



## FAQs for Inactive Voter List

### **What does it mean to be an inactive voter?**

Being an inactive voter means you haven't participated in recent elections, and your voter registration status has been moved to inactive status due to no response to a final notice mail sent by the DC Board of Elections (DCBOE).

### **What is the inactive voter list?**

The inactive voter list is a list of District of Columbia voters that have met certain criteria and can be removed from the District of Columbia's voter roll, in accordance with the law. While a public notice of removal from the voter roll is not required, DCBOE publishes this list to encourage individuals to update their voter registration if they are still eligible to vote in the District of Columbia.

### **How often is this list updated?**

As part of Biennial list maintenance, the inactive list gets updated and by law, DCBOE is required to conduct a voter canvass every odd-numbered year to ensure the voter roll is up-to-date. From this process, active voters move to inactive status and remain in inactive status for two federal elections before they get removed.

### **What happens if my voter record is marked as inactive?**

If your voter record is marked as inactive, you will receive a mailer outlining the steps required to maintain active voter status. Failure to respond or vote may result in removal from the voter roll.

### **How did I get on the inactive voters list?**

An inactive voter list is created during each odd-number year voter canvass. During a voter canvass:

- DCBOE mails a non-forwardable postcard to each registered voter who did not confirm their address by voting in the last election.
- If the U.S. Postal Service returns the postcard as "undeliverable" or provides an address for the voter outside the District of Columbia, the voter's record is made inactive.
- The inactive voter is then sent a forwardable mailer outlining the steps they must take to maintain active voter status.
- If the inactive voter does not respond to the notice and does not cast a ballot before the second general election following the date of the notice, the voter shall be removed from the voter roll.

### **What are the criteria for being considered an inactive voter on the September 2023 list?**

The September 2023 list contains the name, ward number, ZIP code, registration year, year of last ballot cast, and year the voter was made inactive for each previously active voter who:

- Has not voted in any primary or general election in the District of Columbia since on or before November 2018; AND
- Has not responded to any notices mailed after the November 2018 General Election; AND
- Has not updated their voter registration information with DCBOE or any other District of Columbia voter registration agency since the November 2018 General Election; AND
- Has had notices sent to their address of residence returned to DCBOE by the U.S. Postal Service as “undeliverable.”

### **I’m on the list, what are my next steps?**

You can reactivate your voter status by updating your voter registration information or by participating in an upcoming election. You can register to vote in the District of Columbia by visiting <https://www.dcboe.org/Voters/Register-To-Vote/Register-to-Vote>, coming to DCBOE’s office at 1015 Half Street, SE, Suite 750, Washington, DC, 20003 from 8:15 am to 4:45 pm weekdays, or by calling DCBOE at (202) 727-2525.

### **If I do nothing, when will I be removed from the voter roll if my name is on the September 2023 list?**

Inactive voters will be removed from the voter roll on October 11, 2023, unless certain steps are taken. After that date, those wishing to participate in District of Columbia elections will need to re-register to vote.

### **What do I need to do if I'm removed from the voter roll?**

If you're removed from the voter roll, you'll need to re-register to vote in District of Columbia elections. DCBOE encourages timely re-registration for eligible residents.

### **Can I re-register after my name is removed from the voter roll?**

Yes, you can re-register to vote after removal, but it is essential to do so before the upcoming elections to ensure your participation.

### **I’m unsure of my voter registration status. What can I do?**

Visit <https://www.dcboe.org/Voters/Register-To-Vote/Check-Voter-Registration-Status> to check your voter registration status.