

DC BOARD OF ELECTIONS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RECEIPT AND INTENT TO REVIEW INITIATIVE MEASURE

The Board of Elections shall consider in a public hearing whether the proposed measure, “DC Cash Payment Reparations Act” is a proper subject matter for initiative at the Board’s regular meeting on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., at 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington DC 20003. The Board will meet remotely. Members of the public can only access the meeting by using the following information:

Join Zoom Meeting

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In making a proper subject matter determination, the Board does not consider the merits of a proposed measure. Instead, it may consider only whether the proposed measure meets the subject matter requirements set forth in District of Columbia law. Specifically, the Board must reject the proposed measure if it determines that:

- The measure conflicts with or seeks to amend the Title IV of the DC Home Rule Act (“the District Charter”);
- The measure conflicts with the U.S. Constitution;
- The measure has not been properly filed;
- The verified statement of contributions (the measure committee’s statement of organization and report of receipts and expenditures) was not timely filed;

- The measure would authorize discrimination in violation of the DC Human Rights Act;
- The measure would negate or limit a budgetary act of the DC Council; or
- The measure would appropriate funds

Those who wish to testify at the hearing on the propriety of the proposed measure in light of the above-referenced criteria should contact the Board’s Office of the General Counsel at 202-727-2194 or ogc@dcboe.org and provide their name, address, telephone number, and name of the organization represented (if any) by no later than Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Any written testimony or memoranda should be submitted for the record to the Board’s Office of the General Counsel, 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20003 or at ogc@dcboe.org by that date and time as well. Individuals shall be permitted a maximum of three minutes for oral presentations. Representatives of organizations shall be permitted a maximum of five minutes for oral presentations.

The Short Title, Summary Statement, and Legislative Text of the proposed initiative, as submitted to the Board by the proposer(s) of the measure, read as follows:

Short Title

“DC Cash Payment Reparations Act”

Summary Statement

If enacted, the “DC Cash Payment Reparations” would:

- a. Ensure that DC Council puts out a study showing how a one-time payment of 300,000 dollars to every Black household in DC, over the next 15 years would benefit the Black DC residents.
- b. Ensure that DC Council holds a public hearing regarding the study, in which the public could testify.

Legislative Text

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “DC Cash Payment Reparations Act”.

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must recognize that we can’t solve our problem now until there is a radical redistribution of economic power.” This initiative seeks to continue

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream of a radical redistribution of economic power.

According to a study done by an organization called “Prosperity Now and the Institute for Policy Studies”, the median Black wealth is expected to fall to zero by the year 2053. This is a crisis. In

DC, White households have 88 times the wealth of a Black households. DC has the worst economic equality by race in America. DC has the biggest racial wealth gap in America. DC has the largest unemployment gap between black and white households.

If we know that white people have more wealth due to the racial oppression of Black people, then Black people should be given wealth to close the gap. The amount of 300, 000 dollars was chosen because according to the most recent data, the median net worth of white households in DC was 300,000 more dollars than Black households. White households on average had a net worth of 284,000 and Black households a median net worth of 3,500 dollars. This legislation would not appropriate funds, it is simply a study and a public hearing regarding the specific number of 300,000 one-time cash payments being distributed to every Black household in DC over the next 15 years. For the purpose of this legislation, “Black people” refers to descendants of Black people who were enslaved on USA’s soil and survived Jim Crow.

Sec 3. This act shall take effect after a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c) (1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.