



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
 WASHINGTON, DC



**Restore the Vote Overview**

D.C. Official Code §1-1001.05 (m) mandates that the DCBOE and the Corrections Information Council (CIC) provide, on a biennial basis, a report to the Mayor and Council on the Restore the Vote Amendment Act (Act) of 2020. Specifically, the Act requires reporting on the following:

- (1) The number of incarcerated qualified electors registered since the Act’s effective date or, beginning in the July 1, 2023 report, since the date of the previous report;
- (2) The number of incarcerated registered qualified electors who voted, for each election held since the Act’s effective date or, beginning in the July 1, 2023 report, since the date of the previous report;
- (3) An analysis of the Act's implementation and any identifiable challenges; and
- (4) Any policy or legislative recommendations to ensure that all incarcerated qualified electors have a meaningful opportunity to register and vote.

Accordingly, the DCBOE and CIC are developing a more detailed joint report as required by the ACT, which will be provided by the CIC. That said, what follows is an abridged version covering the 2024 Primary and General Election.

The Act extends voting rights to persons who are incarcerated for felony convictions. Because persons from DC who are incarcerated for a felony conviction are confined in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the DCBOE coordinates with the BOP, as well as the DOC. Coordination with each agency occurs in different forms.

The following illustrates the number of DC residents who registered and voted in each election since the passage of the Act:

Registered to vote:

2020 General Election:	DOC unknown	BOP 562
2022 Primary Election:	DOC 405	BOP 824
2022 General Election:	DOC 767	BOP 920
2024 Primary Election:	DOC 477	BOP 1,097
2024 General Election:	DOC 655	BOP 1,173

Voted:

2020 General Election:	DOC 333	BOP 264
2022 Primary Election:	DOC 218	BOP 257
2022 General Election:	DOC 241	BOP 403
2024 Primary Election:	DOC 257*	BOP 373
2024 General Election:	DOC 544**	BOP 654

\*Of the 257 persons who voted in the 2024 Primary Election at the DOC, 216 votes were cast in person; 41 were handed in at the polling place or received via the mail. Ninety-one persons at DOC voted immediately after using same-day registration.

\*\*Of the 544 persons who voted in the 2024 General Election at the DOC, 428 votes were cast in person; 116 were handed in at the polling place or received via the mail. 172 persons at DOC voted immediately after using same-day registration.

The Act requires that the DOC become an automatic voter registration agency similar to that of the Division of Motor Vehicles, whereby those serviced are automatically registered unless they opt out of registration. The DOC has taken a simpler approach, instead implemented a paper-based process to provide each qualified elector an opportunity to register. As part of intake, staff check if the resident: 1) was given a voter registration application to complete, 2) states they are currently registered, 3) refused to register or 4) is not eligible to vote. Case management staff follows that up with additional opportunities to register. Completed voter registration forms are then scanned and emailed to the DCBOE. This process provides the DCBOE with the necessary information to successfully register qualified electors. The DCBOE also provides education materials to be distributed to residents by the DOC. In addition to the DOC's efforts, staffs from BOE, CIC, and advocacy groups provide in-person outreach in an effort to improve general election knowledge and increase registrations.

Similar to all registered voters in DC, all registered voters in the DOC received a mail ballot for each election. Residents may vote the mail ballot or vote in-person at the election centers set up within the DOC. For the 2024 elections, two vote centers were established during three days of early voting. The DCBOE coordinated with the DOC to train and employ incarcerated residents to work certain positions in the vote centers with the aim of providing a higher level of exposure and understanding of the election process.

Registration and outreach efforts in the BOP occurred mostly via the U.S. mail and email. The BOP is unable to provide lists of DC residents' names and locations due to privacy regulations. Exceptions can be made, but the DCBOE is not one of those exceptions. As a remedy, the DCBOE and CIC entered into an agreement whereby the CIC shares quarterly data of known DC residents within the BOP. The CIC's data is not an exhaustive list, as it's comprised of only those convicted by in the DC Superior Court and not federal court. The DCBOE also receives monthly data from the DOC of all transfers from the DOC to the BOP for the service of their sentence. While together these data are not exhaustive, it should include the majority of those in the BOP. Missing data will be of those convicted in federal districts outside of DC. The DCBOE used the data for a mass mailing providing voter education material, registration forms and instructions, and a frequently asked question document. Communication with those known to the DCBOE is also possible via email through a system called Trulincs. This system requires the resident to request correspondence privileges with the DCBOE, so like the aforementioned data, it does not provide communication with all DC residents. That said, both forms of outreach proved fruitful, but the DCBOE will continue to

requested the BOP seek a remedy to allow them to provide lists of DC residents and their locations.

The DCBOE also assisted the BOP with updated voter rights lesson plans for its admissions and release orientation programs, as well for inclusion in their admissions handbooks. Each facility maintains its own handbook, although not all handbooks contain the necessary information as of this writing.

All registered qualified electors in the BOP were sent a mail ballot for each of the elections covered by this report. The BOP considers ballots legal mail, thus affording an extra measure of accountability. Legal mail is logged, hand delivered, and opened only in the presence of the addressee.

The largest challenges surround difficulties with locating and communicating with incarcerated DC residents in the BOP. Locating residents that transferred between BOP facilities also proved challenging, so the DC Council included verbiage in the Elections Modernization Act that permits the DCBOE to use reliable information obtained from the DOC and BOP to update the mailing address information of incarcerated voters. This change proved invaluable. While the onus remains with the voter to alert the DCBOE of a new mailing address, the DCBOE regularly reviews the voter rolls of incarcerated residents and updates addresses as needed. This also allows the DCBOE to remove mailing addresses for those that are released, ensuring a more accurate voter roll.