

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON

B24-0507, the “Elections Modernization Amendment Act of 2021”

Thursday, January 6, 2022, 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Hearing via Zoom

To Watch Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen/>

On Thursday, January 6, 2022, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will convene a public hearing to consider Bill 24-0507, the “Elections Modernization Amendment Act of 2021”. The hearing will be conducted virtually via Zoom from 12:30 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m.

The stated purpose of B24-0507, the “Elections Modernization Amendment Act of 2021”, is to amend the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975 to require the Board of Elections (“Board”), in the case of an election for member of an Advisory Neighborhood Commission representing the single-member district containing the Central Detention Facility and Correctional Treatment Facility, to develop educational materials for residents in the care and custody of the Department of Corrections (“Department”), to require the Department to distribute those materials and facilitate the transmission of petition sheets to any candidates in its care and custody, to require the Department, in the case of an election for member of an Advisory Neighborhood Commission representing the single-member district containing the Central Detention Facility and Correctional Treatment Facility, to make voting available to voters in its care and custody, to require the Department to employ a staff liaison for any Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in its care and custody to assist the Commissioner in carrying out their duties, and to allow a Commissioner in the Department’s care and custody to remotely participate in meetings and vote on matters before the Commission through electronic means.

The bill would also amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to provide definitions for “ballot drop box”, “mail-in ballot”, and “Vote Center”, to require the Board to mail voters a mail-in ballot and a postage-paid return envelope and provide an alternative format for voters with disabilities, to require the Board to accept mail-in ballots mailed on or before election day and received by the Board no later than the 10th day after election day or received by the Board by 8 p.m. on election day in a ballot drop box or at a polling place, to require the Board to create an

electronic ballot tracking system to track and notify voters about the status of their mail-in and special ballots, to require the Board to create a process for voters to cure signature verification issues, to require the Board to operate no fewer than 100 ballot drop boxes throughout the District in accessible locations, to require the Board to create a centralized process for receiving public concerns about mail-in and special ballots, to require the Board to take all reasonable steps to inform qualified electors about elections, including by emailing relevant information to voters for whom the Board has email addresses, to require the Board to establish and maintain a publicly-accessible and searchable election data portal and data visualization dashboards on its website, to require the District of Columbia Public Schools system to be closed on election day to facilitate voting in its facilities, to prohibit an elector's ballot for President or Vice President from being accepted if the elector does not vote for the candidate of the party the elector has been elected to represent and to establish a process to remove and replace an elector who violates this provision, to require the Board to permit voters to vote at any Vote Center, and to make conforming changes.

Lastly, the bill would amend the Comprehensive Military and Overseas Voters Accommodation Amendment Act of 2012 to make conforming changes; amend the Address Confidentiality Act of 2018 to make conforming changes; and amend the State Board of Education Establishment Act of 2007 to ensure parity by allowing employees of the District of Columbia Public Schools to be members of the State Board of Education.

The Committee invites the public to provide oral and written testimony. Public witnesses seeking to provide oral testimony at the Committee's hearing must thoroughly review the following instructions:

- Anyone wishing to provide oral testimony must email the Committee at judiciary@dccouncil.us with their name, telephone number, organizational affiliation, and title (if any), by the **close of business on Monday, January 3.**
- The Committee will approve witnesses' registrations based on the total time allotted for public testimony. The Committee will also determine the order of witnesses' testimony.
- Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals (and any subsequent representatives of the same organizations) will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. In order to accommodate additional public witnesses, the Committee may reduce witnesses' allotted time for testimony but will inform witnesses if it plans to do so.
- Witnesses are not permitted to yield their time to, or substitute their testimony for, the testimony of another individual or organization.
- If possible, witnesses should submit a copy of their testimony electronically in advance to judiciary@dccouncil.us.
- Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation are requested to inform the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than five business days before the hearing. The Committee will make every effort to fulfill timely requests; however, requests received fewer than five business days before the hearing may not be fulfilled.

For witnesses who are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee at

judiciary@dccouncil.us. **The record will close at the end of the business day on Friday, January 21.**