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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS

RESOLUTION

To Place on the Ballot  
at the  
November 3, 1992 Presidential General Election  
the  
"Mandatory Life Imprisonment or Death Penalty for Murder  
in the District of Columbia" Initiative

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has enacted and the President has signed legislation requiring that the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics shall place on the ballot, without alteration, the following initiative:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SHORT TITLE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mandatory Life Imprisonment or Death Penalty for Murder in the District of Columbia.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUMMARY STATEMENT</b></p> <p>This initiative measure, if passed, would increase the penalty for first degree murder in the District of Columbia.</p> <p>A person convicted of this crime would be sentenced either to death or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.</p>
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AND WHEREAS, this federal legislation requires that the "Mandatory Life Imprisonment or Death Penalty for Murder in the District of Columbia" initiative be placed before District voters at a general, special, or primary election to be held within 90 days; and

WHEREAS, the November 3rd Presidential General Election will occur within the 90-day period, and it is administratively feasible to include the initiative on the November 3rd ballot; and

WHEREAS, it has been the Board's long-standing policy to support the consolidation of elections to maximize voter participation and extend the franchise to the greatest number of eligible voters; and

WHEREAS, special elections in the District of Columbia have consistently resulted in low voter turnout, while participation by voters has been consistently highest in Presidential General Elections; and

WHEREAS, not placing the initiative on the November 3rd ballot would necessarily result in the conduct of a special election during the month of December 1992, with such special election creating an unbudgeted and unauthorized cost to D.C. taxpayers of approximately \$310,000;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Elections and Ethics hereby orders that the "Mandatory Life Imprisonment or Death Penalty for Murder in the District of Columbia" initiative required by federal law be placed before voters at the November 3, 1992 Presidential General Election;

PROVIDED, that the Board's Executive Director shall develop and implement a public information program that will include:

- Dissemination of both the ballot language and full legislative text of the initiative to public officials, advisory neighborhood commissions, community organizations, public interest groups, and members of the news media;
- Publication of the ballot language and the full legislative text in the D.C. Register and at least four newspapers of general circulation;
- Provision of the ballot language and the full legislative text--without cost--to any registered voter upon request;
- Availability of the ballot language and full legislative text of the initiative in all 26 public libraries in the District of Columbia;
- Posted notice of the availability of the full legislative text in all 140 D.C. polling places on Election Day, November 3rd.

AND FURTHER PROVIDED, that the ballot face on which the initiative is printed shall include the notation:

THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVE MEASURE  
HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE BALLOT  
BY FEDERAL LEGISLATION

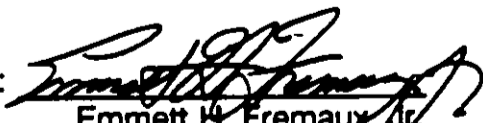
above the printed short title and summary statement specified by the federal law, in order to distinguish this measure from voter-sponsored initiatives authorized for the ballot under District of Columbia law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we, Benjamin F. Wilson, Chairman of the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics, and Valerie K. Burden and Norma B. Leftwich, Members of said Board, have hereunto set our names and affixed the seal of said Board, at the City of Washington, this 6th day of October, 1992.

  
Benjamin F. Wilson, Chairman

  
Valerie K. Burden, Member

  
Norma B. Leftwich, Member

ATTEST:   
Emmett H. Fremaux, Jr.  
Executive Director