

Elections 2006

District of Columbia Candidate Qualification and Ballot Access Guide



September 12, 2006 Primary
November 7, 2006 General Election

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Introduction

The Board of Elections and Ethics is pleased to provide *Election Year 2006, District of Columbia Candidate Qualification and Ballot Access Guide*. This “Guide” is published biennially, and is intended to provide general information about the nomination and election of candidates.

Copies of this publication will be made available in accessible formats for the persons with disabilities-- *audio tape cassette; large print; and in a user-friendly format at the Board’s website* (www.dcboee.org). If you would like a copy of this guide in an accessible format, please contact the Board’s Voter Services Office at 202-727-2525.

The Voter Registration Corner

Voters may check the status of their voter registration online; find out where they vote; or get instructions on how to use the District’s voting equipment by visiting the Board’s *Voter Registration Corner* at www.dcboee.org.

Voters who need to update their voter registration information or register to vote in the District of Columbia, may download and complete the Mail-In Voter Registration Application located on the Board’s web site.

All voter registration requests and updates must be received at least 30 days before the election.

Brown Bag Training Sessions for Petition Circulators



The Board's Voter Services staff conducts brown bag training sessions for candidates and petition circulators. The training sessions, which are held during the noon lunch hour, provide an overview of the Board's guidelines and policies for circulating nominating, initiative and recall measure petitions. Attendees are invited to bring their lunch along with them to the training sessions.

Training for petition circulators is currently being held at 12:15 p.m. two Wednesdays of each month throughout the remainder of the 2005 calendar year.

The brown bag training sessions will be conducted through September 2006. A copy of the 2006 training schedule will be included with the packet of election information provided to each candidate or their designee.

For the complete schedule of our training sessions and updates to the current schedule, please visit the Board's website at www.dcboee.org, or call the Board's office at 202-727-2525.

New Election Legislation

For information on the most recent amendments to the District's election laws, rules and regulations, please contact the Board's Office of the General Counsel at 202-727-2194 or visit our website at www.dcboee.org.

Candidate Qualification

The process of qualification of candidates for the ballot is administered by the Board's Voter Services Branch under the direction of the Registrar of Voters.

The Board and its staff stand ready to assist you and we welcome your questions and comments. If you have any questions concerning the candidate qualification process, or any aspect of the District's electoral process, call the Board's office at 727-2525.

Please note: This Guide has been published well in advance of the 2006 elections. For complete and accurate dates and deadlines please refer to the "Official Election Calendar" available at the Board's office or on the Board's web site at www.dcboee.org.

In the event of conflict with other information in this guide, the law, rules and regulations will apply. Therefore, it is important for the candidate to obtain the most up-to-date information available because of possible changes in the law or procedures subsequent to the publication of this guide.

Legal Qualifications for Office

The qualifications detailed in this section are those necessary to hold the various public offices on the election ballots in the District of Columbia during year 2006. Qualifications for office are distinct from requirements of the process by which candidates qualify for placement on the ballot. Please see the “Getting Your Name on the Ballot” section of this guide (pp. 10 -22) for these requirements.

Delegate to the United States House of Representatives

To hold the office of Delegate, an individual must meet the following qualifications on the date of the general or special election (D.C. Official Code § 1-401):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District, as defined by D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.02(2).
- B. Be at least of 25 years of age.
- C. Hold no other paid public office.
- D. Have resided in the District of Columbia continuously since the beginning of the three (3) year period ending on the date of the general or special election.



Mayor of the District of Columbia

To hold the office of Mayor of the District of Columbia, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Official Code § 1-204.21):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District, as defined by D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.02(2).
- B. Hold no other paid public office or other paid employment.
- C. Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one the (1) year preceding the general election

Chairman of the Council

To hold the office of Chairman of the Council, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Official Code §§ 1-204.02 and 1-204.03):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.02(2).
- B. Hold no other paid public office or other employment.
- C. Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for the one (1) year preceding the general election.



At-Large Member of the Council

To hold the office of At-Large Member of the Council, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Official Code § 1-204.02):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.02(2).
- B. Hold no other paid public office.
- C. Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one (1) year preceding the general or special election.

Ward Member of the Council

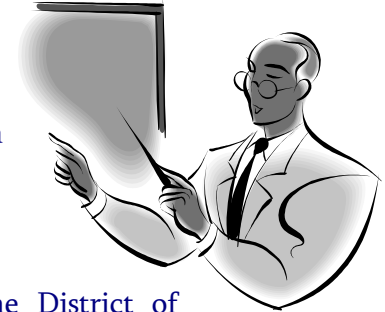
To hold the office of Ward Member of the Council, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Official Code § 1-204.02):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.02(2).
- B. Hold no other paid public office.
- C. Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one (1) year preceding the general or special election.
- D. Reside in the ward from which nominated.

President of the Board of Education

To hold the office of President of the Board of Education, an individual must meet qualifications “A” and “B” (below) at the time the nominating petition is filed and qualification “C” upon taking office (D.C. Official Code § 38-101):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.02(2).
- B. Have resided in the District of Columbia during the 90-day period preceding the day that the nominating petition is filed, and have been during such period an actual resident of the District of Columbia and have not claimed residence anywhere else.
- C. Hold no other elective office, except delegate or alternate delegate to a political party nominating convention; nor be an officer or employee of the District of Columbia Government or the Board of Education.



District Member of the Board of Education

To hold the office of District Member of the Board of Education, an individual must meet qualifications “A” and “B” (below) at the time the nominating petition is filed and qualification “C” upon taking office (D.C. Official Code § 38-101):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.02(2).
- B. Have resided in the school district during the 90-day period preceding the day that the nominating petition is filed, and have been during such period an actual resident of the District of Columbia and have not claimed residence anywhere else.
- C. Hold no other elective office, except delegate or alternate delegate to a political party nominating convention; nor be an officer or employee of the District of Columbia Government or the Board of Education.

United States Senator

To hold the office of United States Senator, an individual must meet the following qualifications, as defined in the United States Constitution (Article I, Section 3):

- A. Be at least 30 years of age.
- B. Have been a citizen of the United States for the least nine (9) years.
- C. Be a resident of the District of Columbia on the date of the general or special election.

United States Representative

To hold the office of United States Representative, an individual must meet the following qualifications, as defined in the United States Constitution (Article I, Section 2):

- A. Be at least 25 years of age.
- B. Have been a citizen of the United States for at least seven (7) years.
- C. Be a resident of the District of Columbia on the date of the general or special election.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner

To hold the office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner from a Single-Member District, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Official Code § 1-309.05).

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia, as defined by D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.02(2) and a registered voter actually residing in the Single-Member District from which he or she is elected.
- B. Have resided in the Single-Member District continuously for the 60- day period immediately preceding the day on which the nominating petition is filed.
- C. Hold no other elected public office.

Getting Your Name on the Ballot

This section may assist you in the circulation and filing of nominating petitions and other documents required to establish your candidacy. This information applies to all candidates regardless of the office sought. Please read this section carefully and familiarize yourself with the information.

Petition signature requirements and calendars of important dates and deadlines for the various offices appear in this Guide. If you are interested in all election-related dates and deadlines for the primary or general election, please ask the Voter Services staff for an “Official Election Calendar” for that election.

The Nominating Petition

The filing of a nominating petition containing the signatures of registered voters is the only way a candidate can get his or her name printed on the ballot in the District of Columbia. The number of signatures required varies by the type of office and the political party registration.

The signature requirements for each office are found on pages 24, 29 and 30 of this Guide.



Declaration of Candidacy

Every candidate must file a Declaration of Candidacy. The Declaration is used by the Board to preliminarily determine if the candidate meets the qualifications to hold office. While petitions and other forms may be completed by campaign supporters, the “Declaration of Candidacy” must include the

signature of the candidate. The “Declaration of Candidacy” must be filed by not later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day prescribed for the close of the nominating petition period (*Wednesday July 5, 2006 for the primary election and Wednesday, August 30, 2006 for the general election*). The Declaration of Candidacy must be notarized and signed before an authorized official.

A member of the Board’s staff may notarize a candidate’s Declaration of Candidacy;” however, the candidate should arrive at the Board’s office with the form completed except for his or her signature. The candidate must then sign the document in the presence of the Board’s staff.

Please Note: Information on the Declaration of Candidacy is a matter of public record and may be published for circulation to the general public; posted on the Board’s web site; and given to the news media and other persons upon request.

Affidavit of the Person Filing the Petition

The person filing the petition must file an “Affidavit of the Person Filing the Petition” attesting that, to the best of that person’s knowledge and belief, the nominating petition contains the required number of signatures.

The affidavit is filed by the person making the initial submission of the nominating petition pages. The initial submission must contain the minimum number of signatures needed to qualify. After the initial submission is made, supplemental petition pages containing any number of signatures may be filed any time after the initial filing, up until the deadline for filing.

The following information must appear on each nominating petition page before the Board will release the petition forms:

- (1) The candidate’s name and address.
- (2) The ward, school district or single-member district of the candidate, if applicable.
- (3) The political party of the candidate, if applicable.

If you find that you need more petition forms, please call ahead so that the Board’s staff can prepare them in advance.

Write-In Candidates

Write-in candidates must meet the same qualifications as candidates whose names appear on the ballot. Qualified individuals who wish to become write-in candidates must certify their candidacy by filing a “Declaration of Candidacy” with the Board not later than 4:45 p.m. on the third (3rd) day following the primary election (*Friday, September 15, 2006*).

The “Declaration of Candidacy” may be obtained from the Voter Services Office or downloaded from the Board’s web site at www.dcboee.org.

In order for a write-in candidate in the primary election to qualify as a nominee of a political party and have his or her name printed on the general election ballot, he or she must receive more votes than any other candidate running for the party’s nomination and file a Declaration of Candidacy with the Board.

Below is a set of guidelines each circulator should know before he or she begins to circulate a petition page. If you would like copies of this information to give to your circulators, please ask any member of the Voter Services staff.

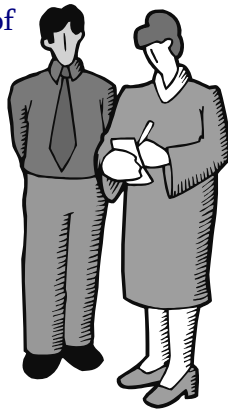
Petition Circulation Guidelines

Every nominating petition page must have a circulator who witnesses all the signatures on the petition page and then signs the “Circulator’s Affidavit.” This affidavit is signed under penalty of perjury; it does not need to be sworn to before any official.

The Circulator of the Nominating Petition

The circulator of the petition must:

- Be a qualified registered voter in the District of Columbia.
- Personally witness the signing of each signature thereon; *This is essential because the circulator must sign an affidavit on the back of each petition page that he or she personally witnessed each voter signature.*
- Watch each voter sign his or her name to the petition page. *A petition may not be left on a table unattended or passed among potential signers if the circulator is not accompanying the petition page.*
- Complete the circulator’s affidavit on the back of each petition. *Failure to complete the circulator’s affidavit on the back of each petition page could invalidate all signatures on the page.*



Note: There can only be one circulator for each petition page.

The Signers of the Nominating Petition

1. Each signer of the nominating petition must already be a registered voter in the District at the time he or she signs the petition. *The signature of a new applicant who fills out a “Voter Registration Application” at the time the petition is signed is not valid.*
2. The signer must use the residence address where he or she is registered to vote; or file a change of address within 10 days after a challenge is filed to the candidate’s nominating petition. The street name and number must be provided on the petition. *The signer may not use a Post Office Box Number.*
3. Each signature on the petition must be dated when signed in order to be counted as valid. *Ditto marks should not be used.*
4. THE VOTER MUST ALSO SIGN HIS OR HER OWN NAME. *A person may not sign a petition for another individual.*
5. If the candidate is seeking nomination in a primary election, the signer must be registered in the same party as the candidate.
6. If a candidate is seeking nomination from a ward, the signer must live and be registered to vote in the same ward as the candidate.
7. If the candidate is seeking nomination from a single-member district (SMD), the signer must be registered to vote in the same SMD.

8. A person must sign the petition using the name under which he or she is registered to vote. *Failure to do so could invalidate the signature.*
9. If a petition signer is unable to sign the petition, the signer may make his or her mark in the space for signature. *The signature will not be counted unless the person witnessing the mark attaches to the petition an affidavit attesting that he or she explained the contents of the petition to the signer and saw the signer “mark” the petition.*
10. A voter may sign the nominating petition of more than one candidate seeking nomination for the same office. However, a voter may not sign the petition for an individual candidate more than once.

Tips on Filing a Petition

- ☑ Arrive at the Board’s office early and prepared to file.
- ☑ Before the nominating petition is filed, you must assemble and serially number all the sheets which comprise the petition. The Board may reject any petition which does not meet this requirement.
- ☑ Make sure the “Affidavit of Circulator” on each petition page is completed and signed.
- ☑ Make sure that you have your “Declaration of Candidacy” completed and notarized. If you plan to have a member of the Board’s staff notarize the “Declaration,” arrive at the office with the form completed except for the signature. The “Declaration” must be signed by the candidate. It may not be signed by anyone else.

- ☑ Make sure you have the “Affidavit of Person Filing the petition” completed and notarized. If you plan for a member of the Board’s staff to notarize the “Affidavit,” arrive at the office with the affidavit completed except for the signature.
- ☑ While not required, filing the minimum number of signatures before the last day can be very helpful. If a document is missing or an error made, there is still time to file the missing document or to correct the error before the deadline. Remember, you can always file supplemental petition sheets up until the deadline once you have made the initial filing with the minimum signature requirement.
- ☑ Petitions must meet all the requirements of the law. The Board may reject any petition that does not conform to D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.01 and the regulations of the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics. ***We strongly urge you to review your petition before filing.***

If you wish to check your petition signatures prior to filing, the list of registered voters is available for public use in the Board’s office and at various public libraries in hardcopy format. The voter roll is also available electronically for review at the Board’s office. To order the voter registration list, please see the *Data Information Services* section of this guide.

Determination of “Preliminarily Qualified Candidates”

On the third working day after the filing deadline, the Board makes its preliminary determination as to which candidates have met the minimum qualifications for ballot access.

Each candidate who has filed a nominating petition is notified by the Board whether he or she has met the minimum requirements for office. The notification is sent by first-class and certified mail.

Under D.C. law, absent a challenge, the Board of Elections does not verify nominating petition signatures for accuracy of information. In its preliminary evaluation, the Board will reject a candidate’s petition for any one of the following reasons:

- (1) The petition, on its face, does not contain the minimum number of signatures.
- (2) The petition contains pages that do not have a completed “Affidavit of Circulator,” and the total number of signatures rejected as a result of the incomplete “Affidavit” on those pages brings the candidate’s petition below the minimum number of required signatures.
- (3) There has not been a notarized “Declaration of Candidacy” filed by a candidate, or
- (4) The candidate does not meet the legal qualifications to hold the office.

Challenge Period

Beginning the third day after filing, for a period of ten (10) days, the Board makes available for public inspection photocopies of each candidate’s petition. During the challenge period, any registered voter may review the petition copies. If he or she believes that a candidate did not meet the minimum requirements, the registered voter may file a written “Challenge” detailing the petition’s defects.

The filing of a “Challenge” sets in motion the process by which a legal determination is made as to whether the candidate has, in fact, met the minimum requirements to have his/her name placed on the ballot. This process is outlined in Chapter 4 of the Board’s Regulations (D.C. Municipal Regulations, Title 3: Elections and Ethics).

Petition signers named in a challenge made to their residency, because they have moved from the address listed on the Board’s records, may file a Change of Address within ten (10) days after a challenge has been filed to the petition containing their signature to have their signature counted as valid.

Petition Defects to Avoid

In most instances, the reason a candidate is challenged and disqualified from the ballot is carelessness—the candidate has not taken the time to review the petition before it is filed. *By making sure that your petition meets the minimum requirements, you may avoid a challenge.*

Below is a list of the most common petition “defects” to avoid:

- Petition signatures not dated.
- Signers not registered to vote.
- Signers were not registered to vote at the address listed on the petition at the time it was signed. (Signers may file a change of address within 10 days of the date that a challenge is filed).
- Signers not registered in candidate’s party (primaries only).
- Signers not registered in candidate’s district (Ward or SMD only).
- Signatures on the petition are in the same hand or do not match those of the registered voters in the Board’s file. (These may be referred for criminal prosecution.)

Any one or any combination of the above petition defects may cause a candidate to be disqualified from the ballot if enough signatures are disallowed to bring the candidate below the minimum number of valid signatures required. Therefore, the Board suggests that you file more than the bare minimum needed to qualify.

Candidate Statement for the D.C. Voter Guide

Prior to both the Primary and General Election, the Board of Elections and Ethics will mail to each address where there is a registered voter a copy of the *District of Columbia Voter Guide* that includes *candidate statements*, along with sample ballots, voting locations and the election procedures.

The Candidate Statement is a statement prepared by the candidate for publication in the *District of Columbia Voter Guide*. The contents of the Candidate’s Statement may include the candidate’s name, the election contest, background information and a brief description of no more than 200 words solely expressed by the candidate. *Filing of a Candidate Statement is optional.*

Any candidate, with the exception of those candidates seeking election as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, who wishes to have a Candidate Statement included in the *District of Columbia Voter Guide*, must submit his or her statement not later than the deadline for filing the nominating petition (*July 5th for the Primary and August 30th for the General Election*).

Candidate statements will be published as submitted and received by the Board. The Board will not correct any typographical or other errors contained in the candidate statement. The statement is entirely the candidate’s responsibility.

Lottery for Ballot Position

The Board conducts a lottery for ballot position to determine the order of the names on the ballot in each contest. The Board notifies each candidate for offices appearing on the ballot by first-class mail of the date and time of the lottery. Each candidate or his or her representative may be present for the lottery.



The scheduled date for the lottery for ballot position will be held on the following dates:

- July 14th for the September 12, 2006 Primary Election
- September 15th for the November 7, 2006 General Election.

Notification of the date of the ballot lottery is included in the Official Election Calendar. A reminder of the scheduled date will be included with the notice of the Board's preliminary determination that is mailed to those candidates who have met the minimum qualifications for the ballot.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 PRIMARY

The District of Columbia holds primary elections every two (2) years in order for the major parties in the District to nominate their candidates for the partisan offices on the ballot in the general election.

To qualify to conduct a primary, a party must have had one (1) of its candidates receive at least 7,500 votes in the previous general election. The parties that met the 7,500 vote requirement following the November 2, 2004 Presidential General Election are the Democratic, Republican, and D.C. Statehood Green parties. Political parties that have not met the requirement may nominate candidates through the "Direct Access" petitioning process. (See the "General Election" section of this guide for details.)

Because the District has a closed primary system, only individuals registered in the Democratic, Republican, and D.C. Statehood Green Party will be permitted to vote their party's ballot in the September 12, 2006 Primary Election.

A list of the offices for which the Democratic, Republican and D.C. Statehood Green Parties will each nominate one (1) candidate in the primary is included on the following page along with signature the requirements.

Only persons registered in the DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLICAN or D.C. STATEHOOD GREEN PARTIES are eligible to vote their party's ballot in the September 12, 2006 Primary Election.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 PRIMARY Democratic, Republican and D.C. Statehood Green Parties Signature Requirements	
OFFICE	REQUIRED SIGNATURES
Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives	2,000 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party as the candidate.
Mayor of the District of Columbia	2,000 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party as the candidate.
Chairman of the Council	2,000 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party as the candidate.
At-Large Member of the Council	2,000 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party as the candidate.
Ward Member of the Council (Wards 1, 3, 5 & 6)	250 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party as the candidate. Signers must also reside and be registered to vote in the ward from which the candidate seeks election.
U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative	2,000 signatures or 1% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the same party as the candidate.

September 12, 2006 PRIMARY
 IMPORTANT EVENTS CALENDAR

Candidate Qualification
First Day to Pick-Up Petitions.....May 12, 2006
First Day Petitions may be filed.....June 12, 2006
Deadline to File Petitions.....July 5, 2006
Lottery for Ballot Position.....July 14, 2006
Challenge Period
Challenge Period Begins.....July 8 2006
Challenge Period Ends.....July 17, 2006
Voter Registration
Deadline to Register to Vote.....August 14, 2006
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs.....August 21, 2006
Absentee Voting
Period for In-Person Absentee Voting...Aug. 28–Sept.11, 2006
Deadline to Request Ballot by Mail.....September 5, 2006
Final Count of Absentee Ballots.....September 22, 2006
Poll Watchers
Deadline to Petition for Poll Watchers.....August 29, 2006
Publications
Publication of Sample Ballot..... September 7, 2006
Public Testing of Vote Counting Systems
Public Testing of Vote Counting Systems...September 9, 2006
Special Ballots
Special Ballot Hearings.....September 20 – 22, 2006
Counting of Accepted Special Ballots.....September 22, 2006

November 7, 2006 GENERAL ELECTION

Independent and Minor Party Candidates

Approval of Party Names

Generally, the Board approves party names at its regular monthly meetings. Therefore, a new party that wishes to begin circulation of petitions at the beginning of the petition period (July 7, 2006) should submit the request for approval of the party no later than Friday, May 19, 2006. The Board will reject any party name that tends to confuse or mislead the public. For a list of approved minor party names, please contact the Board at 202-727-2525.

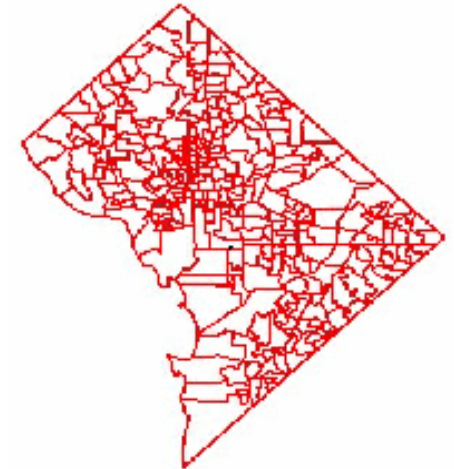
Write-in Candidates

Write-in candidates must meet the same qualifications as candidates whose names appear on the ballot. Individuals who wish to become write-in candidates must certify their candidacy by filing an "Affirmation of Write-In Candidacy" with the Board not later than 4:45 p.m. on the seventh (7th) day following the general election (November 14, 2006).

Any registered voter, regardless of party affiliation may sign an "independent" or minor party candidate's petition.

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION ELECTIONS

An ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION (ANC) is an area of the city subdivided into smaller areas (with populations of approximately 2,000 residents) called single-member districts (SMDs). There are 286 single-member districts and 37 advisory



neighborhood commissions. Commissions range in size from 2 single-member districts to 12 single-member districts depending on the size of the neighborhood. The term for an elected ANC commissioner is two (2) years. The office is nonpartisan.

Each ANC Commissioner is nominated and elected by the registered voters who reside in the same single-member district as the candidate. The ANC Commissioner is an unsalaried official who represents his or her neighborhood community (single-member district) on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission. The Commission may advise the District government on matters of public policy including decisions regarding planning, streets, recreation, social service programs, health, police protection, and sanitation in their neighborhood area.

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION ELECTIONS

The Board provides a variety of materials, including a map of the single-member district and a list of registered voters, to make it as easy as possible for ANC candidates to have their names placed on the ballot. Please call our Voter Services Office (727-2525) for details.

Write-In Candidates for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner

Write-in candidates for the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner must meet the same qualifications as candidates whose names appear on the ballot. Individuals who wish to become write-in candidates must certify their candidacy by filing an “Affirmation of Write-In Candidacy” with the Board not later than 4:45 p.m. on the seventh (7th) day following the general election (Tuesday, November 14, 2006).

The “Affirmation of Write-In Candidacy” may be obtained from the Voter Services Office or downloaded from the Board’s web site.

The signature requirements for the partisan and nonpartisan offices that will appear on the November 7th General Election ballot are listed on the next several pages.

NOVEMBER 7, 2006 GENERAL ELECTION Independent and Minor Party Candidates Signature Requirements PARTISAN OFFICES	
OFFICE	SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT
Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives	3,000 signatures or 1.5% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the District of Columbia.
Mayor of the District of Columbia	3,000 signatures or 1.5% (whichever is less) of registered voters in the District of Columbia.
Chairman of the Council	3,000 signatures or 1.5% (whichever is less) of registered voters in the District of Columbia.
At-Large Member of the Council	3,000 signatures or 1.5% (whichever is less) of registered voters in the District of Columbia.
Ward Member of the Council (Wards 1, 3, 5 & 6)	500 signatures of registered voters. Signers must also reside and be registered to vote in the ward from which the candidate seeks election.
U.S. Senator	3,000 signatures or 1.5% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the District of Columbia.
U.S. Representative	3,000 signatures or 1.5% (whichever is less) of duly registered voters in the District of Columbia.

NOVEMBER 7, 2006 GENERAL ELECTION Independent and Minor Party Candidates Signature Requirement NONPARTISAN OFFICES	
OFFICE	SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT
President of the Board of Education	1,000 signatures of registered voters in the District of Columbia.
District Member of the Board of Education (Districts III and IV)	200 signatures of registered voters who reside in the same school district from which the candidate seeks election. <i>School District III is comprised of Wards 5 & 6. School District IV is comprised of Wards 7 & 8.</i>
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (286 seats)	25 signatures of registered voters who reside in the same single-member district from which the candidate seeks election.

The calendars of important events for the November 7, 2006 General Election appear on the following pages.* For a complete list of the dates and deadlines, please ask for the Board’s Official Election Calendar.”

**The dates included in this guide may be subject to change; therefore, please check the Board’s web site at www.dcboee.org for amendments and updates.*

Offices of :
 Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives;
 Mayor of the District of Columbia;
 Chairman of the Council; At-Large and Ward Members of the Council; President and District Members of the Board of Education; U.S. Senator; and the U.S Representative

**November 7, 2006 General Election
 Important Events Calendar**

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION	
First Day to Pick-Up Petitions.....	July 7, 2006
First Day to File BOE Petitions.....	August 7, 2006
Deadline to File Petitions.....	August 30, 2006
Ballot Lottery	
Lottery for Ballot Position.....	September 15, 2006
Challenge Period	
Challenge Period Begins.....	September 2, 2006
Challenge Period Ends.....	September 11, 2006
Voter Registration	
Deadline to Register to Vote.....	October 10, 2006
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs.....	October 17, 2006
Absentee Voting	
Period for In-Person Absentee Voting.....	Oct. 23 - Nov. 6, 2006
Deadline to Request Ballot by Mail.....	October 31, 2006
Final Count of Absentee Ballots.....	November 17, 2006
Poll Watchers	
Deadline to Petition for Poll Watchers.....	October 24, 2006
Sample Ballot Publication and Voting Systems Testing	
Publication of Sample Ballot.....	November 2, 2006
Public Test of Voting & Tabulation System.....	November 4, 2006
Special Ballots	
Special Ballot Hearings.....	November 15–17, 2006
Counting of Accepted Special Ballots.....	November 17, 2006

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner
November 7, 2006 General Election
Important Events Calendar

Candidate Qualification	
First Day to Pick-Up Petitions.....	August 9, 2006
Deadline to File Petitions.....	September 8, 2006
Ballot Lottery	
Lottery for Ballot Position.....	September 15, 2006
Challenge Period	
Challenge Period Begins.....	September 11, 2006
Challenge Period Ends.	September 20, 2006
Voter Registration	
Deadline to Register to Vote.....	October 10, 2006
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs.....	October 17, 2006
Absentee Voting	
Period for In-Person Absentee Voting.....	Oct. 23 - Nov. 6, 2006
Deadline to Request Ballot by Mail.....	October 31, 2006
Final Count of Absentee Ballots.....	November 17, 2006
Poll Watchers	
Deadline to Petition for Poll Watchers... ..	October 24, 2006
Sample Ballots and Voting Systems Testing	
Publication of Sample Ballot.....	November 2, 2006
Public Test of Voting and Tabulation Systems.....	Nov. 4, 2006
Special Ballots	
Special Ballot Hearings.....	Nov. 15-17, 2006
Counting of Accepted Special Ballots.....	November 17, 2006

Absentee Voting

Registered voters who cannot make it to the polls on Election Day because of illness, physical disability, or travel may vote by absentee ballot. There are two (2) ways for District voters to cast an absentee ballot:

- Vote in-person at the Board’s office, or
- Cast an absentee ballot by mail.

In-Person Absentee Voting

In-person absentee voting begins fifteen (15) days before any election and ends the day before Election Day. In-person absentee voting is conducted at the Board of Elections’ Voter Services Office. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Saturday during the relevant 15-day period.

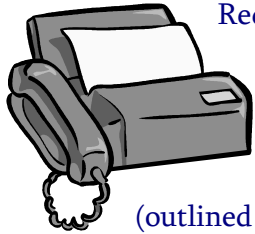
By-Mail Absentee Voting

Requests for mail absentee ballots must be in writing and must reach the Board’s office no later than the seventh (7th) day before the election, specifically, the Tuesday before Election Day.

Mail absentee ballot requests must include the following information in order to be processed:

- Name of the voter
- Address on the voter’s registration
- Address to which the ballot is to be mailed (if different)
- Reason for requesting the absentee ballot (illness, disability, travel, etc.)
- Signature of the voter

Requesting an Absentee Ballot by Facsimile



Requests for absentee ballots may be electronically transmitted by fax to the Board at 202-347-2648. A faxed request must contain the voter's same information as mailed applications

(outlined on the previous page) and must include the signature of the voter.

Faxed requests must reach the Board not earlier than three (3) days preceding the deadline for submitting requests for absentee ballots by mail.

Emergency Absentee Ballot

If an accident or sudden onset of an illness occurs after the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail has passed and the voter cannot appear at the polls on Election Day, the voter may request an emergency absentee ballot.



Note: The emergency absentee ballot process may not be used if the voter simply failed to write for an absentee ballot before the deadline. It may be used only by the individuals whose accident or onset of illness occurred after the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail.

For details on the emergency absentee voting process, call the Board's Voter Services Office at 202-727-2525.

Initiative Process

An initiative measure is the means by which voters can create laws directly by voting on legislative issues during the election. In the District of Columbia, initiative measures allow voters to propose and enact laws.

Any registered voter in the District of Columbia may propose law by placing an initiative measure on the ballot. The process for placing an initiative measure on the ballot in the District of Columbia has several steps, which are defined by law. The process is outlined below. However, for a complete account, see D.C. Official Code §§ 1-204.101 through 1-204.106 and 1-1001.16.

Supporters File the Measure with the Board of Election

The process begins when a registered voter files the proposed measure in the Board's Voter Services Office. The filing must include five (5) copies of the following:

- ☑ The legislative text of the proposed law;
- ☑ A short title of 15 words or less to describe the Measure; and
- ☑ A "Summary Statement" of 100 words or less, to outline the proposed law for voters.

A text file (MS-Word) of the short title, summary statement and legislative text may be provided to the Board in an electronic format--on disk or by e-mail.

The proposer must also file a notarized statement swearing or affirming that he or she is a registered voter. This statement must include the person's residence address and telephone number.

The registered voter must also file with the Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) a Statement of Organization and a Verified Statement of Contributions within ten (10) days of organization, listing campaign committees and other financial information. Failure to timely file the required statements will result in the rejection of the measure. The OCF can be reached by calling 202-671-0550.

The Board of Elections Considers the Subject Matter

Once an Initiative is filed, the Board publishes it in the *D.C. Register* and provides notice of a public meeting to consider whether the subject matter meets the requirements set forth in the law. Members of the public are invited to submit written testimony on the subject matter and to testify before the Board at the public meeting.

Under District law, an initiative may not appropriate funds, violate the Home Rule Charter, negate a Budget Act, or violate the Human Rights Act. The Board must reject a proposed initiative if the subject matter is not proper based on these subject matter requirements. When the Board makes its determination, it may consider only whether the measure meets these requirements.

Initiative Process (cont'd)

The Board Approves a Short Title and Summary Statement

Once approved, the Board prepares the "*official*" short title and summary statement and the legislative form of the initiative. The Summary Statement is a statement of 100 words or less that describes the Measure for voters. It appears on both the petition form and the election ballot.

The Short Title and Summary Statement "formulated" by the Board are presented at a public meeting, where both proponents and opponents are invited to comment. The Board's responsibility is to approve language that is clear and impartial, and fairly reflects the contents of the measure.

The Challenge Period Begins

Once approved, the official language is published in the *D.C. Register*, along with the legislative text. The *D.C. Register* publication begins a ten (10) day challenge period, during which any registered voter may object in the D.C. Superior Court to the official short title, summary statement, or legislative form that has been adopted by the Board.

The Petition Form is Approved

At the end of the challenge period (or once any court challenges are successfully resolved), the Board conducts a public meeting to approve the petition form for circulation.

Supporters Circulate the Petition

Once the petition is approved for circulation, the supporters of an initiative have 180 days to gather signatures. To have a measure placed on the election ballot, supporters of an initiative must collect the signatures of a minimum of five percent (5%) of the voters registered citywide. These signatures must be distributed to reflect a minimum of five percent (5%) of the registered voters in at least five of the eight wards.

Challenge Period

Beginning the third day after the filing, for a period of ten (10) days, the Board makes available for public inspection photocopies of the initiative petition. During the challenge period, any registered voter may review the petition copies. If he or she believes that the petition does not meet the minimum requirements, the registered voter may file a “Challenge” detailing the petition’s defects. The filing of a “Challenge” sets in motion the process by which a legal determination is made as to whether the petition meets the minimum requirements to be placed on the ballot. This process is outlined in Chapter 4 of the Board’s Regulations (D.C. Municipal Regulations, Title 3: Elections and Ethics).

The Board’s Staff Verifies Petition Signatures

Once the petition is filed, the Board’s staff has thirty (30) days to determine whether it contains the required number of voter signatures. In the presence of watchers--and according to detailed procedures--the

Initiative Process (cont’d)

Board’s staff checks each name on the petition to determine whether the signer is registered. Once the staff determines that the petition contains the required number of signatures, a random sampling of one hundred (100) signatures from each ward is checked against the signature on each of the voter’s registration to ensure the validity of the signatures.

The Measure is Certified for the Ballot

At the end of the signature verification phase, the Board conducts a public meeting to announce whether the petition meets the citywide and ward-level requirements. If the petition meets the requirements, the measure is “certified” for the election ballot. An initiative measure is placed on the next citywide general, special or primary election held at least 90 days after the Board’s certification. Voters cast ballots “For” or “Against” the initiative measure. All registered voters are eligible to vote on an initiative measure.

Board Initiative Petition Certification Deadlines

In order for an initiative measure to appear on the September 12, 2006 Primary or the November 7, 2006 General Election ballot, the Board must receive the petition signatures by 5:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, June 14, 2006 for the September 12th Primary
Wednesday, August 9, 2006 for the November 7th General Election

WATCHERS

At the Polling Place

D.C. law and the Board's rules and regulations permit each candidate to have "Poll Watchers" in each polling place where his or her name appears on the ballot on Election Day.



Candidates must petition the Board for poll watchers at least fourteen (14) days before the election. Forms for petitioning the Board are available at the Voter Services Office and will be provided to all candidates who preliminarily qualify for the ballot.

Each candidate is entitled to one (1) poll watcher in each of the precincts where his or name appears on the ballot.

The Board issues each candidate who qualifies for watchers a "watcher badge" for each precinct. The candidate distributes the badges to his or her poll watchers. Poll watchers may then be substituted by the candidate at any time during the day. These "shift changes" must be reported to the Board's Precinct Captain at the polling place.

Poll watchers must conduct themselves in accordance with the Board's guidelines as outlined on the following page. If a poll watcher becomes disruptive, fails to follow the Precinct Captain's instructions, obstructs the election process, or interferes with polling place officials, he or she may be removed. The candidate will be informed of removal and will be permitted to replace the poll watcher.

Watchers present at One Judiciary Square

Candidates, their representatives, and the public may watch the count on *closed circuit television monitors* in the main lobby. The closed circuit cameras provide a complete and unobstructed view of the ballot processing area. Board staff is available to answer any questions concerning the process; and to provide election results, periodically.



Guidelines for Watchers

Watchers must:

- Sign in and out on the Watcher Roster.
- Wear a badge issued by the Board with the name of the Candidate and the Watcher's Name.
- Remain in the designated area within the polling place.
- Share the computer listing provided by the Board.

Watchers may:

- Check the voter cards that include the voter's name and party or single-member district designation.
- Exchange badges, but there must be no more than one (1) watcher for each candidate in attendance at any time except;
 - When a watcher supervisor is checking progress; and/or
 - When there is a "shift change."



Watchers may not:

Touch any precinct material, except the watcher's listing or the voter cards.

- Interfere with polling place officials.
- Wear campaign buttons or other campaign items.
- Obstruct the election process.
- Talk to voters casting ballots.

Data Information Services

The District of Columbia's voter roll contains a wide range of information about the city's more than 350,000 registered voters, including residence and mailing address, party designation, election districts and voting history. Under the law, most data from the voter registry is considered public information.

Voter Information and Data Services

As a service to the public, voter data may be ordered in different layouts, including CD-ROM, disk or electronic format. A cost will be assessed for each request. With the electronic format, the requester will have the option of obtaining data through e-mail in MS-Excel, MS-Word or MS-Access. This data can also be individualized to meet a wide range of informational needs—making it particularly helpful to candidates. The entire voter roll may be obtained on CD-Rom.



How this Service Works

Orders for data may be placed at the Board of Elections Voter Services Office. A minimum deposit of \$10.00 will be required for each request.

How to Order Voter Registration Data

Data request forms are available from the Board's office where assistance with preparing the form is also available. Forms may also be downloaded from the Board's website at www.dcboee.org. Completed forms should be returned to the Board along with the required deposit. Requests may be paid by check, money order, or cash. *Checks and money orders should be made payable to the D.C.*

Treasurer.

The Board will call you or your contact person when the data is ready—usually within 72 hours of submission of the request.

With the exception of electronic mail requests, data can be picked up at:

D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics
441 – 4th Street, NW, Room 250 North
Washington, DC 20001

For questions on the process of requesting voter registration data services that are available, please call the Board of Elections Voter Services Office at 202-727-2525.

Office of Campaign Finance

The information below has been supplied by the Board's Office of Campaign Finance (OCF). All questions regarding campaign finance rules and regulations should be directed to OCF, which is located in the Reeves Municipal Building at 2000 – 14th Street, NW, Suite 433, or by calling 671-0550.

Registration and Reporting Requirements for Candidates and Political Committees

The District of Columbia Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended, D.C. Official Code § 1-1101.01 (88 Stat. 447, 2001 Edition Public Law 93-376, effective August 14, 1974), requires full and complete disclosures by and on behalf of local candidates and political committees engaged in local political campaigns.

All candidates and political committees participating in the 2006 elections for the Offices of Mayor, Chairman or Members of the D.C. Council, President and Member of the Board of Education, United States Senator and United States Representative must register with the Office of Campaign Finance, and file periodic reports of receipts and expenditures. Candidates for the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner are in a special category and are not affected by the registration requirements of the Campaign Finance Act, but must file an ANC Summary Financial Statement not later than thirty (30) days after the election in which they participate.

Registration Requirements

Statement of Candidacy

An individual must register as a candidate with the Office of Campaign Finance within (5) days of receiving a contribution, making an expenditure, obtaining nominating petitions, or authorizing another person to so act on their behalf.

Statement of Organization

Each political committee must file a Statement of Organization within ten (10) days of organizing. The ten (10) day period will commence upon designation by the candidate of a principal campaign committee on the "Statement of Candidacy Form," if the committee has not been previously organized.

Reporting Requirements

Financial Disclosure Statement

Each candidate must file a personal "Financial Disclosure Statement" with the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance within thirty (30) days of becoming a candidate.



Reports of Receipts and Expenditures

"Reports of Receipts and Expenditures" are required from the treasures of all political committees and candidates, except candidates who designated a principal campaign committee, and have been granted a waiver from filing separate reports from their committee; and candidates

who anticipate spending less than \$500 in any one (1) election and have not designated a principal campaign committee.

Candidates claiming to spend less than \$500 must file a \$500 exemption form upon registration.

During the 2006 election year, candidates and treasurers of committees supporting candidates seeking office in this election year, must file "Reports of Receipts and Expenditures" on January 31st, the tenth (10th) day of March, June, August, October, and December, and on the eighth (8th) day before each scheduled election-- September 4th and October 30th. Any contribution of \$200 or more received after the closing date of the pre-election report must be reported within twenty-four (24) hours after its received.

Political committees who notify the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance in writing on or before January 31, 2006 of their intent not to support a candidate during the 2006 election year, must file "Reports of Receipts and Expenditures" on January 31st and July 31st.

Each person (other than a political committee or candidate who makes contributions or expenditures, other than by contribution to a political committee or candidate, in an aggregate amount of \$50 or more, must also file "Reports of Receipts and Expenditures."

All reports are available for public inspection, and subject to desk and full field audits and investigations.

Candidates and political committees are able to electronically file their “Reports of Receipts and Expenditures” at the OCF website (www.ocf.dc.gov). For general information and updates about electronic filing, call the Office of Campaign Finance at 671-0550.

Contribution Limitations and Identification of Campaign Literature

All candidates and political committees must adhere to the contribution limitations of D.C. Official Code § 1-1102.10. All campaign literature must be identified by having a disclaimer on the face of the literature “Paid for by” and the payee followed by the treasurer’s name and the committee address.

Termination

Candidates and political committees have a responsibility to file campaign reports until a termination report is filed and approved by the Director of the Office of Campaign Finance. For example, neither withdrawal of candidacy nor an unsuccessful bid for office will relieve registrants of the responsibility to file reports of receipts and expenditures. A termination report can only be filed when the political committee has satisfied all debts and sustains a zero (0) balance.

NOTES AND COMMENTS:

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District of Columbia
Board of Elections and Ethics
One Judiciary Square
441 – 4th Street, NW Suite 250-North
Washington, D.C. 20001-2745
Voice: 202-727-2525
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TDD: 202-639-8916
Fax: 202-347-2648
Web site: www.dcboee.org