



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003



Information on Candidate Ballot Names

This information provides an overview on candidates' ballot names, according to, Title 3 DCMR § 1203 which regulates ballot names:

1203 CANDIDATES NAMES ON BALLOTS

1203.1 The name of a candidate for election shall appear on the ballot in the form designated on the Declaration of Candidacy executed and filed by the candidate in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of this title; provided, that the name conforms to the following:

- (a) The use of titles, degrees, and prefixes on the ballot is prohibited; and*
- (b) The candidate shall designate the listing of his or her name on the ballot by specifying the given name or names, or the initial letter of a given name, if any, and surname.*

1203.2 The Board may permit a candidate to specify a modified form of his or her given name or names on the ballot if the Board finds that the change shall not confuse or mislead the voters and is legally acceptable.

1203.3 In any election, the order in which the names and slates of the candidates for office appear on the ballot shall be determined by lot pursuant to this chapter.

1203.4 Except where otherwise specified, the names of candidates nominated as a slate shall be listed on the ballot in the same order in which their names appear on the first page of their nominating petition.

Based on these Regulations, you may list your "preferred ballot name" on the declaration, and it may go on the petition. If it does not align with Title 3 DCMR §§ 1203.1 - 1203.2, it will not go on the candidate list as such. Once, a preliminary determination letter has been issued, candidates have the right to appeal. An appeal must be submitted within three days of the date of the issued letter. Further instructions are included in the preliminary determination letter.

Additionally, it may be helpful to review administrative orders from previous election cycles where the Board made determinations on candidates' name appeals including but not limited to: *Rodney Grant*, BOE Order No. 24-003, *Yi Yang*, BOE Order No. 24-014, *James Otis Thach*, BOE Order No. 24-015, *Girish Bose*, BOE Order No. 24-029 and *Gottlieb Simon*, BOE Order No. 24-030. Those can be found here:

<https://dcboe.org/about-us/office-of-the-general-counsel/administrative-orders>

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