

Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B



RESOLUTION #4B-25-0401

Calling on the Council of the District of Columbia to Amend Its Rules to Prohibit Expelled Councilmembers from Seeking Reelection

Adopted April 28, 2025

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (Commission) takes note of the following:

- On February 4, 2025, the Council of the District of Columbia (Council of DC or Council) unanimously voted to [expel](#) Councilmember Trayon White, representing Ward 8, following [federal charges](#) alleging that he accepted bribes to influence city contract decisions.
- Despite his expulsion, Trayon White has announced his intention to [run](#) for his former seat in the upcoming special election scheduled for July 15, 2025, highlighting a gap in the Council's rules that permits expelled members to seek reelection.
- The District of Columbia (DC) [Home Rule Act](#) grants the Council of DC the authority to expel a member by a five-sixths vote if substantial evidence demonstrates that the member engaged in specific misconduct. However, the Act does not contain provisions that prevent an expelled councilmember from seeking reelection. See DC Code 1-204.1(e)(1-2).
- Allowing expelled councilmembers to seek reelection undermines the accountability and integrity of the Council and diminishes public trust in the District's legislative process.
- Other legislative bodies, such as [Tennessee](#) and [Missouri](#), have advanced proposals that would bar expelled members from being reelected to the same body, ensuring that removal from office carries meaningful consequences.
- An expelled member's return to the Council can create instability, disrupt government operations, and erode public confidence in the ethical standards expected of elected officials.
- The residents of DC deserve a government that maintains the highest ethical standards and ensures that expulsion is a serious and

enforceable consequence for Councilmembers who engage in misconduct or are credibly accused of doing so.

- In light of the recent expulsion of Councilmember Trayon White from the Council due to corruption charges, and his subsequent eligibility to run for his former seat, it is imperative to address this legislative gap to maintain public trust and governmental integrity.¹
- The Council can and should pass a local law adding eligibility restrictions for individuals running for the Council, stating that anyone expelled due to misconduct cannot seek reelection for a certain period (e.g., one or two election cycles) or petition Congress to amend the D.C. Home Rule Act to include explicit language that disqualifies expelled members from running for office in future elections.

RESOLVED:

- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B urges the Council to amend its rules and, if necessary, enact legislation, or petition Congress to prohibit expelled councilmembers from running for reelection to the Council.
- ANC 4B calls on the Council to review best practices from other jurisdictions and implement policies that strengthen ethical standards and protect the integrity of the District's legislative process.
- The Commission urges the Council to establish specific grounds for expulsion, such as engaging in illegal activities, ethical violations, or actions that undermine public trust. Clear criteria will ensure that the expulsion process is transparent and justified.
- ANC 4B recommends the Council introduce a mandatory waiting period before an expelled councilmember can seek reelection. This period would serve as a deterrent against misconduct and allow time for legal proceedings or investigations to conclude.
- ANC 4B urges the Council to prohibit expelled members from receiving public campaign funds under the Fair Elections Program, making it harder for them to run a viable campaign.
- The Commission recommends that the Council request an official advisory opinion from the Office of Attorney General or Board of Ethics and Government Accountability on whether current laws allow them to set additional qualifications for candidates, ensuring that any legislative action aligns with constitutional and election laws.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

¹ [Trayon White expelled from the DC Council for corruption but he's free to run for his old seat | AP News](#)

That the Commission designates Commissioner Tiffani Nichole Johnson, ANC 4B06, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was April 28, 2025, by a vote of __ yes, __ no, __ abstentions.