

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

March 3, 2025

The District of Columbia Board of Elections (“the Board” or “DCBOE”) held its Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday, March 3, 2025 via Zoom and in the Board’s Hearing Room, located at 1015 Half Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, Suite 750. Board Chairman Gary Thompson and Board Member Karyn Greenfield were present. The Board’s Executive Director, Monica Holman Evans (“Director Evans”), General Counsel, Terri Stroud, (“OCF”), and the Office of Campaign Finance (“OCF”) General Counsel, William SanFord, were also present.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

## II. ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM

Board Chair Thompson and Board Member Greenfield constituted a quorum.

## III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**BOARD ACTION:** The Board unanimously adopted the agenda and minutes from the last meeting held on February 5, 2025.

## IV. GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT (TERRI STROUD)

### A. Enforcement Hearings

#### 1. In re Samantha Lyew

The Office of the General Counsel (“OGC”) presented a stipulation that had been entered into between the General Counsel and Samantha Lyew in which Ms. Lyew acknowledged that she unintentionally voted a mail ballot that was delivered to a former resident of her apartment. The General Counsel recommended a civil fine of \$100 for Ms. Lyew voting another voter’s mail ballot.

**BOARD ACTION:** Voted unanimously to impose a fine of \$100.

#### 2. In re Ashlynn Fields

OGC presented a stipulation that had been entered into between the General Counsel and Ashlynn Fields in which Ms. Fields acknowledged that she unintentionally voted a mail ballot that was delivered to a former resident of her apartment. The General Counsel recommended a civil fine of \$100 for Ms. Fields voting another voter’s mail ballot.

**BOARD ACTION:** Voted unanimously to impose a fine of \$100.

**3. In the Matter of Susan Goodman**

OGC presented a stipulation that had been entered into between the General Counsel and Susan Goodman in which Ms. Goodman acknowledged that she unintentionally voted a mail ballot that was delivered to a former resident of her apartment. The General Counsel recommended a civil fine of \$100 for Ms. Goodman voting another voter's mail ballot.

**BOARD ACTION:** Voted unanimously to impose a fine of \$100.

**4. In the Matter of Seth McNayr**

OGC presented a stipulation that had been entered into between the General Counsel and Seth McNayr in which Mr. McNayr, who was represented by Andrew George, acknowledged that he unintentionally voted a mail ballot that was delivered to a former resident of his apartment. The General Counsel recommended a civil fine of \$100 for Mr. McNayr voting another voter's mail ballot.

**BOARD ACTION:** Voted unanimously to impose a fine of \$100.

**5. In the Matter of Tommy Herbert**

OGC presented details on the investigation of forged signatures on petition sheets circulated by Mr. Herbert. The General Counsel recommended a civil fine of \$150 for Mr. Herbert for fraudulently entering signatures on a nominating petition.

**BOARD ACTION:** Voted unanimously to impose a fine of \$150.

**6. In the Matter of Lakeshia Lloyd-Lee**

OGC presented a stipulation that had been entered into between the General Counsel and Lakeshia Llyod-Lee in which Ms. Llyod-Lee acknowledged that she signed the nominating petition of candidate Sherice Muhammad on behalf of two of her sons with their permission. The General Counsel recommended a civil fine of \$25.

**BOARD ACTION:** Voted unanimously to impose a fine of \$25.

**7. In the Matter of Sherice Muhammad**

OGC presented the facts and background in its investigation involving Sherice Muhammad, a circulator for her nominating petition in the 2024 General Election for Ward 7 State Board of Education. The matter concerned two signatures on the petition that Ms. Muhammad failed to personally witness, as required by law. Following an investigation, it was confirmed that one signer, Ms. Lloyd-Lee, entered signatures for

her children, which Ms. Muhammad did not observe.

During the hearing, Ms. Muhammad acknowledged that she did not personally witness the signatures in question. Her counsel, Rondell Jordan, argued against liability, citing the absence of knowing and willful intent. However, the Board determined that civil penalties do not require such intent. The General Counsel recommended a civil fine of \$150.

**BOARD ACTION:** Voted unanimously to impose a fine of \$150.

## **B. Nomination Petition Challenge Hearing**

### **1. Anna Hamilton v Armonte Wilson, Candidate for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (“ANC”), Single Member District (“SMD”) 8D06**

The Board held a hearing on a challenge by Anna Hamilton to the nominating petition of Armani Wilson, candidate for ANC for SMD 8D06. Mr. Wilson submitted a total of 31 signatures. Hamilton challenged 12 of those signatures, alleging, among other things, that seven were defective due to a predated circulator affidavit. The Registrar determined that all 12 changes were valid, bringing the total number of valid signatures to 19, 6 below the number required for ballot access. Mr. Wilson testified that he witnessed the seven signatures on the sheet with the predated circulator affidavit, but had made a mistake in completing the circulator’s affidavit. He requested that the Board waive the circulator defect and grant him the seven associated invalidated signatures.

**BOARD ACTION:** The Board waived the formal defect, adding seven signatures and bringing the total number of valid signatures to 26. The Board ordered that Mr. Wilson’s name be forwarded to the respective ANC as a candidate qualified to run for office in ANC SMC 8D06.

## **C. Litigation Status**

### **1. Stacia Hall, et al., v. D.C. Board of Elections (U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit)**

This is an appeal from the U.S. District Court’s denial of a challenge to legislation allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections. The Solicitor General filed a cross-appeal reply on February 19, 2025. Oral argument is scheduled for March 14, 2025.

### **2. Charles Wilson v. Muriel Bowser, et al. (D.C. Court of Appeals)**

This is an appeal from a decision by the D.C. Superior Court denying appellant’s challenge to Initiative Measure No. 83 for the reason that it was untimely filed. On February 6, 2025 the court vacated the order of the Superior Court and remanded the matter back to that court for further proceedings to address appellant's proper subject claims. On February 11, 2025 the board sought *en banc* review of the February 6 decision. On February 26, 2025 the court ordered that the appellants file a response to

the board's petition for *en banc* review by March 12, 2025

**3. Charles Wilson v. Muriel Bowser, et al. (D.C. Superior Court)**

This is the remand of the case just discussed. To date, the Superior Court has not acted on the remand.

**4. Jason Christopher Long v. D.C. Board of Elections (U.S. District Court for D.C.)**

This case is in federal court pursuant to the removal on November 26, 2024 of a matter originally filed in DC Superior Court. On February 3, 2025 the US District Court remanded the case back to DC Superior Court, noting that only defendants can remove cases to federal court.

**5. Jason Christopher Long v. D.C. Board of Elections (D.C. Superior Court.)**

This is the remand of the case just discussed. To date, the Superior Court has not acted on the remand.

**6. Deirdre Brown v. D.C. Board of Elections (D.C. Court of Appeals)**

This matter involves the review of the Board's certification of Initiative Measure No. 83. This matter has been fully briefed. An oral argument is scheduled for April 24, 2025.

**7. Calvin Gurley v. D.C. Board of Elections (D.C. Superior Court)**

The initial status hearing had been set for February 21, 2025. On February 20, 2025 the Court granted the Board's motion to dismiss.

**8. Sobin v. D.C. Board of Elections (U.S. District Court for D.C.)**

On February 21, 2025, the Court granted Sobin's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. There has been no other activity since the Board's February 5, 2025 Meeting.

**V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (DIRECTOR EVANS)**

**A. January Engagements**

The Election Center organized the Joint Election Officials Liaison Committee Conference in Pentagon City from January 8 to January 10. Several members from our office participated in the conference. During this event, the Board hosted a tour of its offices for conference attendees, during which our staff provided insights into the unique aspects of the District of Columbia's election processes compared to other jurisdictions.

On January 16, Director Evans met with advocates of the Local Resident Voting Rights

Amendment Act. They expressed concerns regarding the requirements of the current legislation. We are exploring the possibility of rulemaking and other adjustments to better align with the intended goals of the legislation.

**B. Voter Registration Rolls**

In February, the Board registered 1,189 new voters and processed 1,926 registration changes. In total, 3,116 voter registration cards were prepared to be mailed. 58 registered voters moved out of D.C., 209 voters canceled their D.C. registrations and registered with other jurisdictions, and 577 voters registered in D.C. after canceling their registrations in other states.

**C. Online Voter Registration Rolls**

We are continuing to register voters using our website portal. To date, we have processed over 96,462 applications using the portal, including new voter registrations and updates to existing registrations.

**D. Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act**

In January, one non-citizen registered to vote in local elections. Total non-citizen registration is at 981. Since the general election, there has been a noticeable decline in non-citizen registrations. The Board is also receiving inquiries regarding the process to cancel a registration.

**E. Restore the Vote Legislation**

The Restore the Vote Division is working with the Corrections Information Council (CIC) on the joint after-action report on the 2024 Election Cycle required by the Restore the Vote Amendment Act. They will also work the Department of Corrections and Federal Bureau of Prisons to alert incarcerated DC residents from Ward 8 of the upcoming Special Election. Eligible residents will be able to vote in the special election and will receive a mail ballot. And lastly, we are working with the Mayor's Office for Returning Citizens Affairs (MORCA) and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) regarding upcoming outreach events. We are currently exploring the possibility of in-person events at the Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities.

**F. 2026 Election Planning**

DCBOE is receiving estimates to address the need to replace voting equipment that has reached the end of its life cycle. DCBOE is taking steps to fully implement new legislation and are currently reviewing the requirements of the Automatic Voter Registration Expansion Act. We are meeting with jurisdictions that have similar legislation.

We are reviewing our outreach plans, communications strategies, and election worker

recruitment efforts ahead of the 2026 Election Cycle. Additionally, we will convene all of our vendors together to develop a strategy to conduct a mock election later this year.

**G. List Maintenance**

Our data team will continue to focus on key tasks such as identifying registrants who have moved, whether in-state or out-of-state, verifying deceased individuals, addressing duplicate records, and identifying ineligible and active voters.

DCBOE is conducting our biennial mail canvas to verify the residential addresses of voters who were eligible but did not participate in the 2024 General Presidential Election. This process includes sending a first-class, non-forwardable canvass mailer to the addresses on record, maintaining the integrity of the voter roll by identifying outdated or inaccurate address information. A total of 153,404 first-class, non-forwardable canvass mailers were sent to voters' recorded addresses on February 28.

**H. Technology and Cybersecurity**

DCBOE met with OCTO to discuss our application for the migration to a .gov domain. We are currently waiting for our application to be approved.

We are actively assessing our technology infrastructure to identify necessary replacements or upgrades to ensure readiness for the next election cycle. In collaboration with our election partners, we are conducting a nationwide cybersecurity risk assessment to evaluate our current environment. Following the assessment, we will receive a customized report with recommendations to strengthen our threat environment.

DCBOE successfully completed the annual self-assessment for the Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR), which helps State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial government organizations assess and improve their cybersecurity maturity. Sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), the review was completed on February 15, 2025. We are currently awaiting a customized report that will include recommendations to strengthen our cybersecurity environment and provide an opportunity to address any identified risks.

**I. Voter Education and Outreach**

On February 11, the Voter Education and Outreach Division participated in the Naturalization Ceremony at the US District Court. The Division also finalized the outreach plan for the Ward 8 Special Election. The plan includes targeted outreach at libraries, nursing homes, senior residential buildings, and community organizations.

**J. Election Worker Division**

The Election Worker Division has updated the Election Worker Application and are compiling a list of necessary upgrades and enhancements to the Election Worker web platform.

The Division recently took inventory of supplies to determine what is needed for the Ward 8 Special Election. Finally, they developed the training schedule for the special election. The goal is to train between 180 and 200 election workers over a 3-week period ahead of the July 15, 2025 Special Election.

**K. ANC Vacancies**

There are currently 27 ANC vacancies for the 2025-26 term, with these positions at various stages of being filled. Once the candidate filing requirements are satisfied, an open vote by registered voters of the affected SMD will take place during the regularly scheduled ANC meetings.

**L. Special Election**

DCBOE is actively planning for a special election in Ward 8. On February 14, 2025 we issued a press release announcing the opening of the ballot access period for the July 15, 2025 election. DCBOE has not yet received funding to conduct this election. Nominating petitions were made available on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. We currently have 15 candidates who are circulating petitions for the Ward 8 Councilmember vacancy. The last day to file nominating petitions is Thursday, April 17, 2025. Individuals may visit the DCBOE website for more information regarding the election, current candidates, and pertinent dates.

**VI. CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT (PRESENTED BY WILLIAM SANFORD ON BEHALF OF CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY)**

**A. Office of the Director**

1. The full report of the February 2025 activities of the OCF will be posted at [ocf.dc.gov](http://ocf.dc.gov).

**2. Community Outreach**

On February 1, OCF joined other district agencies at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in the Southeast Waterfront neighborhood. On February 4, OCF presented at the ANC SMD 4A01 meeting. On February 14, OCF participated in an outreach event at Pierce Park in Adams Morgan. On February 20, OCF attended a community event at the Bernice Fonteneau Wellness Center in Petworth, and on February 21, 2025 OCF engaged with residents at the Kelsey apartment center in Columbia Heights.

**B. Fair Elections Program (“FEP”) Division**

**1. Authorized Base Amount**

**a) 2024 Election Cycle**

There were 20 certified participating candidates in the FEP. OCF has authorized the disbursement of the total sum of \$2,830,041.15 from the FEP fund in base amount and matching payments.

**2. Candidates Certified/Disbursements Made During the Month of January for the 2026 Election**

There were no new candidates certified in the FEP for the 2026 election cycle, and no disbursements were made.

**3. Desk Reviews and Other Activities**

There were 22 desk reviews of Amended Reports of Receipts and Expenditures (“R & E Reports”) and seven Requests for Additional Information (“RFAI”) letters were issued. \$872,102.58 has been remitted for deposit in the FEP fund.

**4. 2022 Post-Election Full Field Audits**

During February, FEP issued 20 post-election audit letters to candidates certified to participate in the June 21, 2022 primary election and the November 8, 2022 general election. These audits were initiated in March 2023.

To date, the FEP has completed 26 final audit reports for the 2022 election cycle.

**C. Public Information and Records Management Division (“PIRM”)**

**1. Reports of Receipts and Expenditures (“R&E Reports”)**

There was one filing date for R&E Reports in January: January 31 for Traditional Candidate Committees, Political Action Committees, and Independent Expenditure Committees.

**2. New Candidates/Committees**

**a) Traditional Campaign Finance Program (“TCFP”) Candidates**

- i. Office of Mayor – James McMorris
- ii. US Senator – Robert Simmons
- iii. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Khadijah Clark
- iv. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Kara Johnson
- v. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Oliver Roy



**b) FEP Candidates**

- i. Office of Mayor – Tracey Lucas
- ii. Office of Mayor – Gary Robert Goodweather
- iii. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Salim Adofo
- iv. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Sheila Bunn
- v. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Dion Jordan
- vi. Ward 8 Council (Special Election) – Robbie Woodland

**D. Reports Analysis and Audit Division (“RAAD”)**

**1. Desk Reviews and Other Activities**

99 desk reviews of R&E Reports were completed.

**E. OCF OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT (GENERAL COUNSEL WILLIAM SANFORD)**

**1. Monthly Intake/Output Report**

During February, the OGC received 229 referrals, completed 13 informal hearings, and issued 13 orders. In four orders, no fines were imposed and nine orders imposed fines of \$11,435. These included fines of \$50 against the Committee to Elect Darryl Moch, \$100 against Markus Bachelor, \$360 against Sriqui for Ward 3 Schools, \$50 against Paul Trantham, \$3,650 against Friends of VJ4 Ward 4, \$2,700 against Friends of VJ4 Ward 4, \$250 against Our Friend Brandon Douglass, \$2,700 against Randy Downs for Ward 2, and \$1,575 against DC Black Democratic Caucus.

**2. Request for Interpretive Opinions**

None.

**3. Open Investigations**

None.

**4. Show Cause Proceedings**

None.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.