


**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION AND LABOR
MEMORANDUM**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson

FROM: Councilmember Anita Bonds 

RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the February 6th, 2024 Legislative Meeting

DATE: February 1, 2024

This memorandum serves as my request to agendize the following measures for the February 6th, 2024 Legislative Meeting:

Emergency and Temporary Legislation

- **Election Worker Protection Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024**
- **Election Worker Protection Emergency Amendment Act of 2024**
- **Election Worker Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2024**

This emergency and temporary legislation would amend the District of Columbia Theft and White Collar Crimes Act of 1982 to enhance penalties imposed for certain crimes against election officials. This measure addresses safety concerns facing District of Columbia Board of Elections officials and election workers by providing additional safeguards to election workers to help ensure District elections are safe for everyone. The hotly contested 2024 elections will bring a predictable increase in the abuse of our election officials and poll workers. The District of Columbia, as Nation’s Capital, will receive increase exposure given the 2024 presidential elections. Already, the BOE has received numerous threatening voice mail messages and had someone shatter the outer glass to their office suite. We must take action to protect our election workers given these attacks and the high likelihood of additional attacks or threats in the coming months. This measure will increase the penalties for crimes against election officials and elections workers.

- **Election Precinct Modernization Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024**
- **Election Precinct Modernization Emergency Amendment Act of 2024**
- **Election Precinct Modernization Temporary Amendment Act of 2024**

This emergency and temporary legislation would amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to eliminate the requirement that the Board of Elections divide the District into new voting precincts prior to the 2024 primary election. Currently, D.C. Official Code § 1–1001.05(a)(8) requires that every five years the Board of Elections shall “divide the District into appropriate voting precincts, each of which shall contain at least 350 registered persons; and

draw precinct lines within election wards created by the Council.” However, since the passage of the Election Modernization Amendment Act of 2021, residents may vote in person at any Vote Center in the District, regardless of their assigned precinct. This legislation, therefore, eliminated the need to create precincts to determine where a resident may vote. Precincts no longer serve a specific purpose in the District, and removing the requirement to create them will result in administrative savings and improved efficiency for the Board of Elections. If precincts are eliminated, only 345 ballot styles – compared to 750 if precincts remain – will need to be created. This will streamline BOE efforts to prepare for the 2024 election.

Copies of the emergency declaration and emergency approval resolutions are attached. Please contact Kevin Chavous at kchavous@dccouncil.gov with any questions.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Secretary
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Budget Director
Mayor’s Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs