GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

+ + + + +

THURSDAY

MAY 2, 2024

+ + + + +

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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY THOMPSON, Chair KARYN GREENFIELD, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

SYLVIA GOLDSBERRY-ADAMS, Deputy Director
TERRI STROUD, General Counsel
CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY, Director, Office
of Campaign Finance
WILLIAM SANFORD, General Counsel, Office of
Campaign Finance

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(U.S. Court of Appeals for the
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,
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campaign rinance Report
Public Comment
Adjourn

1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	(10:32 a.m.)
3	CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Good
4	morning, everybody.
5	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Good morning.
6	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. It is - what day
7	is this? - May 2nd. As we're moving through the
8	week, it's a Thursday. We are T-minus 33 days from
9	June 4th coming up rapidly.
10	My name is Gary Thompson, the Chair of
11	the Board of Elections, and with us by Zoom is my
12	fellow Board member, Karyn Greenfield. We're two
13	for three today, so that constitutes a quorum.
14	The first thing we do is adopt our
15	agenda. I will move that we adopt it with one
16	modification. Apparently, the issue for approval
17	of a political party name has been deferred until
18	our next meeting. So with that slight
19	addition modification, I move the agenda.
20	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Second.
21	CHAIR THOMPSON: I will take a second
22	as two ayes. Next, we've each reviewed our minutes

from our last meeting of April 5th. I move that we adopt those minutes.

MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. That passes as well. As far as Board matters go, I don't have anything in particular to bring up other than to say we are really in the swing of it now. Of course, the mailed ballots are on their way. The drop boxes will open soon, and in a blink of an eye, we'll be in early voting, and then June 4th, we'll be here.

So our staff is obviously working tirelessly right now. This is our, you know, fourth quarter. So I want to thank everybody at the BOE and the Office of Campaign Finance as well for how much work everybody's handling right now, grace under pressure. It's going very, very well.

With that, I will turn to the executive director's report. Our director, Director Monica Evans, couldn't be here today, so we're happy to welcome Deputy Director Sylvia Goldsberry-Adams to give us the Executive Director's report.

MS. GOLDSBERRY-ADAMS: 1 Good morning. CHAIR THOMPSON: Good morning. 2 3 MS. GOLDSBERRY-ADAMS: Executive Director's report for April 2024. On April 11th, 4 5 the Executive Director attended the monthly DC Security meeting of 6 Homeland the Emergency 7 Preparedness Council. The purpose of the meeting to address challenging issues related to 8 emergency preparedness and disaster relief. 9 10 On April 24th, the Executive Director attended an election briefing series hosted by the 11 12 Meridian International Center. The topic was 13 "Truth Talks: Digital Trends Shaping the 2024 14 Elections." Speakers addressed social media and technology trends and policies that will affect 15 16 the 2024 election cycle. On April 26th, BOE had its budget 17 oversight hearing. The hearing was conducted by 18 the Committee on Executive Administration and 19 20 BOE addressed budget oversight issues for Labor. 21 fiscal year '24 and discuss the proposed fiscal

year 2025 budget.

22

We were able to articulate

expenditures, budget needs, and plans for the 2024 election cycle. We emphasized that there is no money in our fiscal year '24 or '25 budgets to conduct a special election.

ANC vacancies. We currently have 12 ANC vacancies for the '23-'25 term. Only seven of the vacancies are active because they occurred before we entered our blackout period for filling vacancies. These positions are in different stages of being filled. After the candidate filing requirements are met, an open vote of registered voters of the affected SMD will be held during regularly scheduled ANC meetings.

List maintenance process. As previously mentioned, we are now in the 90-day blackout window before the June primary. Therefore, we will not be removing any additional voters from our registry as a result of list During the '23 list maintenance maintenance. process, we removed 108,698 individuals from our voter registry and moved another 98 -- I'm sorry, 95,220 active voter status. As of April 30, we

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have 455,088 active voters.

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Voter registration rolls. In April, we registered 2,912 new voters and processed 6,159 In total, we prepared 9,071 registration changes. voter registration cards to be mailed. Additional 152 registered voters moved out of D.C., 348 voters canceled their D.C. registrations and registered other jurisdictions, 1,141 with and voters D.C. after registered in canceling their registrations in other states.

Online voter registration. We are continuing to register voters using our website portal. To date, we have processed over 46,735 applications using the portal. These include new voter registrations and updates to existing registrations.

Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment
Act. We are also registering noncitizens to vote
in our local elections using the database solution
developed by DR Systems, our voter database
contractor. We have deployed online
registration, and noncitizens may also register

to vote in our office using a paper registration form. Translations are available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Amharic, and French. We are working with our vendor to ensure the translations are available electronically in addition to the printed translations. We have developed outreach materials to assist with our outreach efforts.

On April 30th, we hosted a town hall to discuss the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act. In addition to issuing a press release and utilizing social media, the event was publicized with D.C. government agencies, schools, and universities, and the Washington Hispanic Newspaper. In addition to giving an overview of the legislation, we discussed registration and voting options for noncitizens in the District of Columbia. The town hall concluded with a question and answer session. In April, we registered 163 noncitizens to vote in local elections. Total noncitizen registration is currently 376.

2024 election planning. Our draft

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primary and general election calendars for the 2024 election cycle are posted on our website. Our vote center and mail ballot drop box locations are also posted on our website. The new landing page to provide 2024 election information has been launched. Our ballot lottery was held on Friday, April 12th, and we completed ballot proofing on Saturday, April 13th.

election cycle, all registered D.C. voters will receive a mail-in ballot. Voters may vote by mail, in person, or by depositing a ballot in a mail ballot drop box. BOE will have 55 mail ballot drop boxes that will be placed throughout the city. We will also operate 25 early vote centers and a total of 75 election day vote centers.

We are working with the Metropolitan Police Department to provide security and the Department of Public Works to place the mail ballot drop boxes. Almost all of the mail ballot drop boxes have been installed. They will open on May 10th. The K&H Mail House began mailing ballots

to eligible voters on April 29th.

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Accessibility. We are conducting an accessibility survey of all 2024 vote centers before the primary election to ensure they are accessible. We have partnered with Disability Rights at University Legal Services and the Office of Disability Rights to conduct surveys. As is our practice, we will also work with DGS to ensure vote centers are structurally accessible. An accessibility coordinator has started conducting these visits.

Democracy Live. The setup for the electronic ballot return designed for ADA and UOCAVA voters is now up and operational. submit their ballots and ADA voters can electronically to BOE through a secure web portal hosted by Democracy Live. A unique VIN code along with a secure link to access the system is provided exclusively to voters who opt for electronic ballot submission, safeguarding the integrity of the voting process. UOCAVA voters have already begun submitting their ballots using this system.

Election Worker Division. The Election Worker Training Division is actively recruiting and training election workers. During the 2024 election cycle, our goal is to recruit and train between 2,000 and 2,500 election workers. We will deploy approximately 1,700 election workers to serve at both centers. Election worker training began on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024. As of April 30th, we have trained 1,630 election workers.

Voter education and outreach. During the month of April, the Voter Education and Outreach Division conducted 49 outreach events on behalf of the agency. Events included outreach to the DC Housing Authority, UnitedHealthcare, and Events DC. Additionally, we engaged with the 11 nursing facilities, including Knollwood Community the Retirement and Deanwood Rehabilitation and Wellness Center.

Restore the Vote. The Restore the Vote Division held ten outreach events in April. They attended the DC Correctional Treatment Facility's

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resident orientation and will continue to do so moving forward. They also provided voter education and registration opportunities to Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities in Virginia and Pennsylvania. The RTV also participated in CSOSA's Community Resource Day re-entry event held virtually with the BOP.

Lastly, they provided in-person registration opportunities at four different county facilities in Arlington, Virginia, and Montgomery and PG Counties in Maryland. The RTV staff are meeting weekly with the DC Department of Corrections staff leading up to the election. That concludes the report.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you so much. A lot of things stand out, but I just kind of went wild when I heard 1,700 election workers, 1,630 trained so far. I think I saw the training progress today for the last of our election workers. So, you know, we want to thank and we'll continue to thank everybody in our city that stepped up to play these important roles for

our elections. And ,obviously, it's no small task 1 for our BOE to train each and every one of them 2 3 here in our offices, so thank you for that. And, also, I was just looking at the 4 calendar, and this is something I didn't really 5 think about much before we considered one of the 6 7 latest voter initiatives, but by Tuesday, May 14th, you can actually change party affiliation status 8 and vote in either primary, if you'd like. 9 Ιf 10 you're independent, you can, before May 14th, 11 anyway, register in any of the party primaries to 12 vote. 13 So that is -- I don't know what they 14 call that, semi-open, kind of open, but it is an opportunity that's there for all voters. 15 16 just stood out to me because I hadn't really thought about that before. So that's still, what, 10, 12 17 more days to do that? 18 19 Well, thanks very much. Moving on then 20 to the General Counsel's report from Terri Stroud. 21 Thank you, Mr. Chair. MS. STROUD:

The first item on my agenda is rulemaking to Title

3 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations. I have two final rulemakings.

The first is the rulemaking to Chapter 6, 10, 11, and 14 through 17 of Title 3. The purpose of the amendments to these regulations is to conform the Board's regulations to existing law and current practice regarding the ballot access and initiative processes and qualified petition circulators.

So, one of the things that this rulemaking does is it clarifies that petition circulators must be at least 17 years of age and will be 18 years of age on or before the next general election, which is the same requirement for qualified electors.

Another amendment that governs the Executive Director's preliminary determination of candidates' eligibility establishes that the date by which that determination must be made is the -- is three days after the deadline for filing nominating petitions. That language previously said that it was due within three days after the

deadline for filing declarations of candidacy, but we have amended that regulation to establish that declarations of candidacy are now due before nominating petitions -- or yeah, nominating petitions are issued, and so we have to clarify that regulation accordingly.

So those are just a couple of the changes that these regulations make. And a notice of proposed rulemaking with respect to this rulemaking was published in the DC Register on February 23rd. No written comments on the proposed rules were received during the public comment period, and no substantive changes have been made to the regulations as proposed.

And the next final rulemaking -- I guess I'll take a vote on the first final rulemaking first. So if I could have a roll call vote, that would allow me to submit this final rulemaking to the DC Register for publication for a final rulemaking.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay.

MS. STROUD: And they will appear, I

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1	think, in the May 10th version of the DC Register.
2	And once they appear, they will be final and
3	effective.
4	CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. The Chair so
5	moves that we adopt the final rulemaking, and my
6	vote is aye.
7	MS. STROUD: And Member Greenfield?
8	MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second, and my
9	vote is aye.
10	MS. STROUD: Thank you. With that,
11	the motion carries, and this will be submitted to
12	the DC Register for publication, at which point
13	it will become effective.
14	The next final rulemaking is to Chapter
15	7, and the purpose of the rulemaking is to implement
16	the provisions of the Lead to Vote Amendment Act
17	of 2020. And this rulemaking establishes policies
18	and procedures for the administration and
19	enforcement of the act, which permits individuals
20	employed in D.C. to receive at least two hours of
21	paid leave to vote and permits students enrolled

in educational institutions in D.C. to receive an

excused absence for at least two hours to vote. 1 A notice of proposed rulemaking with 2 3 respect to this rulemaking was published in the DC Register on March 15th. No written comments 4 5 were received during the public comment period, and no substantive changes have been made to the 6 7 regulations as proposed. These rulemakings will also become final upon publication in the DC 8 9 Register on Friday, May 10th. And with that, I'll ask for a motion that would allow me to submit these 10 to the DC Register for publication. 11 12 CHAIR THOMPSON: The Chair so moves, 13 and my vote is aye. Member Greenfield? 14 MS. STROUD: 15 I second, and my MEMBER GREENFIELD: 16 vote is aye. 17 Thank you. With that, MS. STROUD: 18 the motion carries, and this rulemaking will be 19 published as final in the DC Register on May 10th, 20 and at that point, it will become final. 21 The next rulemaking is a proposed 22 rulemaking, and the purpose of these regulations

is to clarify the address that may be used by unhoused DC residents for voter registration purposes and the process for challenging At the DMV, unhoused registered voters' status. individuals are allowed to use, for purposes of obtaining an identification card, the addresses of certified social service providers, and we believe that they should be able to use that residence, that address as a residence address for purposes of voter registration.

And so this is an effort to ensure that we are able to reach them to the extent that we can because they're apparently getting services at these entities. And we sent out a notice with respect to a challenge that we received, and we do know that at least some of the individuals are getting their mail at these addresses. And so it's just an effort to ensure their participation in the process. So this rulemaking would allow us to use that address for voter registration purposes.

And so this rulemaking will be

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published in the DC Register on Friday, May 10th, for a 30-day review and comment period that will end on June 10th. We will also publish it on our website right after this meeting for members of the public to review and prepare comments, if any.

And so, with that, I would ask for a motion that we be permitted to publish this rulemaking in the DC Register for the upcoming Friday, May 10th edition for the review and comment period that will end on June 10th.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. The Chair so moves. And I'll just add the comment that I think this is a fabulous rulemaking. It's consistent with the statute, the intent of the statute. And I just want to thank the General Counsel for focusing on this and drafting a rule that will allow all of our citizens to vote to the extent that they can, whether they're currently housed or unhoused. I think it's a fabulous undertaking. So I enthusiastically move, and my vote obviously will be aye -- is aye.

MS. STROUD: Member Greenfield? 1 MEMBER GREENFIELD: And I second, and 2 3 my vote is aye. And with STROUD: Thank you. 4 MS. that, we will move this rulemaking forward for 5 publication in the DC Register on Friday, May 10th. 6 7 And, again, we will post it on our website for review and comment period. And that concludes the 8 rulemaking portion of my agenda. 9 10 The next item on my agenda is litigation We have six matters to discuss. 11 The status. 12 first, Stacia Hall v. the D.C. Board of Elections. 13 This is an appeal from the U.S. District Court's denial of the appellant's challenge to legislation 14 allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections. 15 16 The appeal was filed on April 16th, and we 17 anticipate that the Solicitor General for the District of Columbia will likely file a dispositive 18 19 motion in the near future. 20 The next matter is DC Democratic Party 21 v. Muriel Bowser and the Board. This is an appeal 22 from the D.C. Superior Court's denial of the

appellant's challenge to Initiative Measure Number 83 on the grounds that it was untimely filed. The appeal was filed on April 22nd, 2024. The Court has set a briefing schedule with respect to this appeal. The appellant's brief is due on June 10th, and the appellee's brief is due on July 10th.

The next matter is Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai v. Merrick Garland. This was a matter in which the plaintiff is seeking a declaration that he is eligible to serve as president of the United States notwithstanding the constitutional natural-born citizens clause, or, alternatively, that this qualification matter presents a nonjusticiable political issue for the voters.

On February 1st, the OAG filed a motion to dismiss on behalf of the Board, and Defendant Garland filed a motion to dismiss on February 20th.

On February 21st, the District Court judge ordered that the plaintiff respond to the pending motions to dismiss by March 22nd, and his reply was filed on March 21st. On April 12, the OAG and the Department of Justice responded to the plaintiff's

reply.

The next matter is Long v. the D.C. Board of Elections in the D.C. Superior Court. This is the re-submission of a matter that was previously dismissed without prejudice. The plaintiff is seeking \$10,000 in damages based on a claim concerning an overdraft cost to his bank account when a stop payment was imposed on a check that he was issued for his service as an election worker.

On March 6th, the OAG filed a motion to dismiss. On March 13th, the plaintiff filed an opposition to the motion. On March 25th, the court dismissed all of the plaintiff's claims except for his claim for liquidated damages on breach of contract. On April 8th, the OAG filed an answer to the complaint. On April 15th, the plaintiff filed a motion for sanctions, and the court has set a status conference for May 31st, 2024.

The fifth matter, John Page v. Monica Evans in her official capacity as Executive

Director of the Board of Elections. This is in the U.S. District Court for D.C. On March 8th, the plaintiff filed a complaint that seeks to prevent Donald Trump from appearing on the 2024 general election ballot. The complaint alleges that the recent Supreme Court decision in Trump v. Anderson does not apply to D.C. because that decision pertains to the rights of states under the 14th Amendment, and D.C. is not a state. The OAG filed a motion to dismiss on April 5th, and the plaintiff replied on April 23rd.

The final matter is Ragas v. the D.C. Board of Elections, and this is in the D.C. Court of Appeals. This was an appeal from a Board decision granting ballot access to Ankit Jain, a candidate in the Democratic Party primary contest for nominee for the office of U.S. senator. The appeal was filed on April 8th. The Board filed a motion for summary affirmance on April 9th. The petitioner filed an opposition on April 10th. The Board filed a reply on April 11th, and on that same day, the Board's motion for summary affirmance was

granted.

And that concludes the litigation status portion of my report and my report in its entirety.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you. All right. Thank you very much. Moving on to the Campaign Finance report. Is our Director here, or perhaps General Counsel SanFord? Oh, she's on by Zoom. Director Collier-Montgomery is present by Zoom. Welcome, and please proceed. I'll get you unmuted.

MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Okay. Good morning. For the record, the full report of the activity of the Office of Campaign Finance for the month of April 2024 will be posted at the OCF website, www.ocf.dc.gov, before the close of business today. I will highlight a few matters of interest for the public from the report. With the 2022 election cycle debates, the Office of Campaign Finance will host a debate in the contested race for the office of at-large member of the Council on May 2nd, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., and

that is today.

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The office of at-large member of the Council is scheduled for election during the June 4th, 2024, primary election in the District of A 1 1 candidates Columbia. certified to participate in the Fair Elections Program who are in contested citywide elections must participate in the debate. Any candidates in the traditional campaign finance program who have qualified for ballot access are invited to participate. there is no other FEP participating candidate or willing nonparticipating candidate, the mandatory debate requirement is waived.

To date, in the June 4th, 2024, this primary election, based on those candidates who have achieved ballot access, there are a total of two certified participating candidates in the Fair Elections Program who are seeking the office of at-large member of the Council as a nominee of the Democratic Party. Additionally, in the traditional campaign finance program, there were no candidates who qualified for ballot access in

the Democratic primary election.

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Information on the debate is available OCF website, www.ocf.dc.gov, and the debates -- dcdebates.com website, including the date, time, participants, schedule, registration process for the public to attend virtually and participate in the debates through the submission of question. In the interest of continuing to ensure the safety of our residents, the OCF-sponsored debates will be conducted using virtual platform. The debates will be livestreamed, again, at dcdebates.com tonight at 7:00 p.m.

The fiscal year 2025 proposed budget On April the 26th, 2024, the Office of request. Campaign Finance presented testimony on the OCF budget request fiscal year 2025 before the Committee on Executive Administration and Labor of the Council of the District of Columbia. Ιn our Community Outreach Program, we presented at Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings during April. Information at the agency's

traditional and Fair Elections programs were discussed. We presented on April the 3rd at ANC 3D, and on April the 18th at ANC 6E.

We also, on April the 30th, kicked off our partnership with the District of Columbia Public Library at the Southwest Library branch. We were present and available to offer again information on the programs of the Office of In our Fair Elections Program Campaign Finance. Division, with respect to the 2024 election cycle, of this date, there 15 certified are as participating candidates in the Fair Elections Program. And the Office of Campaign Finance has authorized the disbursement of the total sum of \$2,234,313 from the Fair Elections Fund in base amount and matching payments.

During the month of April, there were no new candidates who were certified in the Fair Elections Program for the 2024 election cycle. However, the agency did authorize 29 disbursements to certify participating candidates. The listing of those disbursements is provided in the OCF

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report, again, which will be posted at our website by the end of the day. The Fair Elections Division also conducted 29 desk reviews -- 39 desk reviews of reports, receipts, and expenditures, which have been filed with the agency, and issued 21 requests for additional information as a result of the review of those reports.

With the ongoing 2020 post-election full-field audits, the status of the ongoing audits is stated in the OCF activity report for this month, and I would point out for the record that the Fair Elections Program Division has issued a total of 24 final audit reports of the post-election audits initiated for the 2020 election cycle. There currently 10 2020 post-election audits which are ongoing at various stages of the audit process. With the 2022 post-election full-field audits, we issued a total of 42 post-election audit letters for the primary as well as for the November 2022 elections to candidates who were certified to participate in the 2022 election cycle.

To date, the FEP has issued 20

preliminary statements of audit findings and 22 final audit reports for the 2020 election cycle, including the final audit report which was issued during the month of April 2024 for the Re Elect Muriel Bowser, Our Mayor 2022 principal campaign committee, and that was the final compliance audit report, which was issued on April the 22nd, 2024. All final audit reports are available at our website for review by the public.

In our Public Information and Records Management Division, there were two dates during the month of April for the filing of reports of receipts and expenditures: the April the 1st, 2024, report by the Constituent Services and Statehood Fund programs, and the April the 10th, 2024, report by the candidates and principal campaign committees who are registered in the Fair Elections All reports of receipts and Report program. expenditures which are filed by the agency -- filed with the agency are available at the OCF website, again, for review by the public.

With new candidates and committees for

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the 2024 election cycle in the traditional campaign finance program, there are currently a total of 37 candidates who are registered to participate during the 2024 election cycle, including the following four new registrations for the month of April 2024.

For the office of member of the Council at-large in the primary election, Darryl Moch registered on April the 24th, 2024. For the office of member of the Council from Ward 8, Khadijah Long registered on April the 3rd, 2024. For the office of member of the Council from Ward 4 in the general election, Addison Sarter registered on April the 19th, 2024. And for the office of US shadow representative in the general election, Ciprian Ivanof registered on April the 24th, 2024.

In our Fair Elections Program, again, currently 25 candidates there who are are registered to participate in the program, including the following new registrations for the month of April 2024. For the office of State Board of Education from Ward 7 in the general election,

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Sherice Muhammed registered on April the 5th, 2024.

For the office of State Board of Education at-large in the general election, Karley Sessoms registered on April the 5th, 2024.

In our traditional audit program for the Office of Campaign Finance, the Reports Analysis and Audit Division, during the month of April 2024, the traditional audit program conducted desk reviews of 18 reports of receipts and expenditures, which had been filed by the agency, and issued six requests for additional information based on the desk reviews which were conducted. The traditional audit program also issued two final audits during the month of April.

The first was the Ward 3 Democratic Committee. The final audit report was issued on April the 12th, 2024, of the January 31st, 2024, report of receipts and expenditures. This was the compliance audit report. The second was the Metropolitan Washington Political Action Committee. The final audit report was issued on April the 12th, of the January 34th -- 31st, 2024,

report of receipts and expenditures. This was also a compliance audit report. And both of the audit reports are available for review by members of the public at the OCF website.

There are three ongoing audits in the traditional -- before the traditional campaign finance audit program. The first is inaugural committee, and that is a full-field It is of the DC Proud Inaugural Committee. And at this stage, the committee requested an extension, and an extension was granted to respond to the preliminary draft audit report, which was issued on February the 26th, 2023. We also have two periodic random audits, and basically, those audits are of the March 10 report of receipts and expenditures, which was filed by the agency. these are principal campaign committees who are active in the upcoming 2024 election cycle.

The first is the Friends of Ebbon Allen,
Ward 7. The preliminary draft statement of
findings was issued on April the 18, 2024. And
the second is of the committee to elect Roscoe Grant

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1 Jr., Ward 7. And basically, with that one, the audit reports -- audit records were received on 2 3 April the 17th, and the audit field work is in 4 progress. 5 That concludes my report. And I would ask the general counsel to present the report on 6 the Office of the General Counsel. But, again, 7 I would like to remind the public on the record 8 that, again, the debate for the citywide contest 9 10 of at-large member of the Council will be conducted 11 tonight, and, again, the debate will be streamed 12 live at dcdebates.com. All right. Thank you 13 CHAIR THOMPSON: 14 so much. Mr. SanFord? MR. Good morning, 15 SANFORD: Mr. 16 Chairman and distinguished Board Member My name is William SanFord, General 17 Greenfield. Counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance. 18 During the month of April 2024, the 19 20 Office of the General Counsel received three 21 referrals and issued four orders, which included 22 the following: three orders were issued in which

no fines were imposed, and one order was issued in which a fine of \$200 was imposed. During the month of April 2024, the Office of the General Counsel also referred 11 petitions for enforcement to the Office of the General Counsel for the Board of Elections.

During the month of April 2024, the Office of the General Counsel imposed a fine of \$200 against former shadow senator candidate, Brian Douglas. And during the month of April 2024, the Office of the General Counsel collected a fine of \$450 from the SEIU Maryland and DC State Committee Council PAC. During the month of April 2024, there were no open investigations in the Office of the General Counsel.

However, during the month of April 2024, there was one request for an interpretive opinion. That request was submitted on the 1st of April. The requester was LaJoy Johnson-Law, candidate for Ward 8 member of the State Board of Education. And the issue in the request was which dependent care expenses are permissible as a

campaign expense. The office issued an opinion 1 in which the office cited the statute and the req 2 3 which indicated that the only dependent care expenses that are permissible as campaign expenses 4 5 are for the child care expenses. During the month of April 2024, there 6 7 were no show cause proceedings. And that should conclude my report, which the contents of this 8 9 report will be published at the Office of Campaign 10 Finance website at close of business on today's date, the 2nd of May, 2024. And I would just also 11 12 like to give a final reminder that the debates for the at-large Council Democratic nomination will 13 occur at 7:00 p.m. this evening, and they will be 14 15 at dcdebates.com. livestreamed And that 16 concludes my report. 17 All right. CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. SanFord. Ms. Montgomery, anything else? 18 19 MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: No, that's 20 it. That concludes our report. 21 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank you

We have some time today for public

very much.

comment. We'll turn to that next. Before I do that, I think we can announce now that our next meeting is probably not going to be on Wednesday, June 5th, which is the morning after the primary will elections. Ιt probably be moved Wednesday, June 12th, to coincide perhaps with other matters that may come before the Board in the wake of the election. So, you know, to be determined based on public notice, but that's probably- what we'll do next. Anything else before I turn to public comment from anybody?

CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. For public comment, we'll just ask you to go ahead and raise your Zoom hand. And when I call on you, if you could kindly state your name, let us know your residential address, and you can chat for about three minutes in one segment. And then when you're done, we'll -- if you'll please allow us to reply without interruption. Otherwise, if you don't want to comment verbally, you -- you can submit written comments to us, of course. So with that,

MS. STROUD: Not from me.

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I see Dorothy Brizill has her hand raised. We missed your last time. Ms. Brizill, please go ahead.

MS. BRIZILL: Mr. Chairman, I have two or three matters I would like to bring to the Board's attention and try to get a clarification or some additional information. First, I'd like to bring to the Board's attention that the audio for your meetings is terrible. Across the screen, there's a message that says, "Low bandwidth." This has been occurring for the past four or five months. I asked you to have your technical staff to correct it to deal with the problem because the audio for the different speakers is going in and out.

The second thing I would like to get a clarification on is regarding the process by which the Board of Elections has attempted to redraw precinct boundaries. I recently learned that they did in fact engage a consultant, Gottlieb Simon, who worked a total of 200 hours at a cost of \$75 per hour, and I -- my math shows that's

\$15,000. And he worked from January 2023 through March of '24. He produced no final report, conducted no public meetings. I would like the Board to explain why did they engage Mr. Simon, whose recommendation, it turns out, was simply that the precinct boundaries be eliminated and that we resort to using ANC single-member district boundaries.

What I am concerned about is the fact that Simon, for Mr. а number of years, chaired -- not chaired, but he headed the Council office regarding ANCs. And so there's no stretch of the imagination or no hard work or no heavy lifting that he has to do as regards to making that recommendation. Τ would appreciate clarification on where things stand regarding the clarification of the boundaries for precincts.

And moreover, I would also like to find out, why on the Board of Elections website have you suddenly and without previous notice eliminated the information that was on the Board of Elections website regarding Board of Elections

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hearings and meetings prior to 2021? The record on the Board of Elections website only goes through Why was the decision made to eliminate hearings and meetings, the transcript and the record of those meetings prior to 2021? CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. I appreciate those comments. so much. Number one, I'll -- I don't know about the low bandwidth It may be on your end, so, you know, problem here. check on your end as well. We'll certainly, you know, redouble our review of what's -- you know, what's happening on our end. Number two, on precinct boundaries, specifically the scope of work by Gottlieb Simon, I think we'll just have to ask Ms. Evans about that at a later time. I certainly know Mr. Simon from my many years on the ANC, and I'm sure did -- provided very valuable insight for the Board of Elections, but, you know, we'll certainly look into that. And number three, I don't know why.

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Yeah.

We'll, you know, look into it, or maybe --

MS. STROUD:

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1 CHAIR THOMPSON: -- somebody else can address that or anything else that --2 3 MS. STROUD: Ι can speak to information on the website. 4 As you know, a lot of materials were removed post-breach, and the 5 Board is in the process of reposting items that 6 7 had been removed as a result of the website going down. And so that is an ongoing process. 8 intend to put as many of the minutes and 9 10 transcripts and notices and agendas from previous meetings for prior to 2021 up on the website to 11 12 the extent that the platform can accommodate it. 13 And with respect to the precincts, one 14 thing that I'll say is that the recommendation was not to eliminate precincts per se but rather to 15 16 have the precinct boundaries conform to SMD 17 boundaries. So there was never, you know, effort to eliminate precincts, but just to have 18 19 them be redesigned so that they conform to the 20 boundaries corresponded with SMD boundaries. 21 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah. I think we've 22 explained that a few times. It's a great decision.

I mean, the old precincts don't really apply anymore since you can vote anywhere you want at any voting center. And it makes great sense to align the precincts with the ANC single-member districts. It will improve, I think, reporting and more of a micro, you know, information review because there will be smaller precincts that I think will be more useful for review at a later time. So, you know, it's an obviously wise decision. I'm looking for any other All right. hands raised by Zoom. I think Mr. Schiller's here. MR. SCHILLER: Can you hear me okay? CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah. All right. MR. SCHILLER: Great.

Nikolas Schiller. My voting address is 216 West 89th Street, New York, New York. My work address is 2448 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D.C. Twoparts: is there available data on the primary turnout at the vote centers in 2022? You were just speaking about the precinct mapping, and what I found when I was going

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over the data concerning the turnout for 2022 is that there isn't really any information that shows up unless I correlate early voting history with the data that's available.

But I can't actually find out how many people, for example, showed up at Turkey Thicket to vote in person during early voting on election day. Because the vote centers don't necessarily match with the precinct boundaries anymore and the data is more aggregated, I was just curious if there is — if that data is available for turnout for the primary election in 2022 at the vote centers during early voting as well as on election day. So that's question number one, if that data is available.

Number two is I've been auditing the petitions for Initiative 83, and as I spoke about at the March hearing -- March meeting -- is that there's an ongoing problem with a lot of voters who are not going to be receiving their ballot in the mail this week, mainly because they were moved to the inactive status.

And I'm just concerned of what's the process for a campaign to challenge the validity of inactivity when a voter who voted, you know, in 2022 or 2020 and signs a petition with the address that they were registered to vote at but are not on the voter roll anymore. And in my audit of the petitions, I found well over 100 -- close to a few hundred individual voters who haven't moved, voted recently, but were removed from the voter roll and signed the petition.

The current regulation suggests that a person who signs a ballot access petition in an inactive status will not have their signature But the question it begs is, if someone counted. who signed the petition but not was actually -- should never have been removed or moved into inactive status -- is there a way that this done prior to the submission of the petitions?

In other states, ballot access petitions -- the campaigns are allowed to turn in their petitions on a rolling basis. The way the

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regulations are designed in D.C., we have to give the petitions in one sequentially ordered stack, essentially. So there is no real way to have this process facilitated in advance of the submission of the petitions.

So I'm just concerned that we have unfortunately disenfranchised a lot of voters who believe that they are actually registered to vote, signed a ballot access petition, and are also are not going to be receiving a ballot in the mail, and they're going to be showing up to vote either early voting or on election day and be forced to cast a provisional ballot.

So, on one end, I'm flagging this information now that the Board of Elections has extra provisional ballots available because there will be, I think, a good percentage of voters who are going be showing up to say, I thought I was registered and didn't get my ballot in the mail, and what to do.

And what I'm unsure -- what's the process for engaging a voter who has been moved

1 to the inactive status? Should they call the Board of Elections directly and say, hey, I don't see 2 3 myself on the April or March voter roll. I'm still at the address that I was registered to vote a year 4 So what's the process for a voter? 5 ago. Thank you so much for your time and your 6 7 service to the District of Columbia. Thank you. CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Thank 8 9 you. 10 MS. STROUD: Mr. Schiller, I think that 11 this answer is best. I mean, I feel -- you're 12 saying a lot of things. I think that I understand 13 you to be saying that if a voter signed the petition 14 and they were active at the time that they signed but then became inactive, what is the process? 15 16 The Board, when looking at petitions, can determine whether or not a voter was active or inactive when 17 they signed the petition because we keep that 18 information -- a trail of any activity to a voter's 19 20 record in the voter database. Is that --21 MR. SCHILLER: It's the opposite of

that, actually, where a voter was inactive -- made

inactive during the list maintenance. The voter is not made aware that they've been inactive. They signed the ballot access petition, and it's only after the petition has been submitted to the campaign for review that we discover that that voter was removed from the voter rolls.

What I've been doing is checking the June 1st, 2023, voter roll, which was a voter roll that was done before the great purge, as I like to call it, and I find the voter has the same address that they're registered to vote is the same address that they signed the petition. But in between June of last year and the spring of this year, they were made inactive or basically removed from the voter roll, because I don't see the inactive voters. I only see the active voters on the voter roll.

So the concern is, like, when the validation process happens after we submit the petition to the Board of Elections, those voters are going to be marked as inactive when they sign, so there's no way for the campaign really to say, hey, we're -- we have an issue here. We think this

voter should -- was made inactive, but they actually really are still living in DC at the address that they're registered to vote. But there's no way for us to really have this rectified until after we submit the petitions. That's my main concern.

The other part of it is, for example, ANC commissioner Matt LaFortune, who was found to be made inactive even though he was ANC commissioner working on a campaign. When checked the roll update, his voter voter registration status hadn't changed. So from the back end on -- when I'm checking the signatures, I can't actually see if the voter was inactive versus active because the registration is more of a static date.

Like, I registered to vote, you know, ten years ago. That's going to be the date that's going to be in the voter roll. But in that ten-year window, I went inactive for two years, and then I was reactivated. It'll still show up as the original date. So it's hard to actually decipher

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on the campaign side if a voter was inactive during a window and then reactivated because the voter registration date is still tied to the original registration. Did that get my point?

MS. STROUD: Yes. So what I'm going to propose is that we connect, and we've been in correspondence with respect to various questions about this process.

MR. SCHILLER: Okay.

MS. STROUD: So I propose that we connect with respect to this, and then whatever comes of our discussion of this will be conveyed to the public about how we are going to respond to this and handle this.

MR. SCHILLER: Okay. Because I have a spreadsheet of voters that I can provide you that could be reached out to with a -- like, a postcard saying, hey, are -- you might have been removed, but it appears that you've signed a petition with the same address that you were registered to vote at a year ago. Maybe you should still be on the Board -- or on the rolls. That's my main thing,

1	is we just don't have the ability to, you know,
2	circle back on these voters who are going to find
3	out that they can't vote come, you know, next month,
4	or they're not going to get a ballot in the mail
5	this week.
6	MS. STROUD: They will be there's
7	not going to be an issue with them not being able
8	to vote. Even
9	MR. SCHILLER: But on a provisional
10	ballot, you know, as opposed to, like, a mailed
11	ballot or a good
12	MS. STROUD: The provisional ballot.
13	They will not have to vote a provisional ballot.
14	MR. SCHILLER: Oh, okay. Voters that
15	are made are returned as active, like, when they
16	show up to vote, will all of a sudden their voter
17	inactive status become active when they show up
18	to vote?
19	MS. STROUD: From their address, at the
20	in-person voting place, they will be able to vote
21	a regular ballot.
22	MR. SCHILLER: Okay. And then will

1	the voter roll be updated at that point that they			
2	become active voter because they showed up to vote?			
3	MS. STROUD: Yes.			
4	MR. SCHILLER: But in the window			
5	between them signing the petition and then showing			
6	up to vote, they were inactive. Therefore their			
7	signature won't count. That's the problem that			
8	I'm trying to, like I'm			
9	MS. STROUD: Yeah.			
10	MR. SCHILLER: We can connect later on.			
11	I just want to this is something that's been			
12	problematic for me as I've been auditing the			
13	signatures by voters and finding that this voter's			
14	signature doesn't count. It's frustrating.			
15	MS. STROUD: Okay. We'll connect.			
16	MR. SCHILLER: All right. Thank you			
17	so much for your time. I appreciate it.			
18	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah. Thank you. I			
19	mean, that obviously goes to the point that all			
20	voters should and are welcome to check their status			
21	online. Right there on our website, you can see			
22	your voter status. If it's been change to			

1	inactive, you can activate it right away. You can
2	activate it when you go to vote, as we just heard.
3	So there's no concerns that a person won't be able
4	to actually vote.
5	And we'll just follow up on this
6	interesting point. What if at the time you signed,
7	you were inactive? Would that count? It's an
8	interesting question. It strikes me as a curable
9	thing, but we'll you know, we'll see down the
10	road.
11	Okay. Any other hands out there in
12	Zoom world? Going once, going twice, three times?
13	
14	Okay. I think, with that, unless
15	there's any objections, I would move that we
16	adjourn, and we'll see everybody on the other side
17	of the primary election. Is there a second from
18	my I think my Board member has there, she's
19	waving yes. So I'll take that as a yes. So
20	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah.
21	CHAIR THOMPSON: Thanks, Karyn.
22	Yeah, that's all right. We got it, so we'll count

1	the wave and the nod as a yes. Okay. Well, thank
2	you, everybody. Have a great day.
3	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4	went off the record at 11:29 a.m.)
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<u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Regular Board Meeting

Before: DC BOE

Date: 05-02-24

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.

Court Reporter

near Nous &