Register to Vote in the District of Columbia

You are eligible to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years or older, and live in the District of Columbia.

Moved or changed your name? You must fill out a new voter registration form if you have moved to a new address, changed your name, or wish to change your party.

- **IN PERSON** at the Department of Motor Vehicles, the D.C. Board of Elections, and other D.C. agency offices. If you register in person at a DC agency office, you must do so **no later than 23 days before** the election.
- **ONLINE** at [www.vote411.com](http://www.vote411.com). Your application must be submitted online **no later than 23 days before** the election.
- **BY MAIL**. Request a form mailed to you by calling 1-866-DC-VOTES. Your application must be **postmarked no later than 30 days** before Election Day and received by the Board of Elections **no later than 23 days before** the election.
- **AT THE POLLS**. You can register to vote in person at your assigned polling location and vote that day.
Every D.C. voter lives in ...

**A Ward** - The city is divided into eight wards based on the number of residents. To assure equal representation, the boundaries are redrawn every 10 years according to the population numbers from the latest census.

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission** - Wards are divided into Advisory Neighborhood Commission areas that are often the same as traditional neighborhoods. Each ward has between four and six Advisory Neighborhood Commission areas. The city’s 41 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions each have between two and 12 members.

**A Single Member District** - Advisory Neighborhood Commission areas are divided into Single Member Districts (SMDs), each represented by a Neighborhood Commissioner. A Neighborhood Commissioner represents about 2,000 residents.

**A Precinct** - Each voter is assigned a precinct in his or her neighborhood based on where they live. Each precinct has one polling place where you vote on Election Day.

For More Information ....

The DC Citizen's Guides provide basic, neutral information to help you exercise your right to vote. Visit these websites for more information:

- [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)
- [www.lwvdc.org](http://www.lwvdc.org)
- [www.vote4dc.com](http://www.vote4dc.com)

District of Columbia Board of Elections
441 4th Street NW, Suite 250 North
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-2525
[www.dcboee.org](http://www.dcboee.org)

League of Women Voters of The District of Columbia Education Fund
1101 15th Street, 11th Floor
Washington, DC 20024
202-222-0710
[www.lwvdc.org](http://www.lwvdc.org)
Local Offices

**Mayor** - The city’s Chief Executive. Responsible for the operation of the agencies that make the government work. Prepares annual city budget. Approves or rejects new city laws. 4-Year Term.

**Council of the District of Columbia** - The city’s Policy-Making Body. Writes city’s laws. Oversees the agencies and boards that make the city government work. Reviews and approves Mayor’s annual budget. 13 members.

- **Council Chair** - The Presiding Officer of the Council. Appoints members of the Council’s committees. Represents the District as a whole. 4-year term.
- **Four At-Large Members** – Represent the District as a whole. 4-year term.
- **Eight Ward Members** - Each represents a single ward in the District. 4-year term.

**Attorney General** - The city’s Chief Legal Officer. Protects District citizens by providing legal representation to D.C. agencies, officers, and employees. 4-Year Term.

**Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners** - Represent a Single Member District on an Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC). Advise the Mayor, Council, and city agencies on public policy in the neighborhood. 2-Year Term.

**State Board of Education** - The city’s Education Policy body. Approves policies on academic standards, testing, and graduation requirements for both public and public charter schools.

- **Eight Ward Members** - Represent a single ward in the District. 2-Year Term.
- **At-Large Board Member** - Represents the District as a whole. 2-Year Term.

Federal Offices

**President and Vice President of the United States** - The candidates for President and Vice President run together as a pair. You vote for one pair. In the general election, DC has three electoral votes for the President and Vice President in the Electoral College. 4-Year Term.

**Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives** - Serves on Congressional committees, votes on procedural matters, and participates in House debates. The DC Delegate is a non-voting member of the House. The delegate may be a voting member of a House Committee and may introduce legislation. 2-Year Term.

Shadow Offices

**Two U.S. (Shadow) Senators** – Volunteer position to advocate for D.C. Statehood. The position is not recognized by the United States Senate and the shadow senators cannot vote on matters before the Senate. 6-Year Term.

**One (Shadow) Representative to the U.S. House of Representatives** - Volunteer position to advocate for D.C. Statehood. The position not recognized by the United States House of Representatives and shadow representative cannot vote on matters before the House. 2-Year Term.

Party Offices *(Voted on in the Primary Elections only.)*

National Committeeman and Committeewoman and Alternate National Committeeman and Committeewoman – Delegates to each of the national party committees. Represent the District of Columbia at the next national convention of a political party.

State, At-Large & Ward Party Committeeman and Committeewoman – Delegates to the state and ward party committees. Participate in the affairs of the party at the block, precinct, state, and national levels.

Primary Elections - Political party members choose which candidates will represent them on the party ballot in the General Election. In DC, only voters registered as a member of a party may vote in the Primary Election.

In the District of Columbia, candidates for the offices of Mayor, Council, Attorney General, Shadow Senator, Shadow Representative, and Delegate to the United States House of Representatives as well as President and Vice President of the United States can be selected by political parties in Primary Elections. This means they are partisan offices.

General Election - All registered voters may vote in the general election. All elected positions are filled by popular vote.
Get Ready. Go Vote!

Get Ready.

Get informed.
Before you vote, get to know about the issues and candidates in the elections. You do not have to vote on everything. You can just vote on things you most care about.

To help you prepare, consider the following:
• The District of Columbia Voter’s Guide includes instructions on voting as well as information about the candidates, initiatives, and referendums. It includes a Sample Ballot that lists everything on your ballot plus information on where you vote. The D.C. Board of Elections mails this booklet to all registered voters.
• Visit www.vote411.org to learn more about the candidates on your ballot and find your precinct.

Both of these resources have nonpartisan information, which means they just give the facts and do not take sides about how you should vote.

Decide how you will vote.
You can choose if you want to vote:
• EARLY at an early voting center in your ward,
• BY MAIL with an absentee (mail-in) ballot,
• IN PERSON at your precinct on Election Day.

Find your precinct by looking at your Voter Registration Card or look it up at www.vote411.org.
Find early voting times and locations at www.vote4dc.com or in The District of Columbia Sample Ballot.

Go Vote!

What happens when I vote at my precinct?
• You will be asked for your name and for your signature to be able to vote.
• If you are a first-time voter in the city, you may be asked to show identification.
• The poll worker will give you a paper ballot to mark in a private booth or a card to put into a voting machine.
• If your name is not on the list of voters, you can still vote with a Special Ballot.
• Don’t feel rushed, and ask for help if you need it.

What if I vote with an absentee (mail-in) ballot?
• You must apply for an absentee ballot. You can sign up online at www.vote4dc.com or use the application that comes with your Sample Ballot.
• Your request for a mail-in ballot must be received by the D.C. Board of Elections no later than the Tuesday before election day.
• After you fill out the ballot, be sure to sign it and mail in the completed ballot to arrive no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day. You can drop off your absentee ballot at any polling location in the city on Election Day.
• You must sign your ballot for your vote to be counted.

Bring the right I.D.
If you have voted before in DC, you do not need to show your identification to vote in DC. When you are voting for the first time in the city, you might be asked to show identification.

When registering to vote, 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
• Other government-issued document that shows your name and address

If you are a student, you may present housing assignment forms from your school as proof of residence
If you are homeless, you may present occupancy statements from District homeless shelters.

VOTE411.org is a “one-stop-shop” for election-related information. It provides nonpartisan information including finding your polling place and its hours, early and absentee voting options, and much much more.

Register to vote or update your voter information online. Enter your address to build a personalized voting guide with information you need to cast your ballot.

VOTE411.org is an online voter information project of the League of Women Voters.