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April 26, 2011 Special Election Voter Guide

Last updated April 13, 2011

Available online from the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics at www.dcboee.org/voterguide

A special election will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011



Welcome to our online Voter Guide. For information on the upcoming special election, follow the links below. If you are looking for our complete web site, [click here](#).

Latest News and Updates

[Watch an introduction to the Special Election](#) | [Online Video](#)

The dates and hours of in-person voting at the Board's office have been extended. [Click here](#) for information on how to vote by mail or in person at the Board's office.

For the latest information from the Board's News Room, click [here](#).

For any information on wait times to cast a ballot at One Judiciary Square, click [here](#).

Voter Guide

For a printer-friendly version of this Guide, click [here](#).

- [What has changed for this election?](#)
- [Where and when can I vote?](#)
- [What offices are on the ballot?](#)
- [How do I cast my ballot?](#)
- [What identification do I need to bring?](#)
- [How do I register or update my voter registration?](#)
- [What does it mean if I am required to vote a 'special' ballot?](#)
- [How do I report election misconduct?](#)
- [What are the key deadlines, such as to register or vote absentee?](#)
- [Where can I learn more about elections in the District?](#)

Know what you're looking for?

Frequently visited pages:

- [Am I registered to vote?](#)
- [Where is my polling place?](#)
(find on a [map](#))
- [Request an absentee ballot by mail](#)

Sample ballots:

- [Wards 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7](#)
- [Ward 4](#)
- [Ward 8](#)

Welcome

Welcome to our online Voter Guide for the April 26, 2011 Special Election.

This Guide contains important information about the special election for:

- At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia
- Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education
- Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

All registered voters in the District, regardless of party affiliation, may cast a ballot in the special election. All voters will select an At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia. Only voters in Ward 4 and Ward 8 may vote for a Member of the State Board of Education.

In this Guide, you will find information about [where and when you can vote](#), [how to cast your ballot](#) and [what identification you may need to bring](#), [how to register or update your voter registration](#), and [how to report election misconduct](#). In addition the Guide features contact information for the candidates and [official statements](#) as well as a convenient list of [key deadlines](#) and links to [learn more about elections in the District](#).

What has changed for this election?

This Guide – now online, and in a new format – is not the only thing that has changed for this election. To save you money, the Board is hiring fewer pollworkers, printing fewer signs and materials, and using less technology in the polling place.

There are three important changes to your voting choices:

- Early voting is only available at the Board's office at One Judiciary Square, where you can cast an [absentee ballot](#) in person or use a touch screen voting machine.
- The hours of in-person voting at the Board's office have been extended to 8 pm, and additional hours have been added on Sunday, April 17, from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm.
- If you are not registered to vote, you can register at the polls and **cast a regular ballot using the voting equipment** if you prove your residence using a current, valid DMV-issued driver's license or identification card. If you show other [proof of residence](#), you will need to cast a special ballot subject to verification of your District residence.

If you have any questions that are not answered in this Guide, please feel free to call the Board at 202-727-2525 or send an e-mail to [Ask the Director](#). Voters with hearing impairments with TTY devices may also contact the office at 202-639-8916.

I hope this Guide is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

[Rokey W. Suleman, II](#)
Executive Director

Where and when can I vote?

You have three choices of where to cast your ballot:

- [At the polling place that serves your address on April 26;](#)
 - [By mail;](#) or
 - [At the Board's office](#)
-

Option #1: At the Polls

This option is best for:

- MOST VOTERS

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Voting hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To find your polling place, click [here](#).

Note: Final action will be taken on several [proposed polling place relocations](#) on April 2.

If you have moved or plan to register to vote on the day of the election, you must go to the polling place that serves your **current** address. If you need to register or update your registration at the polls, you should bring [proof of residence](#).

Any voter who is standing in line when the polls close will be permitted to cast a ballot. [Click here](#) for information on how to cast your ballot, including options that are available to senior citizens, voters with disabilities and voters who require language assistance.

Option #2: By Mail

This option is best for:

- VOTERS WHO ARE OUT OF TOWN
- ANY VOTER WHO PREFERS TO VOTE FROM HOME
- VOTERS OBSERVING PASSOVER RESTRICTIONS ON APRIL 26

You do not have to be out of town, or ill, or provide any other reason to request a ballot by mail. However, the Board must receive your absentee ballot request in writing by April 19, one week before Election Day. If you miss this deadline, you can still vote absentee in person at the Board's office.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by Election Day. If you prefer, you can drop off your absentee ballot at any polling place or at the Board on Election Day.

You can request an absentee ballot [here](#).

You can track the status of your absentee ballot [here](#).

For more information on how to cast your ballot by mail, click [here](#).

Option #3: Absentee in Person

This option is best for voters who will be out of town or observing Passover restrictions on April 26, who find their polling place inconvenient on Election Day, or who simply want to vote early but:

- HAVE MISSED THE APRIL 19 DEADLINE TO REQUEST A BALLOT BY MAIL
- WANT TO USE A TOUCH SCREEN VOTING MACHINE
- FIND IT CONVENIENT TO VOTE AT ONE JUDICIARY SQUARE
- NEED TO REGISTER OR UPDATE THEIR REGISTRATION

You can request and cast an absentee ballot in person at the Board's office at:

One Judiciary Square ([map](#))
441 4th Street NW, Suite 250 North
Monday, April 11 – Monday, April 25

Voting hours: 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday

The office is open from 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 17 and will close at 4:45 p.m. on Monday, April 25.

The Board of Elections and Ethics is located in a secure government building. Voters will be required to enter through a metal detector and may need to wait in line before signing in, but will not be required to show identification.

Due to limited funding, voting is only available by absentee ballot. Paper ballots will be placed in an envelope for later counting. Touch screen voting equipment will be available, however, and new voters can complete a same-day registration.

What offices are on the ballot?

The following offices will appear on the ballot for the special election:

- At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia
- Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education
- Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

All registered voters in the District of Columbia, regardless of party affiliation, will select an At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia. Only voters in Ward 4 and Ward 8 may vote for a Member of the State Board of Education.

Sample ballots are available here:

- [Wards 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7](#)
- [Ward 4](#)
- [Ward 8](#)

Candidate Statements

All qualified candidates were invited to provide a 100-word statement for this online Guide. The Board has not altered or modified the statements submitted. Statements appear in the order in which the candidates will [appear on the ballot](#).

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

- [Alan Page \(Statehood Green\)](#)
- [Dorothy Douglas \(Democratic\)](#)
- [Bryan Weaver \(Democratic\)](#)
- [Arkan Haile \(Independent\)](#)
- [Joshua Lopez \(Democratic\)](#)
- [Patrick Mara \(Republican\)](#)
- [Sekou Biddle \(Democratic\)](#)
- [Tom Brown \(Democratic\)](#)
- [Vincent Orange \(Democratic\)](#)

Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education

- [Andrew Moss](#)
- [D. Kamili Anderson](#)
- [Bill Quirk](#)
- [An Almquist](#)

Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

- [Anthony Muhammad](#)
- [W. Cardell Shelton](#)
- [Eugene Dewitt Kinlow](#)
- [Larry T. Pretlow II](#)
- [Philip Pannell](#)
- [Tijwanna U. Phillips](#)
- [R. Joyce Scott](#)
- [Trayon White Sr.](#)
- [Sandra S.V. Williams](#)

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

Alan Page, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: 1209 ½ Wylie Street NE 20002

Telephone: 202-285-8265

Email: alanpagedc@gmail.com

Party Affiliation: Statehood Green

Official Statement:

Alan Page stands for enacting measures that can transform the city, without costing the middle class taxpayer one dollar, by focusing on increasing government efficiency and local job creation. Streamlining small business licensing procedures will help new businesses open faster in the city, creating more jobs today. Mandating that energy providers in the District derive more of the power they generate from solar power will create the market incentive for a green revolution in the District, which means hundreds of green jobs and cleaner air for all of us to breathe. If you hope for change, vote for Page.

Dorothy Douglas, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: 4401 Minnesota Avenue NE, 20019

Telephone: 202-396-6421

Email: ddouglasdorothy@yahoo.com

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Official Statement:

I'm running to GET DC Straight: Governance, Employment, & Transparency with Decency & Compassion. I will work to return DC to an era of accountability, financial stability, and honesty. Residents need to trust that government is working for them. My first priority will be to address joblessness. I will build meaningful partnerships between businesses, nonprofits, and government to develop pre-employment training, mentoring programs, and work opportunities. Together, we will GET DC Straight. I have been advocating for District residents for the past 30 years. On April 26, 2011, I ask that you ELECT to have me continue this important work.

Bryan Weaver, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: P.O. Box 21410, 20009

Telephone: 202-706-4214

Email: bryanweaverdc@gmail.com

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Official Statement:

Bryan Weaver is a community activist with more than 20 years experience working with youth in the city. Bryan believes the future of D.C. relies on access to a quality education, good jobs with living wages, safer streets and affordable housing. Bryan is dedicated to creating a more open and transparent city government. He is committed to moving the District forward through smart growth and sustainability initiatives that balance the needs of all parts of the city. If you believe in a more accountable, transparent government that will focus on smarter progress then vote Bryan Weaver on April 26 (www.bryanweaverdc.com).

Arkan Haile, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: 526 12th Street NE, 20002

Telephone: 202-258-7957

Email: ahaile@grayhaile.com

Party Affiliation: Independent

Official Statement:

When I was nine years old, my mother walked me and my younger brother and sister across an African desert because she believed a better life awaited us at our final destination (“America”). She was right. But it was far from obvious as we struggled through the early years. I am not a career politician. I’m a lawyer with expertise in corporate law and public finance; before law school, I was a financial analyst. We need professional problem solvers on the City Council, not more connected insiders. We are limited only by our vision and imagination. Anything is possible.

Joshua Lopez, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: 711 Jefferson Street NW, 20011

Telephone: 202-631-9072

Email: lopez120@gmail.com

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Official Statement:

Joshua Lopez is a fresh alternative to a D.C. City Council that is plagued with politicians who have lost sight of what it means to be a committed public servant.

Recently D.C. has played host to political scandals that has drawn attention away from some of our most pressing issues. Our current leadership has been a disappointment. However, Lopez believes that with a new set of perspectives and unyielding integrity we can chart a new path toward growth and development for every D.C. resident --black, white, brown, rich and poor. Together we can make a difference.

Lopez 2011

Patrick Mara, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: 3221 11th Street NW #200, 20010

Telephone: 202-986-3735

Email: Patrick@patrickmara.com

Party Affiliation: Republican

Official Statement:

I am entirely independent of the local Party machine and am the only Republican in DC elected to a local office. In Ward One, a part of town not known for conservatism, I was elected to the Board of Education. Why? Because I stand for ideas that transcend party lines and hardened ideological battles. My support for issues like education reform, improved public transportation, smart growth development and marriage equality is not about a political party or being accepted into the entrenched power structure; I support these critical issues because we need to keep DC moving in the right direction.

Sekou Biddle, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: 7605 13th Street NW, 20012

Telephone: 202-213-0072

Email: sekou@sekoubiddle.org

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Official Statement:

At-Large Councilmember Sekou Biddle was born and raised in Columbia Heights. He hasn't spent his time hanging around the DC government making political deals. Sekou knows leaders must be as honest, competent and hard working as District residents.

Sekou is fighting for a great school in every community. With 18 years experience in education, including 8 years as a teacher, Sekou knows the impact teachers can have on every child.

Sekou is running for DC Council because he can make the hard choices that protect DC residents and build a better future. Vote Sekou Biddle on April 26! Visit SekouBiddle.com.

Tom Brown, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: 409 36th Street NE, 20019

Telephone: 202-540-5567

Email: tomnbrown1@yahoo.com

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Official Statement:

I would like to serve our city in the capacity of DC Council Member At-Large by raising the standards of Oversight and Accountability within our local government. This is best accomplished through collaboration and transparency. These characteristics are key components in the most successful efforts that I've led.

- Native Washingtonian
- Founder and Executive Director, Training Grounds Inc.
- Co-Chair, Ward 8 Workforce Development Council
- Board Member Washington Mathematics Science and Technology PCS
- Former Board Member and Founding Teacher, KIPPDC
- Former Teacher, Anacostia Senior High School

Let's give the power back to DC residents as we accomplish "Getting our city to work".
www.whytombrown.com

Vincent Orange, Candidate for At-Large Member of the Council

Address: 1540 Taylor Street NE, 20017

Telephone: 202-586-3201

Email: vo40@aol.com

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Official Statement:

Dear Voter,

The past few months have been difficult for us. On April 26, it will be our turn to assist in moving our City forward with our vote. I offer you the opportunity to vote for proven experience, integrity and accountability to improve our great City. My eight year record as a Councilmember exemplifies a compassionate public servant with a strong record of achievement and the independent judgment to lead. I will stand with you and lead us through the budget crisis and school reform while pursuing good government.

May I please have your vote on April 26, 2011?

Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education

Andrew Moss, Candidate for Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 1317 Floral Street NW, 20012

Telephone: 202-271-7479

Email: mossward4@hotmail.com

Official Statement:

I am seeking your vote to serve as the Ward Four Representative on the District of Columbia State Board of Education. As a former classroom teacher and a parent of a pre-school aged child, I want to take an active role in the educational reform of the District of Columbia Public School System. Education innovation and reform are crucial to ensuring our students are prepared to compete in tomorrow's society. However, in order for it to be successful, we must take a systematic approach and invite all stakeholders to the table to ensure all voices are heard.

D. Kamili Anderson, Candidate for Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 1361 Tewkesbury Place NW, 20012

Telephone: 202-355-3695

Email: dka4ward4sb@yahoo.com

Official Statement:

People ask if I'm for or against the recent DCPS reforms. I say: I'm for whatever it takes for D.C. students, teachers, and schools to succeed across every ward and neighborhood. With three decades' experience in PK-12 and higher education, I know that continued progress requires proven leadership. I will bring lessons learned from my personal investment in DCPS (three kids who are DCPS graduates; three grandkids currently enrolled) and my education career to advance evidence-based best practices. Just as I've fought for change in Ward 4 for years, I will advocate for innovation, equity, and accountability in D.C. schools.

Bill Quirk, Candidate for Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 614 Emerson Street NW, 20011

Telephone: 202-487-1021

Email: bquirk@gmail.com

Official Statement:

As an advocate for DC children for nearly a decade as an attorney for Children's National Medical Center, as the Chairman of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D, and as a soon-to-be Ward 4 parent, I would bring to the DC State Board of Education the right blend of experience, understanding and concern about the future of the educational system in the District of Columbia.

My wife Suzanne, and I, are products of public schools, District residents for 12 years and she has been an advocate for at risk youth and families for a decade as a Social Worker for Community Connections.

An Almquist, Candidate for Ward 4 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 4902 Arkansas Avenue NW, 20011

Telephone: 202-302-7122

Email: electalmquist@gmail.com

Official Statement:

As a Special Education teacher, professor, curriculum specialist, and teacher mentor in public, private, and charter schools throughout the District of Columbia, I have hands-on experience in working for educational excellence and successful outcomes for ALL students. If elected to serve ward 4, I will continue to leverage my passion for education to advocate for practices that will benefit our children, support their teachers, engage community members, and improve the quality of education in the District. I will work relentlessly to ensure that ALL students have access to the education that will prepare them for success in the global economy.

Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Anthony Muhammad, Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: P.O. Box 73878

Telephone: 202-889-5168

Email: adcmuhammad@msn.com

Official Statement:

A native Washingtonian, 14 year elected ANC, a community activist, I am an advocate for transparency in teacher evaluation,(IVA). I graduate from DC public schools (Ballou SHS), a former truant officer for Anacostia HS, Vocational school teacher, I support public school education reform. I am for the immediate improvement of the elementary school reading proficiency, math proficiency rate. I believe in a curriculum that relates the curriculum to the self. Education is vital to each individual students life chances and

the quality of the society in Ward 8. Ward 8 students must get educated, if not, his chances for surviving in the society are crippled.

Cardell Shelton, Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 115 Upsal Street SE, 20032

Telephone: 202-562-4399

Email: Cardell.shelton@hotmail.com

Official Statement:

VOTE FOR CARDELL SHELTON FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Strong Advocate For:

- Earn while you learn leadership programs
- Vocational trades being a part of the curriculum to learn life skills
- Rebuilding trust and integrity in our youth
- Developing new and useful job training programs, helping our youth to gain economic survival
- Encouraging our youth to make choices that will not lead to incarceration, but toward seeking education.

Eugene Dewitt Kinlow, Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 3952 2nd Street SW, 20032

Telephone: 202-563-2131

Email: Kinlow@aol.com

Official Statement:

I am an advocate to empower our students, engage our parents and teachers to deliver standards for safe schools that are accessible, equitable, and provide quality education and life-long opportunities.

On the UDC Foundation, I granted Ward 8 students scholarships; as a College Bound trustee I provide resources for higher achievement. As a UDC trustee/officer, I worked to create a Community College with an anchor in Ward 8.

A graduate of Ballou and UDC, I live in Bellevue with my wife Tonya and children, Eugene and Tiye. I fight for statehood as Public Affairs Director at DC Vote.

Larry T. Pretlow II, Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 3319 Martin Luther King Avenue SE, 20032

Telephone: 240-377-6160

Email: contact@pretlow4education.com

Official Statement:

I decided to run for the State Board of Education in effort to display my willingness to take accountability for our schools and to gain the responsibility of ensuring that we

have the best practices and policies set to improve the quality of learning and teaching for our students, parents and teachers.

If elected, I will work to introduce and have implemented several new programs, such as:

Vocational Skills License & Trade – earn a trade and HS Diploma

Parents Evolved in Education – Workshops to develop parental involvement.

Driving Education – Using Progressive Driving Privileges to empower good GPA.

www.Pretlow4Education.com

Philip Pannell, Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 3415 5th Street SE #43, 20032

Telephone: 202-265-8918

Email: philippannell@comcast.net

Official Statement:

www.PannellforWard8.com, 202-562-2726, philippannell@comcast.net

Philip Pannell has a consistent and persistent record of advocating for the people of Ward 8. He will mobilize Ward 8 to address the issues of school safety, truancy, dropout rate, parental involvement, raising test scores and expanding extra-curricular activities.

Background:

- Undergraduate and graduate studies, Fordham and Howard Universities respectively
- Executive Director, Anacostia Coordinating Council
- President, Congress Heights Community Association
- Treasurer, Ballou High School PTSA
- Board of Trustees, DC Public Library
- President, Ward Eight Democrats
- East of the River Community Court Advisory Board
- Chairman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8E
- President, AARP Washington Highlands Chapter #4870

Tijwanna U. Phillips, Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 3225 23rd Street SE #12, 20020

Telephone: 202-425-6282

Email: Tijwanna@yahoo.com

Official Statement:

I am a proud Ward 8 resident that would love the opportunity to serve as the Ward 8 Member of the SBOE. I have a son that graduated from a DCPS school in 2009 and now attends FAMU. Currently I have two children that attend DCPS schools. For the past six years I have worked behind the scenes to make things better for children that attend public school in Washington DC. DC public school students deserve the best. It

is time to hold everyone accountable(to include parents, students, DCPS staff and everyone else that is part of the village.)

R. Joyce Scott, Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 800 Southern Avenue SE #806, 20032

Telephone: 202-561-4600

Email:

Official Statement:

Statement will be listed once received.

Trayon White Sr. , Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 1109 Wahler Place SE, 20032

Telephone: 202-997-1704

Email: trayonwhite2011@gmail.com

Official Statement:

Trayon White, Sr is a native Ward 8 resident, proud honors graduate of Ballou SHS (served as the V.P. of the Student Government Association), and a graduate of the University of Maryland — Eastern Shore (magna cum laude). He worked as an Outreach Specialist for East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership in Woodland Terrace and Washington Highland Public Housing. He continues his work in Ward 8 as the Executive Director of Helping Inner City Kids Succeed. Mr. White received the 2010 President's Volunteer Service Award and the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region 2008 Linowes Leadership Award.

Sandra V. Williams, Candidate for Ward 8 Member of the State Board of Education

Address: 847 Barnaby Street SE, 20032

Telephone: 202-294-0548

Email: svwilliams2011@gmail.com

Official Statement:

“An Experienced Educator for Our Youth’s Future”

Bio:

Graduate of Tennessee State University and UDC

Retired DCPS Professional Counselor

Former ANC Commissioner

Ward Eight Council Against Domestic Violence Board Member

WTU Retirees' Chapter

DC School Counselors Association

Committing to the following:

- Vocational Education as an elective track
- Increase Parent Centers

- Incentive program to increase parental involvement and student achievement through organizations, churches and businesses partnerships
- Update the DCMR5 (Regulations)
- Adopt National Standards into an effective teaching curriculum.

Endorsed by Linda H. Moody, Former School Board President and Washington Teachers' Union.

How do I cast my ballot?

[Confirming your eligibility](#)

[The iVotronic touch screen equipment](#)

[Marking the paper ballot](#)

[Casting a write-in vote](#)

[Language assistance](#)

[Access for voters with disabilities](#)

[Voting by mail](#)

[Other absentee ballot services](#)

- [Military and/or overseas voters](#)
- [Permanent absentee ballot status](#)
- [Absentee voting at licensed nursing and assisted living facilities](#)
- [Medical emergency – delivery by an agent](#)
- [Absentee voting for eligible incarcerated voters](#)

Confirming your eligibility

At the polls, you can check in by confirming your name and address on the poll book and cast your ballot in one of two ways – by either filling in the oval next to the candidate of your choice on a paper ballot or using the touch-screen voting machine that prints a paper audit trail of your selections.

If you are not registered to vote, you may register on Election Day, but you will need to bring [proof of residence](#) with you. For more information on voter registration, [click here](#).

The iVotronic Touch Screen Equipment

If you choose to use the new iVotronic touch screen voting system, you can touch the screen or use audio controls to make, change, and review your selections and cast your ballot. A paper record of your selections is printed onto a paper log located on the bottom left of the voting equipment.

Voting on the touch screen is easy to do. You just touch your choice of candidate on the screen and then touch the yellow “Next” or “Back” arrows at the bottom of each page to move through the ballot. Changing your vote is easy - you just deselect one candidate and select another. You do not need to have computer experience to use the iVotronic touch screen machine to cast your ballot.

The touch screen voting equipment will not allow you to make more choices than allowed in any contest; however, it will allow you to correct or change your vote choices before you cast your ballot.

Marking the Paper Ballot

If you prefer, you may cast a paper ballot. At the polling place, you will be issued a paper ballot and can use a pencil or a blue or black ink pen to fill in the oval beside your candidate’s name.

After you mark your ballot, you can feed it into the M100 Optical Scanner, which will read your selections. If you make more selections that you may cast votes, or if there are stray marks that prevent your ballot from being scanned, the precinct scanner will alert you. You will have the option of accepting the ballot as voted, which will void your

vote in the contest indicated on the display window on the scanner. If you return the ballot to the Ballot Clerk, your original ballot will be spoiled and you will be issued a new ballot. You may only receive up to two replacement ballots.

Instructions for casting your ballot are available at each polling place. If you have any questions about how to mark or cast your ballot, or if you have difficulty marking your ballot, contact a polling place official for instructions **before** you cast your ballot.

Casting a Write-In Vote

The ballot also has space for write-in votes, which are allowed in all contests on the ballot. To cast a write-in vote on the paper ballot, fill in the oval to the left of the space for the write-in vote and legibly print the complete name of the person in the appropriate space. To cast a write-in vote on the electronic voting equipment, touch the write-in line and type the name of your candidate using the touch screen keyboard.

Language Assistance

The Board strives to recruit multilingual pollworkers in precincts where a number of voters speak a language other than English. Because there are many Spanish-speaking voters throughout the District, the Board also provides Spanish language translations of the ballot and polling place materials in each polling location. You may also cast a Spanish language ballot on the touch screen voting machine, either on the screen or in an audio format.

Access for Voters With Disabilities

The District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics is committed to ensuring that every voter has equal access to the voting process. Voters with vision, mobility and other impairments will be able to vote privately and independently at the polls on Election Day. The Board selects polling sites and provides pollworkers with training that is designed to meet the commitments below.

Entering the Polling Place

- If the main entrance to a polling place is not accessible, voters with disabilities will be able to enter the polling place through an accessible entrance.
- If there is an alternate accessible entrance, the route from the street and parking will be clearly designated with signs.
- Every polling place with parking will provide at least one designated parking space for vehicles bringing voters with disabilities to the polls.
- Voters who encounter difficulties entering the polling place will be able to ring for assistance using a call bell. For the special election, the Board is using federal funds to upgrade the bells for better reliability.
- Curbside voting is also available upon request, and ballots for senior citizens and voters with disabilities may be sent to an alternate polling location upon request.

Accessibility Inside the Polling Place

- Every polling place has a touch screen voting machine that is available to all voters and is equipped with an audio ballot. A precinct worker at each location is trained to provide help, if needed, with the touch screen machine.
- Magnifiers are available upon request and voting instructions and sample ballots printed in large type are posted at each polling place.

- There is a clear path to both the touch screen voting machine and paper ballot marking booth and a ballot marking surface is available at a convenient height for use by a seated voter.
- A voter who is unable to mark the ballot or use the touch screen may request assistance by a pollworker or another person of their choice. Voters may only be assisted at their request and may not be assisted by their employer or a representative of their employer or union.

If you are a senior citizen or voter with disabilities and cannot vote at your assigned polling place, call the Board's Registrar at 202-727-2525 at least five days before the election and your complete ballot can be delivered to the polling place of your choice. In most cases, a ballot cast in a different precinct will count for District-wide offices. However, the Board cannot count a same-day registration that is cast outside of the correct precinct.

To report problems with the accessibility of any polling location, call the Board's Office of General Counsel at 202-727-2194.

Voting by Mail

You do not have to be out of town, or ill, or provide any other reason to request a ballot by mail. However, you must request your ballot in writing at least one week before Election Day.

You can request an absentee ballot [here](#).

You can track the status of your absentee ballot [here](#).

If you request an absentee ballot by mail, read the instructions that were sent with your ballot. You will need to fill in the oval next to the candidate(s) of your choice using a pencil or with a blue or black pen that does not smear.

If you make a mistake and spoil your absentee ballot, you have a right to a new ballot. However, you must return the original ballot to receive a replacement. To prevent double voting, you cannot vote a regular ballot at the polling place if you have requested an absentee ballot. However, you may cast a special ballot that will be counted if you do not return your voted absentee ballot.

You may mail or hand deliver your absentee ballot to the Board's office, or hand deliver your ballot to any polling place, before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by Election Day and received at the Board's office within ten days. Your ballot will be counted, along with other absentee ballots cast in the election, after the Board has verified your signature on the envelope against the signature on your voter registration card.

First-Time Voters Who Registered by Mail

If you are a first-time voter who registered by mail, federal law requires that you provide one of the forms of identification listed below. If you did not include a copy of this information with your voter registration, you will be required to return it with your absentee ballot. Please do not send original documents.

Acceptable forms of identification for first-time voters who registered by mail include the following:

- Photo identification
- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check or paycheck
- Any other government document that shows your name and address.

Other Absentee Ballot Services

- **Military and/or Overseas Voters.** Special services are available to assist members of the military (including spouses and dependents) and civilian voters residing outside the United States. Qualified overseas voters can receive their blank ballot by e-mail or fax. If you are unable to return your ballot in time for Election Day, emergency procedures also exist to allow e-mail or fax return of your voted ballot. For more information, call the Board or send an e-mail to the [Executive Director](#).
- **Permanent Absentee Ballot Status.** Voters may request an absentee ballot for one election, an entire calendar year or in every election. If you would like to receive an absentee ballot for every election, you can indicate so on your [application](#). You will automatically receive an absentee ballot for all future elections for which you are eligible to vote.
- **Absentee Voting at Licensed Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities.** Voters who are residents or temporarily residing at a licensed District of Columbia nursing or assisted living facility may register to vote, request an absentee ballot and have their ballot hand-delivered by a Board employee to their facility or bedside. Contact your nursing home administrator if you would like to request an absentee ballot.
- **Medical Emergency-Delivery by an Agent.** Starting the sixth day before an election, voters who are unable to vote in person because of a medical emergency who did not apply for a mail ballot may vote an Emergency Absentee Ballot. An emergency absentee ballot must be delivered and returned by a qualified registered voter. To have your ballot picked up and returned by an agent, you must complete an [Application for an Emergency Absentee Ballot](#).
- **Absentee Voting for Eligible Incarcerated Voters.** Voters who are incarcerated for a non-felony conviction or are awaiting trial and have not been convicted of a felony may register and vote in the general election at one of the Department of Corrections facilities. The Board coordinates the voting process with the Department of Corrections.

What identification do I need to bring?

You do not need to bring identification to vote, unless:

- You are not registered to vote or
- You are a first-time voter who registered by mail.

Same-Day Registration

If you are not registered to vote, you can register to vote and cast your ballot on the same day. You can register at the Board's office during in-person absentee voting, which begins on April 11, or you can register to vote at the polls on Election Day.

However, you must meet the [eligibility requirements](#) to register to vote and you must provide one of the following types of proof of residence.

- **A District driver's license or DMV-issued identification card.** A current and valid driver's license or identification card issued by the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles, listing your current name and address, is sufficient proof of residence to register to vote.

If you provide this type of identification, you may register and then cast your ballot using the voting equipment at the polling place. Your license must be current and valid, and the name and address on the identification must be the same from which you are registering to vote.

- **Other proof of residence.** You may also submit the types of identification below for same-day registration. However, you will be required to cast a special ballot that will be counted subject to verification of your residence.
 - Utility bill
 - Bank statement
 - Government check or paycheck
 - Other government document with your current name and address

The Special Ballot Clerk at your polling place is required to indicate the type of identification provided, including the utility name, bank name, or government agency, and must copy your name and address accurately from your identification for the Board to count your ballot.

First-Time Voters Who Registered by Mail

If you are a first-time voter who registered by mail, federal law requires that you provide one of the forms of identification listed below. If you did not include a copy of this information with your voter registration, you will be required to return a copy with your absentee ballot or to present it to the Check In Clerk at the polling place.

If you show the required identification, you may vote by regular ballot. If you do not have identification with you when you arrive to vote at the polls, you may vote by special ballot, which will be counted if you bring identification to the Board's office during the ten days after the election.

Acceptable forms of identification for first-time voters who registered by mail include the following:

- Photo identification
 - Utility bill
 - Bank statement
 - Government check or paycheck
 - Any other government document that shows your name and address.
-

How do I register or update my voter registration?

To check your registration status, click [here](#). If your registration is not found or is inaccurate, you can register until April 8 at the Board's office at:

One Judiciary Square ([map](#))

441 4th Street NW, Suite 250 North

Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday

The office is open on Sunday, April 17, from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will close at 4:45 p.m. on Monday, April 25.

After absentee voting begins on Monday, April 11, you can still register at the Board's office or at the polls on Election Day but you must provide [proof of residence](#).

What are the qualifications to register to vote in the special election?

You are qualified to register to vote for the special election if you meet all of the following requirements:

- You are a citizen of the United States;
- You are at least 17 years old and will be at least 18 years old by the next general election;
- You will have resided in the District of Columbia for at least 30 consecutive days immediately before the special election on April 26, 2011;
- You are not in jail on a felony conviction;
- You have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote; and
- You do not claim voting residence outside of the District of Columbia.

Same-Day Registration

To register once voting has begun, you must meet the eligibility requirements above and must provide one of the following types of [proof of residence](#):

- **A District driver's license or DMV-issued identification card.** A current and valid driver's license or identification card issued by the District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles, listing your current name and address, is sufficient proof of residence to register to vote.

If you provide this type of identification, you may register and then cast your ballot using the voting equipment at the polling place. Your license must be current and valid, and the name and address on the identification must be the same from which you are registering to vote.

- **Other proof of residence.** You may also submit the types of identification below for same-day registration. However, you will be required to cast a special ballot that will be counted subject to verification of your residence.
 - Utility bill
 - Bank statement
 - Government check or paycheck
 - Other government document with your current name and address

The Special Ballot Clerk at your polling place is required to indicate the type of identification provided, including the utility name, bank name, or government agency, and must copy your name and address accurately from your identification for the Board to count your ballot.

Are students eligible to vote in the District of Columbia?

High school students are eligible to register to vote if they are at least 17 years old. Students may also preregister to vote beginning at age 16 and will automatically become a registered voter once they are eligible.

Students attending a public or private college or university may vote using their District school residence address if they consider their dorm or school address as their principal or primary home. The length of time that a student intends to remain living at their current address does not affect a student's eligibility to vote, provided that the student resides in the District for at least 30 days prior to the election.

Students temporarily residing in the District who have questions about establishing residency for any purpose other than voting should refer to the links to 'Find City Services' in the 'Move to DC' section of the DC Government Resident Resource Center at <http://rrc.dc.gov/>.

What does it mean if I am required to vote a special ballot?

The Board of Elections and Ethics maintains a list of voters who have registered to participate in elections in the District of Columbia. That list is sent to polling places on Election Day, and only those voters whose names appear on the list for that precinct, or who complete a same-day registration using a current and valid District driver's license or DMV-issued identification card with an address listed in that precinct, may vote a regular ballot.

You may still cast a ballot if you do not meet these requirements, but the Board of Elections and Ethics will have to decide whether you were eligible to vote in the election. You may also be required to cast a special ballot if you requested an absentee ballot, if you are marked as 'inactive' in the poll book because mail from the Board was returned by the Post Office as undeliverable, or if you need to update information in your voter record.

The Special Ballot Clerk will give you written information explaining why you are required to vote a special ballot and will help you find out if you can cast a regular ballot in another polling place.

Will my vote count?

If you are eligible to vote and you properly cast your ballot, your ballot will count. Although many people believe that special ballots – also known as “provisional ballots” – do not count, the truth is that every ballot cast by an eligible voter is counted. The media may make a prediction about who will win the night of the election, based on exit polls or partial results, but every ballot is not counted until ten days after the election.

If you cast a special ballot, the Board of Elections will determine whether to count all or part of your Special Ballot.

What can I do to make sure my vote can be counted?

Fill out both forms that you are given by the Special Ballot Clerk and cast your ballot in the Special Ballot Box:

1. Complete and sign the Voter Registration Update Form to register, update or confirm your voter registration information.
2. Complete and sign the Special Ballot Envelope. Make sure that you have legibly printed all of the necessary information.
3. Insert your ballot in the envelope and cast it in the Special Ballot Box.

How will I find out if my vote counts?

To find out if a portion or your entire ballot was counted, you may call the Board at 866-328-6837 on the Tuesday following Election Day or visit www.dcboee.org.

How do I file an appeal if the Board rejects my ballot?

If your ballot is rejected and you decide that you want to appeal, you may call 202-727-2194 to schedule a hearing between 8 and 10 days after the election. If the Board accepts your appeal, your ballot will be counted after the hearing. If you do not win your appeal, you have three days to appeal the Board's decision to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

How do I report election misconduct?

If you witness any attempt to manipulate or corrupt the voting process, please call the Office of General Counsel at 202-727-2194 immediately. You may be asked to submit a complaint in writing. The Board of Elections and Ethics will seek prosecution of election fraud to the fullest extent of the law.

In the District of Columbia, it is illegal to...

- Vote more than once in any election;
- Intimidate voters or intentionally prevent a qualified voter from casting a ballot;
- Buy or submit false, fraudulent or fictitious voter registration applications;
- Submit false information as to the name, address or period of residency when applying to register or voting;
- Buy, cast or count false, fraudulent, fictitious or altered ballots;
- Impersonate another voter or submit an absentee ballot in the name of another voter;

- Give, offer to give or receive anything of material value in return for registering to vote, voting, withholding a vote, or voting for or against a ballot measure;
- Make any false statement or claim of citizenship in order to register or vote;
- Attempt to vote in an election conducted by a party to which you do not belong;
- Display campaign materials within 50 feet of a polling location. The Board strongly encourages all voters to remove any campaign buttons, t-shirts, etc., before arriving at the polls. Polling place officials will inform any voter displaying campaign material to conceal or remove it, which may mean taking off a button or hat, zipping or buttoning up a coat and keeping it zipped or buttoned, or going into the bathroom to turn a t-shirt inside out. The rule also applies to children who may accompany you inside the polling place.

Any person found guilty of engaging in these illegal activities will be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned for up to five years, or both (D.C. Official Code 1001.14).

Key Dates and Deadlines

Deadlines to...	
Register by Mail	March 28, 2011
Drop off a voter registration application for someone other than yourself	March 28, 2011
Register in person and appear on the rolls on Election Day	April 8, 2011
Request that an absentee ballot be mailed to you	April 19, 2011
Register and cast a same-day ballot at the Board's office	April 25, 2011
Request and cast an in-person absentee ballot	April 25, 2011
ELECTION DAY	April 26, 2011
Register and cast a ballot at the polls	April 26, 2011
Postmark an absentee ballot	April 26, 2011
Appeal whether a special ballot is counted and present ID if required (preliminary ruling available online on May 3)	May 6, 2011
Observe the final count of absentee ballots	May 6, 2011
Observe the post-election audit	TBD
Observe certification of official results	TBD

Voter Rights

As a voter in the District of Columbia, you have the right to...

- Receive instructions on how to operate the voting equipment;
- Vote in privacy in the polling place, regardless of physical disability;
- Register and cast a ballot the same day at an early voting location or on Election Day if your name is not on the voter registration list and you are eligible to vote in the election;
- Ask for and receive assistance from a person of your choice, including a poll worker, if you are unable to vote without assistance;
- Vote free from threat or intimidation by election officials or anyone else;
- Ask questions about the election process;
- Inspect a sample ballot posted in the polling place;
- Vote by special ballot if your name is not found on the voter registration list, if your eligibility is in question or if you are a first-time DC voter who has not provided the identification required by federal law;
- Update your address if you have moved or your name is on the list of inactive voters whose mail has been returned by voting a special ballot;
- Exchange a spoiled ballot for a new ballot up to two times;
- Cast a ballot if you are in line when the polling place closes;
- Bring voter information materials with you into the voting booth.

***For the online version of this Voter Guide, see
www.dcboee.org/voterguide***

Questions? Call 202-727-2525