

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



### RESOLUTION REGARDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION B26-0465 The Board of Elections Certification of ANC Vacancies Amendment Act of 2025

Descriptions of the proposed bill, "The Board of Elections Certification of ANC Vacancies Amendment Act of 2025," state that the legislation aims to improve the procedures for filling vacancies in Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) in the District of Columbia. Key provisions include requiring the Board of Elections to oversee the vacancy filling process, clarifying when a vacancy is deemed to occur, and specifying the term for a Commissioner filling a vacancy. Additionally, the bill allows an ANC to meet to fill a vacancy without needing a quorum. Overall, the legislation seeks to streamline the vacancy filling process and has also been described as enhancing transparency and accountability within ANCs.

ANC 3A has reviewed the proposed legislation and has identified several key concerns that cause us to recommend that the Council not pass this bill:

- We strongly oppose the provision that when more than one candidate is registered to run for a vacant seat in a Single Member District (SMD) of an ANC, that seat would be filled by vote of the sitting Commissioners from the other SMDs in the ANC rather than by vote of constituents of that SMD. We believe that provision is highly undemocratic and unnecessarily removes the ability of residents of that SMD to have a voice in who will represent them on the ANC. Other Commissioners would not necessarily know the interests of the people of that SMD, and in voting for a candidate in another SMD, they could be serving their own interests and biases rather than serving the people of that SMD. This would seem to run counter to the objective of enhancing transparency and accountability. If very few constituents attend an ANC public meeting to participate in an in-person election for a new Commissioner to fill a vacancy, there would be other better options than taking away the right for constituents to vote. Even drawing lots between the eligible candidates would seem more advisable.
- We also strongly oppose the provision to allow an ANC to meet and vote on a candidate to fill a vacancy without needing a quorum. We understand some ANC may have difficulty getting a quorum. But when an ANC has to cast an official vote, we would want to see far more justification before supporting a waiver of the requirement for a quorum. Again, better options would be available.

We would not object to clarifying the date on which an ANC Commissioner's resignation becomes effective. We do not know the reasoning behind some of the other proposed provisions and have not taken an official position on those proposed changes, including the requirement to transfer responsibility for ANC special elections from the Office of ANC to the DC Board of Elections. We would need additional information to make further assessments. But ANC 3A urges that the bill not be passed in its current form.

This resolution was approved by the Commission by a vote of 4 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on December 16, 2025, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.) By the same vote, the Commission designated the Chair to represent ANC 3A on this matter.

Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis, Chair

Ann Lane Mladinov, Secretary