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THE D.C. WISE GUIDE

Your 1998 D.C. Government Guide and Calendar

Published by The League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia

I. REGISTRATION & VOTING INFORMATION

Board of Elections and Ethics ■ Room 250 441 Fourth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001 ■ 727-2525

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS

1. Citizen of the United States
2. 18 years old on or before the next election
3. D.C. resident 30 days prior to election
4. Not incarcerated for conviction of a felony
5. Not adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of law

REGISTERING TO VOTE - D.C. residents may apply for voter registration by mail or when obtaining a driver's permit. A Mail Registration Application (MRA) may be obtained from the Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE) or from any public library, fire house or police station. Registration closes 30 days before each election and re-opens the day after the election. After registration the BOEE will mail the registrant a Voter Registration Card giving the registrant's ward, ANC, single-member district, voting precinct, and voting location.

CHANGE OF REGISTRATION - A registrant must notify the BOEE in writing over his or her signature of any change in name, address or party. The law requires that the registrant notify BOEE of name and address changes within 30 days of the changes. All record changes must be made not later than 30 days before an election to be effective for that election.

PARTY AFFILIATION - Voters may choose to register with a political party affiliation or as independent. Under the District's "closed primary" system, voters registered with one of the four political parties qualified to conduct a primary (Democratic, Republican, D.C. Statehood and Umoja) may vote in that party's primary election. Independents and voters affiliated with a minor party may vote only in general and special elections and on initiative and referendum measures. A change in party affiliation can be made by indicating the change on the back of the voter card and sending it to the BOEE or by writing a letter indicating the change, with name, address, date of birth and signature at least 30 days before an election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS - Registered voters may vote by absentee ballot if they



*A feathered resident of D.C. -
the Great Horned Owl, a
hunter of the night,
can occasionally
be found in the
city's trees.*

cannot get to the polls in person for reasons of illness, physical disability or absence from the District. A written request for an absentee ballot must be received by the BOEE no later than seven days before the election, and the completed ballot may be cast in person at the BOEE beginning 15 days before the election from 8:30 AM to 4:45 PM Monday through Saturday, ending the day before the election. In certain emergency cases, an "emergency absentee ballot" is available. Call 727-2525 (BOEE) for details.

ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED - Most voting locations are accessible to these voters. However, where the polling place presents a problem, the voter may request assignment to an alternate site or opt for curbside voting, handicapped parking, wheelchair-accessible booths and large-print election materials.

BECOMING A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE - Candidates must file petitions with the BOEE. Primaries are held by Democratic, Republican, Statehood and Umoja parties for Mayor, D.C. Council and federal elections. Candidates running for Congress, Mayor or D.C. Council at-large seats must collect signatures of 2,000 voters registered in the candidate's party or from one percent of all voters registered in that party (whichever is less). Candidates running for ward seats on the Council must collect signatures of 250 voters or from one percent of voters within the ward who are registered in the candidate's party (whichever is less). In general elections, independent or minor-party candidates running for Congress, Mayor or for one of the at-large seats on the Council must collect the signatures of 3,000 or 1.5 percent (whichever is less) of the registered voters in the District of Columbia. Independent or minor-party candidates running for a ward seat must collect 500 signatures of the registered voters in that ward. At-large candidates running for election to the non-partisan Board of Education must collect the signatures of 1,000 registered D.C. voters; a candidate for a ward seat must collect the signatures of 200 registered voters in that ward. The BOEE provides detailed information on: candidate qualifications; ballot access; requirements for filing nominating petitions of candidacy; and a calendar of elections. Information on campaign finance filing is available from the BOEE Office of Campaign Financing at 939-8710.

II. GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - BACKGROUND

After decades of detailed governance at the federal level, in December 1973 the District of Columbia gained limited home rule through passage by Congress of the D.C. Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (the D.C. Home Rule Act), which included the Home Rule Charter. Under the Home Rule Act, a locally elected Mayor and 13-member Council began their first term in office on January 1, 1975. They and the pre-existing Board of Education are chosen in even-year general elections to serve four-year terms (staggered terms for Council and Board of Education members). Subsequently, in April 1995, Congress passed legislation creating the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (the Control Board) and granting to it broad budgetary control over the District. The Control Board will exist until such time as the District has produced a balanced budget for four consecutive years. In August 1997 Congress assigned additional responsibilities to the Control Board, transferring to it from the Executive Branch of the D.C. Government the management of nine departments and of four "cross-cutting functions" (finances; information resources management; personnel; procurement). To implement the management reform program required by the "Revitalization Act of 1997," the Control Board in January 1998 appointed a Chief Management Officer to a five-year term.

III. THE MAYOR

Marion Barry, Jr. ■ 441 Fourth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001
727-2980 ■ Term ends 1998.

IV. CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Dr. Camille Barnett ■ 441 Fourth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001
727-3432 ■ Term ends 2002.

V. COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

441 Fourth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 ■ 724-8000

From mid-September through mid-July the Council meets in legislative session on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 A.M. in the Council Chamber, ground floor, 441 Fourth Street, NW. The Committee of the Whole meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 A.M. Much of the Council work is done in special committees or in standing committees established at the first meeting, in January, of each Council period. Meetings and hearings, open to the public, are televised live on Channel 13. Calendar of the Week - 24-hour update 724-8554.

	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Linda W. Cropp, Chairman (D)	At-Large	724-8032	1998
Hilda H. M. Mason (Std.)	At-Large	724-8064	1998
Harold Brazil (D)	At-Large	724-8174	2000
Carol Schwartz (R)	At-Large	724-8105	2000
David A. Catania (R)	At-Large	724-7772	1998
Frank Smith, Jr. (D)	1	724-8179	1998
Jack Evans (D)	2	724-8058	2000
Kathleen Patterson (D)	3	724-8062	1998
Charleen Drew Jarvis (D)	4	724-8052	2000
Harry Thomas, Sr. (D)	5	724-8028	1998
Sharon Ambrose (D)	6	724-8072	1998
Kevin P. Chavous (D)	7	724-8068	2000
Sandra (Sandy) Allen (D)	8	724-8045	2000
Phyllis Jones, Secretary to the Council Legislative Services		724-8080 724-8050	

VI. PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

415 - 12th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004
Arlene Ackerman, Superintendent 724-4222
Board of Education 724-4289
Schools - General Information 724-4044

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Wilma R. Harvey, President	1	724-5460	2000
Sandra Butler-Truesdale, V.Pres.	4	724-5453	1998
Robert Childs	At-Large	724-5456	2000
Tonya Vidal Kinlow	At-Large	724-5457	2000
Jay Silberman	At-Large	724-5452	1998
Ann Wilcox	2	724-5459	1998
Don Reeves	3	724-5450	2000
Angie King Corley	5	724-5451	2000
Benjamin Bonham	6	724-5449	2000
Terry Hairston	7	724-5447	1998
Linda Moody	8	724-5461	1998
Henry Moronta	Student	724-4289	1999

Elections 1998

Primary Election - September 15
General Election - November 3

VII. ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS (Non-partisan)

Thirty-seven ANCs with 299 elected commissioners, each functioning independently in its own neighborhood, provide a line of communication between residents and the D.C. Government on matters such as streets, zoning, licenses, social services, safety, sanitation, recreation and education. For information about your ANC Commissioner or to purchase a map of ANC district boundaries, call the BOEE 727-2525. Candidates in ANC elections must collect signatures of 25 registered voters living within the relevant ANC district. Nominating petitions and election calendars are available from BOEE.

VIII. THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THE U.S. CONGRESS

The D.C. Delegate to the House of Representatives has no vote in the House -- either on the floor or in committee.
Delegate to the House of Representatives: Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) Two-year term. Term expires 1998.
Room 1424, Longworth Building ■ Washington, DC 20515 ■ 225-8050.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

- DC Subcommittee of Government Reform and Oversight Committee ■ 225-6751
Chairman: Thomas M. Davis, III (R,VA)
- DC Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee ■ 225-5338
Chairman: Charles H. Taylor (R,NC)

SENATE COMMITTEES

- Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia ■ 224-3682
Chairman: Sam Brownback (R,KS)
- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the District of Columbia ■ 224-1526
Chairman: Lauch Faircloth (R,NC)

The District also elects two "shadow" Senators to six-year terms and one "shadow" Representative to a two-year term. Their offices are at 441 Fourth street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Senator Florence Pendleton (D)	347-1404	2000
Senator Paul Strauss (D)	393-0635	2002
Representative Sabrina Sojourner (D)	393-0635	1998

IX. D.C. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY (Control Board)

Suite 900 One Thomas Circle NW ■ Washington, DC 20005 ■ 504-3400

The five members of the Control Board are appointed by the President to serve three-year terms. The first term ended June 1, 1998; a new Board has not yet been fully formed. Present members are:

- Andrew Brimmer, Chairman (90-day interim appointment)
- Stephen Harlan, Vice Chairman (90-day interim appointment)
- Constance Newman reappointed
- Alice Rivlin appointed June 1998

SERVICE DIRECTORY

DC City Services - Information	727-1000	Elections, Board of	727-2525	Trash, bulk removal	727-4600	Greater Southeast Community	574-6000
After-hours	727-6161	Employment	724-7000	Trees, Public	939-8000	Emergency Room	574-6541
Crime Reports	727-1010	Fire Prevention	673-3250	Unemployment Compensation	724-7263	Hadley Memorial Hospital	574-5700
<u>Emergency</u>		Handicapped, Information	673-6866	Vocational Rehabilitation	673-7423	Howard University Hospital	865-6100
Ambulance/Fire/Police	911	Home Improvement	727-7070	Water/Sewer Bills	727-5240	Emergency Room	865-1141
AIDS/HIV - Hotline	1-800-342-AIDS	Housing, Public and Assisted	535-1510	Wills/Probate	879-4800	Providence Hospital	269-7000
Alcohol/Drugs	727-9280	Housing, Code Violations	727-7673	Women's Commission	939-8083	Emergency Room	269-7910
Adult Crisis	673-9300	Human Services	279-6000	<u>Health</u>		Sibley Memorial Hospital	537-4000
Child Protection - Hotline	727-0995	Human Rights	724-1385	AIDS/HIV	727-2437	Emergency Room	537-4080
Domestic Violence	529-5991	Income Tax Assistance (D.C.)	727-6103	Air Quality	645-6093	Washington Hospital Center	877-7000
Mental Health - Hotline	561-7000	Latino Affairs	939-8765	Social Services (Child/family)	724-2023	Emergency Room	877-5515
Poison Control Center	625-3333	Library, Central	727-1111	Alcohol/Drug Prevention	727-0713	Walter Reed Medical Center	782-3501
Rape Crisis Center	333-7273	Marriage License	879-4840	Medicaid Information	724-5153	Emergency Room	782-1199
Suicide Prevention	561-7000	Mayor's Office	727-2980	Medicare/Social Security	1-800-772-1213	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Water/Sewer	673-6600	Motor Vehicle Bureau	727-6680	Planned Parenthood	347-8500	Arena Stage	488-3300
<u>Services</u>		Parking Signs	541-6060	Red Cross	737-8300	Bethune Museum	332-1233
Abandoned Autos	645-6000	Police (non-emergency)	727-1010	VD Hotline	VD2-7000	Capital Children's Museum	675-4120
Adult Education	576-6451	Pothole Repair	939-8000	Visiting Nurse Ass'n	686-2862	D.C. Recreation Department	673-7660
Aging, Programs for	727-5622	Public Defender	628-1200	Washington Free Clinic	667-1106	Dial-A Museum (Smithsonians)	357-2020
Animals, Dead	727-4482	Public Service Commission	626-5100	<u>Hospitals</u>		Smithsonians/Spanish	633-9126
Animal Rescue	576-6664	(Utility rates/Complaints)		Children's National		Glen Echo Park	301-492-6229
Birth Certificates	645-5962	Recycling Information	727-5856	Medical Center	884-5000	Kennedy Center	467-4600
Birth Control Information	727-0525	School System	724-4044	Emergency Room	884-5203	Legal Aid Society	628-1161
Cars, Booted/Towed	727-5000	Sewer Complaints	727-5850	Columbia Hospital for Women	293-6500	MCI Center	628-3200
Car Registration	727-6680	Snow Removal	727-4460	D.C. General	675-5000	METRO (bus/subway)	637-7000
Consumer Affairs	727-7170	Street Cleaning	939-7100	Emergency Room	675-7888	National Arboretum	475-7000
Cooperative Extension Service	576-6950	Street Light Repair	727-6161	George Washington		National Theatre	628-6161
Council (D.C.)	724-8000	(after 4:30 p.m.)	727-6161	University Hospital	994-1000	Tickets	1-800-233-3123
Court (Superior)	879-1010	Street Repairs	645-7056	Emergency Room	994-3211	National Zoo	673-4800
Day Care	727-5954	Taxes, Assessments	727-6460	Georgetown University Hospital	687-2000	Oxon Hill Children's Farm	301-839-1783
Divorce, To File	682-2700	Taxes, Customer Service Info.	727-6441	Emergency Room	784-3111	Rock Creek Nature Center	426-6829
Driver's Permit	727-6693	Traffic Signals, malfunctioning	727-8087			White House (comments)	456-1111
		Traffic Signs	939-8092			Wolf Trap Farm Park	703-218-6500
		Trash, residential	727-4482				

The League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920, when women won the right to vote. Any United States citizen of voting age, male or female, who accepts the purpose of the League may become a member of a local League. The League's education and advocacy program includes issues chosen by the membership for study, consensus and action. The current top priority for the D.C. League is to obtain full voting representation in Congress for U.S. citizens residing in the nation's capital. On a broader level the D.C. League joins with ten other area Leagues

to work on regional issues, including transportation, water quality, land use and illegal drugs. The Education Fund of the D.C. League provides educational material and services - especially to encourage informed voting. It contributes to the publication of a newsletter, THE DC VOTER, and to FACTS AND ISSUES, highlighting topics of current interest and concern. (Contributions to the Education Fund are tax deductible.) For additional copies of the D.C. WISE GUIDE or, to join the League of Women Voters, call (202)347-3020.

The League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia ■ Suite 208 1234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW ■ Washington, DC 20005 ■ 347-3020 ■ President: Luci Murphy
The League of Women Voters of the United States ■ 1730 M Street NW ■ Washington, DC 20036 ■ (202) 429-1965