

DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS

Report on Primary and General Elections



2022

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Introduction

Pursuant to the Restore Your Vote Legislation, convicted felons have the right to vote if they are U. S. citizens and residents of the District of Columbia. Inmates in DCDOC custody not eligible to vote include:

- Those who a judge has ruled incapable of voting
- Those who don't claim residence or the right to vote in another U.S. state or territory

Based on these criteria, the majority of inmates in DCDOC custody are eligible to vote.

DOC Voting Team Members

- Danjuma Gaskins, Lead Voting Coordinator
- Renee Alexander, Lead Voting Coordinator
- Eric Weaver, Voting Team Member
- Sharon Walker, Voting Team Member
- Deborah Smith-Hill, Voting Team Member
- Renee Morgan, Voting Team Member
- Trenna Campbell, Voting Team Member

Establishment of DOC as a Polling Place

Per the Initiative and Referendum Process Improvement Act of 2020, D.C. Department of Corrections was officially established as a polling place for incarcerated residents-- implementation began with the 2022 primary election.

As our primary partner, the Board of Elections (BOE) team worked closely with DOC staff in determining the most suitable locations for voting machines and other equipment. The CTF Library and CDF Chapel were designated locations for the primary and general elections---and worked out well for both.

For the primary election, BOE staff set up the voting equipment on the evening of Monday June 13, 2022 (CTF) and the morning of Tuesday, June 14, 2022 (CDF). After the morning count cleared, housing units were called according to pre-established voting schedules. The voting team and operations jointly developed housing unit schedules.

For the general election, BOE staff set up voting equipment on the morning of November 1st. After the morning count cleared, housing units were called according to pre-established voting schedules. As with the primary election, the voting team and operations jointly developed housing unit schedules.

For both the primary and general elections, BOE staff was on site at both polling locations along with election observers/poll watchers, League of Women Voters DC representatives, University Legal Services (ULS) Disability Rights DC staff, and DOC communications/staff volunteers.

Special Note: BOE developed a proof of residency document to facilitate same day registration and voting for inmates using 1901 D Street or 1901 E Streets as their residential address. The DOC General Counsel reviewed each such form and gave legal authorization for the DOC Director to sign those requesting same day registration on each voting day. BOE updated this document for use during the general election.

Per BOE, if an inmate registered using his/her home address in the District and wanted to register to vote on the same day, they would have to provide one of the following as proof of residency (**based on circumstances, these would likely not be available**):

- A copy of a current and valid government-issued photo identification
- A utility bill for water, gas, electricity, cable, internet, telephone, or cellular phone service issued no earlier than 90 days before the election
- A savings, checking, credit, or money market account statement from a bank or credit union issued no earlier than 90 days before the election
- A paycheck, stub, or earning statement that includes the employer's name, address, and telephone number and was issued no earlier than 90 days before the election
- A government-issued document or check from a federal or District agency, other than the Board of Elections, issued no earlier than 90 days before the election
- A current residential lease or rental agreement
- An occupancy statement from a District homeless shelter issued no earlier than 90 days before the election
- A tuition or housing bill from a District of Columbia college or university issued for the current academic or housing term.

Thus, the proof of residency forms encouraged and facilitated broader participation in the elections in concert with the spirit of the Referendum Process Improvement Act of 2020.

Designation as Voter Registration Agency (VRA)

In accordance with D.C. Official Code 1-1001.07 (d), DOC has been designated as a Voter Registration Agency (VRA) by BOE thus is responsible for providing voter registration opportunities and materials to the targeted population. As required, a VRA Coordinator has been designated--- and members of the voting team completed BOE training in August of 2022.

To ensure compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), the VRA Coordinator is responsible for: providing required voter registration forms and information, maintaining a list of DOC services, monitoring NVRA compliance, ensuring recordkeeping requirements are met, serving as BOE liaison, and ensuring required staff and volunteer training is completed.

Collaboration with BOE: Primary

DOC voting and leadership team members began holding virtual calls with the BOE beginning on March 31, 2022 for the primary election. The previous Lead Voting Coordinator participated in meetings prior to her departure and beginning May 5, 2022, the newly appointed Lead Voting Coordinator and team began virtual meetings every Thursday at 2 pm. During these sessions, logistics were agreed upon, issues discussed, and potential problems resolved. The close-out meeting to discuss the primary was held on June 30, 2022 at 2 pm.

In-person contact with BOE team members:

Dates	Activities
May 27 and June 3	Conducted walkthrough of designated polling locations
May 31, June 7, 9, 17, 21	Dropped off and picked up ballots
June 13	Delivered and set up voting equipment at CTF
June 14	Delivered and set up voting equipment at CDF
June 15	Conducted voting at CTF and CDF

Collaboration with BOE: General

DOC voting and leadership team members began holding virtual calls with the BOE beginning on September 8, 2022 for the general election. Meetings were held every Thursday at 2 pm. During these sessions, logistics were agreed upon, issues discussed, and potential problems resolved.

In-person contact with BOE team members:

Dates	Activities
August 18	Conducted National Voter Registration Agency training for designated DOC voting team members
September 22	Conducted election worker training (22 inmates)
November 1	Delivered and set up voting equipment at CTF and CDF and oversaw first day of voting
November 2	Conducted voting at CTF and CDF; broke down voting equipment at the close
November 8	Delivered remaining mail in ballots

Chronology: Primary Election

During March 2022, correspondence was sent to uniformed supervisors and senior leadership advising them of the upcoming election--- and the need to provide every unregistered qualified elector a preference form and voter registration form at intake. Copies of the voter preference form and voter registration application were attached to the correspondence.

Voter registration at CTF and CDF took place and continued during the months of March, April, May and June of 2022. During voter registration, all DOC voting team members coordinated on-site registration with the League of Women Voters DC, BOE and the Office of Human Rights.

Voter registration for DOC's general population units ended on June 16, 2022, the last day of DOC's early voting period. From June 14th through June 16th, inmates in general population housing units were able to vote and or register to vote on that same day at either the CTF Library or CDF Chapel.

Mail-in ballots were distributed beginning on June 9, 2022 and collected until June 16th for the general population and June 21st for special management units.

If not already registered, inmates housed in special management units were provided voter registration applications on June 16th to complete. BOE staff and volunteers assisted with completion on actual voting days. In these cases, completed applications were then given to BOE staff to generate ballots. Ballots were delivered to DOC on Friday June 17, 2022 and disseminated to inmates on special management units on Tuesday, June 21, 2022-- by voting and case management team members at both facilities (Monday, June 20, 2022 was a federal holiday).

Staff retrieved completed ballots the same day they were delivered---BOE staff picked them up from a voting team member that evening. The voting team, CIC members and representatives from the League of Women Voters DC coordinated efforts to ensure any inmate who expressed interest in voting had the opportunity to do so.

Chronology: General Election

In person voting was conducted on Tuesday, November 2, 2022 and Wednesday, November 3, 2022. As noted, BOE staff set up voting booths and other needed equipment for inmates assigned to the general population at both facilities on November 2, 2022.

On October 31, 2022, DOC voting teams along with staff from the CIC and League of Women Voters DC visited special management and isolation and quarantine units at CTF and CDF to determine if inmates wished to register to vote (on a cell by cell basis). While previously visited, staff visited again to ensure that anyone missed was given the opportunity---including those that had refused in the past.

Residents from both the CDF and CTF requesting applications received them. Once completed they were scanned to BOE. BOE in turn created ballots and delivered them to the DOC voting team for delivery to the units for completion.

Ballots for these residents were delivered on November 2, 2022. Once received staff looked up cell locations and made deliveries to residents on November 3, 2022. Inmates were advised to complete the ballots for collection or place them in the mail for pick up.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, collected ballots were delivered to a BOE representative by the Lead Voting Coordinator. A number of residents opted to place completed ballots in the mail.

Sharing of Voter information

The League of Women Voters DC and Office of Human Rights staff provided information for the inmate tablets. Staff uploaded information on May 18, 2022 for the primary election and October 25, 2022 for the general election.

The following materials were made available to each housing unit:

- Informational Posters
- FAQs
- Voter's Guide (published by BOE)
- DC Voter Education PowerPoint
- Loose-leaf binders for inmates who did not have access to tablets. The binders contained an overview of each office; candidate information and their platforms; candidate pictures and responses to issues likely to be of interest to the voting body.
- Facility public service announcements began on June 7, 2022 in both English and Spanish at the CDF and CTF for the primary election and on October 28, 2022 for the general election.

Primary: Designation of Poll Watchers

The Lead Voting Coordinator and Chair of the CIC, Charles Thornton, coordinated the poll watching process for the primary election. The list of names was forwarded to DOC on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Poll watchers included:

Name	Organization	Polling Assignment
Kathy Chiron	League of Women Voters DC	CDF
Susan Galbraith	League of Women Voters DC	CTF
Charlie Sullivan	CURE	CDF
Nkechi Taifa	CIC Board	CTF
Kennon Ross	CIC	CTF
Nailah Seabron	CIC	CDF
Patricia Marks	CIC	CTF/CDF
Sterling Phillips	OHR	CDF
Ajan Brown	OHR	CTF
Priscilla Mendizabal	OHR	CTF
Charles Thornton	EOM/OHR/CIC	CDF/CTF
Adrienne Shaw	CURE	CTF

General: Designation of Poll Watchers

The Voting Coordinator and Chair of the CIC, Charles Thornton, coordinated the poll watching process for the general election. The list of names was forwarded to DOC on Friday, October 28, 2022. Poll watchers included:

Name	Organization	Polling Assignment
Kathy Chiron	League of Women Voters DC	CDF
Susan Galbraith	League of Women Voters DC	CTF
Debbie Polemus	League of Women Voters DC	CTF
Nkechi Taifa	CIC Board	CTF
Myra Woods	League of Women Voters DC	CDF
Nailah Seabron	CIC	CDF
Patricia Marks	CIC	CTF/CDF
Sterling Phillips	OHR	CDF
Ajan Brown	OHR	CTF
Natasha Dasher	CIC	CTF
Charles Thornton	EOM/OHR/CIC	CDF/CTF
Adrienne Shaw	CURE	CTF
Brittany Lovely	CIC	CTF
Kate Uyeda	CIC	CTF
Sydney Lang	CIC	CTF

General Election: Training and Employment of Inmate Election Workers

For the general election, BOE expressed interest in using inmates as paid election workers. Leadership approval was given and residents---from female and male program and general population units--- learned about the opportunity. BOE and DOC working collaboratively in selecting individuals to serve.

On September 22, 2022, those chosen were trained in the CTF gymnasium by BOE training staff. (DOC officers provided security). Voting team members observed and assisted with data collection, audio visual set up and questions and answers. Among inmates, ten (10) women and twelve (12) men completed training. Training included a detailed PowerPoint presentation, reading materials, and hands on use of BOE voting equipment. Women inmates were slated to work at the CTF and men at the CDF. Separations were checked prior to election day.

As per BOE stipulation, ANC candidates could not be employed as election workers, therefore, several residents who completed training opted out. Based on this, during the election there were nine (9) women and seven (7) men who actually worked and were eligible for the \$100 per shift stipend (each resident worked one shift). Checks were delivered to the Lead DOC Voting Coordinator and then deposited in each worker's account.

General Election: Educating Population on Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) Vacancy

Based on redistricting, ANC7F08 was created which includes the CDF, CTF and Harriett Tubman Women's Homeless Shelter. An election was held to fill the vacancy with ANC information shared with residents via the inmate tablets and flyers posted in each housing unit. Information was available in both English and Spanish.

Residents indicated interest by submitting written confirmation. Twenty (20) residents opted to run (5 women and 15 men). Six (6) candidates from the CDF and 14 from the CTF. All candidates completed BOE Affirmation of Write-In Candidacy Forms that were notarized by case management staff, signed consent forms (for pictures to be placed on tablets and paper documents), and completed a candidate survey including:

- Key points on the ability to support ANC7F08
- Interest in the role
- Thoughts on qualifications
- Thoughts on issues (ex: planning, streets, recreation, social services programs, health, safety, sanitation, and reentry services).

Answers were typed on a spreadsheet along with candidate photos—then shared with each housing unit. The spreadsheet was also uploaded onto the tablets.

On October 19, 2022, an information session was conducted at CTF and CDF for candidates from each respective facility. Resident candidates housed on special management units were provided information, paperwork and notary services by case management staff.

The current ANC Joel Caston, who has been released, was onsite to give residents information about ANC job duties and answer questions. A community voting partner from the Office of Human Rights also provided information on the ANC role.

Voting team staff coordinated the information sharing sessions and notary services and answered questions as appropriate.

ANC Election Winner and Next Steps

During this election, ANC Voting was conducted via write-in due to time line issues--per the BOE (ANC votes were tabulated by hand). As of November 29, 2022, the declared winner was Leonard Eugene Bishop, DCDC # 260421.

Guidance from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC)

The OANC advised DOC staff of the following:

New Commission Training:

Due to redistricting, significant changes were made to Single Member District boundaries and six (6) new ANC's created (1E, 2G, 3A, 4E, 5F and 8F). For Commissioners redistricted or elected to serve in one of the new ANC's, the OANC provided New Commission Training. Both New Commissioner Orientation and New Commission Training were virtual and scheduled as follows:

- New Commission Training was held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm.
- Commissioner Orientation was held Saturday, December 17, 2022 from 10 am – 3:00 pm---session provided an overview of ANC duties and responsibilities.

The newly elected ANC completed both sessions.

Swearing-In Ceremony

The Council held the Swearing-In Ceremony on Monday, January 2, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Since Mr. Bishop was not be able to attend, his swearing in was held at the CTF on Thursday, January 12th with CM Pinto, newly elected Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary, administering the oath.

Next Steps

Unit and voting team staff continue to work with the newly elected ANC as he assumes the roles and responsibilities of the position—including strategic planning and implementation, resident outreach, information sharing, coordination with external ANC stakeholders, training and other ANC activities.

Internal Data Collection

Includes JACCS entries concerning voter preference; scanning of voter preference sheets into Paper Clips, spreadsheets for registered voters and ballots received; maintenance of hard copies of voter preference forms; maintenance of all correspondence concerning the voting process.

Election Data (official numbers from BOE)

	Number Registered	Number Voting
Primary	405*	218
General	767*	241

*Includes individuals registered who may have been released before the elections

Communications/Media

Staff from the Office of Communications was on site to photograph the process for the primary and general elections. Inmate consent forms were signed by those willing to be photographed, interviewed or videotaped. BOE also requested permission to take photographs and video the process--this was coordinated by the DOC communications team.

Photos and information were shared via Twitter with a press release sent out to multiple media sources on November 3, 2022.

Other Updates

- Based on feedback from the primary, during the general election DOC modified the voting schedule for inmates on quarantine, isolation and special management units—this modification helped in streamlining the process.
- DOC will continue working on internal enhancements including changing the voter preference form, and looking at legislative options available to streamline the residency establishment process for select inmates.
- DOC will continue working with BOE to determine the best way to cross reference census information and purge their system of voters previously incarcerated and using 1901 E or 1901 D Streets as the address of record.

Last Update: March 21, 2023