

**5100 ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD**

- 5100.1 The Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (Board) is established pursuant to the authority and purposes set forth in the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011 (Act), effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01 *et seq.*)
- 5100.2 The Board is vested with authority to administer and enforce the provisions of Title II of the Act.
- 5100.3 The Board is composed of five (5) members, no more than three (3) of whom shall be members of the same political party, who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council of the District of Columbia.
- 5100.4 The Mayor shall designate the Chairperson of the Board.
- 5100.5 The Board shall act by affirmative action of a majority of members present.
- 5100.6 In the event of a tie vote by the Board on a proposed action, including any proposed enforcement action, the proposed action will not take effect.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 739 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5101            DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS**

5101.1            There is established the position of Director of Government Ethics pursuant to Section 206 of the Act.

5101.2            The Board shall select, employ, and fix the compensation of the Director of Government Ethics (Director) and such staff as the Board considers necessary to carry out the powers and duties assigned to the Director pursuant to Subtitle B of Title II of the Act.

5101.3            The Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 739 (January 25, 2013).

**5102 BOARD MEETINGS**

- 5102.1 Except as provided otherwise by the Act, a quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of the sitting members of the Board.
- 5102.2 At the beginning of each calendar year, a preliminary schedule of regular meetings for the year, which the Board has discretion to change, shall be published in the D.C. Register.
- 5102.3 Regularly scheduled Board meetings shall be held on the first Thursday of each month, or at least once each month, at a time to be determined by the Board. Additional meetings may be called as needed by the Board.
- 5102.4 Notice of all regular and additional meetings of the Board shall be published on the Board's web site at least forty-eight (48) hours, or two (2) business days, in advance, whichever is greater, except in the case of emergency.
- 5102.5 The Board may exercise its discretion and reschedule a regular meeting or call special meetings when necessary with reasonable notice to the public.
- 5102.6 The Board encourages comments on any issue under the jurisdiction of the Board that is considered at its regular meetings. The Board shall permit the submission of written comments either in advance or within a time set after the regular meeting. The Board may also provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear before the Board and offer such comments. No public comment will be accepted when the Board is considering enforcement actions or is conducting an adversarial hearing.
- 5102.7 To ensure the orderly conduct of public Board meetings, public comments may be limited with respect to the number of speakers permitted and the amount of time allotted to each speaker; however, the Board shall not discriminate against any speaker on the basis of his or her position on a particular matter.
- 5102.8 Any member of the public who intends to comment regarding any agenda item or any issue under the jurisdiction of the Board is encouraged to notify the Board in advance of his or her intent to do so, providing his or her name and the topic on which he or she wishes to speak. Such notification may be provided by e-mail to the Board's email address, by telephone, or by mail or in person at the Board's office. No person shall be prevented from speaking at a Board meeting simply because he or she has not provided advance notice of his or her intent to do so.
- 5102.9 Members of the public who wish to submit items for consideration by the Board shall do so in writing one (1) week in advance and the Board may in its discretion include the submitted items on the agenda if it determines that the items' subject matter is within the Board's jurisdiction and there is sufficient time to address the item at the meeting. Any item that was properly submitted to the Board but was

not included on the agenda shall be included on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting. Failure to submit an item in advance as required may, within the Board's discretion; result in the matter being continued until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

- 5102.10 The Chairperson shall conduct the meetings of the Board. In the absence of the Chairperson, the senior member of the Board shall conduct the meeting.
- 5102.11 Each meeting shall begin with the adoption of the agenda, followed by the adoption of any outstanding minutes of previously conducted Board meetings, unless the minutes have been electronically recorded.
- 5102.12 The Director of Government Ethics shall present a report of the activities of that position at each regularly scheduled meeting.
- 5102.13 Each Board member may properly make any and all motions.
- 5102.14 All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public and conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act (Open Meetings Act), effective March 31, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-350; D.C. Official Code § 2-571 *et seq.*).
- 5102.15 The proposed agenda for each Board meeting shall be posted and made available for public inspection in the Board's office and on its website at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to a meeting.
- 5102.16 Copies of the agenda shall be available to the public at the meeting.
- 5102.17 Nothing in this section shall preclude the Board from amending the agenda at the meeting.
- 5102.18 Meetings may be adjourned from time to time and resumed at the Board's discretion so long as the time of resumption is announced to the public. Where the meeting is adjourned and resumed in less than forty-eight (48) hours or two (2) business days, the Board will provide notice of the date and time of its resumption on its website and by posting notice in the Board's office. Where a meeting is adjourned to a time longer than forty-eight (48) hours or two (2) business days, the Board shall provide notice of the new day and time as required by the Open Meetings Act.
- 5102.19 Any individual who is deemed by the Board Chairperson to be disruptive to the meeting may be removed from the meeting.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 739 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5103**      **CLOSED MEETINGS**

5103.1      The Board may conduct closed meetings for the purposes described in Section 405(b) of the Open Meetings Act, including the following:

- (a)      Personnel matters, including the recruitment, appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, compensation, removal, or resignation of employees, or other individuals over whom it has jurisdiction;
- (b)      Employee disciplinary actions;
- (c)      Legal counsel briefings on litigation strategy;
- (d)      Quasi-judicial deliberations;
- (e)      Matters which would result in the disclosure of information specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;
- (f)      Matters which would result in the disclosure of trade secrets and commercial or financial information;
- (g)      Matters which would involve a clear and unwarranted invasion of privacy, an accusation of a crime, or formal censure; and
- (h)      Matters which would result in the disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 739 (January 25, 2013).

**5104 ORDERS OF THE BOARD**

- 5104.1 The Board shall issue all final orders in writing, signed manually or electronically. The Chairperson may sign an order, decision or other document that has been approved by the Board.
- 5104.2 Any Board member participating in a final order may issue a concurring or dissenting opinion to the final order, and such opinion shall be attached to the Board's final order.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 739 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5105 MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND OTHER BOARD RECORDS**

- 5105.1 Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, D.C. Official Code § 2-578, all meetings of the Board, whether open or closed, shall be recorded by electronic means; provided that if a recording is not feasible, detailed minutes of the meeting shall be kept.
- 5105.2 Copies of meeting records shall be made available for public inspection according to the following schedule; provided, that a record, or a portion of a record, may be withheld under the standard established for closed meetings pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b):
- (a) A copy of the minutes of a meeting shall be made available for public inspection as soon as practicable, but no later than three (3) business days after the meeting.
  - (b) A copy of the full record, including any recording or transcript, shall be made available for public inspection as soon as practicable, but no later than seven (7) business days after the meeting.
- 5105.3 Disclosure of all Board records, including meeting minutes or transcripts, shall be governed by the District of Columbia Freedom of Information Act, D.C. Official Code § 2-531 *et seq.* The Board shall, by Office Order, issue a schedule of fees, not to exceed the actual cost of searching for, reviewing, and making copies of records, consistent with the provisions of D.C. Official Code § 2-532(b-1) through (b-3).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 739 (January 25, 2013).

**5200 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

- 5200.1 The purpose of this chapter is to establish standards of conduct for members and employees of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (Board) for their official activities in order to maintain public confidence in the integrity of those persons responsible for the administration of the ethics laws and the Code of Conduct, as that term is defined in Section 101(7) of the Act.
- 5200.2 The provisions of this chapter shall solely govern the political and ethical conduct of the members and employees of the Board and are not intended to be exclusive of rules governing the ethical conduct of all District of Columbia Government employees.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5201 POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

5201.1 Except as provided in this section, nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting the members or employees of the Board from doing any of the following:

- (a) Exercising the right to vote at any election conducted in the District of Columbia or elsewhere;
- (b) Signing any nominating, initiative, referendum, or recall petition; or
- (c) Attending candidate forums.

5201.2 No member of the Board shall do any of the following:

- (a) Act as a leader or hold any office in a District political organization;
- (b) Make speeches for a District political organization or candidate, or publicly endorse or oppose a District of Columbia candidate for public office;
- (c) Solicit funds for, pay an assessment to, or make a contribution to a District political organization or candidate, or attend or purchase a ticket for a dinner or other event sponsored by a District of Columbia political organization or candidate; or
- (d) Be a lobbyist.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5202 ETHICAL CONDUCT**

- 5202.1 A member or employee of the Board shall not directly or indirectly give any person who is not a member or employee of the Board access to official information obtained through or in connection with his or her employment which has not been released to the general public or which is not a matter of public record.
- 5202.2 A member or employee of the Board shall not solicit or accept, either directly or through the intercession of others, any fee, gift, gratuity, favor, loan, entertainment, or other thing of monetary value from any person, organization or entity which has done or is doing any of the following:
- (a) Has obtained, or is seeking to obtain, contractual or other business or financial relationships with the Board;
  - (b) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated or examined by the Board; or
  - (c) Has interests that may be favorably affected by the action or inaction of the member employee in the performance of his or her official duties.
- 5202.3 The restrictions set forth in § 5202.2 shall not apply to any of the following:
- (a) Bona fide personal relationships, such as those that exist between an employee or member and his or her parents, children, or spouse;
  - (b) The acceptance of loans from financial institutions on customary terms to finance the acquisition of a car, home, appliance, or other personal items; or
  - (c) The acceptance of unsolicited advertising or promotional materials such as pens, pencils, note pads, calendars, and like items of nominal intrinsic value.
- 5202.4 A member or employee of the Board shall not use his or her status as a member to directly or indirectly attempt to influence any decision of the District government relating to any action that is not within the Board's purview.
- 5202.5 A member or employee of the Board shall not directly or indirectly use or allow the use of government property of any kind, including office machines, motor vehicles, materials, supplies, or funds, for other than officially approved activities.
- 5202.6 Without prior approval of the Board, a member or employee of the Board shall not accept any reimbursement for expenses or receive any other honorarium or fee for any service, speech, or other activity which is rendered as a result of his or her

official duties with the Board, whether or not such activities were performed during official working hours.

- 5202.7 Board members and employees shall not engage in any employment or outside activity which is incompatible with the full and proper discharge of their government responsibilities.
- 5202.8 No Board member or employee shall do indirectly (by, through, or with other persons) those acts or actions which the Board member or employee are prohibited from doing directly under the restrictions set forth in this chapter.
- 5202.9 No Board member may serve if, during the member's tenure on the Board, he or she is convicted of having committed a felony in the District of Columbia, or if the crime is committed elsewhere, convicted of an offense that would have been a felony if it had been committed in the District of Columbia.
- 5202.10 An employee shall promptly report to his or her immediate supervisor any attempt to direct or otherwise unlawfully influence the discharge of that employee's official duties.
- 5202.11 A member of the Board or employee of the Board must refrain from acting on or discussing, formally or informally, a matter before the Board if the matter relates to, or may personally or financially benefit, that Board member or employee, their immediate family, or a business with which they are associated.
- 5202.12 A member of the Board or employee of the Board must refrain from acting on or discussing, formally or informally, a matter before the Board if his or her impartiality might reasonably be questioned, including but not limited to circumstances where the Board member or employee:
- (a) Personally and substantially participated in the matter;
  - (b) Is a material witness concerning the matter;
  - (c) Has material, personal knowledge about the matter;
  - (d) Has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or party's lawyer or representative; or
  - (e) Has made a public statement, other than in a Board proceeding or opinion, that commits or appears to commit the Board member or employee to reach a particular result or rule in a particular way in the matter.
- 5202.13 If a member of the Board must withdraw from a matter before the Board, that member shall make a statement at a public meeting of the Board identifying the reason or reasons for the withdrawal. If the matter relates to a nonpublic

investigation, the name of the individual who is the subject of the investigation shall not be disclosed without the individual's consent.

5202.14 If an employee of the Board must withdraw from a matter before the Board, that employee shall notify the Director of Government Ethics, in writing, of the reason or reasons for the withdrawal.

5202.15 If the Director of Government Ethics must withdraw from a matter before the Board, the Director shall notify the Chairman of the Board, in writing, of the reason or reasons for the withdrawal.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5300 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

5300.1 The provisions of this chapter shall establish the procedures for the conduct of all investigations by the Director of Government Ethics (Director) and the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (Board) pursuant to the authority set forth in the Government Ethics Act of 2011 (Act), Title II of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1161.01 *et seq.*) (2012 Supp.).

5300.2 Investigations shall be conducted:

- (a) Fairly and professionally;
- (b) So as to protect the rights and reputations of public employees and officials; and
- (c) In accordance with due process.

5300.3 Investigations shall be identified as one (1) of the following:

- (a) Preliminary Investigation; or
- (b) Formal Investigation.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5301 PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS**

- 5301.1 The Director shall conduct a preliminary investigation of a possible violation of the Code of Conduct or of the Act brought to the attention of the Director by any source including but not limited to the following:
- (a) The media;
  - (b) A tip received through the hotline; or
  - (c) Documents filed with the Ethics Board.
- 5301.2 If during or after the preliminary investigation, the Director of Government Ethics has reason to believe that a violation of the Code of Conduct or of the Act may have occurred, the Director shall present evidence of the violation to the Board.
- 5301.3 Upon presentation of evidence, the Ethics Board may authorize a formal investigation and the issuance of subpoenas if it finds reason to believe a violation has occurred.
- 5301.4 A preliminary investigation may be dismissed at any time by the Director or Board if insufficient evidence exists to support a reasonable belief that a violation has occurred.
- 5301.5 The identity of an individual who is the subject of the preliminary investigation shall not be disclosed without the individual's consent unless or until the Board finds reason to believe that the individual has committed a violation and that disclosure would not harm the investigation.
- 5301.6 In conducting a preliminary investigation, the Director shall have the authority to gather evidence using any of the powers and procedures described in § 5303.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5302 FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS**

- 5302.1 A formal investigation shall be initiated upon:
- (a) Receipt of a written complaint transmitted to the Board;
  - (b) A finding by the Office of the Inspector General or District of Columbia Auditor of waste, fraud, abuse of government resources, or a violation of the Code of Conduct; or
  - (c) A finding by a court of competent jurisdiction of liability in a civil proceeding, indictment, or information in a criminal proceeding with respect to acts or offenses that may constitute violations of the Code of Conduct or of the Act.
- 5302.2 A written complaint shall include:
- (a) The full name and address of the complainant and the respondent;
  - (b) A clear and concise statement of facts that are alleged to constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct or of the Act;
  - (c) The complainant's signature;
  - (d) A verification of the complaint under oath; and
  - (e) Supporting documentation, if any.
- 5302.3 No complaint may be made later than five (5) years after the discovery of the alleged violation.
- 5302.4 An individual making a complaint shall be afforded all available protections from adverse employment action or retaliation in accordance with the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act and Title II of the Whistleblower Reinforcement Act of 1998, effective October 7, 1998 (D.C. Law 12-160; D.C. Official Code §§ 2-223.01 *et seq.*).
- 5302.5 Within thirty (30) business days of the initiation of a formal investigation, the Director shall cause evidence concerning the complaint to be presented to the Board with the potential for a 15-business-day extension to be granted by the Board. If the Board decides that there is a reasonable belief that a violation has occurred, the Board may authorize the issuance of subpoenas.
- 5302.6 The Superior Court of the District of Columbia may, upon petition by the Board through the Director, in case of refusal to obey a subpoena or order of the Board

issued under § 5302.5, issue an order requiring compliance; and any failure to obey the order of the court may be treated by the court as contempt.

5302.7 The identity of an individual who is the subject of a written complaint transmitted to the Board, other than pursuant to § 5302.1(b) and (c), shall not be disclosed without the individual's consent unless or until the Board finds reason to believe that the individual has committed a violation and the Board finds that disclosure would not harm the investigation.

5302.8 Notwithstanding § 5302.7, the Board may, in its discretion, publicly disclose the existence of any investigation.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5303            DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION**

5303.1            The Director of Government Ethics (Director) shall have the authority to obtain documents, written reports, and answers relating to the enforcement of the Government Ethics Act of 2011 (Act), Title II of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1161.01 *et seq.*) (2012 Supp.).

5303.2            The Director’s authority includes the power to:

- (a)            Require any person to submit, within a reasonable period and under oath or otherwise as the Director may determine, written reports, and answers to questions that the Director may propound relating to the administration and enforcement of the Act;
- (b)            Administer oaths;
- (c)            Require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all documentary evidence relating to the execution of the Board's duties; provided, that subpoenas issued under this paragraph shall be issued by the Director only upon approval of a majority of the Board and served either personally or by certified or registered mail on the individual named in the subpoena, or by other means agreed to by the individual named in the subpoena;
- (d)            Order testimony to be taken by deposition in a proceeding or investigation before any person who is designated by the Director and has the power to administer oaths and, in such instances, to compel testimony and the production of evidence in the same manner as authorized under the Act;
- (e)            Pay witnesses the same fees and mileage as are paid in like circumstances in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia;
- (f)            Institute or conduct, on the Director’s own motion, a preliminary investigation into alleged violations of the Code of Conduct or other violations of the Act;
- (g)            Retain, on a temporary basis, consultants, including attorneys or others; and
- (h)            Require any person to submit required reports or documents through an electronic format or medium.

5303.3 If an employee or official of the District government has been properly served a request for information or documents, or notice of deposition and any applicable witness fee, and that employee or official fails to respond to such a request or appear or participate in a deposition, then the Director or the Board may notify the supervisor or superior of that employee or official and recommend that appropriate personnel action be commenced for such failure. Nothing in this section shall affect the ability of the Board to seek enforcement of a subpoena before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 6198 (June 20, 2014).

**5400 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

5400.1 The provisions of this chapter shall establish general procedures for the conduct of all adversarial hearings and appeals, and the issuance of advisory opinions by the Director of Government Ethics (Director) and the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (Board) pursuant to the authority set forth in the Government Ethics Act of 2011 (Act), Title II of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1161.01 *et seq.*) (2012 Supp.).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5401           ADVERSARIAL HEARING**

- 5401.1           After determining that there is reason to believe a violation has occurred based upon the presentation of evidence by the Director pursuant to § 5301.2 or § 5302.5, the Board shall conduct an open and adversarial hearing at which the Director of Government Ethics shall present evidence of the violation. The Director may delegate the presentation of evidence to the General Counsel or other lawyer employed by the Board.
- 5401.2           A hearing need not be conducted if a matter is dismissed pursuant to § 5403, or is the subject of a negotiated disposition under chapter 59 of this title.
- 5401.3           If the Director fails to present a matter, or advises the Board that insufficient evidence exists to present a matter or that an additional period of time is needed to investigate a matter further, the Board may nonetheless order the Director to present the matter as provided in § 5401.1.
- 5401.4           Any hearing under this section shall be on the record and shall be held in accordance with the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1204; D.C. Official Code §§ 2-501 *et seq.*).
- 5401.5           Any witness has a right to refuse to answer a question that might tend to incriminate the witness by claiming his or her Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.
- 5401.6           Any person who has been assessed fees pursuant to § 5403.2 may file a request for an adversarial hearing with the Board.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5402 DISPOSITION**

5402.1 Following the presentation of evidence to the Board by the Director in an adversarial hearing, the Board may take one or more of the following actions:

- (a) Levy a civil penalty in accordance with the Act;
- (b) Refer the matter to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for enforcement or prosecution;
- (c) Refer the matter to the Attorney General for the District of Columbia for enforcement or prosecution; or
- (d) Dismiss the action.

5402.2 [Repealed.]

5402.3 In addition to an action taken pursuant to § 5402.1, the Board may take any other remedial action pursuant to authority granted it by the Act.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5403 DISMISSAL OF MERITLESS CLAIM, COMPLAINT, OR REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

5403.1 The Board may dismiss, at any stage of the proceedings, any claim, complaint, request for investigation, investigation, or portion of an investigation that the Ethics Board finds to be without merit.

5403.2 The Ethics Board may require a person who made or caused to be made a claim, complaint, or request for investigation in bad faith and without merit to pay reasonable fees for time spent reviewing or investigating the claim, complaint, or request for investigation including reasonable attorney's fees for the individual wrongfully named in the claim, complaint, or request for investigation.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5404 APPEALS**

5404.1 Appeals of any final order issued or fine levied by the Board in accordance with the Act or regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act shall be made to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia within twenty (20) days of the date the Board or Director's final order or fine is served upon a person subject to the final order or fine.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5405           ADVISORY OPINIONS**

- 5405.1           Upon application made by an employee or public official subject to the Code of Conduct, the Board or the Director shall, within a reasonable period of time, provide an advisory opinion as to whether a specific transaction or activity inquired of would constitute a violation of a provision of the Code of Conduct over which the Board has primary jurisdiction.
- 5405.2           An advisory opinion shall be published in the District of Columbia Register within thirty (30) days of its issuance; provided, that the identity of a person requesting an advisory opinion shall not be disclosed in the District of Columbia Register without the person's prior consent in writing. Where consent is not obtained, the name of the requester shall be removed prior to publication.
- 5405.3           There shall be no enforcement of a violation of the Code of Conduct taken against an employee or public official who relied in good faith upon an advisory opinion requested by that employee or public official and substantially complied with the advice or recommendation given in the advisory opinion; provided, that the employee or public official, in seeking the advisory opinion, made full and accurate disclosure of all relevant circumstances and information.
- 5405.4           A request for an advisory opinion shall be in writing, signed by the requestor, and filed with the Director. The Director may accept email requests for advisory opinions.
- 5405.5           A request for an advisory opinion shall contain the following:
- (a)       The full name, residence address, and telephone number of the requestor; and
  - (b)       A clear and concise statement of the facts relating to the specific transaction or activity which is the subject of the inquiry.
- 5405.6           Nothing in this Chapter shall prevent the Director from providing informal advice or guidance to an employee or public official by referring that employee or official to a published advisory opinion or established guidance contained in the District's Ethics Manual or other reference source. Such informal advice or guidance need not be published in the District of Columbia Register and does not provide the employee with protections described in § 5405.3.
- 5405.7           The Director of Government Ethics may issue, on his or her own initiative, an advisory opinion on any general question of law he or she considers of sufficient public importance concerning a provision of the Code of Conduct over which the Board has primary jurisdiction. Before an advisory opinion is issued under this subsection, the Director of Government Ethics shall publish a notice of the proposed advisory opinion in the District of Columbia Register and provide a

public-comment period of at least 30 days, during which a person may submit information or comment on the proposed advisory opinion. An advisory opinion that does not meet the procedural requirements of this paragraph shall be void ab initio.

- 5405.8 If an advisory opinion is issued by the Director of Government Ethics in response to a request for an advisory opinion, the requesting employee or public official may appeal the opinion for consideration by the Board. If the Director of Government Ethics issues an advisory opinion on his or her own initiative, an employee or public official aggrieved by the opinion may appeal the opinion for consideration by the Ethics Board.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5500 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 5500.1 The provisions of this chapter shall govern the procedures of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability when conducting adversarial hearings and other meetings pursuant to the authority set forth in the Government Ethics Act of 2011 (Act), Title II of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01 *et seq.*) (2012 Supp.).
- 5500.2 In any conflict within this chapter between general and specific provisions, the specific provisions shall govern.
- 5500.3 In any conflict between this chapter and the D.C. Administrative Procedure Act, D.C. Official Code § 2-501 *et seq.* (2011 Repl.), the D.C. Administrative Procedure Act shall govern.
- 5500.4 The Director of Government Ethics (Director) shall issue, and from time to time revise, complaint forms and instructions to ensure presentation of adequate information required for the understanding and processing of complaints. All such materials shall be available on the Board's website.
- 5500.5 The Board may, for good cause shown, waive any of the provisions of this chapter if, in the judgment of the Board, the waiver will not prejudice the rights of any party and is not otherwise prohibited by law.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5501 COMPUTATION OF TIME**

- 5501.1 In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by these rules or by any applicable statute, the day of the act, event, or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included.
- 5501.2 The last day of the computed period shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which event the period shall run until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.
- 5501.3 When the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than seven (7) days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays shall be excluded from the computation unless an applicable statute expressly provides otherwise.
- 5501.4 For the purposes of this chapter, "legal holiday" includes the following:
- (a) New Year's Day;
  - (b) Martin Luther King's Birthday;
  - (c) President's Day;
  - (d) District of Columbia Emancipation Day;
  - (e) Memorial Day;
  - (f) Independence Day (4th of July);
  - (g) Labor Day;
  - (h) Columbus Day;
  - (i) Veterans Day;
  - (j) Thanksgiving Day;
  - (k) Christmas Day; and
  - (l) Any other day designated a legal holiday by the President of the United States or the District of Columbia government.
- 5501.5 When an act is required or allowed to be done at or within a specified time, the Board may at any time in its discretion and for cause shown, do either of the following:

- (a) With or without motion or notice, order the period enlarged, if a request for enlargement of time is made before the expiration of the period originally prescribed or as extended by a previous order; or
- (b) Upon motion made after the expiration of the specified period, permit the act to be done where the failure to act was the result of excusable neglect.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5502 NOTICE OF HEARINGS**

5502.1 The parties shall be given sufficient opportunity to prepare for the hearing.

5502.2 The Board shall send a notice of hearing to the party or parties involved which shall:

- (a) Provide the time, date, and location of the hearing;
- (b) Reference applicable statutes, rules, or regulations;
- (c) State the purpose of the hearing;
- (d) Advise the party or parties that they may be represented by counsel or other representative of their choosing; and
- (e) Advise the party or parties that they may bring witnesses.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5503 APPEARANCES AND REPRESENTATION**

- 5503.1 In a proceeding before the Board, any person or party may appear on his or her own behalf.
- 5503.2 Any person or party may be represented by any other person duly authorized in writing to do so.
- 5503.3 The authorization shall be on a form prescribed by the Board and shall state either that the individual is an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the District, or if not an attorney, that the authorization includes the power of the agent or representative to bind the person in the matter before the Board.
- 5503.4 If any person or party waives the right to be present at a hearing or fails to appear at a hearing, the Board may proceed ex parte, unless the Board extends the time of the hearing or unless the person's appearance is required by statute.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5504 SERVICE OF PAPERS**

- 5504.1 Any paper required to be served upon a party shall be served upon him or her or upon the representative designated by him or her, or on any person otherwise designated by law to receive service of papers.
- 5504.2 When a party has appeared through an attorney or representative, service shall be made upon the attorney or representative of record.
- 5504.3 Service may be made by personal delivery, by mail, by email, or as otherwise authorized by law.
- 5504.4 Service upon a party shall be completed as follows:
- (a) By personal delivery, on handing the paper to the person to be served, or leaving it at his or her office with his or her administrative assistant or time clerk or other person in charge or, if there is no one in charge, leaving it in a conspicuous place in the office; or, if the office is closed or the person to be served has no office, by leaving it at his or her usual place of residence with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing in that place;
  - (b) By email, by sending the paper electronically to his or her District Government email address or to the email address of his or her attorney or representative as listed on the written appearance submitted pursuant to § 5503.
  - (c) By mail, on deposit in the United States mail, properly stamped and addressed; or
  - (d) Upon being served in the specific manner prescribed by an order of the Board made in any proceeding.
- 5504.5 Where there are numerous parties to a proceeding, by written order the Board may make special provisions regarding the service of papers.
- 5504.6 Proof of service, stating the name and address of the person on whom served and the manner and date of service, shall be shown for each document served.
- 5504.7 Proof of service may be made by any of the following means:
- (a) Written acknowledgment of the party served or his or her attorney of record;
  - (b) The certificate of the attorney of record if he or she has made the service; or

(c) The certificate of the person making the service.

5504.8 For the purposes of this chapter, the phrase "filing with the Board," means the delivery to, and receipt by, the Chairperson of the Board or the Board's attorney, of pleadings and other papers.

5504.9 All documents filed with the Board relating to a hearing or formal investigation shall bear a caption which identifies the subject of the investigation, the Board's case or reference number, and the title of the pleading or document.

5504.10 All documents filed with the Board shall be printed on letter-sized paper using a font no smaller than 12 point.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5505 RECORD OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS**

- 5505.1 All meetings whether open or closed shall be recorded by electronic means; provided, that if a recording is not feasible, detailed minutes of the meeting shall be kept.
- 5505.2 For all open meetings or hearings, copies of records shall be made available for public inspection according to the following schedule:
- (a) In accordance with section 408 of the Open Meetings Act (D.C. Official Code § 2-578), for a meeting, a copy of the minutes of a meeting or the recording, shall be made available for public inspection as soon as practicable, but no later than 3 business days after the meeting.
  - (b) For an adversarial hearing, a copy of the full record, including any recording or transcript, shall be made available for public inspection as soon as practicable, but no later than 7 business days after the meeting.
  - (c) At the discretion of the Board, electronic recordings of the hearing may be posted on the Board's website.
- 5505.3 The minutes of Board meetings shall include the vote of each member of any ruling of the Board.
- 5505.4 Copies of the official transcript shall be available to parties and to the public upon payment to the Board of the charges fixed for the copies.
- 5505.5 Changes in the official transcript may be made only when they involve errors affecting substance and upon the filing of a motion by a party to correct a transcript with the Board.
- 5505.6 Copies of the motion to correct a transcript shall be served simultaneously on all opposing parties or legal representatives.
- 5505.7 Objections to the motion to correct a transcript shall be filed with the Board within five (5) days and served upon the parties.
- 5505.8 The transcript may be changed by the Board at a public meeting to reflect any corrections.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5506 MEETINGS AND HEARINGS**

- 5506.1 Hearings shall be scheduled as needed for the purpose of receiving evidence and testimony on specific matters.
- 5506.2 Meetings and hearings shall be held at the time and place the Board or the Chairperson designates.
- 5506.3 A member absent at the decision meeting on any matter may cast an absentee vote only if the member attended all other of the meetings or hearings on a matter before Board.
- 5506.4 A member attending the decision meeting and having read the transcript and reviewed the complete record may vote even though that member may not have attended any or all of the prior meetings or hearings on a matter before the Board.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5507 EVIDENCE**

- 5507.1 Evidence shall be taken in conformity with D.C. Official Code § 2-509(b).
- 5507.2 The Board may permit rebuttal evidence.
- 5507.3 Any party objecting to the admissibility of evidence shall state the grounds of the objection(s) relied upon.
- 5507.4 A party may place on the record a statement summarizing any evidence excluded by the Board.
- 5507.5 If excluded evidence consists of documentary evidence, a copy of the evidence shall be marked for identification and shall constitute the offer of proof.
- 5507.6 The Board, in its discretion, may receive into evidence certified copies of documents in place of the originals.
- 5507.7 If a party is offering materials contained in a book or larger document, that party shall plainly designate the relevant portions. The remaining material contained in that book or document shall be excluded.
- 5507.8 No document or other writing shall be accepted for the record after the close of the hearing, except with the consent of the Board after due notice to the opposing parties and only when the receipt of the document will not unfairly affect the interest of a party.
- 5507.9 During an adversarial hearing under § 5517, witnesses may be examined or cross-examined by the Board, the Director, respondent, or any party so designated by the Board pursuant to this chapter.
- 5507.10 During a meeting to consider a rulemaking conducted under § 5525, witnesses may be examined only by the Board.
- 5507.11 The Board may admit hearsay evidence during an adversarial hearing if it determines it will be relevant and material to the resolution of any factual issue in dispute in the matter before the Board.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5508 COMMENCEMENT OF ADVERSARIAL HEARING**

- 5508.1 An adversarial hearing before the Board shall be commenced by the filing of a written notice of violation in the name of the Board, which shall be signed by the Chairperson.
- 5508.2 The employee(s) or official(s) that is (are) the subject of the notice of violation shall be referred to as the Respondent(s) in the notice of violation.
- 5508.3 The Board may consolidate notice of violations if they relate to the same actions or events or raise common questions of law or fact.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5509 GENERAL RULES OF PLEADING**

- 5509.1 A notice of violation shall contain the following:
- (a) A short and plain statement of the grounds upon which the Board's jurisdiction depends;
  - (b) The full names, residence addresses, if known, position, title, agency, and telephone numbers of the respondent(s);
  - (c) A clear and concise statement of facts which are alleged to constitute a violation of the law;
  - (d) A description of the respondent's right to a hearing and all procedural rights available to the respondent at the hearing;
  - (e) A description of the applicable law and regulations that govern the disposition in a notice of violation should the respondent choose not to file a response or fail to appear at a scheduled hearing; and
  - (f) The deadline for filing a response.
- 5509.2 A respondent shall file with the Board, and serve a copy upon the Director and any other respondents identified in the notice of violation, a response that states in short and plain terms his or her defenses to each violation alleged and shall admit or deny the averments upon which the notice of violation relies. A respondent shall serve his or her response within fifteen (15) days after the service of the notice of violation upon him or her.
- 5509.3 If a respondent is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of an averment, he or she shall so state. This statement shall have the effect of a denial.
- 5509.4 When a respondent intends in good faith to deny only a part of an allegation, he or she shall specify so much of the allegation as is true and shall deny only the remainder.
- 5509.5 A respondent may, unless he or she intends in good faith to controvert all the allegations in a notice of violation, deny as specific denials of designated allegations or paragraphs, or the respondent may generally deny all the allegations except the designated allegations or paragraphs as the respondent expressly admits.
- 5509.6 When a respondent intends to controvert all the allegations of the notice of violation, including allegations of the grounds upon which the Board's jurisdiction depends, the respondent party may do so by general denial. If a

respondent chooses not to file a response, the Board shall treat such action as a general denial.

5509.7 A respondent shall raise any of the following defenses at the time he or she files a response:

- (a) Lack of jurisdiction over the subject matter;
- (b) Lack of jurisdiction over the person;
- (c) Insufficiency of process; or
- (d) Insufficiency of service of process.

5509.8 The Director shall file any opposition to a § 5509.7 defense raised by a respondent within ten (10) days after service of a response on the Board.

5509.9 No technical forms of pleadings or motions shall be required.

5509.10 The Board or respondent may set forth two (2) or more statements of a charge, challenge, or defense alternately or hypothetically, either in one count or defense or in separate counts or defenses.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5510 SIGNING OF PLEADINGS**

- 5510.1 Each pleading of a party represented by an attorney shall be signed by at least one (1) attorney of record in his or her individual name, and the attorney's address, email address, and telephone number shall be stated.
- 5510.2 A party who is not represented by an attorney shall sign each pleading and state his or her address, email address, and telephone number.
- 5510.3 Except when otherwise specifically provided by law, pleadings need not be verified or accompanied by affidavit.
- 5510.4 The signature of an attorney shall constitute a certificate by that attorney that he or she has read the pleading; that to the best of his or her knowledge, information, and belief there are grounds to support it; and that it is not interposed for delay.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5511 PRE-HEARING CONFERENCES AND DISCOVERY**

- 5511.1 Prior to any scheduled adversarial hearing, the Board may require that the respondent or his or her attorney or representative appear for a pre-hearing conference with the Director to consider the following:
- (a) Simplification of the issues;
  - (b) The necessity or desirability of amendments to the pleadings;
  - (c) The possibility of obtaining the admission of facts and documents which will avoid unnecessary proof;
  - (d) Limitation of the number of witnesses; and
  - (e) Other matters which may aid in the disposition of the notice of violation.
- 5511.2 The Board may require the Director and the respondent(s) to submit a pre-hearing statement to the Board which recites the action taken at the conference, the amendments allowed to the pleadings by agreement of the parties, and the agreements made by the parties as to any of the matters considered which limit the issues for hearing to those issues not disposed of by admissions or agreements of counsel or parties.
- 5511.3 Upon the request of the respondent, the Director must disclose to the respondent and make available for inspection, copying, or photographing any relevant written or recorded statements made by the respondent and any books, papers, documents, photographs, tangible objects, or other evidence which is in the possession of the Director and which:
- (a) The Director intends to introduce at the hearing; or
  - (b) Are material to the preparation of the respondent's defense.
- 5511.4 Upon the request of the Director, the respondent must disclose to the Director and make available for inspection, copying or photographing any evidence that the respondent intends to introduce at the hearing.
- 5511.5 The Director and the respondent shall exchange a list of expected witnesses that may be called at the hearing.
- 5511.6 Unless otherwise required by the Board, the disclosures required by §§ 5511.3, 5511.4, and 5511.5 shall be completed no later than ten (10) days in advance of the adversarial hearing.

- 5511.7 In its discretion, the Board may exclude the introduction of evidence or the testimony of witnesses that a party failed to disclose as required by §§ 5511.3, 5511.4, and 5511.5.
- 5511.8 The Board may issue a pre-hearing order concerning the timing and manner of discovery and any pretrial motions or orders.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5512 STIPULATIONS**

- 5512.1 Apart from stipulations reached during or as a result of the pre-hearing conference, the parties may stipulate in writing at any stage in the proceeding or orally during the hearing any relevant fact or the contents or authenticity of any document.
- 5512.2 Post-conference stipulations may be received as evidence.
- 5512.3 Parties may also stipulate the procedure to be followed in the proceeding and such stipulation may, on motion of all parties, be approved by the Board and govern the conduct of the proceeding.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5513 CONTINUANCES**

- 5513.1 A hearing scheduled to be conducted before the Board shall not be delayed by a continuance unless a motion for the continuance is made not less than five (5) days before the scheduled hearing date.
- 5513.2 A continuance shall not be granted unless the motion for continuance, in the Board's opinion, sets forth good and sufficient cause for the continuance.
- 5513.3 Conflicting engagements of counsel, absence of counsel, or the employment of new counsel shall not be regarded as sufficient cause for continuance unless set forth in a motion filed promptly after notice of the hearing has been given.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5514 NONAPPEARANCE OF PARTIES AND DEFAULTS**

5514.1 The Board may wait a reasonable length of time for a party to appear before beginning a proceeding. After a reasonable time, however, if a party who has received notice has not appeared, the Chairperson may proceed as follows:

- (a) The Chairperson may proceed with the hearing, obtain the testimony of those persons present, and, on the basis of the testimony and the record, the Board may issue a decision in the case; or
- (b) The Chairman, for good and sufficient cause, may postpone the hearing without taking testimony.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5515 [RESERVED]**

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5516 INTERPRETERS**

5516.1 The Board shall ascertain before the hearing whether an interpreter will be required and make appropriate arrangements.

5516.2 An oath or affirmation shall be administered to the interpreter orally or in writing.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5517 SPECIFIC RULES OF HEARING PROCEDURE**

- 5517.1 All parties shall have the right to produce evidence and witnesses on their behalf and to rebut or explain testimony or evidence against them.
- 5517.2 All parties have the right to cross-examine other parties and witnesses and to offer argument or explanation in support of their positions or contentions.
- 5517.3 A party may cross-examine any other party or person, except that the Board, through the Chairperson, may rule a question out of order when it is irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious.
- 5517.4 Witnesses shall be examined and cross-examined orally under oath or affirmation.
- 5517.5 The order of procedure for presenting evidence at the hearing shall be as follows:
- (a) Call to order and opening statements by the Chairperson and members of the Board;
  - (b) Introductory statement by Director or staff;
  - (c) Introductory statement by the respondent, if any;
  - (d) Consideration of pending motions and procedural matters;
  - (e) The Director's case;
  - (f) The respondent's case; and
  - (g) Any rebuttal offered by the Director.
- 5517.6 If there is more than one respondent, the respondents shall stipulate their order of presentation. If the respondents are unable to agree, the Chairperson shall set the order.
- 5517.7 In an adversarial hearing no decision or order of the Board shall be made except upon the exclusive record of the proceedings before the Board.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5518 BURDEN OF PROOF**

5518.1 In all cases involving a notice of violation, the Director has the burden of persuading the Board that a violation has occurred by substantial evidence.

5518.2 The Director has the burden of producing evidence of a prima facie case that a respondent has committed a violation. Whenever a respondent asserts an affirmative defense to a notice of violation, the respondent will bear the burden of producing sufficient evidence to establish the affirmative defense.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5519 POST-HEARING PROCEDURES: GENERAL**

- 5519.1 The record shall be closed at the end of the public hearing, except that the record may be kept open for a stated period for the receipt of specific exhibits, information, or legal briefs, as directed by the Board.
- 5519.2 Prior to filing the final decision, the Board may, on its own motion, reopen the record and require further hearing or briefing on designated issues before the Board.
- 5519.3 Notice of a further hearing along with a designation of issues shall be forwarded to any party who participated in the earlier proceedings, or his or her legal representative. Notice shall be given at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date set for further hearing.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5520 PROPOSED FINDINGS**

- 5520.1 The Board may request parties to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law for the consideration of the Board within the time as the Chairperson may direct.
- 5520.2 Copies of proposed findings and conclusions shall be served by each party upon all other parties.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5521 FINAL DECISION**

- 5521.1 Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the Board shall render its decision setting forth findings of fact and conclusions of law and giving the reasons for the decision.
- 5521.2 There shall be a written decision setting forth findings of fact and conclusions of law and giving the reasons for the decision.
- 5521.3 The conclusions or opinion in the decision shall be governed by and based upon all the evidence adduced at the hearing.
- 5521.4 A decision shall be supported by substantial evidence on the record. Pursuant to the substantial evidence rule, courts shall uphold an administrative determination of fact if on the entire record the determination is rationally supportable and could have been arrived at reasonably.
- 5521.5 The decision shall include a description of any action(s) the Board takes pursuant to § 5402 (Disposition).
- 5521.6 The decision shall include an instruction that the respondent shall refer to § 5404 to determine the respondent's right to appeal.
- 5521.7 The decision shall be served promptly on all parties or their attorneys or representatives. In its discretion, the Board may announce its decision at a public hearing.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5522 RECONSIDERATION**

- 5522.1 A motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or re-argument of a final decision in a contested case proceeding pursuant to § 5517 shall be filed by a party within ten (10) days of the order having become final. The motion shall be served upon all other parties. The Board shall not receive or consider any motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or re-argument of a final decision in a contested case proceeding that is filed prior to the order having become final.
- 5522.2 A motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or re-argument shall state specifically the respects in which the final decision is claimed to be erroneous, the grounds of the motion, and the relief sought.
- 5522.3 Within seven (7) days after a motion has been filed and served, any other party may file a response in opposition to or in support of the motion.
- 5522.4 Neither the filing nor the granting of the motion shall stay a decision unless the Board orders otherwise.
- 5522.5 A motion for reconsideration, rehearing, or re-argument shall not be a prerequisite to judicial review.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5523 SUBPOENAS AND DEPOSITIONS**

- 5523.1 The Board may require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence.
- 5523.2 Each subpoena issued by the Board shall include the following:
- (a) The name of the respondent;
  - (b) The title of the action;
  - (c) A specification of the time allowed for compliance with the subpoena;
  - (d) A command to the person to whom it is directed to attend and give testimony at a time and place specified in the subpoena; or
  - (e) A command to the person to whom it is directed to produce and permit inspection and copying of the books, papers, documents, or tangible things designated in the subpoena.
- 5523.3 Any party may, by a written motion, request the Board to subpoena particular persons or evidence.
- 5523.4 A request for subpoena shall state the relevancy, materiality, and scope of the testimony or documentary evidence sought, including, as to documentary evidence, the identification of all documents desired and the facts to be proven by them in sufficient detail to indicate materiality and relevancy.
- 5523.5 Any person to whom a subpoena is directed may, prior to the time specified in the subpoena for compliance, request the Board to quash or modify the subpoena.
- 5523.6 Any application to quash a subpoena shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the reasons supporting the motion to quash.
- 5523.7 The Board may quash or modify the subpoena upon a showing of good cause.
- 5523.8 Upon written notice the Board may order testimony to be taken by deposition, before any person who is designated by the Board to administer oaths.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5524 SERVICE OF SUBPOENA OR NOTICE OF DEPOSITION**

5524.1 A subpoena or notice of deposition may be served by any person who is not a party and is not less than eighteen (18) years of age. Service of a subpoena or notice upon a person named therein shall be made by delivering a copy of the subpoena to the person and, if the person's attendance is commanded, by tendering to that person the fees for one day's attendance and the mileage allowed by law. When the subpoena is issued on behalf of the United States or the District of Columbia or an officer or agency thereof, fees and mileage need not be tendered.

5524.2 Witnesses are entitled to a witness fee of forty dollars (\$40) per day and the cost of public transportation to the proceeding or a mileage fee calculated at seventeen cents (17¢) per mile.

5524.3 Service of a subpoena or notice and fees to an individual may be made by any of the following means:

- (a) Handing the subpoena or notice to the person;
- (b) Leaving the subpoena or notice at the person's District Government office with the person in charge of the office;
- (c) Leaving the subpoena or notice at the person's dwelling place or usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing in that dwelling place or abode; or
- (d) Mailing the subpoena or notice by registered or certified mail to the person at the person's last known address.

5524.4 When the person to be served is not an individual, a copy of the subpoena or notice of the deposition and fees shall be delivered by one (1) of the following ways:

- (a) Handing the subpoena or notice to a registered agent for service;
- (b) Handing the subpoena or notice to any officer, director, or agent in charge of any office of that person; or
- (c) Mailing the subpoena or notice by registered or certified mail to the representative at his or her last known address.

5524.5 The individual serving a subpoena shall file with the Board a return of service setting forth the facts establishing proper service.

5524.6 The Board may, upon the failure by any person to obey a subpoena served upon that person, apply to the D.C. Superior Court for an order requiring the person to appear before the Board to give testimony, produce evidence, or both. If a person fails to obey the order without an adequate excuse, the Board may apply for an order that the person be held by the court for contempt.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5525 RULEMAKING HEARINGS**

- 5525.1 At its discretion, the Board may from time to time schedule public hearings to obtain comment on a proposed rulemaking. The rules of procedure set forth in this section shall apply to rulemaking hearings.
- 5525.2 Any person may appear at a rulemaking hearing and may present, within the time limits determined by the Board, evidence, testimony, or argument that is relevant and not unduly repetitious.
- 5525.3 No person shall have the standing of a party in a rulemaking hearing.
- 5525.4 In those instances in which a petition for rulemaking has been filed with the Board by a member of the public pursuant to the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, and where the Board in its discretion schedules a public hearing, the order of procedure at the hearing shall be as follows:
- (a) Call to order and opening statement by the Chairperson and Board members;
  - (b) Introductory statement by the Director, General Counsel, or other staff designated by the Board;
  - (c) Consideration of pending motions and procedural matters;
  - (d) Petitioner's case;
  - (e) Persons in support of the petition; and
  - (f) Persons in opposition to the petition.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 747 (January 25, 2013).

**5530                    INFORMAL HEARING FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF  
THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 5530.1            The Director may institute or conduct an informal hearing, including an order to show cause, on alleged violations of the financial reporting and disclosure requirements, or any other violation of the Code of Conduct.
- 5530.2            Notice of an informal hearing shall be issued in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing; provided that the ten (10)-day period may be waived for good cause shown as long as the party is given a sufficient opportunity to prepare for the hearing.
- 5530.3            In the notice, an alleged violator of the financial reporting and disclosure requirements or of the Code of Conduct shall be informed of:
- (a)    The nature of the alleged violation;
  - (b)    The authority on which the hearing is based;
  - (c)    The time and place of the hearing;
  - (d)    The right to be represented by any other person duly authorized in person to do so;
  - (e)    The fact that the alleged violator’s failure to appear may be considered an admission of the allegation; and
  - (f)    The fact that service of process shall be by electronic or regular mail.
- 5530.4            The Director shall regulate the course of the informal hearing and the conduct of the parties and their counsel.
- 5530.5            The respondent, or his or her counsel, may present the respondent’s case and evidence to the Director, either in person or in writing.
- 5530.6            The Director may wait a reasonable period of time for the respondent to appear before beginning the informal hearing.
- 5530.7            If the respondent fails to appear after a reasonable period of time, the Director may elect to reschedule the informal hearing, issuing notice of the same and serving the respondent both by certified and regular mail. However, the Director is not obligated to reschedule the informal hearing if the respondent fails to appear after a reasonable period of time, and may elect to proceed with the informal hearing by making a record of the proceeding.

- 5530.8 Following the conduct of each informal hearing, the Director shall:
- (a) Determine whether a violation has occurred; and
  - (b) Issue a written order with findings of facts and conclusions of law.
- 5530.9 Any party adversely affected by any order of the Director may obtain review of the order by filing, with the Ethics Board, a request for a hearing in accordance with D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21(a)(3).
- 5530.10 The request for a hearing pursuant to § 5530.9 shall be filed within fifteen (15) days from the Director's issuance of an order.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 65 DCR 7038 (June 29, 2018).

**5535 SCHEDULE OF FINES**

5535.1 Upon a determination, pursuant to § 5530.8, that a violation has occurred, the Director may ministerially impose a fine upon the respondent with each allegation constituting a separate violation.

5535.2 Fines shall be imposed as follows:

- (a) Failure to follow the process for accepting gifts and donations established in D.C. Official Code § 1-329.01: not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation;
- (b) Participating personally and substantially in a particular matter that could affect the employee's own financial interests, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23 (a): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (c) Participating personally and substantially in a particular matter that could affect the financial interests of the employee's spouse or registered domestic partner, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (d) Participating personally and substantially in a particular matter that could affect the financial interests of the employee's dependent children, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (e) Participating personally and substantially in a particular matter that could affect the financial interests of any entity or organization in which the employee serves as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (f) Participating personally and substantially in a particular matter that could affect the financial interests of anyone with whom the employee is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (g) Working on a matter that involves a nongovernmental organization in which the employee or a family member has a financial interest, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (h) Using his or her official position or title in a manner that the employee knows is likely to have a direct and predictable effect on the employee's own financial interests, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a):

not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;

- (i) Using his or her official position or title in a manner that the employee knows is likely to have a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of a person or entity that is closely affiliated with the employee, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23 (a): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (j) Using his or her official position or title to personally and substantially participate in any particular matter that the employee knows is likely to have a direct and predictable effect on the employee's own financial interests, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (k) Using his or her official position or title to personally and substantially participate in any particular matter that the employee knows is likely to have a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of a person or entity that is closely affiliated with the employee, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (l) Performing an official duty, as a District government employee, if the employee or a member of the employee's household has real property, stocks, bonds, commodities, or other property that could unduly influence or give the appearance of unduly influencing the employee in the conduct of his or her official duties and responsibilities, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(a) and § 1-1162.23(d)(2)(A): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (m) Member(s) of an employee's household acquiring stocks, bonds, commodities, real estate, or other property, the acquisition of which could unduly influence or give the appearance of unduly influencing the employee in the conduct of his or her official duties and responsibilities, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(d)(2)(A): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (n) Acquiring an outside business or business interest that is related directly to the employee's official duties, official action, recommendation, or which is related to matters over which the employee could wield any influence, official or otherwise, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23 (d)(2)(B): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (o) Member(s) of an employee's household acquiring an outside business or business interest that is related directly to the employee's official duties,

official action, or recommendation, or which is related to matters over which the employee could wield any influence, official or otherwise, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(d)(2)(B): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;

- (p) Acquiring stocks, bonds, commodities, real estate, or other property, the acquisition of which could unduly influence or give the appearance of unduly influencing the employee in the conduct of his or her official duties and responsibilities, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23(d)(2)(A): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (q) Using official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.02(a)(1): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (r) Knowingly soliciting, accepting, or receiving a political contribution from any person, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.02(a)(2): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (s) Filing as a candidate for election to a partisan political office in a District-regulated election, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.02(a)(3): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (t) Knowingly directing, or authorizing anyone else to direct, any subordinate to participate in an election campaign or requesting a subordinate to make a political contribution, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.02(a)(4): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (u) Knowingly directing, or authorizing anyone else to direct, that any subordinate participate in an election campaign or requesting a subordinate to make a political contribution, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.02(a)(4): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (v) Working on any political campaign or engaging in any other type of political activity while at work or otherwise on duty, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.03(a)(1): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (w) Engaging in any political activity during work hours, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.03(a)(1): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;

- (x) Engaging in political activity in a D.C. government building as prohibited by D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.03(a)(2): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (y) Engaging in political activity while in a District government uniform or official insignia, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.03(a)(3): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (z) Engaging in political activity in a D.C. government vehicle, in violation of D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1171.03(a)(4): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (aa) Using District government resources to coerce, explicitly or implicitly, any subordinate employee to engage in political activity, in violation of D.C. Official Code § 1-1171.03(b): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (bb) Serving as an officer or director of an outside entity when there is a reasonable likelihood that such entity might be involved in the employee's District work, in violation of District Personnel Manual (DPM) § 1807.1(d): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (cc) Serving as an officer or director of an outside entity or organization when there is a reasonable likelihood that such entity will be involved in an official government action or decision that the employee would take or recommend, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(d): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (dd) Using information that is not available to the public for personal benefit, in violation of DPM § 1800.3(c): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (ee) Using information that is not available to the public for any non-governmental purpose, in violation of DPM § 1800.3(c): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (ff) Permitting others to use information that is not available to the public for personal benefit, in violation of DPM § 1800.3(c): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (gg) Permitting others to use information that is not available to the public for any non-governmental purpose, in violation of DPM § 1800.3(c): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;

- (hh) Engaging in outside activities that conflict with the employee's official government duties and responsibilities, in violation of DPM § 1800.3(j): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (ii) Failure to report waste, fraud, abuse of authority, violations of law, or threats to public health or safety, in violation of DPM § 1801.1: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (jj) Being employed by the District government and failing to report credible violations of the District Code of Conduct, in violation of DPM § 1801.1: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (kk) Interfering with or obstructing any investigation conducted by a District or federal agency, in violation of DPM § 1801.2: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (ll) Failure to fully cooperate with any investigation, enforcement action, or other official function of the Office of Government Ethics, in violation of DPM § 1801.3: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (mm) Taking coercive, harassing, or retaliatory action against any employee acting in good faith, in violation of DPM § 1801.4: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (nn) Coercing, harassing, or retaliating against any employee who reasonably believes there has been a violation or misuse of resources and discloses that to a supervisor or a public body, in violation of DPM § 1801.4: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (oo) Accepting a gift from a prohibited source, in violation of DPM § 1803.2 (a): not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (pp) Soliciting a gift from a prohibited source, in violation of DPM § 1803.2 (a): not less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) nor more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per violation;
- (qq) Soliciting or coercing the offering of a gift, in violation of DPM § 1803.2 (b): not less than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;
- (rr) Accepting a gift in return for being influenced in the performance or nonperformance of an official act, in violation of DPM § 1803.3 (a): not less than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation;

- (ss) Taking any action to pressure or coerce other District government employees into contributing monetarily to a private cause, in violation of DPM § 1803.3 (b): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per violation;
- (tt) Accepting a salary or anything of monetary value from a private source as compensation for services to the government, in violation of DPM § 1803.8: not less than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) nor more than three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) per violation;
- (uu) Soliciting a salary or anything of monetary value from a private source as compensation for services to the government, in violation of DPM § 1803.8: not less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) nor more than four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per violation;
- (vv) Accepting, directly or indirectly, a gift from a District employee who earns a lower salary, in violation of DPM § 1804.3: not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation;
- (ww) Coercing a gift from a District employee with a lower salary, in violation of DPM § 1804.4: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per violation;
- (xx) Acquiring any stocks, bonds, commodities, real estate, or other property, the possession of which could unduly influence or give the appearance of unduly influencing the employee in the conduct of his or her official duties and responsibilities, in violation of DPM § 1805.8(a): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (yy) Acquisition by members of the employee's household of any stocks, bonds, commodities, real estate, or other property, the possession of which could unduly influence or give the appearance of unduly influencing the employee in the conduct of his or her official duties and responsibilities, in violation of DPM § 1805.8(a): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (zz) Acquiring an interest in or operating any business which is in any way related to the employee's official duties, official action, recommendation, or which is in any way related to matters over which the employee could wield any influence, official or otherwise, in violation of DPM § 1805.8 (b): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (aaa) Acquisition by members of an employee's household of an interest in or operating any business which is in any way related to the employee's official duties, official action, recommendation, or which is in any way related to matters over which the employee could wield any influence, official or otherwise, in violation of DPM § 1805.8(b): not less than five

hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;

- (bbb) Directly or indirectly making a hiring decision regarding a position within his or her own agency with respect to a relative, in violation of DPM § 1806.3: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (ccc) Taking any action to appoint, employ, promote, evaluate, interview, or advance any individual who is a relative, in violation of DPM § 1806.3: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (ddd) Engaging in any outside employment, private business activity, or other interest that is reasonably likely to interfere with the employee's ability to perform his or her job, or which may impair the efficient operation of the District government, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(a): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (eee) Gambling while on duty and while on District government owned or leased property (other than as permitted), in violation of DPM § 1807.1(b): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per violation;
- (fff) Using District government time to raise money for a private cause, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(b): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (ggg) Using District government property to raise money for a private cause, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(b): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (hhh) Ordering, directing, or requesting subordinate officers or employees to perform during regular working hours any personal services not related to official District government functions and activities, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(c): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (iii) Maintaining financial or economic interest in or serving as an officer or director of an outside entity if there is any likelihood that such entity might be involved in an official government action or decision taken or recommended by the employee, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(d): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (jjj) Engaging in outside employment, private business activity, or other interest which permits an employee to capitalize on his or her official title or position, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(e): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;

- (kkk) Engaging in outside employment, private business activity, or other interest which permits others to capitalize on his or her official title or position, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(e): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (lll) Divulging any official government information to any unauthorized person or in advance of its authorized issuance, or making use of or permitting others to make use of information not available to the general public, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(f): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (mmm) Engaging in any outside employment, private business activity, or other interest which might impair an employee's mental or physical capacity that he can no longer carry out his duties and responsibilities in a proper and efficient manner, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(g): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (nnn) Serving in a representative capacity, agent, or attorney for any outside entity involving any matter before the District government, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(h): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (ooo) Contracting through an organization that the employee controls or substantially owns with the District government, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(h): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per violation;
- (ppp) Engaging in any outside employment, private business activity, or other interest which is in violation of federal or District law, in violation of DPM § 1807.1(i): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per violation;
- (qqq) Misusing District government property for other than authorized purposes, in violation of DPM § 1808.1: not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per violation;
- (rrr) Permitting others to misuse District government property for other than authorized purposes, in violation of DPM § 1808.1: not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per violation;
- (sss) Failure to comply with all applicable Financial Disclosure Statement filing requirements, in violation of DPM § 1810.4 (e) or Council Code of Conduct XI (c): not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation;
- (ttt) Knowingly acting as an attorney, agent, or representative, at any time after leaving District employment, in any formal or informal appearance before an agency as to a particular matter involving a specific party or parties in

which the employee personally and substantially worked on while a District government employee, in violation of DPM § 1811.3: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per violation;

- (uuu) Making any oral or written communication to an agency, at any time after leaving District employment, with the intent to influence that agency on behalf of another person as to a particular matter involving a specific party or parties on which the employee personally and substantially participated while a District government employee, in violation of DPM § 1811.4: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per violation;
- (vvv) Knowingly acting as an attorney, agent, or representative, within two years of leaving District employment, in any formal or informal matter before an agency if he or she previously had official responsibility for that matter during the last year the employee worked for the District, in violation of DPM § 1811.5: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per violation; and
- (www) Knowingly representing or aiding, counseling, advising, consulting, or assisting in representing any other person, within two years of leaving District employment, by personal appearance before an agency as to a particular government matter involving a specific party if the former employee participated personally and substantially in that matter during the last year the employee worked for the District, in violation of DPM § 1811.8: not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per violation.
- (xxx) Failing to act impartially and giving preferential treatment to any private organization or individual in violation of DPM § 1800.3(h): not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per violation.

5535.3 The aggregate set of the penalties imposed against each person under the Director's authority pursuant to §§ 5535.1 and 5535.2 may not exceed **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)**.

5535.4 Any fine imposed by the Director, pursuant to §§ 5535.1 and 5535.2, shall become effective on the sixteenth (16th) day following the issuance of a decision and order; provided, that, the respondent does not request a hearing pursuant to § 5530.11.

5535.5 The Director may modify, rescind, dismiss, or suspend any fine imposed, pursuant to §§ 5535.1 and 5535.2, for good cause shown.

5535.6 Fines imposed pursuant to this chapter shall be paid within ten (10) days of the effective date of the issuance of an Order of the Director. Payment by check or money order shall be payable to the D.C. Treasurer, and directed to the Board of

Ethics and Government Accountability, 441 4th Street N.W., Suite 830 South,  
Washington, D.C. 20001.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 65 DCR 7038 (June 29, 2018).

**5700 APPLICABILITY**

5700.1 The provisions of this chapter shall establish the procedures for filing financial disclosure forms and the limitations on honoraria pursuant to the authority set forth in the Subtitle D of the Government Ethics Act of 2011 (Act), Title II of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1161.01 *et seq.*).

5700.2 The Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) form, prescribed by the Director of the Government Ethics (Director), shall be filed by the following public officials:

- (a) [Repealed.]
- (b) The Mayor, Chairman, and each member of the Council of the District of Columbia holding office under the Home Rule Act;
- (c) The Attorney General;
- (d) A Representative or Senator elected pursuant to Section 4 of the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention Initiative of 1979, effective March 10, 1981 (D.C. Law 3-171; D.C. Official Code § 1-123);
- (e) A member of the State Board of Education;
- (f) A person serving as a subordinate agency head in a position designated as within the Executive Service;
- (g) A member of a board or commission listed in Section 2(e) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(e));
- (h) A District of Columbia employee, except an employee of the Council, paid at a rate of Excepted Service 9 or above, or its equivalent, who makes decisions or participates substantially in areas of contracting, procurement, administration of grants or subsidies, developing policies, land use planning, inspecting, licensing, regulating, or auditing, or acts in areas of responsibility that may create a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest.
- (i) An employee of the Council paid at a rate equal to or above the midpoint rate of pay for Excepted Service 9.
- (j) Any additional employees designated by rule by the Board pursuant to DC Official Code § 1161.01(47)(I).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 65 DCR 0904 (February 2, 2018); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 015873 (December 20, 2024).

**5701 DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS**

5701.1 The public official shall list on the FDS the following:

- (a) The name of each business entity, including sole proprietorships, partnerships, trusts, nonprofit organizations, and corporations, whether or not transacting any business with the District of Columbia government, in or from which the public official or his or her spouse, domestic partner, or dependent children:
  - (i) Has a beneficial interest, including, whether held in such person's own name, in trust, or in the name of a nominee, securities, stocks, stock options, bonds, or trusts, exceeding in the aggregate \$1,000, or that produced income of \$200 in a calendar year;
  - (ii) Receives honoraria and income earned for services rendered in excess of \$200 during a calendar year, as well as the identity of any client for whom the official performed a service in connection with the official's outside income if the client has a contract with the government of the District of Columbia or the client stands to gain a direct financial benefit from legislation that was pending before the Council during the calendar year. The report required by this subtitle shall include a narrative description of the nature of the service performed in connection with the official's outside income;
  - (iii) Serves as an officer, director, partner, employee, consultant, contractor, volunteer, or in any other formal capacity or affiliation; or
  - (iv) Has an agreement or arrangement for a leave of absence, future employment, including date of agreement, or continuation of payment by a former employer;
- (b) Any outstanding individual liability in excess of \$1,000 for borrowing by the public official or his or her spouse, domestic partner, or dependent children from anyone other than a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, including any revolving credit and installment accounts from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts, or a member of the person's immediate family;
- (c) All real property located in the District (and its actual location) in which the public official or his or her spouse, domestic partner, or dependent children, has an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$1,000, or that produced income of \$200; provided, that this provision shall not apply

to personal residences occupied by the public official, his or her spouse, or domestic partner;

- (d) All professional or occupational licenses issued by the District of Columbia government held by a public official or his or her spouse, domestic partner, or dependent children; and
- (e) All gifts received by a public official from a prohibited source in an aggregate value of \$100 in a calendar year. The term “prohibited source” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Section 101(46) of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01 *et seq.* (2012 Supp.)).

5701.2 The FDS shall include a signed affidavit from the public official stating that the public official has not caused title to property to be placed in another person or entity for the purposes of avoiding the disclosure requirements of the Act or these regulations.

5701.3 The FDS shall include a signed certification that the public official has:

- (a) Filed and paid his or her income and property taxes;
- (b) Diligently safeguarded the assets of the taxpayers and the District;
- (c) Reported known illegal activity, including attempted bribes, to the appropriate authorities;
- (d) Not been offered or accepted any bribes;
- (e) Not directly or indirectly received government funds through illegal or improper means;
- (f) Not raised or received funds in violation of federal or District law; and
- (g) Not received or been given anything of value, including a gift, favor, service, loan, gratuity, discount, hospitality, political contribution, or promise of future employment, based on any understanding that the public official's official actions or judgment or vote would be influenced.
- (h) Complied with all conflict of interest recusal and reporting requirements as set forth in Section 223 of the Ethics Act.

5701.4 Neither the Mayor, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, any member of the Council, nor any member of the State Board of Education shall earn royalties in excess of ten thousand dollars

(\$10,000) during the year in which the right to receive the royalty accrues, except that any amounts paid to a charitable organization, on behalf of the public official, shall not be calculated as part of the aggregate total.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013).

**5702 FILING, ELECTRONIC FILING WAIVER AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

5702.1 The FDS shall be filed electronically at the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (Board) website. The FDS shall be deemed timely filed electronically as follows:

- (a) For public officials, except the Chairman and each member of the Council, no later than 11:59 pm May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year for the prior calendar year in which the public official served.
- (b) Reports required by this section for the Chairman and each member of the Council of the District of Columbia shall be filed semiannually no later than 11:59 pm on May 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

5702.2 A public official may request a waiver of the requirement to file electronically. Waiver requests shall be submitted in writing, to the Director, no later than midnight on May 5<sup>th</sup> of each year. The Director may grant a waiver of the requirement to file electronically on good cause shown as to why the public official is unable to file electronically as follows:

- (a) A waiver granted by the Director shall be in writing and provided to the requestor.
- (b) If the waiver is granted, the FDS shall be filed in hard copy, in person or by first class mail. The FDS shall be deemed timely filed if received in the Office of Government Ethics no later than 5:00 pm on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- (c) A denial of the waiver of the requirement to file electronically is appealable to the Board. An appeal is timely filed if submitted to the Board Chairperson and the Director, in writing, in hard copy or electronically, no later than two (2) business days after the date of the Director's decision. The decision of the Board is final and shall be provided in writing to the requestor.
- (d) Waiver requests must be submitted, in writing, to the Director of Government Ethics no later May 5<sup>th</sup> or, at least ten days before the applicable annual or semiannual financial disclosure filing deadline.
- (e) The request must contain language explicitly authorizing the Office of Government Ethics to manually enter the requestor's responses to the Public Financial Disclosure Statement into the financial disclosure e-filing system.
- (f) The Board may consider the following good cause factors when

deliberating on such matters:

- (1) Physical impairment, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
- (2) Computer illiteracy, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
- (3) A complete lack of access to a computer or other technological device; or
- (4) An inability to gain access to the e-filing web portal due to technological error caused by the Office of Government Ethics or its e-filing system vendors, or a permanent lack of log-in credential.
- (5) Other factors or extenuating circumstances.

5702.3 A public official shall submit an amended FDS thirty (30) days after changes in any information represented on the FDS.

5702.4 A public official may request the Director, in writing, for an extension of up to thirty (30) days in which to submit the FDS.

5702.5 The Director may extend the deadline for submission of the FDS by a public official, for good cause shown.

5702.6 The Ethics Board shall publish, in the *District of Columbia Register*, before June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, the name of each public official who has:

- (a) Filed a report under this section;
- (b) Sought and received an extension of the deadline filing requirement and the reason for the extension; and
- (c) Not filed a report and the reason for not filing, if known.

5702.7 The Ethics Board shall publish, in the *District of Columbia Register*, before December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, the name of each member of the Council who has:

- (a) Filed a report under this section;
- (b) Sought and received an extension of the deadline filing requirement and the reason for the extension; and
- (c) Not filed a report and the reason for not filing, if known.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 11866 (August 28, 2015); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 65 DCR 0904 (February 2, 2018); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5703 EXEMPTION**

5703.1 The Board may, on a case by case basis, exempt a public official from this requirement or some portion of this requirement for good cause shown.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013).

**5704 CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILINGS BY EMPLOYEES**

5704.1 Confidential Financial Disclosure statements shall be filed as follows:

- (a) Any employee, other than a public official or Council employee, who advises, makes decisions or participates substantially in areas of contracting, procurement, administration of grants or subsidies, developing policies, land use planning, inspecting, licensing, policy-making, regulating, or auditing, or acts in areas of responsibility that may create a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interests, as determined by the appropriate agency head, shall file, before May 15th of each year, with the agency head, or the agency head's designee, a report containing a full and complete statement of the information required by Section 5701.
- (b) Each Council employee who acts in areas of responsibility that may create a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest, as determined by that employee's personnel authority, shall file a confidential report containing a full and complete statement of the information required by Section 5701 of the Ethics Act with the General Counsel to the Council no later than May 15th of each year.
- (c) All confidential financial disclosure statements shall be filed electronically at the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability website using the electronic filing system and by submission of the completed e-filing to their agency Ethics Counselor. BEGA will provide confidential filers with instructions on how to file using the electronic filing system.

5704.2 Each personnel authority shall compile a list of all employees required to submit a confidential financial disclosure statement within its agency or the Council and shall supply the list to the Ethics Board by 1 1:59 p.m. on March 1 of each year. The list required by this subsection shall include the name, title, position, and grade level for each employee. Notice to and designation of required FDS filing employees shall be done in a manner consistent with 6 DCMR § 1810.

5704.3 Upon review of the confidential report, a personnel authority shall immediately forward to the Ethics Board any violation of the Code of Conduct whenever there is reason to believe that such a violation has occurred.

5704.4 [REPEALED].

5704.5 In addition to any sanctions that may be available for a violation of the Code of Conduct, the Director of Government Ethics may also impose a late fee at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) per day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays), up

to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00), on any filer who fails to timely file a true, accurate and fully completed report.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 6200 (June 20, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 11866 (August 28, 2015); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 64 DCR 5842 (June 23, 2017); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 65 DCR 0904 (February 2, 2018); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 011602 (September 27, 2024); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 015873 (December 20, 2024).

**5705 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILINGS BY ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS AND CANDIDATES**

5705.1 An Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in office for at least thirty (30) days of the preceding year, or candidate as defined in D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01(6), shall electronically file a public financial disclosure certification required by Section 224(a)(1)(G) of the Act for the preceding year.

- (a) The certification shall be due no later than midnight of May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year;
- (b) The certification shall be filed electronically with the Board at the Board website;
- (c) The certification shall be publicly filed; and

5705.2 An Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, or candidate as defined in D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01(6), may request a waiver of the requirement to file electronically. Waiver requests shall be submitted in writing, to the Director, no later than midnight on May 5<sup>th</sup> of each year. The Director may grant a waiver of the requirement to file electronically for good cause shown as to why the public official is unable to file electronically.

- (a) A waiver granted by the Director shall be in writing and provided to the requestor.
- (b) If the waiver is granted, the public financial disclosure certification shall be filed in hard copy, in person or by first class mail. The public financial disclosure certification shall be deemed timely filed if received in the Office of Government Ethics no later than 11:59 pm on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- (c) A denial of the waiver of the requirement to file electronically is appealable to the Board. An appeal is timely filed if submitted to the Board Chairperson and the Director, in writing, in hard copy or electronically, no later than two (2) business days after the date of the Director's decision. The decision of the Board is final and shall be provided in writing to the requestor.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 22866 (August 28, 2015); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 015873 (December 20, 2024).

**5707 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING WAIVER REQUESTS**

- 5707.1 The Ethics Board may, on a case-by-case basis, exempt a public official from the filing requirement or some portion of the filing requirement for good cause shown.
- 5707.2 A Public Financial Disclosure Statement filer may submit a waiver request to the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability so that the Board may consider whether to withhold all or a portion of the filer's form from the public.
- 5707.3 A Public Financial Disclosure Statement filer must submit such a request within fifteen (15) days of receiving written notification of the annual filing requirement.
- 5707.4 The Board may consider the following good cause factors when deliberating on such matters:
- (a) Personal or physical safety concerns;
  - (b) Articulable identity theft or security breach concerns (a general fear of a possible breach without an articulable threat will not be considered);
  - (c) Secret or sensitive government information concerns or competitive or secret financial or business concerns;
  - (d) Undue burden; or
  - (e) Other substantial or important matters of first impression
- 5707.5 The Board shall issue a written Decision and Order for each waiver request at the Board meeting that occurs next in time to the partial waiver request.
- 5707.6 A pending waiver request is not good cause for an extension of the Financial Disclosure filing deadline, except when the Office of Government of Ethics has caused delay in the processing of the pending request.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019).

**5708 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FINE WAIVER REQUESTS**

5708.1 A Public or Confidential Financial Disclosure Statement filer may submit a fine waiver request to the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability so that the Board may consider whether to waive all or a portion of late or non-filer fines assessed to the filer.

5708.2 The request shall be in writing and should include identifying information (name, contact information, title, position, and agency), the number of days late and the amount of the fine, the date the request is submitted, and good cause why the Board should not impose the fine.

5708.3 The Board may consider the following good cause factors when deliberating on such matters:

- (a) The filer’s history of compliance regarding the timely filing of Financial Disclosure Statements in previous years;
- (b) Proof of technological failure or error by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability’s Financial Disclosure e-filing web portal;
- (c) Proof that the filer was substantially misinformed about Financial Disclosure deadlines or procedures by the Office of Government Ethics;
- (d) A pending legal or ethical questions before the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, the outcome of which may have a direct impact on the filer’s responses on the required filings;
- (e) Procedural or administrative error on the part of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability;
- (f) Proof of serious physical impairment or a chronic medical condition during the time period immediately preceding the filing deadline;
- (g) Proof of extended leave, during which time the filer is not monitoring or is not required to monitor or respond to work correspondence; or
- (h) Other factors or extenuating circumstances.

5708.4 Fine waiver requests shall be submitted for Board consideration within 15 business days of receiving the notice of the fine. Absent extenuating circumstances, as determined by the Director, the Board will not consider late-submitted requests. Any late-submitted request shall be deemed to be denied.

5708.5 The submission of a fine waiver request for consideration by the Board does not relieve a Public or Confidential Financial Disclosure Statement filer of their obligation to file a Financial Disclosure Statement.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 015873 (December 20, 2024).

**5709 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE DESIGNATION APPEALS**

- 5709.1 When an agency head questions whether a specific individual should be required to submit a public Financial Disclosure Statement or a confidential Financial Disclosure Statement pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-11062.24 (i), the matter shall be referred to the Director of Government Ethics for final resolution.
- 5709.2 Any individual designated by his/her agency head as being required to submit a public or confidential Financial Disclosure Statement may request a review of such designation by the agency head within five (5) business days, in accordance with DPM §1810.6, and this section.
- 5709.3 The agency head shall make a written decision on the request for review of the designation within (5) business days of the receipt of the request.
- 5709.4 Any such designated person who is adversely affected by and disagrees with the agency head's redetermination decision issued pursuant to DPM §1810.7 (b) or this section may appeal that redetermination decision within five (5) business days of receipt of the agency head's decision to the Director of Government Ethics as set forth in DPM §1810.7(c) or this section.
- 5709.5 Any such appeal must be submitted in writing, establishing that substantial evidence exists which would justify overturning the agency head's redetermination decision unless successfully rebutted.
- 5709.6 If the Director of Government Ethics reviews the written appeal and determines that substantial evidence appears to exist which would justify overturning the agency head's redetermination decision unless successfully rebutted, the Director shall order the agency to produce copies of all documents introduced into the record during the redetermination review process, as well as any additional evidence it believes would successfully rebut the evidence submitted by the appellant. Upon receipt of such written order, the agency must provide the Director with copies of all such documents and any rebuttal evidence within five (5) business days of receipt thereof.
- 5709.7 The Director shall issue a written decision on the appeal within five (5) business days of receipt of the record and rebuttal evidence from the agency. The decision of the Director of Government Ethics respecting the designation shall be final.
- 5709.8 [REPEALED]
- 5709.9 [REPEALED]
- 5709.10 [REPEALED]
- 5709.11 [REPEALED]

5709.12 [REPEALED]

5709.13 [REPEALED]

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 015873 (December 20, 2024).

**5710 ETHICS BOARD DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN BOARD, COMMISSION, COUNCIL, OR WORKING GROUP MEMBERS AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

5710.1 As set forth in Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1161.01(47)(I), the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability designates members of the following boards, commissions, councils, and working groups as public officials and Public Financial Disclosure Statements filers:

- (a) Board of Accountancy
- (b) Board of Acupuncture, Chiropractic, and Naturopathic Physicians
- (c) Board of Architecture, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture
- (d) Board of Barber and Cosmetology
- (e) Board of Dentistry
- (f) Board of Dietetics & Nutrition
- (g) Board of Funeral Directors
- (h) Board of Industrial Trades
- (i) Board of Massage Therapy
- (j) Board of Medicine
- (k) Board of Nursing
- (l) Board of Optometry
- (m) Board of Pharmacy
- (n) Board of Podiatry
- (o) Board of Professional Counseling
- (p) Board of Professional Engineering
- (q) Board of Psychology
- (r) Board of Real Estate Appraisers

- (s) Board of Rehabilitative Therapies
- (t) Board of Respiratory Care
- (u) Board of Social Work
- (v) Board of Veterinary Medicine
- (w) Citizen Review Panel for Child Abuse and Neglect
- (x) Combat Sports Commission
- (y) Commission on Health Equity
- (z) Commission on Re-Entry and Returning Citizen Affairs
- (aa) Construction Codes Coordinating Board
- (bb) DC Retirement Board of Trustees
- (cc) District of Columbia State Athletics Commission
- (dd) Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board
- (ee) Health Information Exchange Policy Board
- (ff) Higher Education Licensure Commission
- (gg) Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.
- (hh) Interagency Council on Homelessness
- (ii) Interagency Working Group on Autonomous Vehicles
- (jj) Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
- (kk) Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission
- (ll) Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- (mm) Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission
- (nn) Police and Firefighter's Retirement and Relief Board
- (oo) Public Defender Service Board of Trustees
- (pp) Real Estate Commission

(qq) Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission

5710.2 When a board, commission, council, or working group has District of Columbia members and non-District members only the District of Columbia members must file a Public Financial Disclosure Statement with the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 011602 (September 27, 2024); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 73 DCR 00666 (January 23, 2026).

**5800 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

5800.1 The provisions of this chapter shall establish the procedures for the filing of registration forms for lobbyists pursuant to the authority set forth in the Subtitle E of the Government Ethics Act of 2011 (Ethics Act), Title II of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01 *et seq.* (2012 Supp.)).

5800.2 A person shall register as a lobbyist with the Director of Government Ethics (the Director) by filing the Lobbyist Registration Form, under the following circumstances:

- (a) Receives compensation of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more in any three (3) consecutive calendar month period for lobbying;
- (b) Receives compensation from more than one (1) source which totals two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more in any three (3) consecutive month period for lobbying; or
- (c) Expends funds of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more in any three (3) consecutive calendar month period for lobbying.

5800.3 The registration for lobbyists shall be three hundred fifty dollars (\$350).

5800.4 The registration for lobbyists who lobby solely for nonprofit organizations shall be one hundred dollars (\$100).

5800.5 The Lobbyist Registration Form shall include the following information:

- (a) Registrant's name, permanent address and temporary address, if any, while lobbying;
- (b) Name and address of each person designated to lobby on behalf of the registrant;
- (c) Name, address, and nature of the business of any person who compensates the registrant and the terms of the compensation;
- (d) Identification, by formal designation if known, of matters on which the registrant expects to lobby; and
- (e) Registrant's verification under oath of the required information; provided, that if the registrant is not an individual, an authorized officer or agent of the registrant (other than the lobbyist retained by contract to provide lobbying services) shall sign the form.

5800.6 A lobbyist shall file a separate registration form for each person from whom he or she receives compensation for lobbying.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 11954 (August 16, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 008211 (July 25, 2025).

**5801 EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

5801.1 A person shall be exempt from the registration requirements of § 5800 if that person is any of the following:

- (a) A public official, or an employee of the United States acting in an official capacity;
- (b) A publisher or working member of the press, radio, or television who, in the ordinary course of business, disseminates news or editorial comment to the general public;
- (c) Any candidate, member or member-elect of an Advisory Neighborhood Commission; or
- (d) Any entity specified in D.C. Official Code § 47-1802.01(4) whose activities do not include lobbying, the result of which shall inure to the financial gain or benefit of the entity.

5801.2 Lobbying activities shall not include:

- (a) Appearing or presenting written testimony, on his or her own behalf, or is represented by an attorney, in an informal or formal rule-making, rate making or adjudicatory hearing before an executive agency or the Tax Assessor;
- (b) Providing information in response to written inquiries by an executive agency, the Council of the District of Columbia or any public official;
- (c) Inquiries only as to the status of specific actions by an executive agency or the Council of the District of Columbia;
- (d) Testifying before, or submitting written testimony to, a committee of the Council of the District of Columbia, or the Council, in a proceeding for which there is a public record or testimony submitted for inclusion in the public record;
- (e) Communications through a newspaper, television, or radio of general circulation or a publication whose primary audience is the organization's membership; or
- (f) Conveying communications, indirectly or directly, by a bona fide political party, as defined in Section 101 of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01 et seq. (2012 Supp.)).

5801.3 A person, who may be exempt from the registration requirements of this chapter, may be a registrant for other purposes pursuant to the Act; provided, that the activity of the person shall not constitute a conflict of interest as described in Section 223 of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.23 (2012 Supp.)).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 008211 (July 25, 2025).

**5802           ACTIVITY REPORTS**

5802.1           Each registrant shall file an activity report, on a form prescribed by the Director, for each person from whom compensation is received during the reporting period.

5802.2           Each activity report shall include the following:

- (a)     A complete and current statement of the information required to be supplied pursuant to § 5800;
- (b)     Total expenditures on lobbying broken down into the following categories:
  - (i)     Office expenses;
  - (ii)    Advertising and publications;
  - (iii)   Compensation to others;
  - (iv)    Personal sustenance, lodging, and travel, if compensated; and
  - (v)     Other expenses;
- (c)     Each expenditure of \$50 or more shall also be itemized by the date, name, and address of the recipient, and the amount and purpose of the expenditure;
- (d)     Each political expenditure, loan, gift, honorarium, or contribution of \$50 or more made by the registrant or anyone acting on behalf of the registrant to benefit an official in the legislative or executive branch, a member of his or her staff or household, or a campaign or testimonial committee established for the benefit of the official, shall be itemized by date, beneficiary, amount, and circumstances of the transaction, including the aggregate of all expenditures that are less than \$50;
- (e)     Each official in the executive or legislative branch and any member of the official's staff, including personal and committee staff, who has a business relationship or a professional services relationship with the registrant shall be identified by name and the nature of the business relationship with the registrant;
- (f)     Each official in the executive or legislative branch with whom the registrant has had written or oral communications, including electronic mail, text messages, or any other form of communication, during the reporting periods related to lobbying activities conducted by the registrant shall also be included in the report, identifying:

- (i) The official with whom the communication was made;
  - (ii) The specific date on which the communication was made to a specific official;
  - (iii) The type of communication; and
  - (iv) The nature and purpose of communication;
- (g) Each person to whom the registrant has given compensation to lobby on his or her behalf shall also be listed in the report; and
- (h) All bundled contributions, as defined in D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01, forwarded or arranged to be forwarded from one or more persons, including:
- (i) The name of each contributor;
  - (ii) Address, and employer of each person from whom the contributions were received, and
  - (iii) The name of the candidate or committee for whom the contributions were collected.
- (i) A registrant shall file a termination statement to indicate that there will be no further lobbying activity. Failure to file a termination will result in the registrant remaining active and subject to activity reporting and registration renewal required by this section.

5802.3 Each registrant shall obtain and preserve all accounts, bills, receipts, books, papers, and documents necessary to substantiate the activity reports required to be made pursuant to this section for five (5) years from the date of filing of the report containing these items. These materials shall be made available for inspection upon requests by the Director after reasonable notice.

5802.4 Each registrant who does not file a report required by this section for a given period is presumed not to be receiving or expending funds that are required to be reported under this section.

5802.5 A registrant shall exclude from activity reports any transactions related to the registrant's exempt status, if any, under § 5801.

5802.6 No later than ten (10) days after a registrant files a registration form with the Director he or she shall publish on the Board's website a summary of all information required to be submitted under this section.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 11870 (August 28, 2015); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 008211 (July 25, 2025).

**5803 LOBBYIST PROGRAM FILING DEADLINES**

- 5803.1 Each registrant shall file a Lobbyist Registration Form at the following times:
- (a) No later than fifteen (15) days after becoming a lobbyist; and
  - (b) On or before January 15th of each year thereafter.
- 5803.2 Each registrant shall file lobbyist Activity Reports for the previous three (3) month period each year on the following dates:
- (a) January 15th, for the period covering October 1st through December 31st;
  - (b) April 15th, for the period covering January 1st through March 31st;
  - (c) July 15th, for the period covering April 1st through June 30th; and
  - (d) October 15th, for the period covering July 1st through September 30th.
- 5803.3 Lobbyist Activity Reports shall be filed in electronic format at the Board website and shall be considered timely if filed by midnight on the date due.
- 5803.4 Lobbyist Registration forms filed on or before January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year shall be filed in electronic format on the Board website and will be considered timely if filed by midnight on the date due.
- 5803.5 First-time Lobbyist Registration forms filed pursuant to Subsection 5803.1(a) of this section shall be filed electronically at the Board website and shall be considered timely if filed by midnight on the date due.
- 5803.6 A lobbyist may request a waiver of the requirement to electronically file a Lobbyist Registration form or a Lobbyist Activity Report. Waiver requests shall be submitted in writing, to the Director, no later than midnight on January 1st for January Lobbyist Registration and January Lobbyist Activity report filings; no later than April 1st for April Lobbyist Activity Report filings, no later than July 1st for July Lobbyist Activity Report filings; and no later than October 1st for October Lobbyist Activity Report filings
- 5803.7 The Director may grant a waiver of the requirement to file electronically for good cause shown as to why the Lobbyist is unable to file electronically as follows:
- (a) A waiver granted by the Director shall be in writing and provided to the requester.
  - (b) If the waiver is granted, the filings shall be filed in hard copy, in person or

by first class mail. The filing shall be deemed timely filed if received in the office of the Board no later than 5:00 pm on the date due.

- (c) A denial of the waiver of the requirement to file electronically is appealable to the Board. An appeal is timely filed if submitted to the Board Chairperson and the Director, in writing, in hard copy or electronically, no later than two (2) business days after the date of the Director's decision. The decision of the Board is final and shall be provided in writing to the requester.
- (d) The Director may consider the following good cause factors when deliberating on such matters:
  - (1) Physical impairment, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
  - (2) Computer illiteracy, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
  - (3) Complete lack of access to a computer or other technological device; or
  - (4) Inability to gain access to the e-filing web portal due to technological error or a permanent lack of log-in credentials.
- (e) The Board may consider the following good cause factors when deliberating on such matters:
  - (1) Physical impairment, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
  - (2) Computer illiteracy, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
  - (3) Complete lack of access to a computer or other technological device;
  - (4) Inability to gain access to the e-filing web portal due to technological error or a permanent lack of log-in credentials; or
  - (5) Other factors or extenuating circumstances.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 11866 (August 28, 2015); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 012997 (November 21, 2025).

**5804            LIMITATIONS ON LOBBYING AND PROHIBITED  
ACTIVITY**

- 5804.1            No registrant or their representative shall offer, give, or cause to be given a gift or service to an official in the legislative or executive branch or a member of his or her staff that exceeds \$100 in value in the aggregate in any calendar year. This limitation shall not be construed to restrict in any manner contributions authorized in Sections 333, 334, and 338 of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1163.33, 1-1163.34 and 1-1163.38 (2012 Supp.)).
- 5804.2            No legislative or executive branch official or staff shall solicit or accept anything of value in violation of Subsection (a) of this section.
- 5804.3            No person shall knowingly or willfully make or cause to be made any false or misleading statement or misrepresentation of the facts relating to pending administrative decisions or legislative actions to any official in the legislative or executive branch.
- 5804.4            No person shall, knowing a document to contain a false statement relating to pending administrative decisions or legislative actions, cause a copy of the document to be transmitted to an official in the legislative or executive branch without notifying the official in writing of the truth.
- 5804.5            No information copied from registration forms and activity reports required by this title or from lists compiled from such forms and reports shall be sold or utilized by any person for the purpose of soliciting campaign contributions or selling tickets to a testimonial or similar fundraising affair or for any commercial purpose.
- 5804.6            No public official shall be employed as a lobbyist while acting as a public official, except as provided in Section 228 of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.28 (2012 Supp.)).
- 5804.7            No lobbyist or registrant or person acting on behalf of the lobbyist or registrant, shall provide legal representation, or other professional services, to a legislative or executive branch official, or their staff, below the cost that the lobbyist or registrant would routinely bill for the representation or service in the marketplace.
- 5804.8            Notwithstanding § 5804.7, a nonprofit organization that routinely provides legal representation or other services to clients at no cost may provide such representation or services to such client when doing so serves the purposes for

which such services are routinely provided, and the representation and services are not provided by a lobbyist or registrant.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 008211 (July 25, 2025).

**5805 LOBBYIST FINES AND PENALTIES**

5805.1 The Director of Government Ethics may refer to the United States Attorney for prosecution any person who willfully and knowingly violates Subtitle E of the Ethics Act. Penalties for violations include a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or imprisonment for not more than twelve (12) months, or both.

5805.2 In addition to any penalty available under § 5805.1, any person convicted of a violation under that Subsection may, at the discretion of the Board, be prohibited from serving as a lobbyist for a period of three years from the date of the conviction.

5805.3 Any person who files a lobbyist activity report or registration form in an untimely manner shall be assessed a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) per day up to sixty (60) days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) that the report or registration form is late. This civil penalty shall be imposed as a ministerial matter by the Director of Government Ethics. Upon petition, the Ethics Board may waive the penalty for good cause shown.

- (a) A District of Columbia registered lobbyist may request a waiver of fines imposed by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability.
- (b) Fine waiver requests should be submitted in writing to the Office of Government Ethics.
- (c) The Board may consider the following good cause factors when deliberating on such matters:
  - (1) The filer's history of compliance regarding the timely filing of lobbyist registration forms and lobbyist activity reports in previous reporting periods;
  - (2) Proof of complete power or technological failure at the lobbyist's office location;
  - (3) A destructive act of nature or extremely inclement weather, which prevents the lobbyist from accessing the information needed to complete such reports for a prolonged period of time or on the day of the submission deadline;
  - (4) Proof of technological failure or error on the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability's lobbyist e-filing web portal;
  - (5) Proof that the lobbyist was substantially misinformed about lobbyist deadlines and/or procedures by the Office of Government Ethics;

- (6) Pending legal or ethical question(s) before the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, the outcome of which may have a direct impact on the lobbyist's responses in the required filings;
- (7) Procedural or administrative error on the part of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability; or
- (8) Other factors or extenuating circumstances.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 008211 (July 25, 2025); as corrected by Errata Notice published at 73 DCR 005902 (April 10, 2026).

**5900**      **APPLICABILITY**

5900.1      The provisions of this chapter shall establish the procedures for non-public, informal admonitions and for negotiated dispositions, authorized by Section 221(a)(4) of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective February 22, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-75; D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.21(a)(4)).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 12222 (November 28, 2014).

**5901 NON-PUBLIC ADMONITIONS**

5901.1 The Director of Government Ethics may impose a non-public, informal admonition for low-level violations of the Code of Conduct, including or similar to the following:

- (a) A one-time, minor misuse of government property;
- (b) A time and leave issue, where it is not habitual and did not have a specific harmful impact;
- (c) A non-uniform application of a regulation or policy by a supervisor, where it is not a regular occurrence and was not for an unlawful purpose;
- (d) A relatively minor action based, at least in part, on advice or guidance sought in good faith from another, such as a supervisor, and given in good faith, though erroneous; or
- (e) Any minor, incidental ethics violation where the person made amends and rectified the situation.

5901.2 Respondents who receive a non-public, informal admonition imposed by the Director of Government Ethics may request the Director to reconsider the imposition of a non-public, informal admonition by submitting a written application therefore within fifteen (15) days of being served with the admonition. Except for good cause shown, the Director shall not review any late-filed application.

5901.3 An application for reconsideration shall include the following items and information:

- (a) A detailed statement that respondent did not commit the conduct at issue or a detailed statement explaining why the conduct at issue does not violate the Code of Conduct;
- (b) Any evidence supporting respondent's statement; and
- (c) The names and contact information of any fact witnesses who may be able to provide relevant and material evidence regarding the conduct at issue or the circumstances surrounding the conduct.

5901.4 All the materials required by § 5901.3 shall be submitted with the application for reconsideration. The Director of Government Ethics is not required to accept materials submitted subsequent to the filing of the application except upon a showing of good cause by respondent. The decision of the Director not to review

items and information submitted by respondent is not appealable to the Ethics Board.

- 5901.5 The Director of Government Ethics shall respond, in writing, with a determination on the request for reconsideration within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the application; provided, that, if the Director accepts any late-filed item or piece of information as provided in § 5901.4, he or she shall determine the request for reconsideration within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the last-filed item or piece of information.
- 5901.6 If the Director of Government Ethics requires additional time to determine a request for reconsideration for any reason other than as provided in § 5901.5, he or she shall notify respondent, in writing, of the need for an additional thirty (30) to ninety (90) days to reach a determination of the request.
- 5901.7 Respondent may appeal the denial of a request for reconsideration to the Ethics Board. The appeal shall be in writing, set forth the specific reasons why the respondent disagrees with the denial, and shall be filed with the Ethics Board within fifteen (15) days of service of the denial on respondent.
- 5901.8 The Ethics Board shall consider on appeal only the items and information that were part of the Director of Government Ethic's final determination of the request for reconsideration.
- 5901.9 Within sixty (60) days after the filing of the appeal, the Ethics Board shall render its decision, which shall set forth the reasons for the decision and, if the Director's denial of reconsideration is upheld, shall also instruct respondent to refer to § 5404 to determine his or her right to appeal.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 12222 (November 28, 2014).

**5902 NEGOTIATED DISPOSITIONS**

- 5902.1 A violation of the Code of Conduct may result in the negotiated disposition of a matter offered by the Director of Government Ethics, and accepted by respondent, subject to approval by the Ethics Board.
- 5902.2 The Director of Government Ethics or respondent can initiate a negotiated disposition at any point after an investigation has been opened by the Director and prior to the issuance of a final Order of the Ethics Board.
- 5902.3 A negotiated disposition shall be drafted by the Director of Government Ethics, who may, in his or her sole discretion, share the draft with respondent for any comments or suggested revisions. The decision of the Director of Government Ethics not to share a draft negotiated disposition with respondent for comments and changes is not appealable to the Ethics Board.
- 5902.4 The Director of Government Ethics and respondent may engage in discussions, including face-to-face meetings, telephone conversations, email exchanges, and other methods of communication, as often as necessary to negotiate a disposition.
- 5902.5 In the event that discussions between the Director of Government Ethics and respondent do not lead to a finalized negotiated disposition, the following shall be inadmissible as evidence in an open and adversarial hearing before the Ethics Board in the same matter:
- (a) The fact that a negotiated disposition had been initiated or discussed; and
  - (b) Any oral statements of fact or admissions made by respondent to the Director solely during the discussions related to a negotiated disposition.
- 5902.6 In the event that discussions between the Director of Government Ethics and respondent do not lead to a finalized negotiated disposition, any documents provided by or on behalf of respondent to the Director shall not satisfy respondent's discovery obligations in the event that a hearing notice is issued to respondent by the Ethics Board in the same matter.
- 5902.7 In the event that discussions between the Director of Government Ethics and respondent do not lead to a finalized negotiated disposition, any documents provided by or on behalf of respondent to the Director may be used by the Director in an open and adversarial hearing before the Ethics Board in the same matter.
- 5902.8 A negotiated disposition of a matter shall be subject to approval by the Ethics Board.

- 5902.9 Prior to the Ethics Board's approval of a negotiated disposition, respondent shall not communicate with the Ethics Board *ex parte* on any substantive matters related to the negotiated disposition, or appear before the Ethics Board in closed session regarding the negotiated disposition without the express leave of the Ethics Board.
- 5902.10 Prior to the Ethics Board's approval of a negotiated disposition, the Ethics Board may, in its sole discretion, grant respondent's request to appear before it in open session on any substantive matter related to the negotiated disposition; provided, that respondent specify, in writing, the reason for the appearance request. The decision of the Ethics Board to deny respondent's request to appear before it in an open session on any substantive matter related to the negotiated dispositions is not a final order of the Ethics Board and is not appealable to D.C. Superior Court.
- 5902.11 The document memorializing a negotiated disposition shall include the following:
- (a) A summary of the facts that show, by substantial evidence, respondent's violation of those provisions of the Code of Conduct set forth in the negotiated disposition;
  - (b) All penalties agreed upon by the Director of Government Ethics and respondent;
  - (c) A provision that any fine or restitution payable by respondent shall be due and owing at the time the negotiated disposition is approved by the Ethics Board; provided, that the Director of Government Ethics and respondent may agree that any fine or restitution be paid in certain installments over a period not to exceed one (1) year from the date of the Board's approval; and
  - (d) The terms of any expungement provision; and
  - (e) Any other provisions as may be agreed upon by the Director of Government Ethics and respondent so as to fully and fairly reflect the terms of the negotiated disposition.
- 5902.12 A negotiated disposition may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following sanctions:
- (a) Fines of not more than \$5,000 per violation or three (3) times the amount of an unlawful contribution, expenditure, gift, honorarium, or receipt of outside income for each violation;
  - (b) Fines of not more than \$25,000 for a violation of the Code of Conduct that substantially threatens the public trust;

- (c) Public censure;
- (d) Public reprimand;
- (e) Public admonition;
- (f) Non-public, informal admonition;
- (g) Community service; provided, that the nature of the community service, the required number of service hours, the time period in which the required service hours are to be performed, and the location at (or the entity through which) the service is to be performed shall be specified in the negotiated disposition and that the information provided by respondent to show completion of the community service be verifiable by the Director of Government Ethics;
- (h) Restitution; provided, that the amount of restitution, the identity of the recipient of the restitution, and the form of respondent's proof of payment shall be specified in the negotiated disposition;
- (i) Remediation; or
- (j) Any other sanction or penalty, as agreed to by the Director of Government Ethics and respondent.

5902.13 Respondent may request the Director of Government Ethics to include a provision in the negotiated disposition that respondent may be eligible to apply for expungement of the negotiated disposition after a specified period of time.

5902.14 The decision to include an expungement provision in the negotiated disposition and the establishment of the period of time for respondent's expungement application rest solely in the discretion of the Director of Government Ethics, is not appealable to the Ethics Board, and may be based upon one or more of the following factors:

- (a) The seriousness of respondent's conduct;
- (b) The impact of respondent's conduct on members of the public;
- (c) The deterrent value to other District government employees;
- (d) Respondent's prior and subsequent conduct;
- (e) Respondent's efforts at rehabilitation; or
- (f) Any other factors, as determined by the Director of Government Ethics.

- 5902.15 Where an expungement provision is included in the negotiated disposition, the Director of Government Ethics shall specify a period between six (6) months and one (1) year from the effective date of the negotiated disposition as the time after which respondent may apply for expungement.
- 5902.16 After the specified period, respondent may apply, in writing, for the negotiated disposition to be expunged; provided, that respondent includes with the application a written certification, signed under oath, that all of the following have occurred:
- (a) Respondent has satisfactorily fulfilled all the terms of the negotiated disposition;
  - (b) There are no new or pending allegations of ethical misconduct against respondent; and
  - (c) There have been no additional findings of ethical misconduct against respondent between the effective date of the negotiated disposition and the date of the expungement application.
- 5902.17 The Director of Government Ethics shall respond, in writing, to respondent's expungement application within fifteen (15) days of its receipt. The Director shall specify the reasons for denying an expungement application.
- 5902.18 Respondent may appeal the decision of the Director of Government Ethics to deny the expungement request to the Ethics Board. The appeal shall be in writing, set forth the specific reasons why respondent disagrees with the denial, and shall be filed with the Board within fifteen (15) days of service of the denial on respondent.
- 5902.19 Within sixty (60) days after the filing of the appeal, the Ethics Board shall render its decision, which shall set forth the reasons for the decision and, if the Director's denial of expungement is upheld, shall also instruct respondent to refer to § 5404 to determine his or her right to appeal.
- 5902.20 Where the Director of Government Ethics, or the Ethics Board on appeal, grants respondent's expungement application, the document memorializing the negotiated disposition shall be removed from the Ethics Board's website and, along with any other documents in the possession of the Director or the Board concerning the expunged matter, shall be retained by the Director of Government Ethics, but treated as non-public confidential documents.
- 5902.21 Except as provided in §§ 5902.22 and 5902.23, responses to inquiries for, or concerning the existence of, records that have been expunged will be: "No records are available."

- 5902.22 Expunged records will be available, upon written request, to any court, prosecutor, or law enforcement agency for any lawful purpose concerning the investigation or prosecution of any offense.
- 5902.23 Expunged records will not be available to any person, entity, or government agency for the purpose of making employment decisions, unless the records are demanded by a lawfully issued administrative, grand jury, or court-ordered subpoena.
- 5902.24 The Director of Government Ethics will take no action to remove references to, or records concerning, an expunged matter that are in the possession of other persons, entities, government agencies, or the news media, from private or public access.
- 5902.25 A negotiated disposition, except where the result is a non-public, informal disposition, shall be made available to the public by posting on the Ethics Board's website within thirty (30) days after the Board's approval.
- 5902.26 The Director of Government Ethics, in his or her sole discretion, may redact any negotiated disposition before posting to prevent the public disclosure of confidential or protected information, such as respondent's home address, the full names of persons other than respondent, Social Security numbers, and medical information. The decisions of the Director of Government Ethics regarding redactions are not appealable to the Ethics Board.
- 5902.27 A negotiated disposition that has been approved by the Ethics Board shall operate as a final order of the Ethics Board.
- 5902.28 Respondent's acceptance of a negotiated disposition shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal the negotiated disposition upon its approval by the Ethics Board.
- 5902.29 Upon a determination that respondent has breached the terms of a negotiated disposition, the Director of Government Ethics may do the following:
- (a) Allow respondent to cure the breach and continue with the terms of the negotiated disposition;
  - (b) Recommend that the Ethics Board nullify the negotiated disposition and hold an open and adversarial hearing on the matter; or
  - (c) Seek authorization from the Ethics Board to file, on the Board's behalf, a petition in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for enforcement of any civil penalty provided for in the negotiated disposition.

- 5902.30 The Director of Government Ethics' determination that respondent has breached the terms of the negotiated disposition is appealable to the Ethics Board:
- (a) Respondent shall file such appeal with the Ethics Board within 30 days of notification that Respondent is in breach of the negotiated disposition; and
  - (b) Respondent may provide any pertinent materials for review by the Ethics Board.
- 5902.31 Respondent's acceptance of a negotiated disposition shall be deemed a waiver of any statute of limitation defenses in the event that the Ethics Board decides to hold an open and adversarial hearing on the matter as a result of respondent's breach.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 12222 (November 28, 2014).

**5999**            **DEFINITIONS**

5999.1            The terms and phrases used in this chapter shall have the meanings set forth in the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011 (“Ethics Act”), effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code § 1-1161.01), and this section, unless the text or context of the particular section, subsection, or paragraph provides otherwise.

**Ethics Board** – the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, established by Section 202 of the Ethics Act (D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.02).

**Expunged** - records of a particular matter retained by the Director of Government Ethics and that are closed against the inspection of their contents.

**Document** – writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, electronic records, and any other data compilations from which information can be obtained or translated, if necessary, through detection devices into reasonably usable form.

**Respondent** – the person who is the subject of an investigation, enforcement action, non-public, informal admonition, or a negotiated disposition.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 12222 (November 28, 2014).

**9900 DEFINITIONS**

9900.1 The terms and phrases used in this title shall have the meanings set forth in the Election Act, the Ethics Act, and this section unless the text or context of the particular chapter, section, subsection, or paragraph provides otherwise.

**Activity** - acts or functions of an agency or its authorized agent and the methods of performing them.

**Address** - personal residence, principal place of business, campaign office, political committee office, and constituent-service program office.

**Administrative action** – the execution of policies relating to persons or things as previously authorized, or required by official action of the agency, adopted at an open meeting of the agency. The term does not include the deliberation of agency business or taking official action. Examples of administrative action include the review of an agenda, setting witness testimony time limitations, and other such procedural discussions.

**Adversely affected** – harm caused by an administrative action for which redress is necessary or required.

**Affidavit** – a written statement sworn to by the affiant before a notary or officer authorized to administer oaths, which attests to the truth of the stated written matter.

**Aggrieved party** – one who has been directly and detrimentally harmed by the outcome of an administrative decision or action.

**Anything of value** - related to the monetary worth of something.

**Authorized committee** – a principal campaign committee or any other political committee designated and authorized by a candidate, on the Statement of Candidacy Form, to support the candidate for election, receive contributions, or make expenditures on behalf of such candidate.

**Authorized officer or agent** - one who has the actual or apparent authority to bind the principal.

**Ballot** - a sheet of paper, or electronic card, filmstrip, or other device on which votes are recorded and stored. See also, “official ballot.”

**Ballot card** – see “ballot.”

**Ballot measure** – a specific category of ballot question, including initiatives, referenda, and recalls.

**Ballot question** – a direct vote in which the electorate is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal, including ballot measures (initiatives, referenda, and recalls) and Charter Amendments.

**Base amount** - means the amount a participating candidate in the Fair Elections Program is eligible to receive as a lump-sum payment.

**Board** - the District of Columbia Board of Elections, under Title III of the “Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011.”

**Board Employee** - as distinguished from an “election worker,” an individual who is employed by the District of Columbia Board of Elections to perform personal services for the Board as either a permanent, temporary, intermittent, or trainee employee and includes employees on leave, leave without pay, or on furlough or leave of absence for educational purposes.

**Board’s office** – the Board’s principal place of business, and for purposes of registration only, any voter registration agency (VRA) or early voting center location that the Board shall designate.

**Bundling** – the combining of one or more contributions by different donors to make a single contribution to a candidate for public office or to support an initiative, referendum, or recall measure in the District of Columbia.

**Business** - any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, nonprofit corporation, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint stock, trust, or any legal entity through which business is conducted, whether for profit or not.

**Campaign Finance Act** – the Campaign Finance Act of 2011 under Title III of the “Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011,” as amended.

**Candidate** - an individual who seeks election to public office, whether or not the individual is nominated or elected:

- (a) Obtained or authorized any other person to obtain election to public office;
- (b) Received contributions or made expenditures, or has given consent to any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures, with a view to bringing about the individual's election to public office; or
- (c) Knows, or has reason to know, that any other person has received contributions or made expenditures for that purpose, and has not notified

that person in writing to cease receiving contributions or making expenditures for that purpose; provided, that an individual shall not be deemed a candidate if the individual notifies each person who has received contributions or made expenditures that the individual is only testing the waters, has not yet made any decision whether to seek election to public office.

**Candidate for election** - an individual who has won a party primary; or who has survived the challenge period (D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.08(o) and 1-1101.01(2) (2016 Repl. & 2019 Supp.)) after filing a petition to have his or her name printed directly on the general election ballot.

**Candidate for nomination** - an individual who is seeking to win a party primary; or an individual who is seeking ballot access in a general or special election by having registered voters sign a nominating petition to have the candidate's name printed directly on the ballot.

**Chairman** – the Chairman of the District of Columbia Board of Elections.

**Close of business** - 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding District of Columbia legal holidays, unless otherwise indicated in this title.

**Commingling** - the improper mixing of personal and campaign or other funds donated for a specific or limited purpose.

**Committee** – an organized group consisting of a chairman and treasurer engaged for one of the following purposes:

- (a) to nominate, elect, or defeat a candidate for public office;
- (b) to solicit, accept, and expend funds to defray the costs of attorney fees, on behalf of a public officer;
- (c) to solicit, accept and expend funds for the transition of the Mayor or Chairman of the Council;
- (d) to explore or test the feasibility of an individual's viability as a candidate for public office in the District of Columbia;
- (e) to plan, raise, and expend funds for inaugural celebration for a new Mayor; or
- (f) to qualify an initiative, referendum, or recall measure for ballot access.

**Complainant** – one who alleges a violation of District of Columbia campaign finance law or regulation.

**Constituent Service Fund** – monetary resources authorized by law for use by the Mayor, Chairman and members of the DC Council to provide certain services to benefit the citizens of the District of Columbia.

**Contest** - the aggregate of candidates who run against each other among themselves for a particular nomination or number of nominations, or a particular office or number of offices. The write-in options for each of the positions to be filled by the election are also part of the contest.

**Contested election** – an election for a seat for a covered office for which there are at least two (2) candidates, at least one of whom is a participating candidate in the Fair Elections Program.

**Contribution** – means:

- (a) A gift, subscription (including any assessment, fee, or membership dues), loan (except a loan made in the regular course of business by a business engaged in the business of making loans), advance, or deposit of money or anything of value (including contributions in cash or in kind), made for the purpose of financing, directly or indirectly:
  - (1) The election of a candidate;
  - (2) Any operations of a political committee, political action committee or independent expenditure committee; or
  - (3) The campaign to obtain signatures on any initiative, referendum, or recall measure, or to bring about the ratification or defeat of any initiative, referendum, or recall measure:
  
- (b) A transfer of funds between:
  - (1) Political committees and political action committees;
  - (2) A political committee and a political action committee; or
  - (3) Candidates;
  
- (c) The payment, by any person other than a candidate, a political committee, political action committee, or independent expenditure committee of compensation for the personal; and
  
- (d) An expenditure that is coordinated with a public official, a political committee affiliated with a public official or an agent of any person described in this subparagraph.

**Coordinate or coordination:**

- (a) Means to take an action, including making a contribution or an expenditure:
  - (1) At the explicit or implicit direction, request, or suggestion of a public official, a political committee affiliated with a public official, or an agent of a public official or a political committee affiliated with a public official; or
  - (2) In cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or with other material involvement of a public official, a political committee affiliated with a public official, or an agent of a public official or a political committee affiliated with a public official.
  
- (b) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that a contribution or an expenditure is coordinated with a public official, a political committee affiliated with a public official, or an agent of a public official or the official's political committee, if:
  - (1) The contribution or expenditure is made based on information that the public official, the official's political committee, or the official's agent, provided to the particular person making the contribution or expenditure about its needs or plans, including information about campaign messaging or planned expenditures;
  - (2) The person making the contribution or expenditure retains the professional services of a person who also provides the public official, the official's political committee or agent with professional services related to campaign or fundraising strategy;
  - (3) The person making the contribution or expenditure is a political committee, political action committee, or independent expenditure committee that was established or is or was staffed in a leadership role by an individual who:
    - (A) Works or previously worked in a senior position or in an advisory capacity on the public official's staff or on the public official's principal campaign committee; or
    - (B) Who is a member of the public official's immediate family; or
    - (C) The contribution or expenditure is made for the purpose of financing, directly or indirectly, the election of a candidate or the candidate's political committee and that candidate has fundraised for the person making the expenditure.

**Coordinated expenditure** – made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with a candidate or party based on certain conduct or interactions occurring between the candidate or political committee and spender. An expenditure is deemed coordinated if it meets at least one “conduct” standard and one “content” standard.

**Council** – the Council of the District of Columbia.

**Covered office** - the office of Mayor, Attorney General, Chairman of the Council, member of the Council, and member of the State Board of Education.

**Days** - calendar days, unless stated otherwise.

**Debate** - the public, moderated, reciprocal discussion of issues conducted by the Director of Campaign Finance.

**Director** – the Director of Campaign Finance of the Board of Elections.

**D.C. Official Code** - the 2001 Edition of the Code, as amended.

**Directly related** - immediately or approximately connected to, allied to, or affiliated with.

**Domestic partner** – the same meaning as provided in D.C. Official Code § 32-701(3).

**Duly registered voter** - a registered voter who resides at the address listed on the Board's records.

**Effective date (of registration)** – the date from which a registered voter's information is valid.

**Elected officials** - the following local public officials:

- (a) The Delegate to the United States House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, as provided for in the District of Columbia Delegate Act of 1970, effective September 22, 1970, as amended (84 Stat. 848, Pub. L. 91-405; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-401, *et seq.* (2016 Repl.));
- (b) The Mayor of the District of Columbia, as provided for in D.C. Official Code §§ 1-204.21 and 1-204.22 (2016 Repl.);
- (c) The Chairperson and Members of the Council of the District of Columbia, as provided for in D.C. Official Code § 1-204.01 (2016 Repl.);
- (d) The Members of the State Board of Education, as provided for in D.C. Official Code § 38-2651 (2019 Repl.);
- (e) Electors of President and Vice President of the United States and the officials of political parties as provided for in D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.01 (2016 Repl.); and

- (f) Members of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, as provided for in D.C. Official Code § 1-309.06 (2016 Repl. & 2019 Supp.) and § 1-1001.02(13) (2016 Repl. & 2019 Supp.).

**Election** – means a primary, general, or special election held in the District of Columbia to nominate an individual as candidate for election to office, to elect a candidate for office, or to decide an initiative, referendum, or recall measure, including a convention or caucus of a political party held to nominate such candidate.

**Election Act** - the District of Columbia Election Act, effective August 12, 1955, as amended (69 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.01, *et seq.* (2016 Repl.)), which governs the administration of all elections in the District of Columbia.

**Election cycle** - means:

- (a) The period beginning on the day after the date of the most recent general election for a seat for a covered office and ending on the date of the next general election for that seat for the covered office; or
- (b) In the case of a special election for a seat for a covered office, the period beginning on the day the special election is called and ending on the date of the special election for that seat for the covered office.

**Election observer** – an individual who has received proper credentials from the Board to witness the administration of elections, including members of nonpartisan or bipartisan, domestic or international organizations, who are not affiliated with a candidate or ballot measure.

**Election official** – any Board employee or election worker.

**Election worker** – an individual who is employed by the District of Columbia Board of Elections on those dates when elections and early voting are conducted in the District of Columbia or any subsequent dates upon which the counting or recounting of ballots occurs and includes, but is not limited to site coordinators, election workers, counters, or area representatives.

**Election year** - the calendar year in which there is held an election, where a political committee is engaged in promoting or opposing a political party, nomination or election of an individual to office, or any initiative, referendum, or recall measure.

**Electronic filing** - as provided by the Office of Campaign Finance in Chapters 30-40, the procedure by which filers may process required forms online through the world wide web at [www.ocf.dc.gov](http://www.ocf.dc.gov).

**Eligible candidate** - an individual who is not ineligible to be a candidate pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.15(b) (2016 Repl.) and who meets or is capable of meeting those statutory requirements necessary to serve in a particular office by the date of the election in which he or she seeks the office.

**Employee** - unless otherwise apparent from the context, a person who performs a function of the District of Columbia government and who receives compensation for the performance of such services, or a member of a District of Columbia government board or commission, whether or not for compensation.

**Entrusted position** - an elective and public office which is a public trust in which the citizenry reposes special confidence in the officeholder for the execution of duties or services which inure to the benefit of the citizenry.

**Executive agency** - includes:

- (a) A department, agency, or office in the executive branch of the District of Columbia government under the direct administrative control of the Mayor;
- (b) The State Board of Education or any of its constituent elements;
- (c) The University of the District of Columbia or any of its constituent elements;
- (d) The Board of Elections; and
- (e) Any District of Columbia professional licensing and examining board under the administrative control of the executive branch.

**Expenditure** – is made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with a candidate or committee that includes:

- (a) A purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift or money or anything of value, made for the purpose of financing, directly, or indirectly:
  - (1) The election campaign of a candidate;
  - (2) Any operations of a political, exploratory, inaugural, transition, or legal defense committee; or

- (3) The election campaign to obtain signatures in any initiative, referendum, or recall petition, or to bring about the ratification or defeat of any initiative, referendum, or recall measure, or any operations of a political committee involved in such a campaign.
- (b) A contract, promise, or agreement, whether legally enforceable, to make an expenditure; and
- (c) A transfer of funds between political committees or between an exploratory committee and a political committee.

**Exploratory Committee** – any person, or group of persons, organized for the purpose of exploring the feasibility of an individual becoming a candidate for public office in the District of Columbia.

**Fair Elections Committee** – a political committee that only accepts contributions from:

- (a) Individuals who are District residents, which shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per individual per calendar year; or
- (b) A membership organization, if the contribution consists of membership dues paid by individuals who are District residents that do not exceed;
  - (1) The amount of membership dues actually paid per member per calendar year; and
  - (2) \$250 per member per calendar year.

**Fair Election Fund** – the fund established by D.C. Official Code § 1-1163.32i.

**Fair Elections Program** – the program to provide for publicly funded campaigns.

**Fair market value** - the fair and reasonable cash price for which the property can be sold in the market at the time of alleged violation, or at the time of filing of the financial statement.

**Fictitious ballot** – a ballot which shows the design and layout of a ballot in an upcoming election, and does not contain the names of nominees or candidates actually seeking office or ballot questions actually to appear on an official ballot.

**File, filed, and filing** – delivery in person, electronically or by mail to the OCF by 5:30 p.m. of the prescribed date.

**FOIA** - the District of Columbia Freedom of Information Act, which ensures disclosure of certain information relative to the conduct of the District of Columbia Government and its employees.

**Gift** - a payment, subscription, advance, forbearance, rendering, or deposit of money, services, or anything of value, unless consideration of equal or greater value is received.

**Government photo identification** – a card issued by the District of Columbia government that bears a photograph of the face of the voter and the voter’s current, District of Columbia residential address.

**Household** - a public official or employee and any member of his or her immediate family with whom the public official or employee resides.

**Identification** - in the case of an individual, the full name, including first name, middle name or initial, if available, last name of an individual, and full address of the principal place of residence; and in the case of partnership, committee, corporation, labor organization, and any other organization, full name and mailing address.

**Immediate family** - the spouse or domestic partner of a public official or employee and any parent, grandparent, brother, sister, or child of the public official or employee, and the spouse or domestic partner of any such parent, grandparent, brother, sister, or child.

**Inaugural Committee** – any person, or group of persons, organized for the purpose of soliciting, accepting, and expending funds and coordinating activities to celebrate the election of a new Mayor.

**Incidental expenses** - any unreimbursed payment from a volunteer’s personal funds for usual and normal local travel and subsistence expenses incident to volunteer activity.

**Income** - gross income as defined in Section 61 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC § 61).

**Independent expenditures** - an expenditure that is made for the purpose of promoting or opposing the nomination or election of a candidate; a political party, or any initiative, referendum, or recall that is not controlled by or coordinated with any public official, or any agent of a public official, including a political committee; and not a contribution to a political committee, political action committee, or candidate.

**Independent Expenditure Committee** – any committee, club, association, organization, or other group of individuals that is organized for the purpose of

making independent expenditures that is not controlled or coordinated with any public official or an agent of a public official, including a political action committee; and does not transfer or contribute to a political committee, political action committee, or a candidate.

**Individual** – a natural person.

**In-kind contribution** - a contribution of goods, services, or property by the contributor to a campaign finance committee, candidate, constituent-service program, or Statehood Fund.

**Interpretative Opinion** – a legal opinion issued by the Director of Campaign Finance concerning a proposed transaction relative to District of Columbia campaign finance law or regulation.

**Legal Defense Committee** – a person or group of person organized for the purpose of soliciting, accepting, and expending funds to defray the professional fees and costs for a public official’s legal defense to one or civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings arising directly out of the conduct of a campaign, the election process, or the performance of the public official’s governmental activities and duties.

**Legal tender** - currency and coins of the United States; ready money.

**Legislative action** - includes any activity conducted by an official in the legislative branch in the course of carrying out his or her duties as such an official, and relating to the introduction, passage, or defeat of any legislation in the Council.

**Limited Liability Company (LLC)** – is an unincorporated association established pursuant to District of Columbia Code (2001 edition), Title 29, Chapter 8, with one or more members who have limited personal liability for the debts and actions of the LLC.

**Logic and accuracy testing (“L&A testing”)** – validation of the mathematical accuracy of vote recording and tabulation equipment for internal and external consistencies.

**Made with cooperation or consultation with any candidate** - any arrangement, coordination, or direction by the candidate or his or her agent prior to the publication, distribution, display, or broadcast of the communication. An expenditure will be presumed to be so made when it is as follows:

- (a) Based on information about the candidate’s plans, projects, or needs provided to the expending person by the candidate, or by candidate’s agent, with a view toward having an expenditure made; and

- (b) Made by or through any person who is, or has been, authorized to raise or expend funds; who is, or has been, an officer of an authorized committee; or who is, or has been receiving any form of compensation or reimbursement from the candidate, the candidate's committee or agent.

**Mail-in ballot** – a physical ballot received by a registered qualified elector via mail or alternative format ballot, such as a web-based ballot, that is accessible to registered qualified electors with disabilities and absent uniformed services and overseas voters.

**Mass collections** - the receipt of contributions by a committee, candidate, or individual, at dinners, luncheons, rallies, and other fundraising events organized by a committee, candidate, or individual.

**Mass sales** - to make available for purchase by a committee, candidate, or individual, at dinners, luncheons, rallies, and other fundraising events organized by such committee, candidate, or individual, items in bulk such as political campaign pins, buttons, badges, flags, emblems, hats, banners, literature, and similar materials.

**Matching payments** – payments provided to a participating candidate in the Fair Elections Program for qualified small-dollar contributions.

**Material involvement** – means, with respect to a contribution or expenditure, any communication to or from a public official, a public official's affiliated political committee, or any agent of a public official or the public official's affiliated political committee, related to the contribution or expenditure. Material involvement includes devising or helping to devise the strategy, content, means of dissemination, or timing of the contribution or expenditure, or making any express or implied solicitation of the contribution or expenditures.

**Membership organization** – an organization that:

- (a) Is tax-exempt under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- (b) Is comprised of members who are individuals, whether or not the organization also has affiliated organizations; provided that all of the members are required as a condition of membership to pay dues at least annually in amounts predetermined by the membership organization;
- (c) Expressly solicits individuals to become members and expressly acknowledges acceptance of membership; and

- (d) Is neither a political committee nor otherwise organized for the principal purpose of promoting or opposing the nomination or election of a person to local, state, or federal public office.

**Non-postmarked** – not bearing the postal cancellation imprint on letters flats and parcels that shows the date, name, state, and ZIP Code of the post office or sectional center facility that accepted the mail.

**Non-support year** - any calendar year in which a political committee is not engaged in promoting or opposing a political party, the nomination or election of an individual to office, or any initiative, referendum, or recall measure.

**Occupation** - the principal job title or position, and type of business, or whether self-employed for the purposes of the Campaign Finance Act.

**Official ballot** – a sheet of paper, an electronic card, or another device or medium that has been approved by the Board for use during an election on which votes are recorded and stored.

**Official in the executive branch** - includes:

- (a) The Mayor;
- (b) Any officer or employee in the Executive Service;
- (c) Persons employed under the authority of D.C. Official Code §§ 1-609.01 through 1-609.03 (except § 1-609.03(a)(3)) paid at a rate of DS-13 or above in the General Schedule or equivalent compensation under the provisions of Subchapter XI of Chapter 6 of this title designated in § 1-609.08 (except paragraphs (9) and (10) of that section; or
- (d) Members of boards and commissions designated in § 1-523.01(e).

**Official in the legislative branch** - any candidate for Chairman or member of the Council in a primary, special, or general election, the Chairman or Chairman-elect or any member or member-elect of the Council, officers, and employees of the Council appointed under the authority of §§ 1-609.01 through 1-609.03 or designated in § 1-609.08.

**Official of a political party** – national committeemen and committeewomen and their alternates; delegates to conventions of political parties nominating candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States and their alternates, where permitted by party rules; such members and officials of local committees of political parties as designated by duly

authorized local committees of such parties for election, by public ballot, at large or by ward in the District of Columbia.

**Ordinary course of business** - transacting business according to customary and reasonable business practices.

**Overvote** – instance in which a voter casts a vote for a greater number of candidates or positions than the number for which he or she was lawfully entitled to vote and no vote shall be counted with respect to that office or question.

**Participating candidate** – a candidate for a seat for a covered office who is certified under § 4206.

**Particular matter** - a deliberation, decision, or action that is focused upon the interests of specific persons, or a discrete and identifiable class of persons.

**Partnership** – an association of two (2) or more persons acting as co-owners of a business for profit.

**Party** – a person or group of persons directly involved in, or having an interest at stake in the outcome of a transaction, which is the subject of a legal proceeding as a litigant.

**Party affiliation status** – for registration and registration update purposes, the elector’s choice of “Democratic Party,” “Republican Party,” “D.C. Statehood Green Party,” “Libertarian Party”, “no party (independent),” or any other minor party.

**Person** – an individual, partnership, committee, corporation, limited liability company, labor organization, or any other organization.

**Political Committee** – any proposer, individual, committee (including a principal campaign committee), club, organization, association, or other group of individuals organized for the purpose of, or engaged in promoting or opposing, the nomination or election of an individual to office, a political party, or any initiative, referendum, or recall measure.

**Political Party** – an association, committee, or other organized group of individuals who share a similar ideology concerning government policy, and which nominates a candidate for election to office in the District of Columbia.

**Political Action Committee (PAC)** – any committee, organization, or other group of individuals organized for the purpose to promote or oppose the election of a person to public office, a political party; or any initiative,

referendum, or recall that is not controlled by or coordinated with any public official or any agent of a public official, including a political action committee.

**Poll watcher** – a qualified elector who has received proper credentials from the Board to monitor voting or ballot counting activity on behalf of a qualified candidate, or proponent or opponent of a proposed initiative, referendum, recall measure, or Charter amendment.

**Postmarked** – bearing the postal cancellation imprint on letters flats and parcels that shows the date, name, state, and ZIP Code of the post office or sectional center facility that accepted the mail.

**Principal** – of a business means senior officers of that business, such as president, executive director, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, or chief financial officer. If a business is an educational institution, the term “principal” shall not include deans of that business.

**Principal Campaign Committee (PCC)** – an organized group of individuals, whose name includes the name of a clearly identified candidate, which is authorized by a candidate to cause his or her nomination or election to office in the District of Columbia.

**Principal place of business** - full name under which the business is conducted and the addresses, city, and state in which the person is employed or conducts business.

**Prohibited source** - any person that:

- (a) Has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relations with the District of Columbia government;
- (b) Conducts operations or activities that are subject to regulation by the District of Columbia government; or
- (c) Has an interest that may be favorably affected by the performance or non-performance of the employee's official responsibilities.

**Public official** - includes:

- (a) A candidate for election to public office;
- (b) Mayor, Attorney General, or Chairman of the Council;
- (c) A Representative or Senator elected pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-123;

- (d) An Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner;
- (e) A member of the State Board of Education;
- (f) A person serving as a subordinate agency head in a position designated as within the Executive Service;
- (g) A member of a board or commission listed in D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(e); and
- (h) A District of Columbia Excepted Service employee paid at a rate of Excepted Service 9 or above, or its equivalent, who makes decisions or participates substantially in areas of contracting, procurement, administration of grants or subsidies, developing policies, land use planning, inspecting, licensing, regulating, or auditing, or acts in areas of responsibility that may create a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest; and any additional employees designated by rule by the Ethics Board who make decisions or participate substantially in areas of contracting, procurement, administration of grants or subsidies, developing policies, land use planning, inspecting, licensing, regulating, or auditing, or act in areas of responsibility that may create a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest.

**Qualified elector** – a registered voter who resides at the address listed on the Board’s records.

**Qualified petition circulator** - a person who is at least 17 years of age and who will be 18 years of age on or before the next general election and is either:

- (a) A District resident; or
- (b) A resident of another jurisdiction who has registered with the Board as a petition circulator and consented to being subject to the subpoena power of the Board and the jurisdiction of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the enforcement of subpoenas without respect to the individual’s place of residence.

**Qualified registered elector** – a registered voter who resides at the address listed on the Board’s records.

**Qualified small-dollar contribution** – a deposit of money that:

- (a) Is made for the purpose of financing the nomination or election of a candidate or any operations of a political committee;

- (b) Meets the requirements of § 4205; and
- (c) Is contributed by a small-dollar contributor to a candidate seeking certification or a participating candidate in the Fair Elections Program.

**Qualifying period** – means:

- (a) For a candidate running in a primary election, the period beginning on the date after the most recent general election for a seat for the covered office that the candidate is seeking and ending on the last day to file nominating petitions for the primary election for the seat for the covered office sought;
- (b) For a candidate not running in a primary election, the period beginning on the day after the most recent general election for the seat for the covered office that the candidate is seeking and ending on the last day to file nominating petitions for the covered office sought; or
- (c) For a candidate running in a special election, the period beginning on the day the special election is called and ending on the last to file nominating petitions for the covered office sought.

**Registered qualified elector** - a registered voter who resides at the address listed on the Board's records

**Respondent** – a party to a contested matter in an administrative proceeding.

**Sample/specimen ballot** – a representation of an original official ballot used for demonstration purposes only.

**Small-dollar contributor** – an individual who:

- (a) Is a District resident; and
- (b) Contributes a qualified small-dollar contribution to a candidate seeking certification or a participating candidate in the Fair Elections Program.

**Statement of Candidacy** - a written statement, filed with the Director, declaring one's intention of becoming a candidate for election, made "under penalty of perjury" and signed by the candidate.

**Statement of Organization** – a prescribed form that identifies the name of any group of individuals, proposer, individual, club, organization, or association organized for the purpose of promoting or opposing the nomination or election of an individual to office, or promoting or opposing a political party or any initiative, referendum or recall measure, made

"under penalty of perjury" and signed by the Treasurer or a designated agent.

**Submission** – the voter’s act of returning a voted ballot to the Board.

**Surplus funds** - residual or unexpended monies remaining in a candidate, constituent-service program, Statehood Fund, or political committee account in excess of the amount necessary to defray expenses.

**Testimonial committee** - any committee, association, or organization organized and operated exclusively for the purpose of publicly acknowledging an official’s services, character, attainments, conduct, qualifications, or contributions while holding office. A testimonial committee is not a political committee.

**Timely completed** – the information given and signature made on or prior to the date required pursuant to the D.C. Official Code and the D.C. Municipal Regulations, Title 3.

**To cause to be undertaken** - an actual writing, drawn up by an executive agency, intended to initiate a rulemaking proceeding. The phrase is not intended to include discussion among members of the agency or the public prior to their submission of the writing.

**Transition Committee** – any person or group of persons organized for the purpose of soliciting, accepting or expending funds for office and personnel transition on behalf of the Mayor, Attorney General, or the Chairman of the Council.

**Transmission** – the Board’s act of sending a ballot to the voter.

**To propose legislation** - an actual written proposal signed by the head of a proposing agency and submitted to the Mayor, Council, President of the United States, or the United States Congress. It does not refer to discussion among members of the proposing agency before submission of the written request, nor does it refer to oral communications between the proposing agency and the Mayor, President, or members of the Council or the U. S. Congress.

**Treasurer** – an official of a political campaign or other committee, who is required to file a Statement of Acceptance of Treasurer with the Director of Campaign Finance, and authorized to receive contributions, to make expenditures and to file financial reports on behalf of a candidate or other committee.

**Unauthorized committee** – any organized political committee that has not been designated by a candidate for election.

**Uncontested election** – an election for a seat for a covered office for which there is only one participating candidate.

**Undervote** – an instance in which a voter casts a vote for a lesser number of candidates or positions than the number for which he was lawfully entitled to vote.

**Vote center** – a centralized polling place at which registered qualified electors may vote, regardless of their address within the District, provided that only registered qualified electors in the care and custody of the Department of Corrections may vote at Vote Centers located in Department of Corrections facilities.

**Voter registration application** – a Board-approved form that meets federal requirements pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act (“NVRA”) (42 USC §§ 1973gg, *et seq.*) and the Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”) (42 USC §§ 15301 – 15545) that a qualified elector uses to register to vote or to update voter registration information.

**Voting system** – any equipment or software used to tabulate ballots.

**Write-in nominee** - an individual whose name is written on or imprinted upon the ballot by a voter, in a primary, general, or special election and whose eligibility as a candidate in the election has not been determined by the Executive Director.

**Write-in candidate (“qualified write-in candidate”)** – as distinguished from a “write-in nominee,” an individual who is seeking nomination or election by the electorate and whose eligibility as a candidate in the election has been determined by the Executive Director.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 45 DCR 3161, 3214 (May 22, 1998); as amended at Final Rulemaking 53 DCR 3243-3244 (April 21, 2006); as amended by Emergency and Proposed Rulemaking published at 57 DCR 7725 (August 20, 2010)[EXPIRED]; as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 57 DCR 11169 (November 26, 2010); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 1402 (February 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 11864 (August 16, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 6201 (June 20, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 8118 (July 12, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 15416 (November 22, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 69 DCR 005226 (May 13, 2022); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 69 DCR 009504 (July 29, 2022); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 70 DCR 012730 (September 22, 2023).

**10400            FILING AND PRESENTATION OF COMPLAINTS**

- 10400.1            Any person who does not receive proper notice of any open meeting and or records of open meetings of a Public Body in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act (D.C. Law 18-350; D.C. Official Code §§ 2-571 *et seq.*) may submit a complaint under the provisions of this chapter. If a meeting is timely published and posted as set forth in the Open Meetings Act, the Public Body has given proper notice of a meeting.
- 10400.2            A Complainant shall submit a complaint to the Director within sixty (60) days following the date that the Complainant knew or reasonably should have known of the alleged violation. A complaint may refer to one or more open meetings.
- 10400.3            The Director may accept a Prospective Complaint that alleges the future action of a Public Body appears, to a Complainant, likely to violate the Open Meetings Act.
- 10400.4            The Director shall take reasonable steps to reach prompt conclusions on a Prospective Complaint and to minimize future violations of the Open Meetings Act.
- 10400.5            Complaints may be submitted in writing or in person at the Office of Open Government, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability by mail at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 830 South, Washington D.C. 20001; or by electronic means at [opengovoffice@dc.gov](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov). When submitting complaints by mail, the Complainant shall write “Open Meetings Act Complaint” on the outside of the envelope. Electronic complaints shall state “Open Meetings Act Complaint” in the subject line or heading of the communication. A Complainant may access and submit a complaint form on the Office of Open Government’s website, OPEN.DC.GOV.
- 10400.6            Complainants may be submitted anonymously. If the Complainant requests anonymity, the Director shall honor Complainant’s request to remain anonymous.
- 10400.7            A complaint shall include the Complainant’s name, and at least one of the following: mailing address, email address, or phone number.
- 10400.8            Complaints shall include the following details regarding the meeting complained of:
- (a)            The name of the Public Body;
  - (b)            The date of the open meeting, and
  - (c)            The specific provision(s) of the Open Meetings Act that the Complainant alleges have been violated.

If there are record(s) to substantiate the complaint, the complaint shall identify the supporting record(s) and the location of the record(s). Relevant timestamp information shall accompany audio and video records.

10400.9 The Director shall confirm receipt of a complaint within five (5) businesses days of the Director's receipt of the complaint.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10401 PROCESSING OF COMPLAINTS**

- 10401.1 The Director shall review a complaint within fourteen (14) business days and may take one or more of the following actions:
- (a) Request additional information from the Complainant or Public Body to investigate the complaint;
  - (b) Dismiss the complaint;
  - (c) Conciliate the complaint; or
  - (d) Initiate the issuance of an Advisory Opinion.
- 10401.2 A Complainant may withdraw a complaint at any time prior to the Director’s issuance of an advisory opinion. A request to withdraw the complaint shall be made in writing with “Open Meetings Act Complaint Withdrawal” on the envelope or in the subject line or heading of electronic correspondence sent to [opengovoffice@dc.gov](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).
- 10401.3 Prospective Complaints shall be processed in the same general manner as other complaints, with reasonable modifications of deadlines to provide a timely response.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10402 REVIEWS OF COMPLAINTS**

10402.1 The Director shall consider, at a minimum, the following factors when issuing findings, determinations, and conclusions under this chapter:

- (a) The nature, content, language or subject matter of the complaint;
- (b) The nature, content, language or subject matter of prior or contemporaneous complaints by the person making the complaint; and
- (c) The nature, content, language or subject matter of other verbal and written communications to any Public Body or any official of a Public Body from the person making the complaint.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10403 DISMISSALS OF COMPLAINTS**

10403.1 The Director may dismiss a complaint on one or more of the following grounds:

- (a) The complaint does not raise issues within the Director's authority under the Open Meetings Act;
- (b) The action complained of does not violate the Open Meetings Act;
- (c) The Complainant declined to provide information the Director reasonably believed necessary to evaluate the complaint (or failed to respond within thirty (30) days to such a request);
- (d) The Complainant's failure to cooperate with the investigation;
- (e) The violation committed is a technical violation of the Open Meetings Act that constitutes a harmless error that does not infringe upon the Complainant's rights under the Open Meetings Act; and
- (f) The complaint becomes moot due to action taken by the Public Body.

10403.2 The Director shall return a dismissed complaint to the Complainant with an explanation of the reason(s) for dismissal.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10404 CONCILIATIONS OF COMPLAINTS**

- 10404.1 Upon receipt of a complaint, the Director may first seek to resolve disputes through conciliation.
- 10404.2 The goal of conciliation is to arrive at an acceptable resolution of the complaint through discussion and exchange of views. The Director may only issue an Advisory Opinion on a complaint resolved through conciliation with the consent of the parties and for the sole purpose of instructing the public on the issue in dispute.
- 10404.3 In the conciliation discussion, the Director (or the Director's designee) serves as facilitator.
- 10404.4 If conciliation is not successful, the Director may dismiss the complaint, investigate further, issue an Advisory Opinion or take any other step permitted by the Open Meetings Act and in these regulations.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10405 INVESTIGATIONS OF COMPLAINTS**

- 10405.1 The Director shall complete the investigation of a complaint within a reasonable time after the Director's receipt of the complaint and any subsequent requests for information from the Complainant or Public Body.
- 10405.2 The Director shall transmit a complaint to the Public Body named in the complaint. The Public Body shall respond to the complaint within thirty (30) days of receiving notice of the complaint from the Director. If the Public Body does not respond within thirty (30) days, the Director may issue an Advisory Opinion based on the information available from the complaint and any other relevant sources. In the case of Prospective Complaints, the Director may request an earlier deadline for a response from the Public Body.
- 10405.3 The Director may grant the Public Body one extension of up to five (5) business days in which to respond to the complaint. Any subsequent extensions may only be granted with the agreement of the Complainant.
- 10405.4 The response from the Public Body shall address the complaint and any other questions raised by the Director. A response that denies one or more violations of the Open Meetings Act shall include an explanation. A response that admits one or more violations of the Open Meetings Act shall include a plan of corrective action. An individual (officer, counsel, staff) with authorization to represent the Public Body shall sign the response.
- 10405.5 The Director shall maintain the confidentiality of records of a closed meeting of a Public Body, provided they are submitted with clear markings of the portions to be kept sealed.
- 10405.6 The Public Body shall provide a copy of its response to the Director and the Complainant at the same time. The copy of the response provided to the Complainant shall omit records of a closed meeting.
- 10405.7 The Director may request further information from either the Public Body or the Complainant, to be provided within a reasonable time, and in no event less than five (5) business days from the date of the request for further information. The Director may request representatives of the Public Body and the Complainant to attend an informal conference to discuss the complaint.
- 10405.8 If it is determined after investigation that a Public Body has violated or intends to violate the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, the Director may bring a lawsuit in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for injunctive or declarative relief pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-579, without first issuing an Advisory Opinion.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10406      ADVISORY OPINIONS**

- 10406.1      Based on results of the investigation, the Director shall issue an Advisory Opinion addressing the complaint that a Public Body violated the Open Meetings Act. The Director shall issue an Advisory Opinion within thirty (30) days of the later of the following: receipt of the response from the Public Body, the last due date for any additional information requested, or the date of any informal conference.
- 10406.2      An Advisory Opinion shall explain the Director’s findings of fact and understanding of the law. Where the Director concludes there was a violation, the Advisory Opinion shall set forth corrective actions that the Public Body shall complete to avoid further legal action as set forth in an Advisory Opinion.
- 10406.3      If the corrective actions set forth in an Advisory Opinion are not taken or not completed in a timely matter, the Director may bring a lawsuit in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for injunctive or declaratory relief pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-579.
- 10406.4      The Director shall provide copies of the Advisory Opinion to the Complainant and the Public Body and shall make it available to the public by posting it on the Office of Open Government Website and by publication in the *District of Columbia Register*.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10407 PUBLIC BODY REQUESTS FOR ADVISORY OPINIONS**

- 10407.1 The Director may issue an Advisory Opinion on compliance with the Open Meetings Act on the Director’s own initiative or at the request of a Public Official or employee, pursuant to D.C. Official Code §§ 2-579(g) and 1-1162.05(c)(1).
- 10407.2 A request for an Advisory Opinion by a Public Official or employee may be submitted in writing to the Office of Open Government, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability by mail at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 830 South, Washington D.C. 20001 or by electronic mail to [opengovoffice@dc.gov](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov). Requests for Advisory Opinions submitted by mail shall include the phrase “Advisory Opinion Request” on the outside envelope. Electronic mail requests shall state “Advisory Opinion Request” in the subject line or heading of the communication.
- 10407.3 The Director may publish an Advisory Opinion upon approval of the requesting Public Official or employee. When publishing an advisory opinion, the Director shall make appropriate redactions to ensure confidentiality.
- 10407.4 The Director shall review requests from Public Officials or employees and provide notice of the Director’s intent to issue an Advisory Opinion to the requester within ten (10) business days of receiving the request. Once the Director provides notice of the intent to issue an Advisory Opinion, the Director shall issue the Advisory Opinion within thirty (30) days.
- 10407.5 A Public Official requester, employee requester, or any person aggrieved by an Advisory Opinion issued by the Director on his or her own initiative may appeal the Advisory Opinion to the Board for its consideration.
- 10407.6 The Board shall receive the request to appeal the opinion for consideration within ten (10) business days of the Director’s issuance of an Advisory Opinion. The Advisory Opinion is final and not appealable after ten (10) business days.
- 10407.7 An appeal of an Advisory Opinion to the Board for consideration shall be in writing, signed by the party making the appeal, and shall include:
- (a) A copy of the Advisory Opinion;
  - (b) A statement of circumstances, reasons or legal arguments in support of the request for consideration by the Board;
  - (c) A statement requesting that the Board take a specific action; and
  - (d) A draft Board Order.

- 10407.8 A request to appeal an Advisory Opinion to the Board for consideration shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. The request for reconsideration may be sent by U.S. mail to 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 830 South, Washington D.C. 20001 or by electronic mail to [bega@dc.gov](mailto:bega@dc.gov). Requests for reconsideration by the Board submitted by mail shall include the phrase “OMA Advisory Opinion Appeal” on the outside envelope. Electronic mail requests for reconsideration by the Board shall state “OMA Advisory Opinion Appeal” in the subject line or heading of the communication. The requester shall send a copy of the request for reconsideration of an Advisory Opinion by the Board to the Director at the same time it is sent to the Board.
- 10407.9 If the Director elects to file a response to a request to appeal an Advisory Opinion to the Board for consideration, the Director shall file the response to the Board within ten (10) business days of the Director’s receipt of a copy of the appeal.
- 10407.10 The Director may request an extension of time to file the response required by Subsection 1047.9, by sending a written request for extension of time to respond to the Board with a copy to the Public Official, employee, or party aggrieved by an Advisory Opinion that the Director has issued on his or her own initiative. The request for extension of time shall state the length of the extension and the reasons for the extension. The Board shall receive the request for extension of time within seven (7) business days of the Board’s receipt of a request for reconsideration of an Advisory Opinion. The Board (or its designee) shall respond to the Director’s request for an extension of time within seven (7) business days and provide a copy of the response to the Public Body member, employee, or aggrieved party.
- 10407.11 The Board shall issue a written decision on the appeal as soon as practicable. The Advisory Opinion is binding unless and until the Board disapproves of it in writing. If the Board does not issue a written decision on the appeal within six months of the Board’s receipt of the request for reconsideration of an Advisory Opinion, the Advisory Opinion is deemed approved. The Board’s decision is final and not subject to further appeal.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10408        RULES OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

10408.1        Unless otherwise provided by law or its own by-laws, a public body, except for the District of Columbia Council, may conduct public meetings using the rules of parliamentary procedure set forth in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. A Public Body shall be clear and simple in its procedures and avoid invoking the finer points of parliamentary procedure when doing so would obscure the issues and confuse the public.

10408.2        The Director may provide advice and training on parliamentary procedure upon request.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10409 PUBLIC MEETING RECORDS**

- 10409.1 The records for all regular, special, and emergency meetings shall contain a draft and final meeting agenda and a recording of the meeting in electronic form. The records of all closed/executive sessions shall include an electronic recording of the meeting.
- 10409.2 A Public Body’s agenda shall contain the order of business for the meeting. The final agenda shall contain any changes adopted by the Public Body. The Public Body shall include the following statement at the end of all draft and final meeting agenda: “This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at [opengovoffice@dc.gov](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).”
- 10409.3 A Public Body shall make electronic meeting records available to the public upon request within seven (7) business days after the meeting.
- 10409.4 A Public Body may post transcripts in lieu of posting detailed meeting minutes. When posting transcripts in lieu of meeting minutes, transcripts of meetings shall be posted to the Public Body’s website or the District of Columbia’s website within seven (7) business days after the meeting. If transcripts will not be available within this time-frame, a Public Body shall post detailed meeting minutes within three (3) business days after the meeting, with a notation at the top of the document that full meeting minutes shall be posted on the next meeting date of the Public Body.
- 10409.5 A draft of the detailed meeting minutes shall be posted on the Public Body’s website or the District government’s website within three (3) business days of a meeting, with a notation at the top of the document that full meeting minutes shall be posted on the next meeting date of the Public Body.
- 10409.6 Detailed meeting minutes shall contain the following information:
- (a) The date, time, and place of the meeting or session;
  - (b) The names of members of the Public Body recorded as either present or absent; and
  - (c) Any motions, and amendments thereto, a record of all votes taken, and general description of all matters considered during the meeting.
- 10409.7 A Public Body conducting a meeting by electronic means shall ensure the meeting complies with the Open Meetings Act and take the following actions:

- (a) Provide a dial-in number for the public to participate in the meeting if the meeting is held by teleconference;
- (b) Provide login information if the meeting is held by web-conference;
- (c) Record the meeting by electronic means; and
- (d) Take all votes by roll call.

10409.8 A Public Body shall retain all electronic recordings of meetings and written minutes pursuant to District law and shall comply with the District of Columbia General Records Schedules concerning the disposition of its electronic meeting recordings and written meeting minutes.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10410 TRAINING**

10410.1 Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-580, the Mayor, in coordination with the Office of Open Government, shall:

- (a) Develop an Open Meetings Act training manual, within nine months of the adoption of these rules, for Public Body members and their assigned administrative points of contact; and
- (b) Annually advise all Public Body members and their assigned administrative points of contact of their responsibilities under the Opening Meetings Act and related regulations.

10410.2 The Director shall establish procedures for Public Body members and their assigned administrative points of contact to complete training on the Open Meetings Act within sixty (60) days of assuming their office or role.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**10499**      **DEFINITIONS**

10499.1

**“Advisory Opinion”** means (i) an opinion issued by the Director upon investigation of a complaint alleging violation of the Open Meetings Act; (ii) an opinion issued by the Director following a request from a Public Official or employee regarding its compliance with the Open Meetings Act; or (iii) an opinion issued by the Director on his or her own initiative.

**“Board”** means the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability established by D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.02(a).

**“Director”** means the head of the Office of Open Government as provided in D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.05b.

**“Prospective Complaint”** means a complaint about a future action of a Public Body that appears, to a Complainant, likely to violate the Open Meetings Act.

**“Public Body”** has the meaning given in D.C. Official Code § 2-574(3) and includes for the purposes of requesting an Advisory Opinion or appeal for consideration by the Board of an Advisory Opinion, a Public Body member or employee.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 13143 (December 26, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 6673 (May 31, 2019).

**5710 ETHICS BOARD DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN BOARD, COMMISSION, COUNCIL, OR WORKING GROUP MEMBERS AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

5710.1 As set forth in Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Establishment and Comprehensive Ethics Reform Amendment Act of 2011, effective April 27, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-124; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1161.01(47)(I), the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability designates members of the following boards, commissions, councils, and working groups as public officials and Public Financial Disclosure Statements filers:

- (a) Board of Accountancy
- (b) Board of Acupuncture, Chiropractic, and Naturopathic Physicians
- (c) Board of Architecture, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture
- (d) Board of Barber and Cosmetology
- (e) Board of Dentistry
- (f) Board of Dietetics & Nutrition
- (g) Board of Funeral Directors
- (h) Board of Industrial Trades
- (i) Board of Massage Therapy
- (j) Board of Medicine
- (k) Board of Nursing
- (l) Board of Optometry
- (m) Board of Pharmacy
- (n) Board of Podiatry
- (o) Board of Professional Counseling
- (p) Board of Professional Engineering
- (q) Board of Psychology
- (r) Board of Real Estate Appraisers

- (s) Board of Rehabilitative Therapies
- (t) Board of Respiratory Care
- (u) Board of Social Work
- (v) Board of Veterinary Medicine
- (w) Citizen Review Panel for Child Abuse and Neglect
- (x) Combat Sports Commission
- (y) Commission on Health Equity
- (z) Commission on Re-Entry and Returning Citizen Affairs
- (aa) Construction Codes Coordinating Board
- (bb) DC Retirement Board of Trustees
- (cc) District of Columbia State Athletics Commission
- (dd) Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board
- (ee) Health Information Exchange Policy Board
- (ff) Higher Education Licensure Commission
- (gg) Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.
- (hh) Interagency Council on Homelessness
- (ii) Interagency Working Group on Autonomous Vehicles
- (jj) Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
- (kk) Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission
- (ll) Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- (mm) Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission
- (nn) Police and Firefighter's Retirement and Relief Board
- (oo) Public Defender Service Board of Trustees
- (pp) Real Estate Commission

(qq) Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission

5710.2 When a board, commission, council, or working group has District of Columbia members and non-District members only the District of Columbia members must file a Public Financial Disclosure Statement with the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 011602 (September 27, 2024); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 73 DCR 00666 (January 23, 2026).

**5803 LOBBYIST PROGRAM FILING DEADLINES**

- 5803.1 Each registrant shall file a Lobbyist Registration Form at the following times:
- (a) No later than fifteen (15) days after becoming a lobbyist; and
  - (b) On or before January 15th of each year thereafter.
- 5803.2 Each registrant shall file lobbyist Activity Reports for the previous three (3) month period each year on the following dates:
- (a) January 15th, for the period covering October 1st through December 31st;
  - (b) April 15th, for the period covering January 1st through March 31st;
  - (c) July 15th, for the period covering April 1st through June 30th; and
  - (d) October 15th, for the period covering July 1st through September 30th.
- 5803.3 Lobbyist Activity Reports shall be filed in electronic format at the Board website and shall be considered timely if filed by midnight on the date due.
- 5803.4 Lobbyist Registration forms filed on or before January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year shall be filed in electronic format on the Board website and will be considered timely if filed by midnight on the date due.
- 5803.5 First-time Lobbyist Registration forms filed pursuant to Subsection 5803.1(a) of this section shall be filed electronically at the Board website and shall be considered timely if filed by midnight on the date due.
- 5803.6 A lobbyist may request a waiver of the requirement to electronically file a Lobbyist Registration form or a Lobbyist Activity Report. Waiver requests shall be submitted in writing, to the Director, no later than midnight on January 1st for January Lobbyist Registration and January Lobbyist Activity report filings; no later than April 1st for April Lobbyist Activity Report filings, no later than July 1st for July Lobbyist Activity Report filings; and no later than October 1st for October Lobbyist Activity Report filings
- 5803.7 The Director may grant a waiver of the requirement to file electronically for good cause shown as to why the Lobbyist is unable to file electronically as follows:
- (a) A waiver granted by the Director shall be in writing and provided to the requester.
  - (b) If the waiver is granted, the filings shall be filed in hard copy, in person or

by first class mail. The filing shall be deemed timely filed if received in the office of the Board no later than 5:00 pm on the date due.

- (c) A denial of the waiver of the requirement to file electronically is appealable to the Board. An appeal is timely filed if submitted to the Board Chairperson and the Director, in writing, in hard copy or electronically, no later than two (2) business days after the date of the Director's decision. The decision of the Board is final and shall be provided in writing to the requester.
- (d) The Director may consider the following good cause factors when deliberating on such matters:
  - (1) Physical impairment, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
  - (2) Computer illiteracy, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
  - (3) Complete lack of access to a computer or other technological device; or
  - (4) Inability to gain access to the e-filing web portal due to technological error or a permanent lack of log-in credentials.
- (e) The Board may consider the following good cause factors when deliberating on such matters:
  - (1) Physical impairment, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
  - (2) Computer illiteracy, combined with a lack of resources or assistance to complete the online form;
  - (3) Complete lack of access to a computer or other technological device;
  - (4) Inability to gain access to the e-filing web portal due to technological error or a permanent lack of log-in credentials; or
  - (5) Other factors or extenuating circumstances.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 11866 (August 28, 2015); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 012997 (November 21, 2025).

**5805 LOBBYIST FINES AND PENALTIES**

5805.1 The Director of Government Ethics may refer to the United States Attorney for prosecution any person who willfully and knowingly violates Subtitle E of the Ethics Act. Penalties for violations include a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or imprisonment for not more than twelve (12) months, or both.

5805.2 In addition to any penalty available under § 5805.1, any person convicted of a violation under that Subsection may, at the discretion of the Board, be prohibited from serving as a lobbyist for a period of three years from the date of the conviction.

5805.3 Any person who files a lobbyist activity report or registration form in an untimely manner shall be assessed a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) per day up to sixty (60) days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) that the report or registration form is late. This civil penalty shall be imposed as a ministerial matter by the Director of Government Ethics. Upon petition, the Ethics Board may waive the penalty for good cause shown.

- (a) A District of Columbia registered lobbyist may request a waiver of fines imposed by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability.
- (b) Fine waiver requests should be submitted in writing to the Office of Government Ethics.
- (c) The Board may consider the following good cause factors when deliberating on such matters:
  - (1) The filer's history of compliance regarding the timely filing of lobbyist registration forms and lobbyist activity reports in previous reporting periods;
  - (2) Proof of complete power or technological failure at the lobbyist's office location;
  - (3) A destructive act of nature or extremely inclement weather, which prevents the lobbyist from accessing the information needed to complete such reports for a prolonged period of time or on the day of the submission deadline;
  - (4) Proof of technological failure or error on the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability's lobbyist e-filing web portal;
  - (5) Proof that the lobbyist was substantially misinformed about lobbyist deadlines and/or procedures by the Office of Government Ethics;

- (6) Pending legal or ethical question(s) before the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, the outcome of which may have a direct impact on the lobbyist's responses in the required filings;
- (7) Procedural or administrative error on the part of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability; or
- (8) Other factors or extenuating circumstances.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 60 DCR 2852 (March 8, 2013); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 66 DCR 10535 (August 16, 2019); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 008211 (July 25, 2025); as corrected by Errata Notice published at 73 DCR 005902 (April 10, 2026).