



REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In the District of Columbia, you may register and vote if you are in jail awaiting trial or serving time for a misdemeanor offense and you:

- ✓ Are a United States citizen,
- ✓ Are a resident of the District of Columbia,
- ✓ Are at least 16 years old (in the case of a Primary Election, you are at least 17 years old and you will be 18 years old by the next General Election. You must be at least 18 years old to vote in General and Special Elections),
- ✓ Have not have been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote, and
- ✓ Do not claim voting residence or the right to vote in another U.S. state or territory.

**District of Columbia
Board of Elections**
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DC BOARD OF ELECTIONS



VOTING GUIDE
for
INCARCERATED
AND RETURNING CITIZENS



VOTING RIGHTS

The District of Columbia Board of Elections encourages all eligible citizens to exercise their voting rights.

In the District of Columbia, you may register and vote if you are incarcerated for a misdemeanor offense or if you are in jail awaiting trial for a felony offense, but you meet all other voter registration requirements.

You may not vote if you are incarcerated and serving a sentence for a felony conviction.

You are considered incarcerated if you are confined to a prison, jail, or penitentiary.

You are not considered incarcerated if you have completed a court-ordered sentence of confinement and subsequently reside in a halfway house or other community supervision center as terms of probation or parole.

Unless you are in jail serving a sentence on a felony conviction, you may vote by way of an absentee ballot while incarcerated.

If you are serving a sentence on a felony conviction, you cannot vote, but your voting rights will be automatically restored upon release from a correctional facility.



REGISTERING TO VOTE

The District of Columbia Department of Corrections is a District of Columbia National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) designated agency.

You may register to vote during intake at the DC Jail. To register to vote in the District of Columbia, you must complete a **Voter Registration Application**.

You may use your home residence, the address of the DC Jail, or the address of the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) on your application.

If you wish to vote in a Primary Election, you must register with one of the four parties eligible to conduct a primary election in the District: the Democratic, Republican, DC Statehood Green, or Libertarian Parties.

You may also register as "no party" (Independent), or check "other" and register with a minor party to participate in General and Special elections only.

The Department of Corrections' authorizing agent will submit your Voter Registration Application to the DC Board of Elections for processing.

Once your application is processed, a Voter Registration card will be mailed to you.

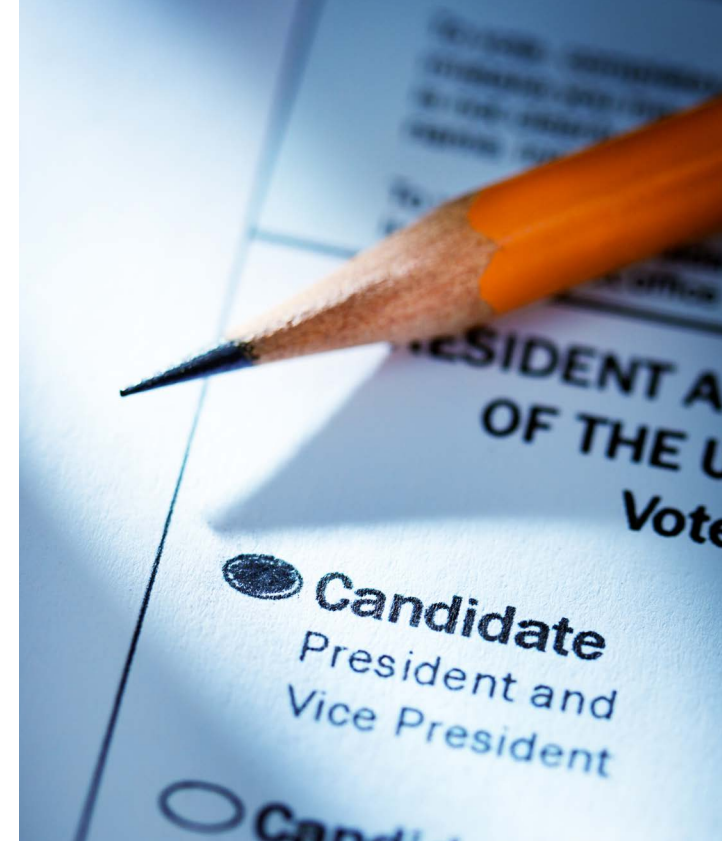
RELEASE FROM CUSTODY

If you requested an Absentee Ballot application but are released before your ballot is delivered, you can still vote.

You must go to the polling place assigned to your residential address and tell the election worker you need a Special Ballot. To confirm your polling place, visit www.vote4dc.com.

Once you are released from a correctional facility, you should contact the Board to update your mailing address.

For more information, contact the Board of Elections at (202) 727-2525. You can also visit www.dcboe.org or www.vote4dc.com.



VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

If you are registered to vote, and you have maintained residency in the District for 30 days before the election in which you intend to vote, you have the right to request an Absentee Ballot if you are or think you will be in custody on Election Day. You can use the correctional facility address in the mailing address section on the application.

A Board of Elections official will pick up your application from the correctional facility. Your application will be returned to and processed by the Board.

Board of Elections officials will hand-deliver your Absentee Ballot in a secure envelope within one week of Election Day.