

**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: JAN 30 2008

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Special Election Amendment Act of 2007"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 17-264 as Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The proposed legislation is not anticipated to have a fiscal effect on the District's budget and financial plan.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend the District of Columbia Official Code, § 1-204.01 and § 1-1001.01 *et seq.*, to require that:

- the Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE) hold a special election to fill a vacancy in the Council of a member elected from a ward on the 1st Tuesday occurring more than 70 days after the date on which such vacancy occurs (current law requires more than 114 days);
- the BOEE hold a special election to fill a vacancy on the State Board of Education of an elected member on the 1st Tuesday occurring more than 70 days after the date on which such vacancy occurs (current law requires more than 114 days);
- a nominating petition for a Council candidate in a special election be filed not less than 35 days before the date of the special election (current law requires not less than 69 days); and
- public posting of nominating petition signatures be made within 2 days after the BOEE announces the validity of the nominating petition (current law requires posting within 3 days).

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 through FY 2011 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. It is estimated that the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact.

It is important to note, however, that in the event a special election is required, the BOEE budget would not have sufficient funds to conduct the special election without emergency appropriations. Cutting the filing period and/or period the Board has to conduct this election would shorten the time available to locate and reprogram funding to conduct a special election. BOEE estimates that additional funding reprogramming will be required within 10 days of certification of the special election.