



District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
Box 75115  
Washington, DC 20013



ANC 6A Resolution

**In Opposition to Rescheduling ANC Elections**

WHEREAS, Bill 18-0345 would reschedule Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) elections from November's general election to the primary election in September; and--

WHEREAS, although primary elections draw partisan voters to vote in party primaries, ANC elections are nonpartisan, and therefore inconsistent with the focus of a primary election; and--

WHEREAS, Primary elections generally have lower turnout than do general elections; and--

WHEREAS, Moving ANC elections to a primary-election date would particularly reduce participation in ANC elections by independents and members of parties not holding primaries that year; and--

WHEREAS, Advocates of rescheduling ANC elections give, as their only reason, reducing the September-November workload of, and therefore the number of election errors committed by, the Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE); and--

WHEREAS, For over 30 years the BOEE has been able to conduct ANC elections on the same date as November's general election; and--

WHEREAS, Rescheduling ANC elections to September will reduce ANC-election turnout, reinforce the impression that ANC commissioners have a different status from all other elected officials, and have little effect on reducing the number of BOEE election errors; and--

WHEREAS, Other, less drastic measures, including changing the filing deadline for ANC ballot petitions, and directing more resources to conducting ANC elections, would sufficiently reduce the incidence of BOEE election errors; and--

WHEREAS, Requiring the BOEE itself to redo ANC elections invalid because of BOEE's own errors would also reduce the rate of BOEE errors in ANC elections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That this Advisory Neighborhood Commission urges the District of Columbia City Council to remove the provision of Bill 18-0345 that would reschedule ANC elections from November's general election to the primary election in September; and--

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Advisory Neighborhood Commission urges the District of Columbia City Council to require the Board of Election and Ethics, when it commits errors in an ANC election serious enough to justify redoing the election, itself to hold a properly run election, instead of requiring the affected ANC to hold a properly run election.

Approved unanimously by the Commission on July 9, 2009, with seven of eight Commissioners present.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler  
Chair Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A