

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

+ + + + +

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 4, 2023

+ + + + +

The District of Columbia Board of Elections convened via Video-Teleconference, pursuant to notice, at 10:30 a.m. EDT, Gary Thompson, Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY THOMPSON, Chair
KARYN GREENFIELD, Member
J.C. BOGGS, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

MONICA HOLMAN EVANS, Executive Director
TERRI STROUD, General Counsel
CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY, Office of
Campaign Finance
WILLIAM SANFORD, General Counsel, Office
of Campaign Finance

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 10:34 a.m.

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Our court
4 reporter is here. Our meeting is being recorded.

5 Good morning, everybody.

6 My name is Gary Thompson, the Chair of
7 the D.C. Board of Elections. I am with you today
8 by Zoom.

9 And live in our boardroom are my
10 fellow Board members, Karyn Greenfield and J.C.
11 Boggs.

12 So, we have a quorum.

13 And we are proceeding with our regular
14 Board meeting.

15 The first step is to adopt our agenda,
16 which has been distributed to all the Board
17 members.

18 At this time, I would move that we
19 follow the agenda.

20 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

21 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. All in
22 favor?

1 (Chorus of aye.)

2 And also, very quickly, I move that we
3 adopt our minutes from our last regular Board
4 meeting, which we've all had a chance to review.

5 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

6 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. All in
7 favor?

8 (Chorus of aye.)

9 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. I don't have
10 any Board matters to raise. Anything from my
11 fellow Board members?

12 MEMBER GREENFIELD: No, I don't have
13 anything.

14 MEMBER BOGGS: No. No, thanks.

15 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. And
16 hearing none, our Executive Director's Report
17 from Monica Holman Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Good morning, and thank
19 you.

20 The Executive Director Report for the
21 month of September is as follows:

22 On Monday, September 25th, we met with

1 Councilmember Bonds to discuss 2024 election
2 planning. We discussed progress to date and the
3 needed equipment purchases.

4 Precinct mapping. As required by
5 regulations, the Board is looking at our current
6 precinct boundaries to divide the District into
7 appropriating voting precincts based on our
8 Election Wards. A file has been sent to OCTO to
9 verify the SMDs and precinct alignment. We are
10 still working with Gottlieb Simon to finalize the
11 plan that will be submitted to Councilmember
12 Bonds.

13 ANC vacancies. We have 14 ANC
14 vacancies for the 2023-2025 term. These
15 positions are in different stages of being
16 filled. After candidate filing requirements are
17 met, an open vote of registered voters of the
18 affected SMD will be held during regularly-
19 scheduled ANC meetings. We have been working
20 with the Department of Corrections to fill the
21 vacancy of the ANC that represents the D.C. Jail.

22 List maintenance. We mailed 305,402

1 canvas mailers to registered voters who did not
2 participate in the 2022 General Election. That
3 was the first canvass mailer. We have received
4 over 77,000 mailers back from the U.S. Postal
5 Service, and we sent over about 73,000 notices as
6 part of our second canvass mailer. The second
7 canvass mailer has been sent and these
8 individuals are being moved to an inactive
9 status.

10 We have also identified 65,628 current
11 inactive voters who will be removed from our
12 voter rolls after the 30-day notice period on
13 October 11th.

14 Foreign delegations. We hosted
15 delegations from Sri Lanka and Nepal on September
16 21st. The delegations were interested in the
17 D.C. elections process and administering free and
18 fair elections. They traveled to Ohio after
19 leaving D.C.

20 Next steps as far as our election
21 planning for 2024. Our Draft Primary and General
22 Election calendars for the 2024 election cycle

1 have been posted on our website. We are
2 implementing the requirements of the Elections
3 Modernization Amendment Act and the
4 Local Resident Voter Rights Amendment Act.

5 We've met with our vendors and we're
6 working on the data visualization interface on
7 our website that will assist us with having that
8 database solution on our website, and then, also,
9 a solution to house non-citizens who register to
10 vote in local elections. We have entered phase 1
11 of testing on our non-citizen registration
12 database and interface.

13 We will acquire additional equipment
14 to assist with our mail ballot processing
15 activities. We received funding in our FY 2024
16 budget to purchase additional Agilis machine
17 equipment and ballot signature verification
18 software. We are waiting for a purchase order in
19 order to move forward with the vendor.

20 The comment period for our proposed
21 vote center and mail ballot drop box locations
22 closed on October 2nd. We are in the process of

1 reviewing comments we received.

2 Voter education and outreach. During
3 the month of September, the Voter Education and
4 Outreach Division conducted 38 outreach events on
5 behalf of the agency.

6 September 19th was National Voter
7 Registration Day. On National Voter Registration
8 Day, we conducted five outreach events that
9 included voter registration at the Nationals
10 baseball game, where we partnered with Arlington
11 County Board of Elections and Prince George's
12 County Board of Elections.

13 During National Voter Registration
14 Week, we registered 239 voters.

15 Voter registration rolls. In
16 September, we registered 1,853 new voters and
17 processed 215 registration changes. In total, we
18 prepared 2,068 voter registration cards to be
19 mailed.

20 Additionally, 97 registered voters
21 moved out of D.C.; 103 voters cancelled their
22 registrations and registered with other

1 jurisdictions, and 755 voters registered in D.C.
2 after cancelling their registrations in other
3 states.

4 We are continuing to register voters
5 using our website portal. To date, we have
6 processed over 38,466 applications using the
7 portal. These include new voter registrations
8 and updates to existing registrations.

9 And that concludes my report. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you
12 very much.

13 Can you just repeat real quick what
14 you said about October 11th removals? I missed
15 the numbers.

16 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry. We mailed our
17 second canvass mailer, and for the individuals
18 who received the second mailer, they will be
19 positioned to move to an inactive status. And
20 so, we are currently moving those individuals,
21 and that's over 73,000 moving from an active to
22 an inactive status. We also identified 65,628

1 current inactive voters who will be removed from
2 our voter rolls on October 11th, and that's after
3 the 30-day notice.

4 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Thanks.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 CHAIR THOMPSON: Let's see. Moving on
7 now to the General Counsel's Report from Terri
8 Stroud.

9 MS. STROUD: Good morning, everyone.

10 The first item on my agenda is a
11 proposed rulemaking to Title 3 of the D.C.
12 Municipal Regulations. This rulemaking seeks to
13 amend Chapter 1 and Chapters 3 through 20. The
14 purpose of the amendment is to have the
15 regulations conform with District law, including
16 the Local Residents Voting Rights Amendment Act
17 of 2022.

18 The rulemaking also reflects court
19 decisions rendered concerning Initiative Measure
20 No. 82, the D.C. Tip Credit Elimination Act of
21 2021.

22 The rulemaking also updates and/or

1 clarifies Board procedures for various
2 activities, including meetings, the issuance of
3 Board orders and advisory opinions, and ballot
4 access for candidates in ballot measures.

5 The amendments also make other non-
6 substantive housekeeping updates and corrections
7 of errors.

8 Should the Board allow the Office of
9 the General Counsel to proceed with submitting
10 this rulemaking to the D.C. Register, it would be
11 published in the D.C. Register on October 13th
12 for a 30-day review period, which would end on or
13 about November 11th. And so, the Board could
14 take final rulemaking action after that. But I
15 just wanted to make clear that there would be a
16 period during which the public could provide
17 comments on the rulemaking.

18 And so, my request is that the Board
19 make a motion to allow the Office of the General
20 Counsel to submit this proposed rulemaking for
21 submission to the D.C. Register.

22 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Yes,

1 thank you. We've had a chance to review those in
2 detail.

3 And so, at this time, I would so move
4 that the General Counsel submit the rulemaking to
5 the D.C. Register.

6 MEMBER BOGGS: I'll second.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor?

8 (Chorus of aye.)

9 All right. The motion carries.

10 MS. STROUD: Thank you.

11 And the last item on my agenda is the
12 litigation status report. And we have four cases
13 that are active currently.

14 The first is the Public Interest Legal
15 Foundation v. Monica Evans. And that was filed
16 in the U.S. District Court. And this is a case
17 that has been going on for some time. It
18 involved the Board's denial of certain records to
19 PILF.

20 And one moment. I'm sorry, one
21 moment, please.

22 So, that case is currently pending in

1 the D.C. Court. All motions have been filed in
2 this matter. Actually, the Office of the
3 Attorney General, which is representing the Board
4 in this matter, is filing a response to, a reply
5 to an opposition's Motion to Dismiss. They are
6 filing a reply to the response to the Motion to
7 Dismiss that was filed by the OAG.

8 In *Stacia Hall v. the D.C. Board of*
9 *Elections*, this matter is in the U.S. District
10 Court, having been removed from the Superior
11 Court. And it involves a challenge to the Local
12 Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act. And so,
13 that case is being litigated in U.S. District
14 Court and their opinion is forthcoming.

15 The next two cases involve challenges
16 to Initiative Measure No. 83. They were both
17 filed by the District of Columbia Democratic
18 Party. And they are challenging the Board's
19 acceptance of Initiative Measure 83, which
20 involved an initiative put forth concerning
21 ranked choice voting and opening primaries to
22 independent voters in the District of Columbia.

1 In the first matter, the Board was not
2 served, and in the second matter, the Board was
3 served. And there is a hearing scheduled for
4 December 2023 to discuss next steps with respect
5 to this case.

6 And that is the litigation status
7 report.

8 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you
9 very much.

10 And I believe that concludes your
11 overall report. So, we'll move to campaign
12 finance with Director Collier-Montgomery.

13 MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Good morning
14 again.

15 CHAIR THOMPSON: You have to turn your
16 mic on.

17 MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Good morning
18 again.

19 For the record, the full report of the
20 activity of the Office of Campaign Finance for
21 the month of September 2023 will be posted at our
22 website by the close of business today. The

1 website address is www.ocf.dc.gov. I will,
2 however, highlight a few items from the report
3 for the public this morning.

4 First, in the Fair Elections Program
5 Division, by way of background, I would point out
6 again that, during the 2022 election cycle, which
7 was the second cycle of the administration of the
8 Fair Elections Program by the Office of Campaign
9 Finance, the agency authorized the total sum of
10 \$12,358,606.95 for disbursement from the Fair
11 Elections Fund in base amount and matching
12 payment to the 42 candidates who were certified
13 in the program to participate in the June 2022
14 Primary Election and the November 2022 General
15 Election.

16 Again, I would point out that the
17 report, the post-election report, for the 2022
18 election cycle is available at our website for
19 review by members of the public.

20 In the 2024 election cycle to date,
21 there are two certified participating candidates
22 in the program and three registered candidates

1 who are seeking to participate in the 2024
2 election cycle. There were no new certifications
3 or disbursements from the Fair Elections Fund
4 which were authorized by the agency during the
5 month of September 2023.

6 With respect to new candidates, there
7 were no new candidates certified during the month
8 of September, again, or disbursements.

9 With respect to the desk reviews of
10 the Financial Reports of Receipts and
11 Expenditures which have been filed with the
12 agency, the Fair Elections Program conducted 39
13 desk reviews and, also, issued 21 requests for
14 additional information as a result of those desk
15 reviews.

16 With respect to remitted funds for the
17 2022 election cycle, as of September the 27th,
18 the total sum of \$832,207.20 has been remitted
19 for deposit in the Fair Elections Fund, again,
20 from the campaign operations of those candidates
21 who participated in the 2022 election cycle.

22 With the ongoing 2020 post-election

1 full field audits which are being conducted by
2 the Fair Elections Program, the OCF initiated 34
3 full field audits of the campaign operations of
4 the candidates who were certified, again, to
5 participate in the program during the 2020
6 election cycle. There are currently 11 of these
7 post-election audits which are ongoing in the
8 Fair Elections Division at various stages of the
9 audit process.

10 The Division has issued a total of 23
11 final audit reports of the post-election audits
12 which were initiated for the 2020 election cycle.
13 And the audits are available, again, at our
14 website for review by the public.

15 The status of all the ongoing audits
16 is listed in the report which will be posted at
17 the website.

18 With our 2022 post-election full field
19 audits, the Office of Campaign Finance issued 42
20 post-election audit letters for the Primary and
21 the November General Election to the candidates
22 who were certified to participate in the cycle.

1 To date, the Fair Elections Program
2 has issued 17 Preliminary Statements of Audit
3 Findings and 10 Final Audit Reports for the 2022
4 election cycle, including during the month of
5 September, D.C. for Terese Crawford 2022, and
6 that was a Preliminary Statement of Findings
7 which was issued on September the 12th.

8 With respect to Final Audit Reports,
9 Friends of Faith for Ward 5, which was issued on
10 September the 19th; Ben for Ward 3, which was
11 issued on September the 19th; Matthew Frumin
12 2022, which was issued on September the 25th;
13 Cheh 2022 for Ward 3, which was issued on
14 September the 25th; Anosi 2022, which was issued
15 on September the 25th, 2023.

16 And again, all the audit reports are
17 available at the website for review by the
18 public.

19 And the status of all the ongoing
20 audits for the 2022 cycle is listed in our
21 report, which will be posted today.

22 In the Public Information and Records

1 Management Division, during the month of
2 September, there were no due dates for the filing
3 of Reports of Receipts and Expenditures by the
4 filing entities who are registered with the
5 office.

6 I would point out or note for the
7 record that the D.C. -- 2023 Inaugural Committee
8 filed its Termination Report, Receipts and
9 Expenditures, on Friday, September the 8th, 2023.
10 And the image of the report is available for
11 review by members of the public.

12 With respect to new candidates and
13 committees in the Judicial Program, currently,
14 there are a total of seven candidates who are
15 registered to participate in the June 2024
16 Primary Election, and that includes one new
17 registration for the month of September. And
18 that candidate is for the Office of U.S. Shadow
19 Senator in the Primary Election, and it's Ankit
20 Jain, who registered on September the 27th.

21 In our Fair Elections Program, again,
22 there are currently a total of five candidates

1 who are registered to participate in the June
2 2024 Primary Election, which includes one new
3 registration for the month of September. And
4 that candidate is for the Office or Member of the
5 Council from Ward 7 for the Primary. The
6 candidate's name is Veda Rasheed, who registered
7 on September the 14th, 2023.

8 There were no new committee
9 registrations during the month of September.

10 In our report's analysis of the Audit
11 Division, and that is a traditional campaign
12 finance program -- for our traditional campaign
13 finance program, the Audit Branch conducted 10
14 desk reviews -- I'm sorry -- 11 desk reviews and
15 issued one request for additional information as
16 a result of that desk result.

17 There were no Final Audit Reports
18 issued, but there are ongoing audits before our
19 traditional Audit Branch. The first one is a
20 full field audit of a newly-elected official, and
21 that is of Kenyan McDuffie 2022. The audit field
22 work is in progress.

1 Also, we have three ongoing random
2 audits of the July 31st, 2023 Report of Receipts
3 and Expenditures, which was filed by our
4 Political Action Committee. And those are:

5 The D.C. Latino Caucus PAC. The field
6 work is complete and the Preliminary Draft
7 Statement of Findings was issued on September the
8 27th.

9 D.C. Young Democrats, the audit field
10 work is complete, and the Audit Branch is, again,
11 preparing the Preliminary Draft Statement of
12 Findings, which will be issued to the Committee
13 for a response before the final report is issued.

14 And with Citizens for Empowerment, the
15 Committee bank account was closed on September
16 the 9th, and a letter from the bank was provided.
17 So, more than likely, if a termination report has
18 been filed, then the Committee will be approved
19 for termination.

20 The last full field audit which is
21 ongoing in the traditional Audit Branch is the
22 D.C. Crown Inaugural Committee. And in that

1 particular matter, the audit pre-work has begun
2 and the audit notification was issued to the
3 Committee on September the 9th.

4 That concludes my report, but I would
5 ask the General Counsel, William Sanford, to
6 provide the report for the Office of the General
7 Counsel.

8 MR. SANFORD: Good morning, Mr.
9 Chairman and Distinguished Board Members
10 Greenfield and Boggs.

11 My name is William Sanford, General
12 Counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance.

13 During the month of September 2023,
14 the Office of the General Counsel received one
15 referral, completed seven informal hearings, and
16 issued seven orders, which included the
17 following:

18 Four orders were issued to vacate
19 orders that had previously been issued. Three
20 orders were issued in which a total of \$6,050 in
21 fines were imposed.

22 During the month of September 2023,

1 the Office of the General Counsel imposed a total
2 of \$6,050 in fines against the following

3 Respondents:

4 Marcus for D.C. Principal Campaign
5 Committee was fined \$2,750.

6 Randy Downs for Ward 2 Principal
7 Campaign Committee was fined \$550.

8 Monica Palacio for City Council
9 Principal Campaign Committee was fined \$2,750.

10 During the month of September 2023,
11 the Office of the General Counsel collected a
12 total of \$2,425 in fines from the following

13 Respondents:

14 The Committee to Elect Karim Marshall
15 paid a fine of \$1,050.

16 The Committee to Elect Ravi K. Perry
17 paid a fine of \$500.

18 Rodney Grant for Mayor Principal
19 Campaign Committee paid a fine of \$825.

20 And Dasha Kleckley ANC paid a fine of
21 \$50.

22 During the month of September 2023,

1 the Office of the General Counsel had no open
2 investigations; received no requests for
3 interpretative opinions, and conducted no show
4 cause proceedings.

5 The contents of this report will be
6 published at the Office of Campaign Finance
7 website by close of business on today's date,
8 October 4th, 2023.

9 And that should conclude my report.

10 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right.

11 MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: And that
12 concludes the report for the Office of Campaign
13 Finance.

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you so
15 much.

16 All right. Last, but not least, it's
17 always important to hear from our D.C. residents.
18 So, at this time, if you are a D.C. resident,
19 just raise your hand if you want to make a
20 comment or ask a question, and we'll call on you
21 in order.

22 Nikolas Schiller?

1 If you could go ahead and unmute
2 Nikolas Schiller?

3 And go ahead.

4 MR. SCHILLER: Thank you so much for
5 having me today. I appreciate the nice speed at
6 which the meeting is happening.

7 I'm going to post something really
8 fast into the chat because it's sort of an
9 important thing for the webmaster of the D.C.
10 Board of Elections website.

11 I was doing some research on
12 Initiative 68 last night, and I found that there
13 has been a malicious code added to the Board of
14 Elections server. So, if you did that, I was
15 looking for the casino information, and lo and
16 behold, I found that some malicious code had been
17 added to the Board of Elections website.

18 As someone who builds websites myself,
19 this has happened to me multiple times, and it's
20 not a hard fix. I don't think any personal
21 information was compromised. They just added
22 some code, and then, it got executed and, all of

1 a sudden, Google picks it all up, and you've got
2 stuff that you shouldn't have on your server.
3 So, I just want to bring that to your attention,
4 first and foremost.

5 I've got a few other matters I'd like
6 to bring up real fast today.

7 No. 2, the process for non-resident
8 petition circulators. We have a COVID-safe
9 system that we started with Initiative 81, and it
10 also followed into Initiative 82, which was that
11 someone from a campaign would send the Registrar
12 of Voters the form that was completed and
13 photographs of the proof of residency. And the
14 Registrar of Voters would respond either received
15 or not. And that would prevent someone from
16 having to go to the Board of Elections and have
17 to do it in person.

18 And it sounds like we're going to go
19 back to the original way, which is go to the
20 Board of Elections. I'm just suggesting that,
21 through future rulemaking, that a digital process
22 be adopted. It saves staff time from having to

1 show up and fill out the paperwork, and also,
2 potentially, can keep the Board of Elections
3 staff members safer in case someone who shows up
4 to register as a petition circulator might be
5 sick. So, I just would like to suggest that.

6 No. 3, the idea of rotating petitions
7 90 degrees. Right now, we have what's called a
8 portrait petition. In a lot of jurisdictions,
9 they use a landscape petition. By going long ways
10 sideways, you are able to write someone's address
11 in a longer format than it is on the current
12 system. And I would just like to suggest that
13 the Board of Elections look into the possibility
14 of using a landscape-oriented petition.

15 No. 4, I looked up some of the names
16 of the 65,000 voters that were put on the removal
17 list, and I realized that there was actually two
18 lists that the Board of Elections maintains.
19 There's the active list and there's the inactive
20 list. Those 65,000, I looked in one of the older
21 voter rolls of this year, and none of those
22 people are on it because they are already on the

1 inactive list.

2 So, my question is, what is -- there
3 were 73,000 that were postcards that were mailed
4 to people that will likely be moved into the
5 inactive list. And what is the timeline in which
6 those 73,000 will be made inactive? Will it
7 happen before the end of this year or will it
8 happen in the next few months?

9 And my last one, I would like a little
10 bit more clarity about the proposed regulations
11 that are going to be published on October 13th;
12 specifically, more detail concerning the court
13 decisions related to Initiative 82.

14 Thank you so much for your time, and
15 I appreciate your service to the District of
16 Columbia.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you. And we
18 will absolutely take your comments under
19 advisement.

20 As far as the timeline for moving the
21 approximately 73,000 individuals from an active
22 to an inactive status, that is currently in

1 process and that should actually be completed by
2 the end of this week.

3 And as far as the question about the
4 regulations, I'll turn that over to General
5 Counsel Stroud.

6 MS. STROUD: So, with respect to the
7 rulemaking that will be published in the D.C.
8 Register, the decisions that were rendered with
9 respect to Initiative 83 approved the actions
10 that the Board took with respect to several
11 aspects of the way that we processed the measure.
12 And so, it just sort of clarifies and codifies
13 some of the actions that the Board took during
14 the processing of that measure, which the Court
15 approved of.

16 So, you know, you will get the
17 opportunity to read them in detail. Again, there
18 is a 30-day review period. But it really is just
19 that we had been challenged with respect to some
20 of the actions we took, and the Court affirmed
21 the Board's actions with respect to Initiative
22 82. And so, the regulations clarify and reflect

1 that.

2 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. I think an
3 example is official voter count as of the 31st of
4 each month.

5 MS. STROUD: So, that was one of the
6 changes/amendments that is being made.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. All right. Mr.
8 Schiller, thanks so much for all that. Much
9 appreciated. We'll look into the IT issue and
10 the other things you mentioned. Any further
11 hands, Zoom hands, for comment?

12 MS. BRIZILL: Mr. Chairman, this is
13 Dorothy Brizill. I'd like to make a public
14 comment.

15 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Please go
16 ahead, Ms. Brizill.

17 MS. BRIZILL: First off, I'd like to
18 talk about the plans for 2024. At the Women's
19 Democratic Club luncheon that you spoke at two
20 weeks ago, I asked you the question of where did
21 the Board intend to do the processing of absentee
22 ballots and what the condition of the warehouse

1 was, and whether or not the Board intended to
2 continue to use the warehouse.

3 You indicated that you were not fully
4 versed on that subject, but that you would look
5 into it. What have you since found in the past
6 two weeks?

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Hold on. Before we
8 answer that, do you have any other comments or
9 questions?

10 MS. BRIZILL: You want me to go
11 through all of them?

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, like Mr.
13 Schiller just listed all five and we responded.
14 Instead of a back-and-forth, can you just finish
15 your contribution --

16 MS. BRIZILL: I would like a more --

17 CHAIR THOMPSON: Go ahead.

18 MS. BRIZILL: I would a more detailed
19 explanation of what Ms. Evans discussed with Ms.
20 Bonds at the September 25th meeting to discuss
21 the 2024 elections.

22 I would like to know a little bit more

1 information about the process the Board is
2 undergoing in terms of redrawing ANC and SMD
3 boundaries. Is it all an internal exercise?
4 When do you plan to let the community know?

5 The second thing I would like to note
6 is, what is the Board's policy regarding citizens
7 and civic groups getting access to the transcript
8 and to the actual recording of Zoom meetings?

9 Next, I would like something from
10 Terri Stroud as regards the issue of the
11 petitions for Initiative 83. As you know, at the
12 September Board meeting, proponents of Initiative
13 83 asked for a delay. The Board decided to vote
14 to put the issuance in abeyance. What is the
15 status and under what legal argument is the Board
16 delaying the issuance of the petition?

17 Finally, I would like to ask the Board
18 about the website. For more than a year -- I
19 would almost say two years -- it has been stated
20 that the website of the Board of Elections would
21 be revised and corrected and changes made. When
22 is that fix going to take place?

1 And finally, I'd like to ask that, in
2 the future, that on the website, a detailed
3 report be given on the website regarding the
4 report that the Executive Director prepares for
5 the monthly meeting of the Board, as well as on
6 the website there be a direct link to any
7 proposed rulemaking that is underway, whether or
8 not it has already been sent to the D.C. Register
9 or whether or not it's simply on the agenda for
10 the Board to consider.

11 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you
12 so much for those comments. I wrote down six
13 distinct things, and we'll certainly take all
14 that under advisement.

15 And perhaps Director Evans would like
16 to comment on some of those? Or, General Counsel
17 Stroud, if you could go ahead?

18 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. Thank you,
19 Mr. Chair.

20 As to the 2024 election cycle, we are
21 working with DGS. They have made and are looking
22 at renderings for improvements to our current

1 warehouse space, but a final decision has not
2 been made whether or not they will be able to
3 make enough improvements for us to be in the
4 current space or if we will have to be
5 temporarily moved for that process.

6 As far as the meeting with
7 Councilmember Bonds, we went through a lot of
8 what we discussed during the monthly Board
9 meetings as far as mail ballot drop box
10 locations, locations of vote centers, equipment
11 we need, and plans that we have as far as
12 implementing new legislation, and where we are
13 with working with our vendors to make changes to
14 our systems, including the data visualization
15 dashboard and creating a database for non-
16 citizens to vote in local elections.

17 As far as the process for redrawing
18 boundaries, we have a meeting today. Yes, the
19 information will be made public before anything
20 is finalized, and we are working with getting
21 that information to Councilmember Bonds before
22 that information will be shared with the public.

1 As far as policy regarding information
2 to meetings and the issuance, I believe that
3 would be the General Counsel.

4 And as far as website updates, we have
5 been making updates to our website. So, that is
6 an ongoing process. It's not a one-time rollout
7 of a new website. But now that we do have our
8 Director of Communications onboard, we are
9 working with her to continue the process and get
10 suggestions as far as things we'll put in place
11 to ensure that the website is more user-friendly.

12 And we will take all of your
13 suggestions under advisement.

14 And I'll turn it over to Ms. Stroud.

15 MS. STROUD: With respect to the
16 issuance of the petition in support of Initiative
17 Measure No. 83, as you indicated, the Board acted
18 favorably to the proposer's request that the
19 issuance be held in abeyance for several reasons
20 that they outlined, including wanting to ensure
21 that any litigation that arose with respect to
22 Initiative 83 was resolved prior to the issuance

1 of the petition.

2 And in terms of the Board's authority,
3 the statute does not provide an explicit
4 timeframe within which the petition must be
5 issued. And so, the Board exercises discretion
6 under the law to hold the issuance of the
7 petition in abeyance until such time as it saw
8 fit to issue the petition, which the proposers
9 requested January 2024, but the Board made clear
10 that it could issue it prior to that time. And
11 so, that's what the status of the issuance of the
12 petition for that measure is.

13 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you
14 so much.

15 Any other Zoom hands out there for
16 public comment?

17 All right. It looks like we've got
18 about 25 people here. I can see everybody on my
19 screen. I'm not seeing any other hands. It
20 looks like we have wrapped this up in about 40
21 minutes.

22 So, we really appreciate everybody

1 attending, and we are hard at work, as always, at
2 the BOE and the Office of Campaign Finance. So,
3 thank you, as always, to our staff who are
4 working so hard into this fall, as we really gear
5 up -- now following our official calendar that's
6 posted on our website. So, we really appreciate
7 it.

8 And unless there's any other comment
9 from my fellow Board members, at this time I
10 would move to adjourn.

11 MS. EVANS: Mr. Chair, when you do
12 adjourn, will you just stay on the line for a
13 moment?

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Oh, sure. Yes.

15 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second it.

16 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. All in
17 favor?

18 (Chorus of aye.)

19 All right. Have a great day,
20 everybody.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 11:12 a.m.)

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In the matter of: Board Meeting

Before: DC BOE

Date: 10-04-23

Place: teleconference

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