

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

In the Matter of)	Administrative
Louise Valentine-Simmons)	Order #26-012
)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Introduction

This matter came before the District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board”) on March 4, 2026. It concerns a recommendation by the Board’s General Counsel that the Board take civil enforcement action against Louise Valentine-Simmons for her voting twice in the same election. Chairman Gary Thompson 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 (“ERIC report”), the Board’s Office of General Counsel (“OGC”) became aware of evidence that mail ballots were cast in the name of Louise Valentine-Simmons in the D.C. 2024 General Election (“GE”) and in the 2024 GE in Maryland.¹ In light of the ERIC report findings, OGC investigated whether Ms. Valentine-Simmons violated in the 2024 GE laws related to double voting.

On December 19, 2026, OGC sent Ms. Valentine-Simmons notice that a pre-hearing conference in the matter would be held on January 15, 2026. Ms. Valentine-Simmons appeared at the pre-hearing conference and was presented with the evidence that on October 2, 2024 she cast a mail ballot in the Maryland 2024 General Election and that on October 26, 2024 she cast a D.C.

¹Those 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”).

2024 mail ballot. She was advised that the signatures associated with the two 2024 General Election ballots matched each other and also matched earlier signatures for her in her D.C. voter file. Ms. Valentine-Simmons, however, denied double voting. Following the pre-hearing conference, she ceased communicating with OGC.

Ms. Valentine-Simmons was duly notified that her case would be presented during the Board's regular monthly meeting on March 4, 2026 via an email sent on February 12, 2026. At that March 4, 2026 meeting, the General Counsel stated the facts of the case and that Ms. Valentine-Simmons was aware of the presentation of her case to the Board. Ms. Valentine-Simmons, however, was not present. With this presentation of the case and the evidence, the General Counsel made a recommendation that the matter be referred to the Office of Attorney General for the District of Columbia for criminal investigation.

After hearing from the General Counsel, the Board Chair made a motion that Ms. Valentine-Simmons be referred for criminal investigation and possible prosecution for her voting twice in an election. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion

The Board's enforcement powers with respect to criminal election law matters include referral to the U.S. Department of Justice and/or to the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. *See* D.C. Code § 1-1001.18(a)-(b). Voting twice in the same election can trigger prosecution for violating a number of election laws.² Generally, however, criminal liability requires a high level of proof of knowing and intentional conduct.

²*See* 52 U.S. Code § 10307(e) (prohibiting double voting) and D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.09(g)(1) (providing that no person shall vote twice in an election) and D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.14(a) (penalties for violating D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.09(g)(1)). *See also*, with respect to the oath voters take at the time of voting whereby they affirm that they satisfy the qualifications for being a registered voter, including residency requirements, D.C. Code § 1-1001.14(a) (criminalizing "make any false representations as to the person's qualifications for . . . voting") and § 1-1001.14(a-1)(1)(D) (criminalizing fraudulently cast a ballot) and 52 U.S. Code § 10307(c) (prohibiting knowingly or

The Board can also impose civil penalties for voter misconduct of up to \$2,000 for each offense. *See* D.C. Code § 1-1001.18 (b) (“Any person who violates any provision of this subchapter may be assessed a civil penalty for each violation of not more than \$2,000 by the Board pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.”).³ We may impose civil fines where the misconduct is unintentional.⁴

It is undisputed that Ms. Valentine-Simmons voted twice in the 2024 GE. Ms. Valentine-Simmons voted by mail in Maryland and then, in D.C., cast a mail ballot that contained an oath affirming that she would not vote elsewhere in the election. Ms. Valentine-Simmons’ claim that she did not so vote is not plausible and she has not produced any evidence to corroborate her claim. Based on the record before us, we have no reason to doubt that her conduct was intentional. In light of the circumstances, we agree with the General Counsel’s recommendation that this matter should be referred for criminal investigation.

Conclusion

For the reasons indicated above, it is hereby:

willfully giving false residency information for the purpose of establishing eligibility to register or vote in elections to fill federal offices).

³ The statute provides that the Board may take enforcement action upon the recommendation of the General Counsel.

⁴*See e.g. Drake et al. v. The Citizens Committee for the D.C. Lottery Terminal Initiative of 2024, et al.*, BOE No. 05-002 at pp. 4, 40 and 42 (issued 07/29/2005) (imposed \$622,880 in civil fines under the predecessor of D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.18(b) for unintentional yet grossly negligent and negligent conduct); *In the Matter of Ballots Cast in the Name of Hannah Brown*, BOE No. 23-015 (issued 12/15/2023) (indicating that a voter might be strictly liable for civil penalties for double voting, but declining to impose that standard where the voter was told that her first ballot had been lost); *In the Matter of Ballots Cast in the Name of Barbara Duncan*, BOE No. 24-017 at p. 6 (issued 8/2/2024) (same, citing *Brown*); *In the Matter of Kersey Manliclic*, BOE No. 24-010 (issued 6/12/2024) (imposing civil fine for unintentional conduct).

ORDERED that the recommendation of the General Counsel is **ACCEPTED**, and that Ms. Valentine-Simmons shall be **REFERRED** to the D.C. Office of Attorney General for criminal investigation and possible criminal prosecution.

Date: March 5, 2026



Gary Thompson
Chairman
Board of Elections