

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

ON

FY 2025 PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND FY 2026 TO DATE

**STATEMENT OF MONICA H. EVANS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS
March 5, 2026**

Greetings, Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Executive Administration and Labor. My name is Monica Evans, and I am the Executive Director of the DC Board of Elections or BOE. With me today is Terri Stroud, the Board's General Counsel.

On behalf of the BOE, thank you for the opportunity to appear before this oversight committee to discuss our agency's performance in Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 to date.

As you know, the Board of Elections is a Charter Independent Agency comprised of a three-member Board with a small staff that carries out the agency's mission. The mission of the Board is to enfranchise eligible residents, conduct elections, and ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

The fundamental criteria governing the Board's program operations are that: 1) election programs are legally mandated; and 2) these programs are all subject to fixed statutory deadlines. Thus, these programs must be sufficiently financed to meet time constraints imposed by the electoral process. The inability to fund any of the Board's programs has the potential to undermine the integrity and efficiency of the overall electoral process.

The operating budget for BOE for FY25 was approximately \$14,808,990 supporting a staff of 65 full time employees through local funding. The FY26 approved budget is \$13,454,739 and supports 66 full time employees.

The role of BOE is specifically defined. With respect to legislation, we do not introduce legislation nor do we pass legislation. We do not comment on the policy decisions made or proposed by elected officials. We are an agency charged with implementing election laws as they exist, or as they may be amended from time to time by elected officials. When needed, we comment regarding the administrative requirements and the fiscal impact of implementing pending legislation.

2025 - 2026 Elections and Year in Summary Review

During FY25 and FY26 to date, BOE conducted a total of two elections; The November 5, 2024 General Election and the July 15, 2025 Ward 8 Special Election.

During the 2026 Election Cycle, we are responsible for implementing new legislation. In 2022, the Council of the District of Columbia enacted the Automatic Voter Registration

Amendment Act. The new legislation requires BOE to work with the DC Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to give residents additional opportunities to register to vote. Citizens who are otherwise eligible to register to vote will not be able to fully opt out of voter registration at DMV. Instead, eligible individuals who decline voter registration at the DMV will be placed in a “pending file” that BOE is now required to maintain. BOE will mail a letter to everyone in this “pending file,” informing them that they will have the opportunity to register to vote, decline registration, or do nothing, If they do nothing, BOE is required to mail a ballot to them for two General Election Cycles.

BOE will also implement Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for the June 2026 Primary and Special Elections. BOE has been tasked with implementing ranked choice voting for each primary, special, and general election involving three or more qualified candidates for electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Mayor, Attorney General, Chairman of the Council, members of the State Board of Education, United States Senator, United States Representative, and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner. Each ballot will allow a voter to rank up to five candidates, including a write-in candidate, or as many candidates as there are in a contest if fewer than five.

We are continuing to monitor legislation and information on the federal level. Legislation to repeal the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act has passed the House. In July, Senator Britt introduced Senate Bill 2636, which prohibits individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia and repeals the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022. There has been no further action in the Senate. We are also monitoring the status of the SAVE Act and other actions that will affect elections.

November 5, 2024 General Election

For the November 2024 General Election, we had 464,502 registered voters. We opened 25 Early Vote Centers and 75 Election Day Vote Centers. 155,310 individuals voted in person (47.23%) and 173,561 voters used the mail-in ballot (52.77%). Of the 453,858 ballots mailed, approximately 36,000 mail ballots were returned as undeliverable.

General Election Communications

BOE mailed a Voter Guide and three informational postcards to every household and utilized television, radio, and print advertising. We utilized various forms of Metro advertising between September 23 and November 5, including 62 geofencing/digital ads, 40 bus exterior ads, 90 bus tail advertisements, and 24 Metro live boards. We also distributed yard signs and palm cards. We ran 40 print ads in collaboration with five different print newspapers (Washington Informer Newspaper, Hill Rag/East of the River Newspapers, El Tiempo Latino Newspaper, Washington Blade Newspaper, and Georgetown Newspaper). Additionally, we increased our media presence by:

- Running 614 television ads across local news, 24/7 news, and other cable channels during high-watch volume shows and entertainment programming;

- Running 13 online ads with Washington City Paper;
- Creating 30-second advertisements in both English and Spanish; and
- Airing 97 radio spots and digital advertisements on WPGC-FM, WTOP-FM, and WPRS-FM/Praise.

Initiative Measure #83 “Ranked Choice Voting and Open the Primary Elections to Independent Voters Act of 2024” was approved by voters in the November General Election.

July 2025 Ward 8 Special Election

On February 4, the DC Council voted to expel the Ward 8 Councilmember. We received the “Expulsion of Councilmember Trayon White, Sr. Resolution of 2025” on February 5, 2025. The expulsion created a vacancy in the Ward 8 Councilmember seat. The Board certified the vacancy at a Special Board Meeting held on February 14, 2025. The Special Election to fill the Ward 8 Councilmember vacancy was held on July 15, 2025.

For the Ward 8 Special Election, we had 55,992 registered voters. We opened four Early Vote Centers and 12 Election Day Vote Centers. 8,671 ballots were cast. 3,016 individuals voted in person (34.78%) and 5,655 voters used the mail-in ballot (65.22%). Trayon White, Sr. was declared the winner.

Partnerships and Support

We rely on our partners for success. As has historically been the case, BOE received support from the Department of General Services (DGS), the Office of Disability Rights (ODR), the Department of Public Works (DPW), the local and federal Departments of Homeland Security, the Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP), the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), DC Parks and Recreation (DCPR), DC Public Schools, (DCPS), the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and other government agencies. We continue to remain grateful to these agencies for their years of ongoing support of elections operations.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Funding

During 2025, BOE received a total of \$272,727 in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding. Remaining HAVA funds of \$90,867 will be used for IT infrastructure upgrades.

The District of Columbia is required to provide a 20% state match for this funding.

Technology Enhancements

In our 2025 budget, we received one-time funding for equipment upgrades. We used \$321,875 in local funds to purchase replacement KNOWiNk Poll Pad equipment. We had to replace our Poll Pads, because the previous versions had reached the end of the

life cycle. Therefore, they were no longer able to receive any updated software upgrades.

We used Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding to purchase replacement DS300 Scanner equipment. This equipment is used at Vote Centers to deposit voted ballots. Due to software upgrades to our Express Vote touchscreen equipment, we had to ensure the scanners were compatible.

BOE is still in need of replacement ES&S ExpressVote equipment. Our current equipment is over 10 years old. The updated software is faster than the equipment. During the 2024 General Election, we experienced delays when voters used these touchscreen devices. When RCV is implemented, we will see further delays because voting takes much longer due to the process of ranking candidates in each contest.

Students, Incarcerated, and Returning Citizens

BOE continues to work with schools to ensure students are registered to vote. As it pertains to schools, a letter is sent to the principal at the beginning of each school year that explains our outreach efforts. BOE has also established a relationship at the administrative level with DCPS' Director of Social Studies. This helps to ensure the approach for communicating voter registration information to DCPS students is performed in a consistent manner.

We continue to establish and cultivate relationships with community partners in support of returning and incarcerated citizens. Some of the highlights that have occurred with this effort include:

- Working with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to conduct education and registration drives;
- Establishing a partnership with the Office of Human Rights to educate incarcerated citizens of their rights upon release;
- Working with Court Services and Offender Supervision Community Agency (CSOSA) to present at their quarterly video conference;
- Creating informational posters that articulated the rights of incarcerated and returning citizens which were posted in the DC Jail and electronically provided to Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP); and
- Continuing to work with the Mayor's Office of Returning Affairs (MORCA), which assisted with some BOP outreach events.

National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Agencies

BOE is providing increased assistance to the District's voter registration agencies (VRAs) as they strive to achieve greater compliance with federal and District laws that require them to offer voter registration services as part of their core functions. We have developed a NVRA Manual and training video that outline the VRAs obligations under the NVRA and related District law. This manual serves as the basis for training sessions

for VRA. We currently mail letters to all VRAs requesting that they provide us with agency coordinators. Based on the responses, we schedule annual training for all staff that assist with NVRA compliance.

2026 Primary Election Preparation

The 2026 fiscal year began with preparations for the 2026 Election Cycle. The Primary Election will be held on June 16, 2026. We plan to open 25 Vote Centers for Early Voting and 75 Vote Centers will be open on Primary Election Day. Early Voting will occur from June 8 to June 14. We will mail a ballot to every registered voter and we will place 55 Mail Ballot Drop boxes across the District of Columbia. We plan to begin mailing ballots beginning on May 11. Additionally, we will mail ballots to military and overseas voters ahead of the deadlines set forth in federal law. Vote Center and Mail Ballot Drop Box locations will be placed on our website.

Efforts to Implement Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

The DC Board of Elections Voter Education and Outreach Division (VEOD) administers year-round education, outreach, and engagement activities and programs. To prepare for the 2026 Election Cycle, VEOD's goal is to register and engage all eligible voters in the District of Columbia. In advance of the 2026 Primary Election, VEOD will focus its strategic efforts on educating all eligible voters in the District of Columbia on RCV. The goal is to educate and build voter confidence to ensure a smooth transition.

BOE outreach efforts will include a palm card, postcards, a Voter Guide, online training tools, sample ballots, and a dedicated information lab at BOE headquarters. Mail Ballots will also include information about RCV. We will attend ANC and civic association meetings. We will visit schools, senior facilities, libraries, the Department of Corrections, and rehabilitation centers. We will staff outreach events and conduct town hall meetings. We will have in-person and virtual engagements with DC residents. The Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center is assisting us with implementation.

BOE will focus our strategic efforts on all DC residents. The target audience consists of registered voters, pre-registered voters, and prospective new voters. Special emphasis will be placed on the following populations:

- Communities with Low Voter Registration
- First-time and Young Voters
- High School Students
- Seniors
- Voters with Disabilities
- Displaced and Homeless Citizens
- Voters with Limited English Proficiency
- Faith-based Communities

The BOE website has information dedicated to RCV, including mock ballots and frequently asked questions. We are taking mock ballots and voting equipment into communities. We have also made informational materials available to our community partners. We just launched a RCV app that will allow users to vote and experience tabulation. Education will not end ahead of in-person voting. We will also be prepared to provide educational materials at Vote Centers.

Our current vendors have experience in RCV. We will continue to use K&H Mail House to print our ballots, and ES&S is our voting and tabulation equipment vendor. ES&S has worked with other jurisdictions to implement RCV.

Election Workers

The recruitment of quality election workers is important and their presence at Vote Centers requires attention to detail. During the 2026 Election Cycle, our goal is to recruit and train approximately 2,000 election workers. We will deploy approximately 1,700 election workers to serve at Vote Centers.

Election worker training will begin on March 17. We are offering training classes for Registration Clerks, Ballot Clerks, Voter Assistance Clerks, Site Coordinators, and Area Reps. Classes are being offered six to seven days a week for a ten-week period.

Communications

Our website has been updated to provide information that is clearer and easier to find. We will produce print media, digital media, and engage in radio and television advertising. We will distribute a Voter Guide, brochures, and postcards. We will also use yard signs to convey key information.

Accessibility

We will conduct accessibility surveys of prospective Vote Centers for the 2026 Election Cycle. Once again, we are partnering with DGS to ensure that Vote Centers are structurally accessible.

We work with our partners, such as Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services and the Office of Disability Rights, to remediate barriers to accessibility that were identified during previous elections. Additional temporary ramps with handrails will be installed at certain Vote Center locations and alternative entrances are being identified. Some Mail Ballot Drop Boxes are also being adjusted to enhance accessibility.

We will also ensure that election workers are aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines and are trained to address any issues that arise promptly and effectively.

The Board will make OmniBallot, an accessible remote ballot delivery platform available for the District's voters with disabilities and military and overseas voters. This platform will include electronic ballot return functionality. In order to effectively promote the availability of OmniBallot, the Board will collaborate with various District government agencies, disability advocacy organizations, community organizations, and other stakeholders. We are dedicated to enhancing our messaging strategy by incorporating feedback from stakeholders, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that voters are not only informed about the availability of OmniBallot, but also equipped with the knowledge to make the most of its features.

Voter Registration Rolls and List Maintenance

We encourage voters to review and update their voter registration information regularly. We conduct a canvass after every General Election that allows us to move voters from an active to an inactive status and make other necessary adjustments to the voter registry. Our Data Team continues to focus on keeping voter registration records accurate and up-to-date by conducting essential tasks, such as identifying registrants who have moved (whether in-state or out-of-state), verifying deceased individuals, addressing duplicate records, identifying ineligible voters and inactive voters.

We conducted our Biennial Mail Canvass to confirm the residential addresses of voters who were eligible, but did not participate in the 2024 Presidential Election. This involved mailing a first-class, non-forwardable canvass postcard to the mailing addresses listed in our records. As a result of our efforts, we were able to remove 55,058 inactive voters from our voter roll.

Conclusion

As always, it is BOE's goal to provide competent and professional service to residents in the District of Columbia. BOE has and will continue to seize every opportunity to review, modify, and adjust processes and procedures wherever possible, so that techniques can be improved with each successive election. Each recent election cycle has also required BOE to update systems and procedures to implement new legislation. The Board of Elections consists of a small but dedicated staff, all of whom work extremely hard to meet the challenges that each election cycle brings. They take seriously their responsibility of delivering election services and elections with integrity.

Thank you and we are available for questions.