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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
DISTRICT BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-3084

INFORMATION BULLETIN ON THE 1988 ANC ELECTIONS

While many District voters are aware that a Presidential election will be held this November, few may realize that their ballot will also contain--among a number of local offices--one of the contests for the District's 323 **Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC)** seats.

The District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics has published this Information Bulletin to inform citizens and potential candidates about the upcoming ANC elections. **This bulletin will address the role of ANCs, their structure as political and geographical units, the process for becoming an ANC candidate, and the services available for citizens who choose to run for this office.** For more information on the upcoming election, the public may call the Board at 727-2525.

WHAT IS AN ANC?

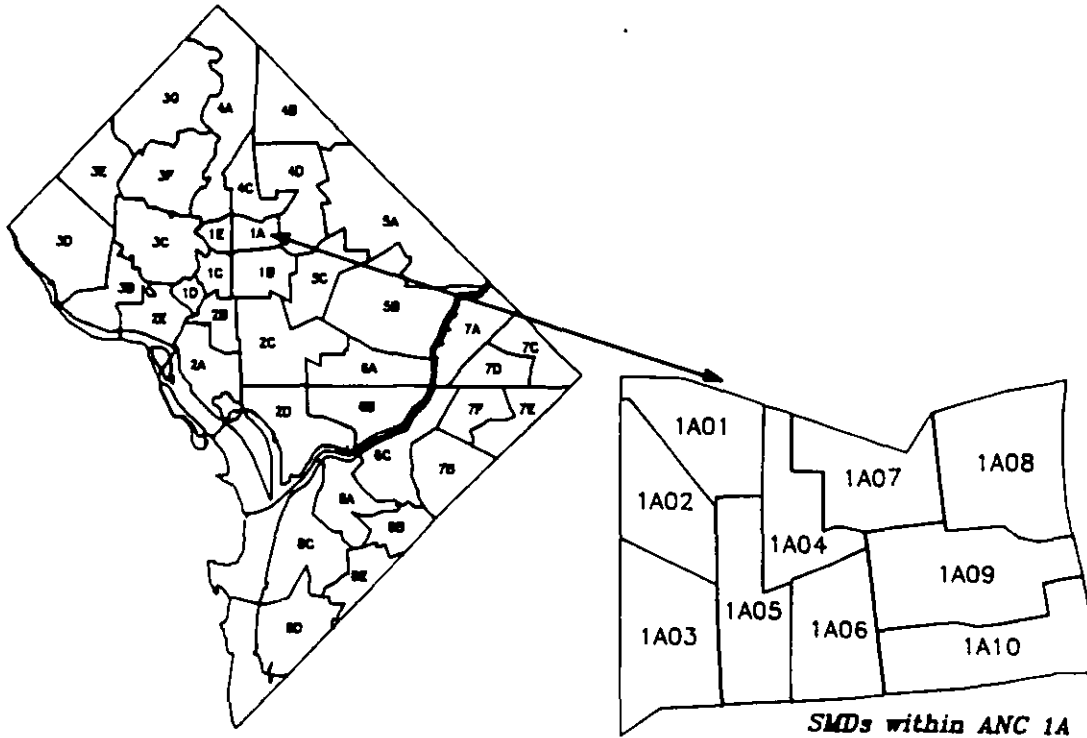
Called "...a unique experiment in neighborhood democracy" by the League of Women Voters, ANCs were established by the Home Rule Charter in 1974 and approved by voters in the May 7, 1974 Charter Referendum Election.

ANCs function as citizen advisory boards, representing the citizens of a neighborhood area within the District. Their role, as defined by the D.C. Election Code, includes advising the District government "...on matters of public policy including decisions regarding planning, streets, recreation, social services programs, health, safety, and sanitation in that neighborhood commission area." (D.C. Code, §1-251(c)(1)). The Code also states that the recommendations made by the ANC "...shall be given great weight" (D.C. Code, §1-261(d)) by government agencies as they deliberate on matters that affect the residents of the ANC.

ANC Commissioners serve two-year terms as unsalaried, nonpartisan officials elected by voters to represent their neighborhood areas. The structure of these neighborhood areas is discussed below.

STRUCTURE OF THE ANCS

The District's 323 **Single Member Districts (SMDs)** are smaller geographical and political units within the city's 37 **Advisory Neighborhood Commissions**, as shown in the map graphic that follows.



Each SMD contains approximately 2,000 residents and elects one Commissioner to serve on the area's Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

In most cases, the ANCs exist within ward boundaries*, and each ANC is numbered to identify the ward where it is located. For example, ANCs 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D lie within Ward 4. The SMDs within each ANC are numbered consecutively, e.g., SMDs 4A01, 4A02, 4A03, 4A04, 4A05, 4A06, 4A07, and 4A08 comprise ANC 4A. Candidates running for a seat on the ANC are elected by the registered voters of the SMD in which the candidate resides.

HOW TO BECOME AN ANC CANDIDATE

To appear on the November 8th General Election ballot, an ANC candidate must submit a nominating petition with the signatures of 25 registered voters to the D.C. Board of Elections before the September 9th filing deadline. The voters signing the petition must reside within that ANC Single Member District.

All ANC candidates must be registered voters and residents of the Single Member District from which they seek election. In addition, they must have resided in the SMD for at least 60 days before the date on which the nominating petition is filed.

All ANC petition forms will be posted from September 12th to September 21st, during which any registered voter may challenge the validity of the signatures on the petition form. Candidates' ballot position will be determined by a lottery drawing on Monday, September 19th.

ASSISTANCE TO ANC CANDIDATES

The Board's Registration Division offers **special services** to assist **ANC candidates**, including a brief conference with a member of the Board's staff to answer questions and outline procedures for circulating and filing a nominating petition. The Board also provides each ANC candidate with a listing of the registered voters in the candidate's SMD, a detailed map of the ANC/SMD area, and other information materials.

In addition to regular weekday hours, the Board's Registration Division will be open the following weekend dates to accommodate ANC candidates wishing to pick up or file petition forms: August 13th and 14th; August 20th and 21st; August 27th and 28; and September 3rd and 4th.

ANC VOTING INFORMATION

Because ANCs are nonpartisan offices, all registered voters—regardless of party affiliation—are eligible to cast ballots. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes (not necessarily a majority) in each ANC contest on the November 8th ballot will be declared the winner and will take office in January of 1989. In cases where no candidate appears on the ballot, the office will be offered to the qualified individual who receives the highest number of votes on the write-in line.

Because the SMDs are smaller units than the voting precincts and frequently cross precinct lines, each of the District's 140 polling places will be supplied with the ballots for each SMD or SMD portion located within the precinct. Voters cast ballots at their customary precinct location, and pollworkers will issue the appropriate SMD ballot to each voter, according to the SMD in which the voter resides.

The ANC election ballot will be provided to the voter as a separate ballot card, in addition to the general election ballot for President/Vice President, Delegate to the House of Representatives, D.C. Council, and Board of Education seats.

*Only ANC Single Member Districts 2E04 and 3C01 cross ward lines, due to adjustments in ward boundaries following the 1980 Census.