



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003-4733



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2022

Contact: Nick Jacobs

(202) 221-8560

njacobs@dcboe.org

DCBOE Commemorates the Anniversary of its Formation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The District of Columbia Board of Elections (DCBOE) is issuing the following statement from Chair Gary Thompson marking the anniversary of the formation of the Board of Elections on this day in 1955:

On this date in 1955, an Act of Congress ushered the DCBOE into existence as an independent agency “not subject to the direction of any nonjudicial officer of the District.” At the time, DC residents – long deprived of any democratic voice even in local affairs – were permitted to vote for only a few political party offices and nominating convention delegates. It was a small start, but it led to the DCBOE administering its first election in May 1956. The list of elected officials for whom DC residents could vote eventually expanded to include the U.S. President (first voted for in 1964 after the ratification of the 23rd Amendment in 1961), School Board (1968), Delegate to the US House of Representatives (1971), the Mayor and the Council (1974, after the passage of the Home Rule Act in 1973), Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (1976), and finally, the Attorney General (2014).

Since its formation, the DCBOE has remained an independent agency, duly administering elections such as those taking place this year with high voter participation. The DCBOE remains proudly committed to its mission to enfranchise eligible residents, conduct elections, and assure the integrity of the electoral process. We pause briefly today to note our anniversary, while moving forward to register more voters and conduct the general election on November 8. At a time when voting and elections are facing challenges across the country, we commemorate the establishment of our elections agency here in the Nation’s Capital. We celebrate the fairness and openness of our elections and the ease with which all DC citizens are able to register and vote through a variety of means, including through online voter registration, same-day registration, early voting, use of mail ballot drop boxes, and more. As we look to the future, we encourage every resident of the District to seek every opportunity to participate in our democracy.

The District of Columbia Board of Elections is an independent agency of the District of Columbia Government responsible for the administration of elections, ballot access, and voter registration.

###