



FOR RELEASE
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DC Court of Appeals Grants Initiative 83 Expedited Review
Election Board Ordered to Produce Documents by Sept. 9th

On August 30, 2024, the D.C. Court of Appeals (the Court) granted the motion by Deirdre Brown, chair of the Vote NO on Initiative 83 campaign, for an expedited hearing on the D.C. Board of Elections' (BOE) certification of Initiative 83 for the November ballot. The expedited hearing and ruling are needed because ballots go to the printer in mid-September. The Court rejected the BOE opposition to the expedited review and its request to file a response to the Vote NO reply brief (an unusual, not normally accepted 'sur-reply' brief). It also ordered the BOE to submit requested documents by September 9, 2024.

"We welcome the Court's recognition that this case needs judicial review before the November election," said Brown. "We anticipate that the Court will consider Vote NO's objections to how the petition pages from pro-Initiative 83 circulators were validated, including the use of Wite-Out on the sheets and examiners holding up the signature pages to the light to verify signers' intent." Because the BOE has not issued a written order explaining the legal basis for its decision, the public needs to know and the Court to determine whether these procedures meet objective legal standards.

If approved by the voters, Initiative 83 would bring ranked-choice-voting and partially open primaries to District elections, marking the most significant change in D.C. Home Rule in 50 years.

Last fall, the D.C. Democratic Party filed a lawsuit opposing the BOE's approval of Initiative 83 as proper subject matter for an initiative. This is a separate case before the D.C. Court of Appeals and is not covered by this recent order.

Note: The Dupont Circle Citizens Association is holding a forum on I-83, Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7pm at the Chastleton Ballroom, 1701 16 St. NW.

Paid for by Vote No on Initiative 83 | Neena Murphy Martin, Treasurer | Deirdre Brown, Chair | 14 Ridge Square, NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20016. A copy of our report is filed with the Director of Campaign Finance of the District of Columbia Board of Elections.