

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6866

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the timing of special elections for local office in the District of Columbia.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2023

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

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## A BILL

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the timing of special elections for local office in the District of Columbia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “District of Columbia  
5 Special Elections Home Rule Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TIMING OF SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL OF-**  
7 **FICE IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

8 (a) COUNCIL.—

1           (1) CHAIR.—The first sentence of section  
2           401(b)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule  
3           Act (sec. 1–204.01(b)(3), D.C. Official Code) is  
4           amended to read as follows: “To fill a vacancy in the  
5           Office of Chairman, the Board of Elections shall  
6           hold a special election in the District in accordance  
7           with such procedures, including procedures estab-  
8           lishing the time of the election, as may be estab-  
9           lished by law of the District of Columbia.”.

10           (2) MEMBERS ELECTED FROM WARDS.—The  
11           first sentence of section 401(d)(1) of such Act (sec.  
12           1–204.01(d)(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended to  
13           read as follows: “In the event of a vacancy in the  
14           Council of a member elected from a ward, the Board  
15           of Elections shall hold a special election in the Dis-  
16           trict in accordance with such procedures, including  
17           procedures establishing the time of the election, as  
18           may be established by law of the District of Colum-  
19           bia.”.

20           (3) MEMBERS ELECTED AT-LARGE.—The sec-  
21           ond sentence of section 401(d)(2) of such Act (sec.  
22           1–204.01(d)(2)) is amended by striking “and such  
23           special election” and all that follows and inserting  
24           the following: “and such special election shall be  
25           held in accordance with such procedures, including

1 procedures establishing the time of the election, as  
2 may be established by law of the District of Colum-  
3 bia.”.

4 (b) MAYOR.—The first sentence of section 421(c)(2)  
5 of such Act (sec. 1–204.21(c)(2), D.C. Official Code) is  
6 amended to read as follows: “To fill a vacancy in the Of-  
7 fice of Mayor, the Board of Elections shall hold a special  
8 election in the District in accordance with such proce-  
9 dures, including procedures establishing the time of the  
10 election, as may be established by law of the District of  
11 Columbia.”.

12 (c) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The first sentence of sec-  
13 tion 435(b)(1) of such Act (sec. 1–204.35(b)(1), D.C. Of-  
14 ficial Code) is amended by striking “the Board of Elec-  
15 tions” and all that follows and inserting the following:  
16 “the Board of Elections shall hold a special election in  
17 the District in accordance with such procedures, including  
18 procedures establishing the time of the election, as may  
19 be established by law of the District of Columbia.”.

20 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

21 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with  
22 respect to vacancies occurring after the expiration of the  
23 one-year period which begins on the date of the enactment  
24 of this Act.

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