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Facts About the November 3, 1992 Presidential General Election

1. **Voting Hours** - All 140 polling places in the District of Columbia will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Because of the high turnout expected, the Board encourages voters to go to their polling place during the traditionally "slow" voting hours (between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.), if possible.
2. **Polling Places** - Voters registered at their current address must vote at the assigned precinct location listed on their voter card. Voters who have moved from the residence address on their registration card should call the Board at 727-2525 for their new voting location and for information on election day change of address procedures.
3. **Electoral Votes** - The District of Columbia has three electoral votes as a result of the twenty-third amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1961--making the 1964 election the first time that District residents voted for President of the United States.
4. **Election Results** - Election results will be issued on the fifth floor of the District Building beginning around 8:30 p.m. The high turnout, the large number of candidates and contests on the ballot, and three-card ballot will slow down tabulation considerably. We do not expect to have final totals before 2:00 a.m., so please be forewarned.
5. **Counting of Absentee Ballots** - "Early absentee ballots" (those received by mail before the close of business on Friday, October 30th) will be included in the Early Returns issued on election night. See enclosed "Schedule of Ballot Tabulation Activities".

In-person and mail absentee ballots postmarked by Election Day will be accepted for ten days after the election. Final totals--which include all absentee and special ballots--will be tabulated on Friday, November 13th at 5:00 p.m.
6. **The "Death Penalty" Initiative** - The "Mandatory Life Imprisonment or Death Penalty for Murder in the District of Columbia" Initiative is the first measure that has been placed on the ballot as the result of a federal mandate. The public law that ordered the vote also established the ballot language and short title of the measure.

Voters may obtain a copy of the entire "death penalty" law that will go into effect if the initiative is passed at any D.C. public library, or by calling us at 727-2525.
7. **Initiative Measure #41** - This Initiative Measure was placed on the ballot through the petition process authorized by D.C. law. For an outline of this process of "direct legislation", through which the voters can bring issues to the ballot, see the "Guide to the Initiative and Referendum Process", enclosed in this packet.
8. **Redistricting** - Redistricting is the process that changes election boundaries to put equal numbers of residents in each election district. Redistricting takes place every 10 years, based on new U.S. Census data. For a summary of redistricting's affects on the ward level, see the handout "How Redistricting Affects Wards in 1992".
9. **"Vote for Two" Contests** - Two At-Large Councilmembers and two At-Large Board of Education members will be elected on November 3rd. In each of these contests, voters may vote for two candidates from among those listed on the ballot. The two candidates with the highest number of votes in each contest will be elected.

In the contest for At-Large Councilmember, each major party may nominate only one candidate to the general election ballot. This limits the number of At-Large Councilmembers who can be elected from the same political party.

10. **Partisan vs. Non-Partisan Offices** - Board of Education and Advisory Neighborhood Commission offices are considered nonpartisan, which means that no party primaries are held to nominate candidates to the general election. Nonpartisan candidates do not have their party affiliation listed next to their names on the ballot.

11. **The ANC Elections** - New Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) boundaries will go into effect in January, as a result of redistricting. ANC Commissioners will be elected by the voters registered in the new Single Member District. The number of SMD's has decreased from 323 to 299 as a result of redistricting. Each SMD, as provided in D.C. law, includes approximately 2,000 residents.

12. **"United States Representative"** - U.S. Representative is a local D.C. office, with the same title as the federal office that will exist if the District becomes a state. The offices of two Senators and one Representative were created by the D.C. Statehood Constitutional Convention Initiative, approved by voters in 1980.

The first election for these offices was held in 1990. The representative serves a two year term, and the senators serve a six year term.

13. **Other Election Stories:**

In-Person Absentee Voting - Citizens who will be out of town on Election Day may cast absentee ballots in our office beginning October 19th. You may wish to get some pictures of the absentee process taking place or to interview some citizens after they finish voting. Incidentally, absentee voting is especially brisk in this election.

Citizen involvement in the election process - More than 1,500 citizens work at the polls on election day. Some poll workers have been working since the beginning of home rule and may be able to recount some interesting stories about the development of the electoral process in the District of Columbia. Pollworkers will be given last minute details at the final training sessions scheduled for October 30th and 31st at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the District Building.

The Grass-Roots Political Process - While presidential candidates are campaigning on the national level, more than 400 citizens in the District of Columbia are conducting campaigns on a smaller scale--in their own neighborhoods, as ANC candidates. ANC Commissioners receive no compensation but often work hard to provide good service to the people in their Single Member District area. Many ANC's are very active in matters such as zoning and police protection.

Foreign Fascination with the American Electoral Process - Citizens in other countries are fascinated with the American electoral process. Because we are in the nation's capital, many foreign journalists contact our office for explanations of the american process, for visits to polling places, and for interviews with voters. We will be scheduling a briefing for foreign journalists and dignitaries on Saturday, October 31st.