

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

In the Matter of	)	
Serena Gyi	)	Administrative
	)	Order #26-040

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**

**Introduction**

This matter came before the District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board”) on March 4, and May 6, 2026. It concerns an enforcement action brought by the Board’s General Counsel against Serena Gyi based on a ballot that Ms. Gyi cast in the 2024 General 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 ballots were cast in the same voter’s name in the D.C. 2024 General Election (“GE”) and in the 2024 GE in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 2024 D.C. mail ballot return envelope. That effort revealed that the signature on the 2024 D.C. GE mail ballot return envelope matched the signature of Serena Gyi.

Based on this evidence, OGC scheduled a January 15, 2026 prehearing conference in the matter and attempted to notify Ms. Gyi of that proceeding via the email address that was in her voter file. While the email to Ms. Gyi did not bounce back, Ms. Gyi did not appear at the prehearing conference. OGC then sent notice to Ms. Gyi via email and certified mail that her case would be presented to the Board during the Board's regular meeting in March. At the Board's March meeting, Ms. Gyi's case was called but she did not appear. Accordingly, the General Counsel advised that her office would seek referral of this matter to the D.C. Attorney General ("OAG") for criminal investigation at the Board's next regular meeting.

Meanwhile, one of the notice letters sent via the U.S. Postal Service reached Ms. Gyi and, on March 30, 2026, she emailed the OGC attorney assigned to the matter. In her email, Ms. Gyi indicated that she likely voted in the 2024 General Election,<sup>2</sup> and she acknowledged that the voter to whom the ballot was issued was her previous roommate. Given the possibility that OGC would be able to complete its investigation based on its success with contacting Ms. Gyi, her case was not revisited at the Board's April 1, 2026 meeting. Instead, arrangements were made for a further prehearing conference between OGC and Ms. Gyi. In anticipation of the prehearing conference, OGC shared with her the scan of the D.C. 2024 ballot return envelope at issue along with a D.C. voter file signature for Ms. Gyi that matched the signature on the ballot return envelope. The

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<sup>2</sup> Specifically, she stated: "I have not voted in an election since the presidential one, and I'm not 100% sure I voted in that election. I think I did ... it would be weird if I didn't vote..." The last presidential election was the 2024 General Election. The assigned attorney double checked Ms. Gyi's voter file and emailed Ms. Gyi back that she had not voted in her own name in the 2024 General Election, which the attorney suggested bolstered the conclusion that the ballot Ms. Gyi believed she cast was issued to another.

notice of the April 6, 2026 prehearing conference also noted that the case would be presented at the May 2026 Board meeting.

On April 6, 2026, the prehearing conference was subsequently continued to April 9, 2026.<sup>3</sup> During that proceeding, Ms. Gyi was again informed that her case would be presented at the Board meeting in May. Ms. Gyi expressed concern about the fact that she was not represented by counsel. The prehearing conference was accordingly continued until April 28, 2026, to give Ms. Gyi time to obtain counsel.

On April 17, 2026, Ms. Gyi sent the assigned OGC attorney an email in which she disputed the evidence showing her signature on the ballot return envelope that was issued to another and indicated that she would be seeking legal counsel.<sup>4</sup> Ms. Gyi did not appear at the April 28, 2026, continued prehearing conference. Following the continued April 28, 2026 prehearing conference, Ms. Gyi was sent the link for accessing the May 6, 2026 Board hearing.

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<sup>3</sup> Ms. Gyi did not appear at the April 6, 2026 prehearing conference. She was immediately contacted by OGC and she explained that she understood that her case would be heard in May. Given Ms. Gyi's confusion over the OGC prehearing proceedings and the Board hearing proceedings, OGC provided Ms. Gyi with another prehearing opportunity.

<sup>4</sup> Specifically, Ms. Gyi's email stated:

You sent me no evidence of wrongdoing on my part. In fact, what you have sent me is proof that you or whoever concocted this evidence is some kind of scammer. That is not the image of a ballot. It's clearly the hodgepodge of at least two different pieces of paper that have been spliced together on a copying machine. You or whoever did that should be ashamed of yourself. Also, there is a fine for voting twice in an election, which I have not done. So I have done absolutely nothing wrong. You or whoever, created false evidence against me HAS done something immoral if not illegal.

I am pursuing lawyer. I have am going to pro-bono law advice clinics and I have also put in calls to various lawyer referral services. I will be printing out this false and concocted "evidence" to show them.

Shame on you and the governmental liars you work for.

Ms. Gyi was not present at the Board’s meeting on May 6, 2026. OGC presented the facts of the case. The General Counsel then recommended that Ms. Gyi be referred for criminal investigation and possible prosecution. The Board Chair made a motion that the General Counsel’s recommendation be adopted. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Discussion**

The election laws provide that it is a crime to “make any false representations as to the person’s qualifications for . . . voting” or to fraudulently cast a ballot.<sup>5</sup> The Board’s enforcement powers include imposing civil fines for election law violations and/or referring the person who miscast a ballot for criminal investigation and prosecution. D.C. Code § 1–1001.18(a)-(b).

In this case, we have clear evidence of Ms. Gyi’s signature on the signature line of a ballot return envelope for a ballot that has the printed name of another voter just below that signature line. The signature on that ballot return envelope is virtually identical to another signature in Ms. Gyi’s voter file. The layout of the scan of the ballot return envelope aligns perfectly with the layout of a sealed ballot return envelope. There is zero evidence of any foul play with respect to the documentation before the Board and the BOE processing of the ballot at issue. Ms. Gyi has offered no plausible explanation as to how her signature would have been entered on a mail ballot return envelope for a ballot that was addressed to her residence.<sup>6</sup> Accordingly, we find that Ms. Gyi cast a mail ballot that was issued to another voter in violation

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<sup>5</sup> See D.C. Code § 1–1001.14(a) and § 1–1001.14(a-1)(1)(D), respectively. The penalty for violating either of those provisions is a fine up to a \$10,000 and/or a term of incarceration of up to 5 years. In addition, D.C. Official Code § 22-2405(b) criminalizes willfully making false statements to D.C. government entities. The penalty for that violation is a fine of up to \$1,000 and imprisonment of not more than 180 days, or both.

<sup>6</sup> Although Ms. Gyi alleges suggests some misconduct by the agency based on the layout of the scan of the ballot return envelope, that layout is a mere function of the fact that the envelope is scanned in closed position and that printed information on the flap of the envelope overlays the printed information on the sleeve of the envelope when the envelope is closed.

of voting requirements. We agree with the General Counsel that Ms. Gyi should be referred for possible criminal action.

**Conclusion**

For the reasons indicated above, it is hereby:

**ORDERED** that recommendation of the General Counsel presented at the Board's May 6, 2026 meeting is **ACCEPTED**, and that Serena Gyi be referred to the D.C. Office of Attorney General for investigation and possible prosecution.

The Board issues this written order today, which is consistent with its oral ruling rendered on May 6, 2026.

Date: May 7, 2026



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Gary Thompson  
Chairman  
Board of Elections