

**Carol Schwartz Announces Her Resignation from
the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — November 6, 2017 — When Mayor Muriel Bowser appointed me as a nominee to the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability in October of 2015, I was pleased. Mayor Gray had offered me that same appointment in 2012 when the Board was started, but I declined then. I always valued the role I played as a watchdog on the Council, and Muriel and Vince were colleagues who observed me doing it. I was surprised that they both gave me a chance to play that role in their administrations—knowing first-hand how dogged and tough I can be. I admire that they did. The first offer was not the time; the second one was, as I was ready to once again have a weighty position that used my experience, judgment, and energy to serve the city. My appointment was unanimously approved by the Council, and I started service on the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability in January of 2016.

As I wrote in my autobiography, which I released on October 26th, “I have over two years left in my term and wish to remain. The requirements for service are—and should be—that members of the Board do not participate in local political activities. Specifically, no member shall be a leader or hold any office in a District political organization or contribute to one; nor shall a member make speeches or publicly support or oppose a political candidate; nor use one’s status as a member to attempt to influence any decision of the District government not within the Ethics Board’s purview; and also, a member cannot be a lobbyist or a felon. I believe this book does not run afoul of the above, nor do any of my present actions, or lack thereof. But in case it is decided that it does, I will either fight it or just resign. Getting this story of my life out is too important to me—and I am not choosing to delay it for another few years. If I need to leave, thank you Madam Mayor for the appointment, and to the present Board and any successors, I wish you well and continued vigilance.”

I had done volunteer work for years with groups that train women to run for partisan offices, but I stopped doing that once I went on the Board. And when a friend would ask me to advise someone they knew who was thinking of running in D.C., I said I could not, always wanting to err on the side of caution.

In these few days since I released my book, at signing events, I have found it often hard to answer questions about present-day topics because of my membership on the Board, and have stated so. And even though most of the book talks about past issues I was part of, some are ongoing—and there are others that I commented on which are current. Did any of my book use my “status as a member [of the Board] to attempt to influence any decision of the District government not within the Ethic Board’s purview? No, I don’t think so. I am using my status as a four-decade elected—and mostly respected—official and as an over five-decade citizen volunteer/activist to try to influence those decisions. But if one person is influenced by my being a member of the Board, I guess the argument can go the other way. So now wanting to again err on the side of caution for my own reputation’s sake as well as that of the Board, I—without consultation with anyone—am choosing to resign.

I will miss the Board and its mission, but I feel leaving is the best decision at this time. And I am now looking forward to being able to answer any question about anything, past or present, with honesty and without jeopardy.

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