



Voting While Incarcerated

D.C. Law 23-277 Restore the Vote Amendment Act of 2020 allows District residents to vote while incarcerated. The law requires the DC Board of Elections to provide DC residents incarcerated in the custody of the DC Department of Corrections and the federal Bureau of Prisons with voter registration materials.

Incarcerated persons are eligible to vote if they are a U.S. citizen, a resident of DC for at least 30 days prior to their current incarceration, a judge has not ruled that they are incapable of voting, and they do not claim residence or the right to vote in another U.S. state or territory.

Incarcerated persons may request a voter registration form, by contacting the DC Board of Elections at:

D. C. Board of Elections
Restore the Vote Division
1015 Half Street, S.E., Suite 750
Washington, DC 20003

Persons housed in the federal Bureau of Prisons can contact the DC Board of Elections at outreachspecialist@dcboe.org via Corrlinks.

Incarcerated persons who have a disability that makes it hard to read, write, sign, or use paper or other accommodation may contact the DC Board of Election's ADA Coordinator, Jay Penuel, via email at jpenuel@dcboe.org or call collect to 202-800-6190.

Persons incarcerated at DC Jail may vote via mail or in-person at the DC Jail. Same day registration is available at DC Jail on voting day(s).

Persons housed in the federal Bureau of Prisons who have registered to vote will receive a ballot from the DC Board of Elections via legal mail. Once the incarcerated person receives the ballot in the mail, they must follow all instructions on the ballot and sign, date the outside of the envelop where indicated, and place the completed ballot in legal mail with sufficient time for it to be postmarked by the deadline.

In order to remain current on the voter registration roles, whenever incarcerated persons are moved from one facility to another facility, they must inform the Board of Elections in writing about a change of address. Likewise, the person must also notify the Board of Elections of their new address upon release.

Incarcerated persons can contact the DC Board of Elections at 202-727-2525 or via Corrlinks at outreachspecialist@dcboe.org to confirm that their Voter Registration Application form and/or their ballot was received.

DC Law 23-277 requires the DC Corrections Information Council to provide an analysis of the Act's implementation and any identifiable challenges. Please inform the DC CIC (Patricia.Marks@dc.gov) about any difficulties incarcerated persons have encountered in attempting to register to vote or to vote.