

party was identified as Alison Bass, a D.C. voter residing at the address to which the ballot was sent. Based on these findings, the matter was turned over to the Office of General Counsel (OGC) for an investigation into a 2024 D.C. General Election miscast ballot.

As part of that investigation, OGC made multiple attempts to contact Ms. Bass. Eventually, correspondence from OGC reached her and she promptly called and emailed OGC. On May 28, 2026, Ms. Bass and her attorney attended a prehearing conference before OGC. Ms. Bass cooperated fully with OGC and entered into a stipulated agreement. By that agreement, Ms. Bass acknowledged that she inadvertently cast a mail ballot issued to another voter. She provided credible information that showed that she was unaware that the mail ballot that she had received at her home in fact bore the name of another voter and that she did not intend to vote another person's ballot. The stipulation also notes that Ms. Bass did not cast a ballot in her own name in the D.C. 2024 General Election.

Ms. Bass and her counsel were notified that the Board would hear her case during its regular monthly meeting on June 3, 2026. At that meeting, OGC presented the background of the matter. OGC requested that the Board accept into the record the stipulated agreement between Ms. Bass and the General Counsel. Ms. Bass was offered an opportunity to speak and she reiterated that she did not realize that the ballot she received at her residential address was issued to another person and would never have voted that ballot had she known that.

After the presentation of OGC and comments from Ms. Bass, the General Counsel recommended that the Board impose a civil fine on Ms. Bass of \$100.00 and declined to recommend referral. The Board Chair indicated that he agreed with the General Counsel's recommendation and he moved that the Board find that Ms. Bass be fined in the recommended amount. 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.² Upon the recommendation of the General Counsel, the Board is authorized to impose civil fines and/or refer election law violators for criminal prosecution.³ The record shows that Ms. Bass represented that she was the person to whom the ballot was issued by signing the ballot return envelope, contrary to the averment form on that envelope.

While it is clear based on the evidence before us that Ms. Bass failed to comply with voting requirements, she has stated that her actions were unknowing and that she did not intend to vote the ballot of another that was mailed to her address. Her credibility is bolstered by the fact that she legibly signed her own name on the signature line that appears over the printed name of the voter on the ballot return envelope and by the fact that she did not vote a ballot issued in her own name in the 2024 General Election. There is nothing nefarious here; only an innocent mistake. Under these circumstances, we cannot say that there is sufficient evidence that Ms. Bass had the level of intent required for criminal prosecution. Accordingly, we agree that Ms. Bass should face no more than a civil fine. We also conclude that the \$100.00 fine amount recommended by the General Counsel is appropriate.

Conclusion

For the reasons indicated above, it is hereby:

² 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.

³ See D.C. Code § 1–1001.18.

ORDERED that Ms. Bass be civilly fined \$100.00.⁴

Date: June 4, 2026



Gary Thompson
Chairman
Board of Elections

⁴ **Payment must be made by check or money order made out to the “D.C. Treasurer.”** It may be mailed to the attention of the General Counsel at the Board’s offices (1015 Half Street, Suite 750, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003) or hand delivered at that address.