

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

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JTS Box Number: IFES\_77  
Tab Number: 26  
Document Title: Election 96 Info  
Document Date: 1996  
Document Country: United States --  
District of Columbia  
Document Language: English  
IFES ID: CE02607



# ELECTION YEAR



**GUIDE TO CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION  
IN THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Please note the following corrections and additions to the tables on pages 42, 43 and 44 of this guide:

### Page 42, Important Events Calendar:

Challenge Period Ends	September 9, 1996
Deadline to Register for November Election	October 7, 1996

### Page 43, Important Events Calendar:

Challenge Period Begins	August 23, 1996
Deadline to Register for November Election	October 7, 1996

### Page 44, Important Events Calendar:

Deadline to Register for November Election	October 7, 1996
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### ***NOTE:***

Since this booklet was printed, the Umoja Party filed an Official Plan to place several Umoja Party offices on the November 5th General Election ballot. For more information, please ask for the Official Calendar for the November 5th General Election, which is available through the Voter Services Office.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Board of Elections and Ethics is pleased to provide this edition of the "Election Year 1996 Guide to Candidate Qualification in the District of Columbia". The Guide is written for candidates, to provide a quick reference for most of the questions that you may have as the election year unfolds. This year's Guide has been updated to reflect current dates and deadlines and to include the changes in election law and Board rules that have occurred since Election Year 1994.

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. If you have any questions concerning the candidate qualification process, or any aspect of the District's electoral process, please call the Voter Services Branch at (202) 727-2525.

The Board and its staff look forward to serving you in Election Year 1996.

## **LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE**

The qualifications detailed in this section are those necessary to hold the various public offices in the District. Qualifications for office are distinct from requirements of the process by which candidates qualify for placement on the ballot. Please see the "Ballot Access" sections of this Guide for these requirements.

### **Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia**

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

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia, as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302.<sup>1</sup>
- B. Be at least 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. Code §1-241):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302.
- B. Hold no other paid public office or employment.
- C. Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one (1) year immediately preceding the general or special election.

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<sup>1</sup>A "qualified elector" is defined as an individual who: is a citizen of the U.S.; is a resident of the District of Columbia; is or will be 18 years old by the date of the next election; has not been judged mentally incompetent by a court; has maintained his or her residence in the District for at least 30 days preceding the next election; and is not incarcerated for conviction of a felony.

### **Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia**

To hold the office of Chairman of the Council, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Code §1-225 and §1-226):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302.
- B. Hold no other paid public office or other employment.
- C. Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one (1) year immediately preceding the general or special election.

### **At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia**

To hold the office of At-Large Member of the Council, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Code §1-225):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302.
- B. Hold no other paid public office.
- C. Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one (1) year immediately preceding the general or special election.

### **Ward Member of the Council of the District of Columbia**

To hold the office of Ward Member of the Council, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Code §1-225):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District, as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302.
- B. Hold no other paid public office.
- C. Have resided and been domiciled in the District of Columbia for one (1) year immediately preceding the general or special election.
- D. Reside in the ward from which nominated.



### **At-Large Member of the Board of Education**

To hold the office of At-Large Member of the Board of Education, an individual must meet qualifications "A" and "B" at the time the nominating petition is filed and qualification "C" upon taking office (D.C. Code §31-101):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302.
- 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 and have claimed residence nowhere else.
- C. Hold no other elective office, except delegate or alternate delegate to a political party nominating convention; nor be an officer nor employee of the District of Columbia Government nor the Board of Education.

### **Ward Member of the Board Of Education**

To hold the office of Ward Member of the Board of Education, an individual must meet qualifications "A" and "B" at the time the nominating petition is filed and qualification "C" upon taking office (D.C. Code §31-101):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District of Columbia as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302.
- B. Have resided in the ward for the 90 day period preceding the day that the nominating petition is filed, and have been during such period an actual resident of such ward and have claimed residence nowhere else.
- C. Hold no other elective office, except delegate or alternate delegate to a political party nominating convention; nor be an officer nor employee of the District of Columbia Government nor 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 U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 3):

- A. Be at least 30 years of age.
- B. Have been a citizen of the United States for at 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 U.S. 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 from a Single Member District**

To hold the office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner from a Single Member District, an individual must meet the following qualifications (D.C. Code §1-256):

- A. Be a qualified elector in the District, as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302 and a registered voter actually residing in the Single Member District from which he/she was 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.

## **Elector of President and Vice President of the United States**

No person may be elected to the office of Elector of President and Vice President of the United States unless he or she meets the following requirements, outlined in D.C. Code §1-1312(g).

- A. He or she is a registered voter in the District of Columbia; and
- B. He or she has been a bona fide resident of the District of Columbia for a period of 3 years immediately preceding the date of the presidential election.

Each person elected as Elector of President and Vice President of the United States shall, in the presence of the Board of Elections and Ethics, take an oath or solemnly affirm that he or she will vote for the candidates of the party he or she has been nominated to represent, and it shall be his or her duty to vote in such manner in the electoral college.

## **GETTING YOUR NAME ON THE BALLOT**

We have included this section to aid 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 become familiar with the information it contains.

Calendars of important dates and deadlines for the various offices appear at the end of this Guide. If you are interested in all election-related dates and deadlines for a particular election, please ask the Voter Services staff for an "Official Election Calendar" for that election.

### **DOCUMENTS YOU MUST FILE:**

#### **1. DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY**

This is the most important document that any candidate files. It is the one document that must be completed by the candidate. While petitions and other forms may be completed by campaign supporters, the "Declaration of Candidacy" must bear the signature of the candidate. It is through the filing of the "Declaration of Candidacy" that an individual informs the Board that he or she is actually a candidate in the election. The "Declaration of Candidacy" also determines how the candidate's name will appear on the ballot.

The "Declaration of Candidacy" must be filed by not later than the deadline for filing petition signatures **AND MUST BE NOTARIZED.**

If you plan to have a member of the Board's staff notarize your "Declaration of Candidacy", please arrive at the Board's office with the form completed except for the candidate's signature. The candidate must then personally sign the document in the presence of a member of the Board's staff.

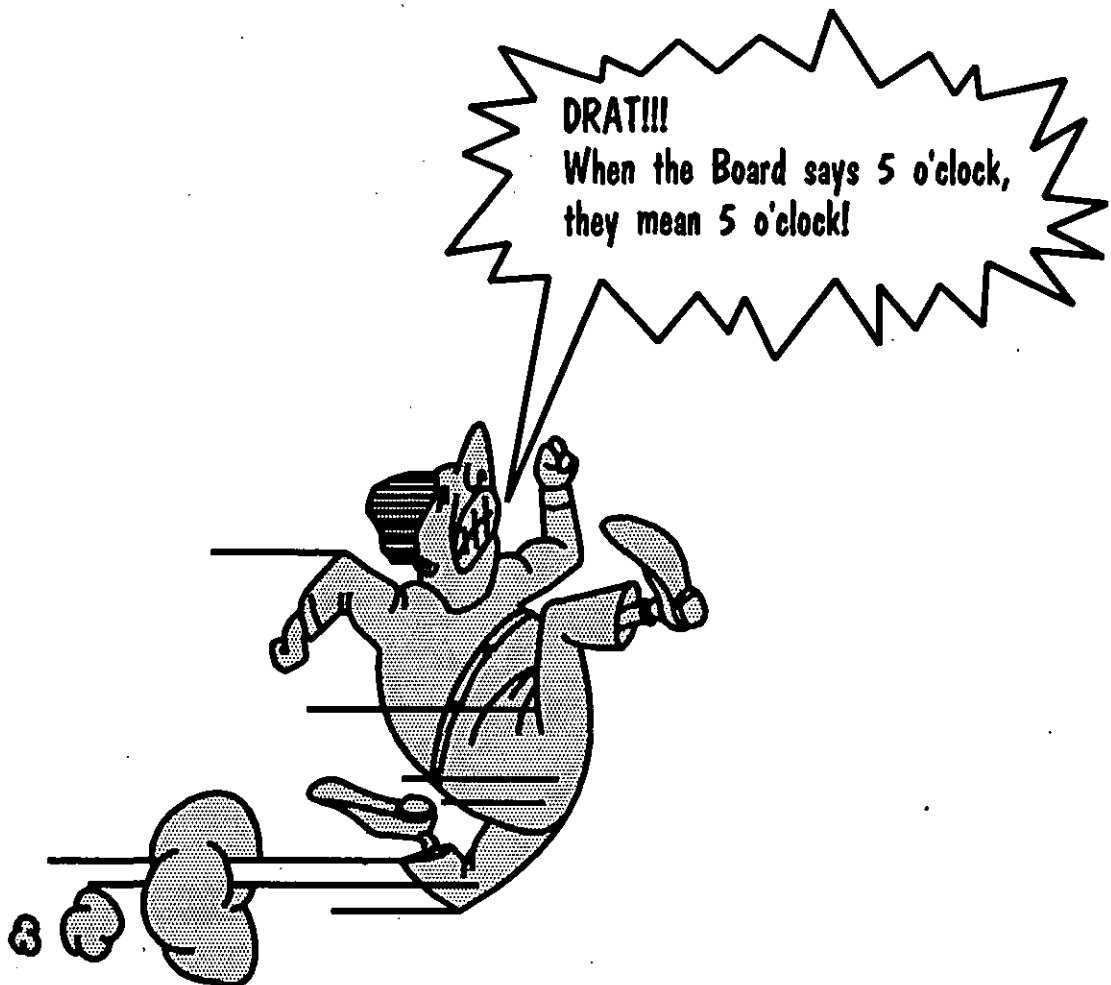
**THE DEADLINE FOR FILING THE DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY IS THE SAME DEADLINE FOR FILING PETITIONS.** (See the "Petition Circulation and Filing Period" section of this Guide for specific dates for each election.)

#### **2. A NOMINATING PETITION**

The filing of a petition containing the signatures of registered voters is the only way a candidate can get his or her name on the ballot in the District of Columbia. The number of signatures required varies by type of office and political party. The tables on the following pages detail the signature requirements for primary and general elections in the District of Columbia.

### 3. 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 petition contains the required number of signatures. This affidavit is filed by the person making the initial submission of petition pages. The initial submission must contain the minimum number of signatures needed to qualify. Supplemental petition pages containing any number of signatures may be filed any time after the initial filing, up until the deadline for filing.



## PRIMARY ELECTION SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

OFFICE	SIGNATURES REQUIRED	COMMENTS
Presidential Nomination and Delegates and Alternates to the Republican National Convention	1000 or 1% (whichever is less) of the registered voters in the same party as the candidate.	Under the Democratic Party Plan, convention delegates are selected in a post-primary caucus.  In the Republican Primary, delegates and alternates pledged to a presidential candidate circulate one petition together with the presidential candidate.
Delegate to the House At-Large Councilmember U.S. Senator U.S. Representative	2000 or 1% (whichever is less) of the registered voters in the same party as the candidate.	Candidates for these at-large offices circulate their petitions citywide.
Ward Councilmember	250 or 1% (whichever is less) of the registered voters in the same party as the candidate.	Signers must also reside in the ward from which the candidate seeks election.
Nat'l Committee Members At-Large Local Committee Members	500 or 1% (whichever is less) of the registered voters in the same party as the candidate.	Candidates for National Committee <u>or</u> At-Large offices may circulate one petition <u>if they have formed a slate</u> .*
Ward Local Committee Members	100 or 1% (whichever is less) of the registered voters in the same party and ward as the candidate.	Candidates in a particular ward may circulate one petition <u>if they have formed a slate</u> .*

**\*Note:** See page 23 for important information about the formulation of a slate.

<b>GENERAL ELECTION PETITION REQUIREMENTS*</b>		
<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
President and Vice President of the United States	For independent/minor party candidates, 1% of the registered voters. Democratic and Republican candidates are nominated by message from local party committee.	The petition must nominate not less than three (3) candidates for elector.
Delegate to the House At-Large Councilmember U.S. Senator U.S. Representative	For independent and minor party candidates, 3000 or 1.5% (whichever is less) of the registered voters.	Major party candidates are nominated in the primary.
Ward Member of the Council	For independent and minor party candidates, signatures of 500 duly registered voters who reside in the ward from which the candidate seeks nomination.	Major party candidates are nominated in the primary.
At-Large Member of the Board of Education	Signatures of 1000 duly registered voters.	This is a non-partisan office. There is no primary and party affiliation does not appear on the ballot.
Ward Member of the Board of Education	Signatures of 200 registered voters who reside in the same ward as the candidate.	This is a non-partisan office. There is no primary, and party affiliation does not appear on the ballot.
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner	Signatures of 25 voters duly registered in the single member district from which candidate seeks election.	This is a non-partisan office. There is no primary, and party affiliation does not appear on the ballot.

**\*NOTE:** These requirements apply to candidates qualifying directly to the general election ballot, including independent and minor party candidates for partisan offices and candidates for non-partisan Board of Education and ANC seats.

<b>MAY 7, 1996 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY FILING DEADLINES</b>		
<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>FIRST DAY TO PICK UP PETITIONS</b>	<b>FILING DEADLINE</b>
President of the United States  Delegates/Alternates to National Party Conventions	January 5, 1996	March 8, 1996
Delegate to the U.S. House Of Representatives  National Committee Members  Local Party Committee Members	January 5, 1996	February 28, 1996

<b>SEPTEMBER 10, 1996 PRIMARY FILING DEADLINES</b>		
<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>FIRST DAY TO PICK UP PETITIONS</b>	<b>FILING DEADLINE</b>
At-Large Councilmember  Ward Councilmember (Wards 2, 4, 7 and 8)  U.S. Senator  U.S. Representative	May 10, 1996	July 3, 1996

<b>NOVEMBER 5, 1996 GENERAL ELECTION FILING DEADLINES</b>		
<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>FIRST DAY TO PICK UP PETITIONS</b>	<b>FILING DEADLINE</b>
President/Vice President (Independent/Minor Parties)	June 26, 1996	August 20, 1996
President/Vice President (Democratic and Republican Parties)	Candidates of the Democratic and Republican Parties qualify by message to the Board from the Chairman of the local committee.	September 3, 1996
Delegate to the House of Representatives  At-Large Councilmember  Ward Councilmember (Wards 2, 4, 7, and 8)  At-Large Member of the Board of Education  Ward Board of Education Member (1, 3, 5, and 6)  U.S. Senator  U.S. Representative	July 5, 1996	August 28, 1996
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner	August 7, 1996	September 6, 1996

**ALL FILING DEADLINES ARE AT 5 P.M. ON THE DATE INDICATED**



## **GUIDELINES FOR CIRCULATING YOUR PETITIONS**

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

- (1) The candidate's name.
- (2) The ward or single member district of the candidate, if applicable.
- (3) The political party of the candidate in the case of a Primary election.

The Board's staff provides each candidate with enough petitions to gather twice the number of signatures required for ballot access. If you find that you need more petition forms, please call ahead so that the Board's staff can prepare them in advance.

**Note:** Although not required, we suggest that you designate a person on your campaign staff to work with the Board in the distribution of petition forms. By authorizing the release of petitions forms only to designated campaign staff, a great deal of your campaign's time, money, and effort can be saved since you can keep track of who has petition forms and better organize your petition signature gathering drive.

## **PROCEDURES FOR CIRCULATING YOUR PETITIONS**

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 our Voter Services staff.

1. THE CIRCULATOR MUST WATCH EACH VOTER SIGN HIS OR HER NAME TO THE PETITION. This is essential because the circulator must sign an affidavit that the or she personally witnessed each voter signature.
2. The date signed and the address of the signer must be entered on the petition form in order for the signature to be counted.

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**Note: The voter's address on the petition must match the voter's address on file in our office on the date signed, in order for the signature to count.**

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3. A registered voter signing a nominating petition should print or type his or her

name and the address from which registered to vote next to the signatures. The voter must also **SIGN HIS OR HER NAME LEGIBLY.**

4. Signatures must be written, not printed, and must be dated when signed.
5. The address of the signer must be entered on the petition form in order for the signature to be counted.
6. Each petition signer must already be a registered voter in the District **AT THE TIME HE OR SHE SIGNS THE PETITION.** The signature of a voter who fills out a Voter Registration Application at the time the petition is signed does not count.

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**A person is not registered to vote  
until his or her Voter Application  
Form has been approved and  
processed by a member of our staff.**

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7. If the candidate is seeking nomination in a primary election, the signers must be duly registered in the same party as the candidate.
8. If the candidate is seeking nomination from a ward, the signers must live and be duly registered to vote in the same ward as the candidate
9. If the candidate is seeking nomination from a Single Member District (SMD), the signers must live and be registered to vote in the same SMD.
10. A person may not sign a petition for another individual.
11. 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.
12. Registered voters signing the petition must sign their own name and may not authorize anyone else to sign for them.
13. Voters unable to sign their names may make their 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's "marking" the petition.

14. Only a registered voter may enter his or her signature on the petition. However, it is the responsibility of the candidate and circulator to make certain that the printed name and address are filled in for each signer.
15. 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.

## **PROCEDURES FOR FILING THE PETITION**

1. Arrive at the Board's office prepared to file. If you wait until the last day to file, please be advised that the final day for filing is one of the busiest days of the year for the Board's staff. Arriving at the Board's office with all of your documents completed and ready to file will make the process much easier for you and the staff.
2. Before the nominating petition is filed, all sheets which comprise the petition must be assembled and numbered serially. The Board may reject any petition which does not meet this requirement.
3. Make sure the "Affidavit of Circulator" is completed and signed by the circulator on each petition page.
4. 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 "Declaration" complete except for your signature. The "Declaration" must be signed by the candidate. It may not be signed by anyone else.
5. Make sure you have the "Affidavit of the 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" complete except for your signature.
6. File early. 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.
7. Petitions must meet all the requirements of the law. The Board may reject any petition that is confusing, misleading, or does not conform to D.C. Code §1-1301 et seq., as amended, and the regulations of the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics.

## **CHALLENGE PERIOD**

### **THE DETERMINATION OF "PRELIMINARILY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES"**

Under the Board's regulations, the Executive Director, or his designee, makes a preliminary determination as to which candidates have met the minimum qualifications for ballot access no later than the third (3rd) day after the filing deadline. The Board notifies the candidates, by certified mail, to inform them whether they have met the minimum requirements.

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 below the minimum number of required signatures.
- (3) There has not been a notarized "Declaration of Candidacy" filed by the candidate, or the candidate does not meet the legal qualifications to hold the office.

### **THE CHALLENGE PERIOD**

The challenge period is an important part of the ballot access process. Under D.C. law, the Board of Elections and Ethics does not verify candidate nominating petition signatures for accuracy of information. The petitions are accepted as bona fide, subject to a challenge period, during which any registered voter may challenge the validity of the petition signatures.

Beginning on the third (3rd) day after filing, for a period of ten (10) days, the Board makes photo copies of the candidates' petitions available for public inspection. During this 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 "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 or her name placed on the ballot. This process is covered in detail in Chapter 4 of the Board's Regulations (DCMR 3).

## PETITION DEFECTS TO AVOID

In most instances, the reason a candidate is challenged and disqualified from the ballot is carelessness - the candidate simply hasn't taken the time to review the petition before it is filed. By making sure that your petition pages meet the minimum requirements, you can avoid a challenge. Below is a list of the most common "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 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 to the Corporation Counsel for prosecution.)

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

**REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR  
PETITIONS BEFORE FILING  
THEM WITH THE BOARD OF  
ELECTIONS AND ETHICS!!!**

## MAY 7, 1996 PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

The District holds its only Spring primary on the first Tuesday in May of each presidential election year. This election is different from all other D.C. elections because the Democratic and Republican parties play a direct role in deciding which offices will be on the ballot and how the ballot will be structured.

By law, the Board of Elections conducts the elections for party offices at the request of the parties. Each party files with the Board an official party plan for the election, instructing the Board which offices will appear on the ballot, the number of positions to be filled, and other particulars.

Because each party submits its own separate plan for the election, the Democratic and Republican ballots can be very different. The information on the following pages provides the specifics of each of the party's plans.

The only public office on the ballot in the May Primary will be Delegate to the House of Representatives. All four (4) major parties (Democratic, Republican, D.C. Statehood and Umoja) will conduct a primary to nominate candidates for Delegate to the House.

The other offices on the ballot will be Democratic and Republican party offices as specified in the party plans. The parties have decided that the elections for the following will appear on the May 7, 1996 Primary Ballot:

- Presidential Preference (Democratic and Republican)
- National Committeeman and Committeewoman (Democratic and Republican)
- Alternate National Committeeman and Committeewoman (Democratic)
- At-Large Members of Local Party Committees (Democratic and Republican)
- Ward Members of Local Party Committees (Democratic and Republican)

The May 7th Presidential Primary is a closed primary election. Only registered voters in the Democratic, Republican, D.C. Statehood and Umoja Parties may vote in their party's primary.

**NOTE:** A calendar of important events for the offices on the May Primary ballot appears at the end of the Guide. For a complete list of dates and deadlines, please ask for the Board's Official Election Calendar for the May 7th Presidential Preference Primary.

## THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S BALLOT

The following contests will appear on the Democratic party ballot:

1. **Presidential Preference Primary** - Registered Democrats vote for the candidate they would like to see win the Democratic Party's nomination for the President of the United States.

Eleven district-level delegates and 3 district-level alternates to the Democratic National Convention will be selected in a post-primary caucus sponsored by the D.C. Democratic Party. Delegate positions through the caucus will be allocated to presidential preferences through a proportional representation system based on the May 7, 1996 Primary results.

D.C. is allocated a total of 38 delegates and 4 alternates to the Democratic National Convention. The remaining 27 delegates and one alternate to the Democratic National Convention will be selected according to the provisions outlined in the party plan.

2. **D.C. Delegate to the House of Representatives** - Democrats vote for their party's nominee for this office. The winner will appear on the November 5th General Election ballot.
3. **Democratic National Committee** - Democratic voters will vote for:
  - Democratic National Committeewoman and Committeeman
  - Alternate Democratic National Committeewoman and Committeeman
4. **Local Democratic Committee** - Democratic voters will vote for:
  - At-Large Democratic State Committeewoman - 6 positions citywide
  - At-Large Democratic State Committeeman - 6 positions citywide
  - Ward Democratic State Committeewoman - 2 positions in each ward
  - Ward Democratic State Committeeman - 2 positions in each ward

## THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S BALLOT

The following contests will appear on the Republican voter's ballot:

1. **Presidential Preference** - Registered Republicans will vote for the candidate they prefer to receive the Republican Party's nomination for President.

Delegates and alternates to the Republican National Convention are selected by the presidential candidate. The names of the delegates and alternates committed to each of the presidential candidates will be listed on a separate reference sheet, to be distributed with the ballots, for the information of the voters.

All 14 delegates and 14 alternates to the Republican National Convention go to the presidential candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the preference primary.

2. **D.C. Delegate to the House of Representatives** - Republicans vote for their party's nominee for this office. The winner will appear on the November 5th General Election ballot.

3. **Republican National Committee** - Republican voters will cast ballots for:

Republican National Committeeman  
Republican National Committeewoman

4. **D.C. Republican Committee** - Republicans will elect 80 members of the party committee as follows:

48 At-Large Members, who are elected citywide

32 Ward Members, who are elected by registered Republicans in each ward. The number of seats in each ward is divided as follows:

Ward One - 3 Members  
Ward Three - 13 Members  
Ward Five - 2 Members  
Ward Seven - 2 Members

Ward Two - 6 Members  
Ward Four - 2 Member  
Ward Six - 3 Members  
Ward Eight - 1 Member



## **THE D.C. STATEHOOD PARTY'S BALLOT**

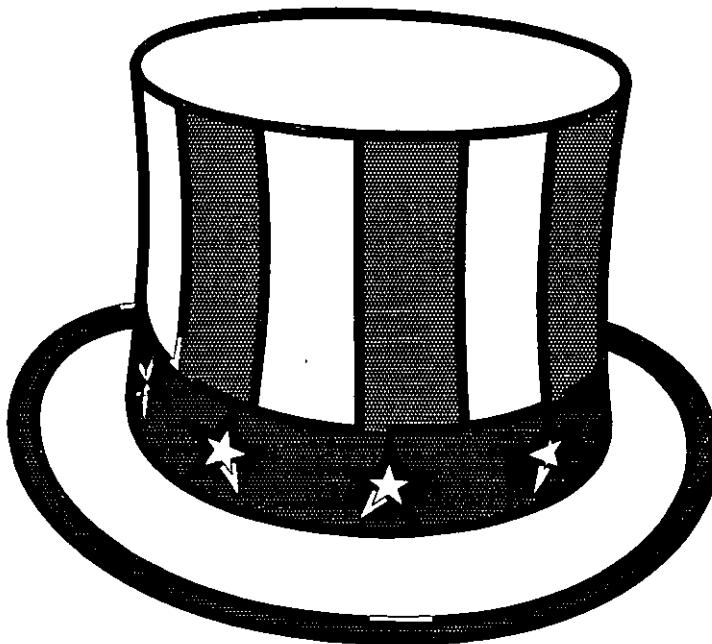
The D.C. Statehood Party neither selects a nominee for President of the United States nor elects members to its local committee at the May 7th Presidential Primary Election. Registered voters in the D.C. Statehood Party will select, to appear on the November 5th General Election ballot, their party's nominee for the office of:

- Delegate to the House of Representatives

## **THE UMOJA PARTY'S BALLOT**

The Umoja Party neither selects a nominee for President of the United States nor elects members to its local committee at the May 7th Presidential Primary Election. Registered voters in the Umoja Party will select, to appear on the November 5th General Election ballot, their party's nominee for the office of:

- Delegate to the House of Representatives



## **SLATES IN THE MAY 7TH PRIMARY ELECTION**

Slates are unique to the May Primary ballot. They are not permitted in any other election and may be identified by a slate name on the ballot only in the elections for national and local party committees.

### **Formation of Slates:**

States are formed when two or more individuals, who feel that they have a better chance of winning by running together as a group than by running separately, agree to form a slate and adopt a slate name.

### **Ballot Access:**

There are three (3) ways for slates to gain access to the ballot:

1. Two (2) or more individual candidates may qualify by filing separate nominating petitions. They then file a completed "Slate Registration Form" within three (3) days after the filing deadline.
2. A group of candidates may qualify by filing a single nominating petition. Because these candidates circulate their petition as a group, permission must be received from each of the candidates whose name is placed on the petition. If any one of the candidates fails to file a "Declaration of Candidacy" or sign the "Slate Registration Form", the **entire group of candidates is disqualified.**

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**We strongly encourage that organizers of slates obtain a "Declaration of Candidacy" and the signature of each candidate on the "Slate Registration Form" before circulating any petition forms.**

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3. A combination of individual candidates and groups of candidates may qualify by filing separate nominating petitions. These groups and individuals then file a slate registration form within three (3) days after the filing deadline.

### **Slate Registration Form:**

All slates must file a "Slate Registration Form", which is available from the Board, by not later than the 3rd day after the petition filing deadline. The "Slate Registration Form" requires the following information:

1. The name, address, telephone number and signature of the individual who is authorized to represent the slated candidates in matters before the Board;
2. A complete listing of the candidates who are members of the slate and the office to which each candidate seeks election;
3. A statement that each candidate gives his or her permission to be identified on the ballot as a member of the slate;

---

**Note: The slate name must not be so long that it can't be printed on the ballot next to the candidate's name.**

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4. The signatures and printed name of each of the candidates who are members of the slate.

Being a member of a slate does not afford the candidate special privilege as far as ballot placement is concerned. However, when the Board determines the ballot position for candidates in a contest, the candidates on a slate are grouped together. In other words, ballot position is determined for the slate as a whole. The Board will determine the order of candidates within the slate unless the slate has notified the Board, in writing, by noon of the day of the drawing, its determination of the order of candidates within the slate.

**AMERICA . . .**



**I'LL VOTE FOR THAT!**

## **SEPTEMBER 10, 1996 PRIMARY ELECTION**

The District of Columbia holds primaries every two (2) years in order for the major parties in the District to nominate their candidates for the partisan public offices on the ballot in the General Election (except that in presidential election years, the office of Delegate to the House appears on the May Primary ballot).

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 currently have met the 7,500 vote requirement are the Democratic, Republican, D.C. Statehood, and Umoja 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.)

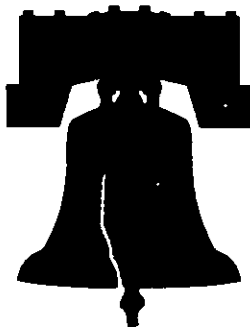
The offices of Member of the Board of Education and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner are non-partisan. There is no primary for these offices. For information on these offices, please refer to the General Election and Advisory Neighborhood Commission sections of this Guide.

Because the District has a closed primary system, only individuals registered in the Democratic, Republican, D.C. Statehood, and Umoja Parties will be permitted to vote their party's ballot in the September 10th Primary.

The Democratic, Republican, D.C. Statehood, and Umoja Parties will each nominate one (1) candidate in the primary for the following offices:

- At-Large Member of the D.C. Council
- Ward 2 Member of the D.C. Council
- Ward 4 Member of the D.C. Council
- Ward 7 Member of the D.C. Council
- Ward 8 Member of the D.C. Council
- United States Senator
- United States Representative

A calendar of important events for the offices on the September Primary Election ballot appears at the end of the Guide. For a complete list of dates and deadlines, please ask for the Board's Official Election Calendar for the September 10th Primary Election.



## **NOVEMBER 5, 1996 GENERAL ELECTION**

The District of Columbia holds General Elections every two (2) years to elect individuals to public office. The General Election ballot includes candidates for partisan and non-partisan public offices. While candidates for non-partisan offices appear on the ballot without a party designation, candidates for partisan offices appear with their political party affiliation (or "independent") next to their names on the ballot.

In the General Election, candidates for partisan offices may have their names placed on the ballot in one of the following ways:

1. As a "major party" candidate, having been nominated either by the Democratic, Republican, D.C. Statehood, or Umoja Party as the winner in the previous Primary Election; or
2. As a minor party or independent candidate, having been nominated by petition through the "Direct Access" process.

The partisan offices that will appear on the November 5th General Election ballot are as follows:

- Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives
- At-Large Member of the D.C. Council (2 positions)
- Ward 2 Member of the D.C. Council
- Ward 4 Member of the D.C. Council
- Ward 7 Member of the D.C. Council
- Ward 8 Member of the D.C. Council
- United States Senator
- United States Representative

The non-partisan offices that will appear on the ballot are:

- At-Large Member of the Board of Education (2 positions)
- Ward 1 Member of the Board of Education
- Ward 3 Member of the Board of Education
- Ward 5 Member of the Board of Education
- Ward 6 Member of the Board of Education
- Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (1 Commissioner for each Single Member District totalling 299 citywide.)

A calendar of important events for the offices on the General Election ballot appears at the end of the Guide. For a complete list of dates and deadlines, please ask for the Board's Official Election Calendar for the November 5th General Election.

# THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

## Background

While simple on the surface, the election for President and Vice President of the United States is probably the most misunderstood contest on the November 5th General Election ballot. The misunderstanding results from the concept of "electoral" votes. Even though the names of the candidates for President and Vice President are printed on the ballot, voters do not vote directly for those candidates. Their votes are actually cast for "electors", who pledge to vote for the voters' choice of candidates in the "Electoral College". (Some states print the names of the electors along with the names of the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates on the ballot.)

The rules for election of President and Vice President are found in Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution. Article 2 provides that each state is entitled to electors equal in number to the number of Senators and Representatives which the state is entitled to have in Congress. For example, a state that has eight U.S. Representatives and two U.S. Senators is entitled to a total of 10 electors.

In 1963, the 23rd amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution. This amendment permits the District of Columbia to be treated as if it were a state in the election for President and Vice President. If the District were a state, it would have one U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators; therefore, the District is entitled to three electors. District residents first voted for President and Vice President in 1964. In the District, and in all but two of the states, the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates receiving the highest number of votes receive all of the state's electoral votes.

## Election of President by the Electors

On the first Monday after the second Wednesday of December in presidential election years (December 16th in 1996), the electors of the 50 states and the District of Columbia meet in their respective state capitals to cast their votes. The District's electors traditionally meet at noon in the Wilson Building (formerly the District Building). After the votes are cast, the sealed ballots are sent to the President of the U.S. Senate. On January 6, 1996, the President of the Senate will open the sealed ballots and read them before a joint meeting of Congress. The candidates for President and Vice President receiving a majority of the electoral votes win the election.

## Nomination of Electors in the District

Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution leaves the manner of selecting electors up to the individual states. In the District, electors are nominated in two (2) ways.

The first of these affects only the major parties in the District. Because the Democratic and Republican parties have both had a presidential candidate elected to that office, the executive committee of the party selects that party's candidates for elector and submits the names to the Board of Elections by September 1st of the presidential election year.

The second affects independent candidates and candidates of minor political parties. Independent and minor party candidates for president must petition to nominate their electors. Information concerning this process is in the ballot access section of this Guide.

### **Independent and Minor Party Candidates**

Independent and minor party candidates for President and Vice President may have their names printed on the General Election ballot through the nomination of electors. Each Elector of President and Vice President must meet the following qualifications:

1. He or she must be a registered voter in the District of Columbia; and
2. He or she must have been a bona fide resident of the District for a period of three (3) years immediately preceding the date of the presidential election.

Each person elected as Elector of President and Vice President of the United States shall, in the presence of the Board of Elections and Ethics, take an oath or solemnly affirm that he or she will vote for the candidates of the party that he or she has been nominated to represent, and it shall be his or her duty to vote in such manner in the electoral college.

Petition forms must nominate not fewer than three (3) candidates for elector, may be obtained beginning on June 26, 1996, and must be filed by August 20, 1996.

The petition must be accompanied by an affidavit signed personally by the presidential and vice presidential candidates and must contain the following;

1. Names of the three (3) presidential electors supported by the petition.
2. Written consent, by the presidential and vice presidential candidates, to each presidential elector listed on the petition as being pledged to them; and
3. If the candidate for president is a nominee of a minor party, a statement that the presidential and vice presidential candidates are the duly selected nominees of the party.

## **MINOR PARTIES**

The D.C. Election Code permits the names of candidates affiliated with minor political parties (that is, those that have not met the 7,500 vote requirement for conducting a primary) to be placed on the General Election ballot along with independent candidates and candidates nominated through the primary process. Qualifications for ballot access are exactly the same as for independent candidates, except for three (3) additional provisions:

1. The candidate of the minor party must be registered to vote as affiliated with the party on the Board's records.
2. In order for the name of the political party to be placed next to the name of the candidate on the ballot, the name of the political party must be placed on the petition before circulation begins.
3. In order for the name of the political party to be placed on the candidate's nominating petition before circulation begins, the Board of Elections and Ethics must have first approved the party name.

### **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 in early July should submit the request for approval of party name no later than late May of 1996.

The Board will reject any application for approval of party name that, in the judgement of the Board, tends to confuse or mislead the public.

The application for approval of party name must be on a form prescribed by the Board. It must contain the name, address, telephone number, and voter registration number of the Chairperson, Treasurer, other principal officers and each member of the duly authorized local committee in the District.

Applications for approval of party name may be obtained from the Board's Voter Services Branch. Parties that have received approval of their party name in the past need not re-apply for approval.

In addition to filing for approval of party name with the Board, the party must also register with the Office of Campaign Finance. Call 939-8717 for information.



## **ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION ELECTIONS**

An Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) is a bounded area of the city sub-divided into smaller areas (with populations of approximately 2,000 residents), called Single Member Districts (SMD's). The term for an ANC Commissioner is two (2) years. The office is non-partisan.

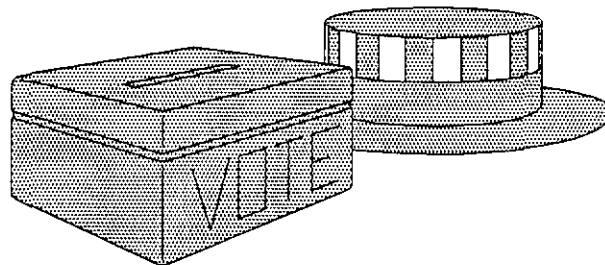
Each ANC Commissioner is nominated and elected by the registered voters who reside in the same Single Member District as the candidate. The ANC Commissioner is an unsalaried official who represents his or her neighborhood community (single member district) on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission. The Commission represents the neighborhood and advises the District government on issues relating to zoning, social service programs, health, police protection, sanitation, and recreation.

Establishment of the ANC's was made possible under the provisions of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (Section 738) and the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Act of 1975 (D.C. Law No. 1-21).

In order to hold the office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, an individual must meet the following qualifications:

- A. Be a registered voter in the District, as defined by D.C. Code §1-1302(2);
- B. Have resided in the Single Member District from which nominated continuously for the 60 day period immediately preceding the day on which the nominating petition is filed; and
- C. Hold no other public office.

The Board will provide each candidate who obtains petition forms with a list of the registered voters in his or her Single Member District. We urge that the petition be checked against the list to ensure that it meets or exceeds the minimum signature requirement.



## **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 vote by absentee ballot:

1. Voting in person at the Board's office, or
2. Casting an absentee ballot by mail.

### **IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING**

Absentee voting in person 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.

### **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 day before the election (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.); and
- Signature of the voter.

To be counted, the voted absentee ballot must be postmarked by Election Day and must reach the Board of Elections no later than the tenth (10th) day after the election.

Requesting an absentee ballot is the responsibility of the registered voter. One individual may not request an absentee ballot for another. However, voters may request ballots for more than one (1) election during any calendar year. This is especially convenient for students, the elderly and handicapped.

Signatures on absentee ballot requests and returned ballots are verified against the voters' signatures on file in the Board's records.

**Note:** Informing voters of the opportunity to vote absentee if they are going to be out of town, or are elderly or disabled, is always a good idea. We encourage campaigns to reproduce our "Absentee Ballot Request Form" (a sample appears on the following page) in their campaign mailings. Reproduction of the request form not only provides a service to the voter but also gives the candidate an opportunity to deliver his or her message.

### EMERGENCY ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by mail has passed and the voter cannot appear at the polls on Election Day because of an accident or sudden illness, the voter may request an Emergency Absentee Ballot.

The emergency absentee ballot may not be used if the voter simply failed to write for an absentee ballot before the deadline. It may be used only by individuals whose accident or 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 Branch on 727- 2525.

### SAMPLE ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM

Request for Absentee Ballot	
<i>Please Print Clearly and Fill Out <u>Completely</u>.</i>	
Your Name: _____	Birthdate: _____
Address Where You Live: _____	ZIP Code: _____
Where We Should Send Ballot (if different): _____	
Your Reason for Requesting Absentee Ballot: _____	
Mark all elections for which you need an absentee ballot:	
<input type="checkbox"/> May Primary	<input type="checkbox"/> September Primary
<input type="checkbox"/> November General	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Election
Your Signature _____	
<b>We must receive your application at least 7 days before the election.</b>	

## **WATCHERS**

### **AT THE POLLING PLACE**

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

Candidates must petition the Board for poll watchers at least 14 days before the election. Forms for petitioning the Board are available from our Voter Services Branch.

Candidates are limited to ONE (1) poll watcher at each polling place where their name appears on the ballot. For example, a candidate whose name appears on the ballot citywide may have a poll watcher in each precinct. An ANC candidate is entitled to a poll watcher only in the precinct, or precincts, where his or her name appears.

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.

Poll watchers must conduct themselves in accordance with the Board's guidelines (see 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 the removal and will be permitted to replace the poll watcher.

### **AT THE COUNTING CENTER**

Because of the large number of candidates and the limitations of space in the Board's counting center, watchers representing candidates are not permitted within the counting center itself. Representatives from the Democratic, Republican, D.C. Statehood, and Umoja Parties, and members of the non-partisan League of Women Voters are invited to watch the count from inside the counting center.

Candidates, their representatives, and the public may watch the count on "closed circuit" television monitors. The closed circuit cameras provide a complete and unobstructed view of the entire counting process from the arrival of the ballot boxes to the counting of the ballots by the computer. Board staff is available to answer any questions concerning the process. In addition, the entire counting process is recorded on video tape.

**WATCHERS MUST:**

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

**WATCHERS MAY:**

- 1. Check the small voter cards.**
- 2. 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:**

- 1. Touch any precinct material, except the computer listing or voter cards.**
- 2. Interfere with polling place officials.**
- 3. Wear campaign buttons or other campaign items.**
- 4. Obstruct the election process.**
- 5. Talk to voters who are casting ballots.**

## **VOTER INFORMATION AND DATA SERVICES**

The Board maintains a wide variety of information on the District's voters and elections that may be useful to candidates and campaign workers. The types of information available are discussed below.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION SERVICES:**

So that candidates and campaign workers may be better informed about the District's elections, the following items are available for a small fee:

- A. Citywide maps of the District
- B. Past election results dating back to 1968
- C. "Master Street Index" that contains the Ward, Precinct, Single Member District and Zip Code of every residence address in the District.

### **MAIL REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS (MRA's):**

MRA's are available to candidates and organizations conducting voter registration drives. Each request for forms is limited to 250. Requests for more than 250 forms can be made by filing a "Voter Registration Drive" plan that clearly demonstrates that more than 250 individuals can be registered during the drive.

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**Please return any unused forms to  
the Board's offices.**

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### **COMPUTER DATA SERVICES:**

The District of Columbia's voter roll contains a wide range of information about the city's approximately 375,000 registered voters, including residence address, election district, age information, and voting history. Under the law, data from the voter registry is considered public information.

#### ***Voter Information and Data Services***

As a service to the public, this data is available in a variety of media--printouts, mailing labels, and computer tapes--for a minimal cost to the purchaser. This data can also be individualized to meet a wide range of informational needs--making it particularly helpful to candidates.

### ***How This Service Works***

At the beginning of each month, the Board of Elections sends a current tape of the voter registration roll to the SHARE Computer Center, which is the District's central computer processing facility. Orders for data are placed at the Board of Elections, and these requests are then sent to SHARE, where they are processed.

Base cost for the processing is \$50.00 for the computer start-up; additional cost varies depending on the number of records involved or the medium chosen. A wide variety of selection programs is available to enable candidates to obtain precisely the registered voter data desired for their campaign purposes.

### ***How to Order Data***

Data request forms are available from the Board, where assistance in filling out the form is also available. Completed forms should be returned to the Board, along with a certified check or money order made payable to the D.C. Treasurer for the \$50.00 computer access fee. This is only a deposit--total cost of the data depends on the amount ordered and the medium chosen.

The Board will deliver your data request to the SHARE Computer Center. SHARE will call you or your contact person when the data is available--usually within several days. All data is to be picked up at:

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**SHARE Computer Center  
222 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001**

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The name of the contact person at SHARE Computer Center for technical and other questions appears on the order form. For questions on the process of requesting voter registration data, please call the Board of Elections at 727-2525.

### ***For More Information***

For more information on the computer data services available, please call our Voter Services Branch at 727-2525.

# GUIDE TO THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS

The process for placing an Initiative or Referendum Measure on the ballot in the District of Columbia has several steps, which are defined in the law. For a complete account, check D.C. Code Sections 1-281 through 1-286, 1-1320 and Chapter 10 of the Board's Regulations (DCMR Title 3: Elections and Ethics). If you have further questions, the Board's staff stands ready to assist you. For legal inquiries, please call the Office of the General Counsel at 727-2194; for general information, call the Voter Services Office at 727-2525.

## 1. Supporters File the Measure with the Board of Elections

The process begins when a registered voter files the proposed Measure in the Board's Voter Services Office. The filing must include five 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.

The proposer must also file a notarized statement swearing that he or she is a registered voter. This statement must include the person's residence address and telephone number. The supporters of the Measure must also file documents with the Office of Campaign Finance, listing their campaign committee and other financial information.

## 2. The Board of Elections Considers the Subject Matter

Once an Initiative or Referendum 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 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 the law, an Initiative or Referendum may not appropriate funds, violate the Home Rule Charter, negate a Budget Act, or violate the Human Rights Act. When the Board makes its subject matter determination, it may consider only whether the Measure meets these requirements.

## 3. The Board Approves a Short Title and Summary Statement

After approving the subject matter, the Board prepares the official Short Title and Summary Statement. 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.

**4. 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 day challenge period, during which any registered voter may object to the short title, summary statement, or legislative form in court.

**5. The Petition Form is Approved**

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

**6. Supporters Circulate the Petition**

Once the petition is approved, the supporters of an Initiative have 180 days to gather signatures. (Referendum supporters must collect their signatures before the end of the Congressional Review Period.) To place a Measure on the ballot, supporters of an Initiative or Referendum must collect the signatures of at least five percent of the voters registered citywide. These signatures must be distributed to reflect at least five percent of the registered voters in at least five of the eight wards.

**7. The Board's Staff Verifies Petition Signatures**

Once the petition is filed, the Board of Elections has thirty days to determine whether it contains the required number of voter signatures. In the presence of watchers--and according to detailed procedures--the 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 voter entries, a random sample of 100 signatures from each ward is checked against the voter's original registration form to ensure signature validity.

**8. The Measure is Certified for the Ballot**

At the end of the signature verification phase, the Board calls a public meeting to announce whether the petition meets the citywide and ward-level requirements. If the petition meets the requirements, the Measure is then "certified" for the election ballot. In the case of a Referendum Measure, a special election is called. This election must occur within 114 days of the certification (except if another citywide election is already scheduled to occur within 54 to 114 days of the Board's announcement.) An Initiative Measure does not require a special election, and is voted on during the next citywide election at least 90 days after the certification. All registered voters--regardless of party affiliation--are eligible to vote on Initiative or Referendum Measures.

**1996 IMPORTANT EVENTS CALENDAR  
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE  
AND DELEGATES TO THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL  
PARTY CONVENTION  
May 7th Presidential Primary Election**

<b>CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION</b>	
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	January 5, 1996
Deadline to File Petitions	March 8, 1996
Lottery to Determine Ballot Position	March 15, 1996
Deadline to Petition for Poll and Count Watchers	April 23, 1996
<b>PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICES</b>	
Publication of Sample Ballots	May 2, 1996
Public Demonstration of Ballot System	May 4, 1996
<b>CHALLENGE PERIOD</b>	
Challenge Period Begins	March 11, 1996
Challenge Period Ends	March 20, 1996
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING</b>	
Deadline to Register for May Primary	April 8, 1996
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs	April 15, 1996
List of Registered Voters in Public Libraries	April 23, 1996
<b>ABSENTEE VOTING</b>	
In-Person Absentee Voting Begins	April 22, 1996
Deadline for Request by Mail	April 30, 1996
Emergency Absentee Voting Begins	May 1, 1996
In-Person Absentee Voting Ends	May 6, 1996
Counting of Absentee Ballots	May 17, 1996
<b>SPECIAL BALLOTS</b>	
List of Rejected Ballots Available	May 15, 1996
Special Ballot Hearings	May 15, 1996 - May 17, 1996
Counting of Special Ballots	May 17, 1996

**1996 IMPORTANT EVENTS CALENDAR  
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE  
AND NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTY COMMITTEES**

***May 7th Presidential Primary Election***

<b>CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION</b>	
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	January 5, 1996
Deadline to File Petitions	February 28, 1996
Lottery to Determine Ballot Position	March 6, 1996
Deadline to Petition for Poll and Count Watchers	April 23, 1996
<b>PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICES</b>	
Publication of Sample Ballots	May 2, 1996
Public Demonstration of Ballot System	May 4, 1996
<b>CHALLENGE PERIOD</b>	
Challenge Period Begins	March 2, 1996
Challenge Period Ends	March 11, 1996
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING</b>	
Deadline to Register for May Primary	April 8, 1996
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs	April 15, 1996
List of Registered Voters in Public Libraries	April 23, 1996
<b>ABSENTEE VOTING</b>	
In-Person Absentee Voting Begins	April 22, 1996
Deadline for Request by Mail	April 30, 1996
Emergency Absentee Voting Begins	May 1, 1996
In-Person Absentee Voting Ends	May 6, 1996
Counting of Absentee Ballots	May 17, 1996
<b>SPECIAL BALLOTS</b>	
List of Rejected Ballots Available	May 15, 1996
Special Ballot Hearings	May 15, 1996 - May 17, 1996
Counting of Special Ballots	May 17, 1996

**1996 IMPORTANT EVENTS CALENDAR  
AT-LARGE AND WARD MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL,  
U.S. SENATOR AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE**

**September 10th Primary Election**

<b>CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION</b>	
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	May 10, 1996
Deadline to File Petitions	July 3, 1996
Lottery to Determine Ballot Position	July 12, 1996
Deadline to Petition for Poll and Count Watchers	August 27, 1996
Deadline for Write-in Candidates to File Declaration of Candidacy	September 13, 1996
<b>PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICES</b>	
Publication of Sample Ballots	September 5, 1996
Public Demonstration of Ballot System	September 7, 1996
<b>CHALLENGE PERIOD</b>	
Challenge Period Begins	July 6, 1996
Challenge Period Ends	July 15, 1996
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING</b>	
Deadline to Register for September Primary	August 12, 1996
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs	August 19, 1996
List of Registered Voters in Public Libraries	August 27, 1996
<b>ABSENTEE VOTING</b>	
In-Person Absentee Voting Begins	August 26, 1996
Deadline for Request by Mail	September 3, 1996
Emergency Absentee Voting Begins	September 4, 1996
In-Person Absentee Voting Ends	September 9, 1996
Counting of Absentee Ballots	September 20, 1996
<b>SPECIAL BALLOTS</b>	
List of Rejected Ballots Available	September 18, 1996
Special Ballot Hearings	September 18, 1996 - September 20, 1996
Counting of Special Ballots	September 20, 1996

**1996 IMPORTANT EVENTS CALENDAR  
 DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE, AT-LARGE AND WARD MEMBERS  
 OF THE COUNCIL AND WARD MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 U.S. SENATOR AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
 November 5th General Election**

<b>CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION</b>	
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	July 5, 1996
Deadline to File Petitions	August 28, 1996
Lottery to Determine Ballot Position	September 3, 1996
Deadline to Petition for Poll and Count Watchers	October 22, 1996
Deadline for Write-in Candidates to File Declaration of Candidacy	November 12, 1996
<b>PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICES</b>	
Publication of Sample Ballots	October 31, 1996
Public Demonstration of Ballot System	November 2, 1996
<b>CHALLENGE PERIOD</b>	
Challenge Period Begins	August 31, 1996
Challenge Period Ends	September 3, 1996
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING</b>	
Deadline to Register for November Election	October 8, 1996
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs	October 14, 1996
List of Registered Voters in Public Libraries	October 22, 1996
<b>ABSENTEE VOTING</b>	
In-Person Absentee Voting Begins	October 21, 1996
Deadline for Request by Mail	October 29, 1996
Emergency Absentee Voting Begins	October 30, 1996
In-Person Absentee Voting Ends	November 4, 1996
Counting of Absentee Ballots	November 15, 1996
<b>SPECIAL BALLOTS</b>	
List of Rejected Ballots Available	November 13, 1996
Special Ballot Hearings	November 13, 1996 - November 15, 1996
Counting of Special Ballots	November 15, 1996

**1996 IMPORTANT EVENTS CALENDAR  
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
(INDEPENDENT AND MINOR PARTY CANDIDATES)**

**November 5th General Election**

<b>CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION</b>	
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	June 26, 1996
Deadline to File Petitions	August 20, 1996
Lottery to Determine Ballot Position	September 3, 1996
Deadline to Petition for Poll and Count Watchers	October 22, 1996
Deadline for Write-In Candidates to File Declaration of Candidacy	November 12, 1996
<b>PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICES</b>	
Publication of Sample Ballots	October 31, 1996
Public Demonstration of Ballot System	November 2, 1996
<b>CHALLENGE PERIOD</b>	
Challenge Period Begins	August 31, 1996
Challenge Period Ends	September 3, 1996
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING</b>	
Deadline to Register for November Election	October 8, 1996
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs	October 14, 1996
List of Registered Voters in Public Libraries	October 22, 1996
<b>ABSENTEE VOTING</b>	
In-Person Absentee Voting Begins	October 21, 1996
Deadline for Request by Mail	October 29, 1996
Emergency Absentee Voting Begins	October 30, 1996
In-Person Absentee Voting Ends	November 4, 1996
Counting of Absentee Ballots	November 15, 1996
<b>SPECIAL BALLOTS</b>	
List of Rejected Ballots Available	November 13, 1996
Special Ballot Hearings	November 13, 1995 - November 15, 1996
Counting of Special Ballots	November 15, 1996

**1996 IMPORTANT EVENTS CALENDAR  
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS**

**November 5th General Election**

<b>CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION</b>	
First Day to Pick Up Petitions	August 7, 1996
Deadline to File Petitions	September 6, 1996
Lottery to Determine Ballot Position	September 13, 1996
Deadline to Petition for Poll and Count Watchers	October 22, 1996
Deadline for Write-in Candidates to File Declaration of Candidacy	November 12, 1996
<b>PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICES</b>	
Publication of Sample Ballots	October 31, 1996
Public Demonstration of Ballot System	November 2, 1996
<b>CHALLENGE PERIOD</b>	
Challenge Period Begins	September 9, 1996
Challenge Period Ends	September 18, 1996
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING</b>	
Deadline to Register for November Election	October 8, 1996
Deadline for Postmarked MRAs	October 14, 1996
List of Registered Voters in Public Libraries	October 22, 1996
<b>ABSENTEE VOTING</b>	
In-Person Absentee Voting Begins	October 21, 1996
Deadline for Request by Mail	October 29, 1996
Emergency Absentee Voting Begins	October 30, 1996
In-Person Absentee Voting Ends	November 4, 1996
Counting of Absentee Ballots	November 15, 1996
<b>SPECIAL BALLOTS</b>	
List of Rejected Ballots Available	November 13, 1996
Special Ballot Hearings	November 13, 1996 - November 15, 1996
Counting of Special Ballots	November 15, 1996

*District of Columbia*  
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