Can I vote while I am incarcerated or in jail? 
Yes, you may still vote in jail, with an absentee ballot if you are not serving time for a felony conviction. See D.C. Code § 1-1001.02.

What if I am in jail, charged with a felony and awaiting trial? 
You keep the right to vote while you are waiting for trial on a felony charge. You can vote with an absentee ballot.

Can I vote after I have served my sentence for a felony conviction? 
Yes. You receive the right to vote again after you are released from prison. You will have to re-register to vote (see question 7 for how to do this).

May I vote if I am on probation or parole? 
After you are released from prison, you are able to vote even if you are on parole or probation in D.C.

May I vote in jail if I was convicted of a misdemeanor? 
For most misdemeanor convictions you can vote with an absentee ballot while serving time in jail. You can’t vote while serving time for certain election, lobbying, and campaign finance-related crimes that may be misdemeanors but are defined as felonies for the purpose of disenfranchisement under D.C. Code § 1-1001.02(7)—all others with a misdemeanor conviction may vote by absentee ballot while incarcerated.

So if I am out of jail but still have a “criminal record” I can still vote? 
Yes. DC only requires that you not be in jail serving time for a felony conviction. You also must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of D.C. 30 days before the election, at least 17 years old and at least 18 years old by the next general election, not be found legally incompetent and not claim voting residence outside of D.C.

How do I register to vote? 
Throughout the year you may:
- Register in person at the D.C. Board of Elections (DCBOE).
- Register by mail. Complete and mail the form to the DCBOE address on the Voter Registration Application available at https://www.dcboee.org/voter_info/register_to_vote/ovr_step1.asp
- Register at select government agencies, to include the Department of Corrections and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- On election day, register at your place to vote.
- During early voting, register at an early voting site.

What forms of I.D. should I bring when registering to vote in person? 
You must bring ONE of the following items:
- Current and valid government issued photo identification card showing your address
- Current utility bill with your address
- Bank statement with your address
- Government issued check with your address
- Paycheck or paycheck stub with your name and address
- A government-issued document that shows your name and address.
- Students may present housing assignment forms as proof of residence.
- Homeless residents may present occupancy statements from District homeless shelters.

What is the deadline for voter registration? 
You can register or update your voter registration in person at the DCBOE office or at select government agencies to include the DMV or Department of Corrections until early voting begins (usually two weeks before an election).

How do I find out if I am already registered to vote and how do I find out where my place to vote is located? 
You can confirm your voter registration status and the location of your place to vote online at http://www.dcboee.org or call the DCBOE at 202.727.2525.

What If I change my address or change my political party (Democratic, Libertarian, DC Statehood Green, or Republican)? 
- Complete and mail the Voter Registration Application to the DC Board of Elections (DCBOE)
- Register and update your voter registration in person at the office of the DCBOE, 441 Fourth Street NW, Suite 250N, Washington, DC 20001 (Judiciary Square Metro Stop on the Red Line.)

Changes to your political party must be postmarked or received by the DCBOE 30 days prior to the election.

Address updates may be made by mail, in person at the DCBOEE or before casting your vote during early voting or on Election Day.

Where can I get unbiased information on the election and the candidates? 
Vote411.org is a “one-stop-shop” for unbiased election related information providing information on election dates and registration requirements, your polling place location, and data on the candidates in federal and local elections.

What if I don’t have access to a phone or computer? 
You may be able to gain access to a computer at a local public library.

Can I register to vote if I am homeless? 
Yes. A statement from a District Homeless Shelter will be accepted as your address.
UNLEASH YOUR POWER

VOTE

your voice matters

This nonpartisan brochure is a public service of The League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia Education Fund. Information in this brochure is current as of July 2013.

The League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia Education Fund is an all-volunteer citizen education and research organization with IRS 501 (c)(3) status. The Education Fund provides research, publications, forums, training on public policy issues, and disseminates information that helps citizens be thoughtfully engaged in the local democratic process.


Por informacion oficial sobre el proceso electoral en Espanol llama 202.727.2525.