

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

In the matter of)
Lakeshia Lloyd-Lee) Administrative Order #25-003
)

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Introduction

This matter came before the District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board”) at a hearing convened on March 3, 2025. It is an enforcement proceeding with respect to two signatures entered on a nominating petition submitted by a candidate in the November 5, 2024 General Election (“the General Election”) for the office of Ward 7 Member of the State Board of Education. The signatures were entered by D.C. voter Lakeshia Lloyd-Lee. Chairman Gary Thompson and Board member Karyn Greenfield presided over the hearing. Ms. Lloyd-Lee and the Board’s General Counsel were also present.

Background

On July 15, 2024, Sherice Muhammad submitted a nominating petition to appear on the ballot in the contest for the office of Ward 7 Member of the State Board of Education (“the Petition”). After the Petition was accepted by the Board’s staff and posted as required by law, a D.C. voter submitted a timely challenge to the Petition’s signatures. As a result, the Registrar for the Board reviewed the challenged signatures and issued a report of her findings. In that report, the Registrar found, among other things, signatures that were made in the same hand. Signatures made in the same hand indicated that someone other than the person whose name was associated with the signature signed the petition in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(b)(3) (“[a]ll

signatures on a petition shall be made by the person whose signature it purports to be and not by any other person”) as well as other possible violations of law.

Following resolution of the challenge and the conclusion of the 2024 election cycle, the Board’s Office of General Counsel (“OGC”) launched an investigation into the suspect signatures. As a result of that investigation, Ms. Lloyd-Lee executed a stipulation whereby she acknowledged that she entered her own signature on the Petition and also signed the Petition on behalf of two of her sons with their permission. By that stipulation, she stated that she did not intend to do anything illegal by signing for her children but recognized that it was a violation of the law to sign a petition on behalf of another. Ms. Lloyd-Lee explained in the stipulation that her motive was to support Ms. Muhammad. As per the stipulation, the Board’s General Counsel agreed to the nature of the enforcement action that she would seek.

On March 3, 2025, Ms. Lloyd-Lee appeared before the Board. Following entry of the stipulation into the record, the Board Chair provided Ms. Lloyd-Lee with an opportunity to speak. Ms. Lloyd-Lee apologized for signing for her two children and emphasized that she had not intended any misconduct. The Board Chair noted that her role was minor and that the Petition circulator (*i.e.*, candidate Muhammad) should have alerted her to the fact that she could not sign the Petition for others. The Board Chair then asked the General Counsel for her recommendation with respect to the misconduct by Ms. Lloyd-Lee. The General Counsel recommended that the Board impose a civil fine of \$25.00 on Ms. Lloyd-Lee.

After hearing from Ms. Lloyd-Lee and the General Counsel, the Board’s Chair made a motion that Ms. Lloyd-Lee be fined \$25.00. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion

As noted above, the law requires that each petition signature be made by the person whose signature it purports to be and not by any other person. D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(b)(3). Ms. Lloyd-Lee has admitted to violating this requirement twice. We are authorized upon the recommendation of the General Counsel to impose civil penalties of up to \$2,000 for each violation of such election law. D.C. Official Code §1-1001.18(a)-(b).

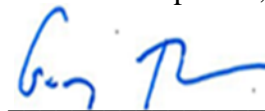
Given the facts and circumstances here, however, the General Counsel has recommended enforcement action consisting of only a civil fine of \$25.00. That recommendation reflects, among other things, the fact that Ms. Lloyd-Lee has taken responsibility for her actions and expressed remorse and that there was no malicious intent to deceive. Indeed, Ms. Lloyd-Lee's lack of ill intent is evidenced by the fact that she made no effort to alter her hand-writing to obscure the fact that she was signing the Petition for others.

Conclusion

In light of the stipulated nature of this matter, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the recommendation of the General Counsel is **ACCEPTED**, and that Ms. Lloyd-Lee is directed to pay a civil fine of \$25.00 by no later than April 30, 2025.¹

Date: March 7, 2025



Gary Thompson
Chairman
Board of Elections

¹ **Payment must be made by check or money order made out to the "D.C. Treasurer."** It may be mailed to the attention of the General Counsel at the Board's offices (1015 Half Street, Suite 750, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003) or hand delivered at that address.