



Councilmember Anita Bonds

A RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Theft and White Collar Crimes Act of 1982 to enhance penalties imposed for certain crimes against election workers.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Election Worker Protection Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) This measure addresses safety concerns facing District of Columbia Board of Elections officials and election workers. This measure will provide additional safeguards to election workers to help ensure District elections are safe for everyone.

(b) The hotly contested 2024 elections will bring a predicable increase in the abuse of our election officials and poll workers. The District of Columbia, as Nation’s Capital, will receive increased exposure given the 2024 presidential elections. Already, the BOE has received numerous threatening voice mail messages and had someone shatter the outer glass to their office suite. We must take action to protect our election workers given these attacks and the high

30 likelihood of additional attacks or threats in the coming months. This measure will increase the
31 penalties for crimes against election officials and elections workers to deter these crimes and
32 show that the safety of these workers is a priority of our government.

33 (c) We are facing a nationwide increase in threats against those who serve the public,
34 including our elections officials. Many of these threats are largely inspired by the anti-
35 democratic lies about an alleged “stolen” 2020 election. State officials, including election
36 workers, are facing a torrent of threats largely inspired by those lies and former President Donald
37 Trump’s continuing election-denial movement. The rise in these threats creates an unstable
38 environment for Secretaries of State and our own Board of Elections, including historically high
39 turnover among election officials. These entities have had to prepare for the potential of violence
40 in the workplace by providing “active shooter” training to their employees and additional
41 trainings to identify threatening situations. Additionally, election directors have had to get
42 security details and carry panic buttons with them.

43 (d) Emergency legislation is therefore necessary to create criminal penalty enhancements
44 to deter crimes against our election officials and workers before the election cycle ramps up.

45 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
46 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
47 Election Worker Protection Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single
48 reading.

49 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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Chairman

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Council of the District of Columbia

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