Division

The Election Worker Division has updated the Election Worker Application and is compiling a list of necessary upgrades and enhancements to the Election Worker web platform.

The Division is currently building the election in the election worker portal and adding classes in preparation for the call center to begin their work. The division is also updating the training materials and finalizing the allocation of equipment.

K. Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Vacancies

There are currently 20 ANC vacancies for the 2025-26 term, with these positions 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.

L. Special Election

DCBOE is actively planning for a special election in Ward 8. 21 candidates picked up petitions and two have submitted an initial filing. The deadline to file is Thursday, April 17 at 5:00 p.m. The challenge period will begin on Sunday, April 20 and will run through Tuesday, April 29 at 5:00 p.m. In addition to our normal business hours of 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. from Monday through Friday, DCBOE will be open on weekends during the challenge process on Sunday, April 20, Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27 from

8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

V. GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT (TERRI STROUD)

A. Rulemaking to Title 3 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations (Elections and Ethics)

1. Final Rulemaking

a) Chapter 5

i. The purpose of the amendment is to include tuition and housing statements from District of Columbia colleges and universities as valid and acceptable proof of residence. A notice of proposed rulemaking was published in DC Register on February 14, 2025 (72 DCR 001525). No public comments were received.

BOARD ACTION: Voted unanimously to adopt and submit the final rulemaking for publication in the D.C. Register.

b) Chapter 9

i. The purpose of this amendment is to recognize the D.C. Council’s determination that its expulsion of a member results in a vacancy that triggers the procedures for filling vacancies and to provide clarity regarding the date upon which these vacancies occur. A notice of proposed rulemaking was published in the D.C. Register on February 28, 2025 (72 DCR 002089). No public comments were received.

BOARD ACTION: Voted unanimously to adopt and submit the final rulemaking for publication in the D.C. Register.

B. Enforcement Hearings

1. In re Lisa Rice, Adam Eiding, Nikolas Schiller, and Kristin Furnish

The Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) presented a stipulated agreement entered into between the General Counsel and Initiative Measure No. 83 (“I83”) Circulators Lisa Rice, Adam Eiding, Nikolas Schiller, and Kristin Furnish. The stipulation addressed violations of D.C. election laws, specifically the prohibition against altering petition signer information. Despite prior guidance prohibiting such changes, the circulators used correction tape to overwrite signer-provided addresses with voter record addresses on 4,802 petition signature lines submitted in support of I83. The agreement requires the circulators to notify other I83 circulators of the illegality of such practices and complete training before future petition activities. The General Counsel recommended a civil fine of \$300 per each of the 125 violations for a total of \$37,500.

BOARD ACTION: Voted unanimously to impose a fine of \$300 per violation, totaling

\$37,500.

C. 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. Oral argument in this matter was held on March 14 and a decision is pending.

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

This is an appeal from a D.C. Superior Court decision denying appellant's challenge to I83 for the reason that it was untimely filed. On February 6, the court vacated the order of the Superior Court and remanded the matter back to that court for further proceedings to address appellant's proper subject claims. On February 11, the board sought *en banc* review of the February 6 decision. On February 26, the court ordered that the appellants file a response to the board's petition for *en banc* review by March 12. The plaintiffs filed that response on March 6. On March 31, the court issued an order denying the petition board's petition for *en banc* review.

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

This is the remand of the case just discussed. To date, the Superior Court has not acted on the remand but the board filed a motion to dismiss on April 8.

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

This case was remanded back to this court from the US District Court for DC 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. To date, the Superior Court has not acted on the remand.

5. 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. This matter has been fully briefed. An oral argument is scheduled for April 24.

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

On February 21, the Court granted Sobin's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. There has been no other activity since the Board's March 3 Meeting.

7. Jeffrey Young-Bey vs. D.C. Board of Elections (D.C. Court of Appeals)

This challenge to the general election results concerning the ANC SMD 7F08 race was previously reported as closed during the February Board meeting as the Court had issued its mandate on January 28. However, on February 6, Young-Bey filed a motion to recall the mandate. This motion was not served on the Board. Nevertheless, on March 18, the Court denied Young-Bey's motion to recall the mandate.

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

2. Community Outreach

On March 14, OCF joined other district agencies at the Harvard Towers Group community outreach event in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. On March 1, OCF joined other District Agencies by participating in the Jubilee Housing Group's Educational outreach event held in the Adams Morgan neighborhood. On March 18, OCF presented at the ANC SMD 3A01 meeting. On March 28, OCF joined other District agencies at the Late-Night Hype Beat the Streets program hosted by the Metropolitan Police Department and the D.C. Department of Recreation at the Emery Heights Community Center in the Brightwood neighborhood.

B. Fair Elections Program ("FEP") Division

1. Authorized Base Amount

a) 2025 Special Election Cycle for Ward 8

There are two certified participating candidates in the FEP. OCF has authorized the disbursement of the total sum of \$126,806.65 from the FEP fund in base amount and matching payments.

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

There were two new candidates certified in the FEP for the 2026 election cycle.

a) Sheila Bunn for Ward 8 2025 Principal Campaign Committee. Matching payment of \$46,735.00 and Base amount payment in the amount of \$20,000 were authorized for disbursement on March 19.

- b) Friends of Salim Adofo 2025 Principal Campaign Committee. Matching payment of \$40,071.65 and Base amount payment in the amount of \$20,000 were authorized for disbursement on March 19.

3. Desk Reviews and Other Activities

There were 48 desk reviews of Amended Reports of Receipts and Expenditures (“R & E Reports”) and 11 Requests for Additional Information (“RFAI”) letters were issued. \$871,502.58 has been remitted for deposit in the FEP fund.

4. 2020 Post-Election Full Field Audits

During March, FEP issued five post-election audit reports for the 2020 election cycle.

5. 2022 Post-Election Full Field Audits

During March, FEP issued five post-election reports for the 2022 election cycle.

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

1. R&E Reports

There was one filing date for R&E Reports in March: March 10 for R&E Report for Ward 8 Special Election Candidate Committees.

2. New Candidates/Committees

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

- i. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Doc Adams
- ii. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Armonte Wilson
- iii. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Jennifer Muhammad
- iv. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Michael Reese
- v. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Senay Emmanuel

b) FEP Candidates

- i. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Michael Austin
- ii. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Lawrence Grayson
- iii. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Charnal Chaney

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

1. Desk Reviews and Other Activities

Completed 23 desk reviews of R&E Reports and issued two requests for additional information. RAAD also resolved 20 cases and referred two cases to the Office of the General Counsel.

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

1. Monthly Intake/Output Report

During March, the OGC received two referrals, completed 14 informal hearings, and issued 14 orders. In eight orders, no fines were imposed and six orders imposed fines of \$8,500. These included fines of \$750 against the Ward 2 Democrats, Inc., \$1,900 against Markus for One Ward 8, \$1650 against Committee to Elect Rondell Magic Jordan, \$1,900 against Committee to Elect Paul Johnson, \$1,900 against Patricia Equino for DC Council, \$400 against Sriqui for Ward 3 SBOE, \$250 against Our Friend Brandon Douglass, \$2,700 against Randy Downs for Ward 2, and \$1,575 against DC Black Democratic Caucus.

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 43-63 of the transcript.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.