

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**



Open Government Report 2014

To institutionalize a culture of transparent and open government, accountability, and to expand opportunities for resident participation and collaboration, this Report describes how the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) has and will continue to develop and enhance transparency, public participation, and collaboration. In accordance with Mayor's Order 2014-170, this report addresses the following topics:

1) Transparency

OBC has taken the following steps to increase transparency with the public utilizing the updated [OBC website](#):

- Provide public notification of the names of all current [boards and commissions](#) for the District;
- Provide public notification of the [legal authority](#) for each board and commission;
- Provide links to the [D.C. Official Code](#) and the [D.C. Register, D.C. Municipal Regulations and Mayor's Orders](#); and
- Provide a publicly available interactive listing of all [Board Points of Contact \(POCs\)](#) along with websites for the boards and commissions.

2) Public Engagement and Participation

OBC has taken the following steps to encourage public engagement and participation with the District's boards and commissions:

- Advertise a public listing of all [boards and commissions that require Council confirmation](#) and links to the Council's website to track nominations;
- Advertise a public listing of [boards and commissions that do not require Council confirmation](#) (Direct Mayoral Appointments);
- Provide an interactive and user-friendly [OBC application](#) (for new and returning applicants) that is publicly available online and also made available in multiple formats (Hardcopy, Word and PDF). OBC can send applications through USPS or fax when requested;

- Publish a monthly [Vacancy List](#) on the OBC website, which tells the public how many and what types of seats are available on each District board or commission. The Vacancy List is available in multiple formats (Hardcopy, Excel and PDF);
- Provide notification about open [Consumer Seats](#), which are primarily on the District's health licensing or occupational licensing boards and commissions on the OBC website;
- Provide public notification of [new boards and commissions](#) and [boards and commissions that have ended](#) their work on the OBC website;
- Provide public notification of the [Open Meetings Act](#), along with [contact information to the Office of Open Government](#), and the [Hatch Act](#) requirements that apply to board and commission members on the OBC website; and
- Communicate with members of the public through [electronic mail](#), telephone calls, or in-person interactions regarding the District's boards and commissions to encourage individuals to apply to District boards and commissions and to answer questions members of the public may have.

3) **Collaboration**

OBC collaborates with other District agencies on a daily basis to determine if there are any vacancies on the District's boards and commissions that need to be filled and relies on the agencies' knowledge in recruiting new members to the District's boards and commissions. OBC is always developing plans to reach residents in the District who have specific skillsets. OBC will try to develop the capacity to send monthly or quarterly newsletters directly to Occupational and Health licensed DC residents and/or associations in the District when looking for residents with specific skillsets.

OBC would also like to collaborate even closer with the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability's (BEGA) Office of Open Government to ensure that all of the District's boards and commissions comply with the Open Meetings Act by holding joint workshops and/or seminars and to streamline information of the District's boards and commissions for public use.