

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

In the Matter of	)	
Micaiah Lewis	)	Administrative
	)	Order #26-045

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Introduction

This matter came before the District of Columbia Board of Elections ("the Board") at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 5, 2026. The Board's General Counsel recommended that the Board refer Micaiah Lewis to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia ("the USAO") for further investigation and possible prosecution in connection with a ballot cast in the name of another registered voter during the D.C. 2024 General Election ("GE"). Chairman Gregory McCarthy and Board Member Karyn Greenfield presided over the hearing. The Board's General Counsel, Terri Stroud, was also present.

Background

As a result of a Voter Participation Project report issued by the Election Registration Information Center ("the ERIC report"), the Board's Office of General Counsel ("OGC") became aware of evidence that ballots were cast in the same voter's name in the D.C. 2024 GE and in the Arizona 2024 GE in.¹ In light of the ERIC report findings, Board staff reviewed the signature on the ballot return envelope for the D.C. mail ballot cast in that voter's name. That signature was reasonably decipherable as a name other than the pre-printed name under the signature line and as a name other than the name of the voter to whom the ballot was issued.

¹ Those elections covered the U.S. Presidential race. Such evidence of voting twice presented the prospect of, *inter alia*, violations of 52 ("Voting and Elections") U.S. Code § 10307 ("Prohibited Acts").

Accordingly, OGC commenced an investigation of other voters claiming the same D.C. address as that on D.C. 2024 GE mail ballot return envelope. That effort revealed that the signature on the D.C. 2024 GE mail ballot return envelope matched the signature of Micaiah Lewis.

On the basis of this evidence, OGC scheduled a November 14, 2025 prehearing conference in the matter. Notice of the prehearing conference was sent to Ms. Lewis via United States mail and electronic mail on October 29, 2025. Ms. Lewis did not appear.

On May 13, 2026, a second notice was sent to Ms. Lewis, scheduling a prehearing conference for May 29, 2026. The second notice informed Ms. Lewis of the Board's outcomes in analogous enforcement matters and invited her to review those orders. Ms. Lewis did not appear at the second prehearing conference.

On July 15, 2026, OGC sent Ms. Lewis notice that her matter would be presented to the Board at its August 2026 meeting, and that the General Counsel would recommend referral for criminal prosecution and/or the imposition of civil penalties. The notice also informed Ms. Lewis of the outcomes in analogous matters and invited her to contact OGC to resolve the matter before the Board hearing. A further notice was sent on July 22, 2026, providing Ms. Lewis with meeting access information, including the remote videoconference link for the August 5, 2026 hearing.

At the Board's August 5, 2026 meeting, Ms. Lewis's case was presented and she did not come forward. The Board then heard from the General Counsel's Office with respect to the facts of the matter. The OGC attorney assigned to the matter explained and requested admission into the record of evidence that tended to show that Ms. Lewis cast a D.C. ballot issued to another voter in the D.C. 2024 GE. Accordingly, the General Counsel advised that she would recommend referral of this matter to the USAO.

Discussion

D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.18(a) provides that the Board's General Counsel may recommend to the Board enforcement action for violations of any election law. D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.14(a) provides that it is a criminal offense to vote or attempt to vote and make false representations as to the person's qualifications for voting. Finally, D.C. election laws also provide that it is a crime to fraudulently cast a ballot. See D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.14(a-1)(1)(D).

The evidence in this matter implicates these provisions. The record before the Board contains sufficient evidence that Ms. Lewis signed and returned a D.C. 2024 GE mail ballot issued to another registered voter. The signature on the ballot return envelope does not appear to be an attempt to replicate the name of the voter to whom the ballot was issued; rather, it is reasonably decipherable as Ms. Lewis's own name. Additionally, the ERIC report establishes that the voter to whom the ballot that Ms. Lewis voted was addressed separately voted in Arizona's 2024 General Election, and that Ms. Lewis did not cast a ballot in her own name. This conduct facially raises the prospect of violations of election laws, including the possibility of fraudulent voting activity, which the Board cannot rule out absent Ms. Lewis's cooperation.

That said, the capacity of OGC to investigate such violations is limited. OGC has made multiple attempts to contact Ms. Lewis and has been unable to complete its investigation. The statutory power of the Board to refer matters for criminal investigation suggests that the law is intended to allow the Board to rely on the investigatory resources of the USAO in ferreting out election fraud. Unless Ms. Lewis cooperates to assist the Board in resolving this matter, the Board has little choice other than to refer her for criminal investigation.

Conclusion

For the reasons indicated above, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the recommendation of the General Counsel is **ACCEPTED**, and the Board's Office of General Counsel is directed, subject to the lapse of sufficient time for filing any accepted motion for reconsideration, to refer Micaiah Lewis to the USAO for further investigation and possible prosecution. The Board issues this written order today, which is consistent with its oral ruling rendered on August 5, 2026.

Date: August 6, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G McCarthy', written in a cursive style.

Gregory McCarthy
Chair
Board of Elections