

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_77
Tab Number: 8
Document Title: Let's Make Our Votes Count!
Document Date: 2002
Document Country: United States --
District of Columbia
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02589



Let's Make Our Votes Count!

In 2002, DC voters will elect our

- ✓ Mayor
- ✓ Councilmembers
- ✓ Board of Education
President
- ✓ And Other
Officials



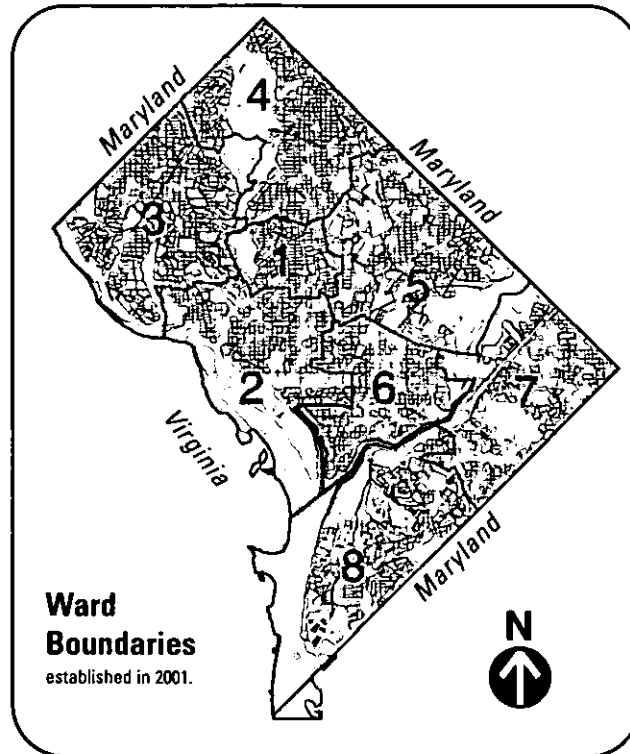
Our Political Geography

Every District voter lives in...

A Ward: The city is divided into eight wards. To make sure these wards are as equal as possible in the number of people who live there, the boundaries are redrawn every ten years according to the population numbers from the latest census.

An Advisory Neighborhood Commission

Area: Wards are divided into Advisory Neighborhood Commission areas that are often the same as traditional neighborhoods. Each ward has between five and seven Advisory Neighborhood Commission areas. The city's 37 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions have between two and fourteen members.



A Precinct: Each ward has an average of 18 precincts and designated locations where voters living nearby cast their votes on election days.

A Board of Education Election District:

The city is divided into four Board of Education Election Districts, District One includes Wards 1 and 2; District Two, Wards 3 and 4; District Three, Wards 5 and 6; and District Four, Wards 7 and 8.


An Advisory Neighborhood Commission Single Member

District: Advisory Neighborhood Commission areas are divided into Single Member Districts or SMDs, each represented by an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner. Each of the city's 286 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners represents an area the size of a few blocks and approximately 2000 residents.

Within a few weeks after registering to vote, all voters receive a voter registration card. This card tells you the location of the precinct where you vote and your Advisory Neighborhood Commission Single Member District.


OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS


LOCAL OFFICIALS


 **Mayor:** The Mayor, the city's chief executive, will be elected in 2002 and will serve a four-year term. The Mayor is responsible for the operation of the agencies that make the government work—the Departments of Health, Parks and Recreation, Housing and Community Development, etc. as well as the Metropolitan Police Department. Every year, the Mayor prepares a budget to cover the operation of the city's agencies and submits this budget to the Council of the District of Columbia.

Council of the District of Columbia: The Council of the District of Columbia is responsible for making the city's laws and for overseeing the agencies that make the government work. For example, the Council must confirm the appointment of any official the Mayor selects to head a major agency. The Council is also responsible for passing the city's annual budget. Council members are elected for four-year terms.

 **The Council Chairman, the presiding officer of the city's legislative body, will also be elected in 2002.** The Council Chair makes assignments to the Council's standing committees.


 **At-Large Councilmembers:** The Council of the District of Columbia has four at-large members. **Two At-Large Councilmembers will be elected in 2002.**

 **Ward Councilmembers:** Each of the city's eight wards is represented by a Councilmember. **Half of the ward Councilmembers—those from Wards 1,3,5, and 6 will be elected in 2002.** The other half will be elected in 2004.

 **Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners:** Every two years, voters in the city's 286 Single Member Districts elect the neighbors who will represent them on the Commissions


which act as liaisons between their neighborhoods and the District's Mayor, Council, and agencies. **286 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners will be elected in 2002.**


 **President of the Board of Education:** In 2002, District voters will elect the President of the Board of Education to a four-year term.


 **District Members of the Board of Education:** In 2002, Board of Education Election Districts 3 and 4 will each elect a Board member to a four-year term.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

President and Vice President of the United States: District of Columbia voters take part in the election of the President and Vice President of the United States and elect three unique federal officials..

 **D.C. Delegate to the House of Representatives:** The District of Columbia has no voting representation in either House of Congress. However, District voters do elect a Delegate who serves on and votes in House Committees and participates in House debates. The D.C. Delegate has a fully staffed Congressional office and earns the same salary as the Representatives from the nation's 435 Congressional Districts. **D.C.'s Delegate to the House of Representatives will be elected in 2002 for a two-year term.**

 **(Shadow) U.S. Senators:** These two volunteer offices were created to advocate for D.C. Statehood. Each Shadow Senator serves for a term of six years. **Voters will elect one Shadow Senator in 2002.**

 **(Shadow) U.S. Representative:** This is also a volunteer office created to advocate for D.C. Statehood. **D.C.'s Shadow Representative will be elected in 2002 for a two-year term.**

HOW WE ELECT OUR OFFICIALS

November 5, 2002 is the next election of District of Columbia public officials.

During the General Election, both partisan and non-partisan offices will be filled. Partisan offices can be held by people publicly identified

with political parties. Non-partisan offices are held by people with no publicly identified party affiliation. The General Election Ballot will have three kinds of candidates:

- ✓ Major party candidates for partisan offices who were nominated in the Primary Election on September 10;
- ✓ Minor party and independent candidates for partisan offices who qualified for the ballot by filing petitions signed by registered voters with the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics;
- ✓ Candidates for non-partisan offices who qualified for the ballot by filing petitions signed by registered voters with the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics.

PRIMARIES, MAJOR PARTIES, AND PARTISAN OFFICES

The next D.C. Primary Election will be September 10, 2002.

In primaries, voters registered to the District's major parties nominate candidates for local and federal partisan offices.

When at least one of a party's candidates for partisan office receives at least 7500 votes in a general election, that party qualifies to conduct a primary before the next general election and is considered one of the District's major parties. The political parties that are now qualified to conduct primaries are the Democratic, Republican, and D.C. Statehood Green Parties.

LOCAL PARTISAN OFFICES

Mayor, Council Chair, and Councilmember are local partisan offices. Primaries for these offices are held in September of even-numbered years. Candidates for these offices seeking the nominations of major parties must qualify for the primary ballot by filing petitions with the signatures of the required number of District voters with the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics.

FEDERAL PARTISAN OFFICES

President and Vice-President of the United States: In years divisible by four, the District holds a Presidential Primary in May. During this primary, voters registered to major parties can indicate their Presidential preference and elect delegates to their parties' conventions. During the May primary, parties can also conduct elections for party offices. In the November general election, all registered voters can vote for President and Vice President.

D.C. Delegate to the House of U.S. Representatives: In 2002, the primary for D.C. Delegate will be held in September. In Presidential election years, the primary for the D.C. Delegate is held in May at the time of the Presidential Primary.

Shadow Senators and Representative: Primaries for these offices are held in September of even-numbered years.

LOCAL NON-PARTISAN OFFICES:

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and Board of Education Members: District elections for these non-partisan officials are held in November of even-numbered years.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
ELECTIONS IN D.C., CONTACT**

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The brochure has been produced
in conjunction with the
Marshall-Brennan Fellowship Program
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Printing has been underwritten
by Washington Gas