

**Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004**

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY**

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON

**“EXPANDING THE FRANCHISE: STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING VOTER
REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT”**

B23-0031, THE “PAID LEAVE TO VOTE AMENDMENT ACT OF 2019”

**B23-0126, THE “IMPROVING VOTER REGISTRATION FOR NEW TENANTS AND
HOMEOWNERS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2019”**

AND

**B23-0165, THE “INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS IMPROVEMENT
AMENDMENT ACT OF 2019”**

**Thursday, June 13, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
Room 500, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004**

On Thursday, June 13, 2019, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will convene a public hearing on the subject of “Expanding the Franchise: Strategies for Increasing Voter Registration and Turnout” and to consider B23-0031, the “Paid Leave to Vote Amendment Act of 2019”; B23-0126, the “Improving Voter Registration for New Tenants and Homeowners Amendment Act of 2019”; and B23-0165, the “Initiative and Referendum Process Improvement Amendment Act of 2019”. The hearing will take place in Room 500 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 9:30 a.m.

The District is a year away from the 2020 primary election and 16 months away from the general election, thus the time is ripe for the Committee to explore voter engagement strategies throughout the District. The purpose of B23-0031, the “Paid Leave to Vote Amendment Act of 2019”, is to provide employees with up to two hours of paid leave in order to vote in District elections. B23-

0126, the “Improving Voter Registration for New Tenants and Homeowners Amendment Act of 2019”, would require housing providers and title companies to provide voter registration information to new tenants and homeowners at lease-signing and closing, respectively. Finally, B23-0165, the “Initiative and Referendum Process Improvement Amendment Act of 2019”, would require the Board of Elections to solicit an opinion from the Attorney General for the District of Columbia and the General Counsel of the Council of the District of Columbia on the proper subject determination of an initiative or referendum measure and to consult those entities on the legislative drafting of the measure, to clarify the congressional review period for a referendum measure, and to require that initiative measures be placed on a general election ballot.

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony. Anyone wishing to testify at the hearing should contact the Committee via email at judiciary@dccouncil.us and provide their name, telephone number, organizational affiliation, and title (if any), by **close of business Monday, June 10**. Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Witnesses should bring **twenty copies** of their written testimony and, if possible, also submit a copy of their testimony electronically in advance to judiciary@dccouncil.us.

For witnesses who are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee at judiciary@dccouncil.us. **The record will close at the end of the business day on June 27.**