

District of Columbia

Registration Deadline

Forms must be received 31 days or postmarked 30 days before an election.¹

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Database Implementation Status

The District of Columbia uses one centralized database to enter, process, and maintain all voter registration information.

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? The Registrar of Voters generally reviews and enters information from voter registration forms in the District of Columbia into the system.

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Forms received by the Department of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) are sent to the Registrar of Voters for review and entry.

How are most forms submitted? The District of Columbia reported that in 2004, 20% of forms were submitted by mail, 6% were submitted in person to election officials, 56% were submitted at the DMV, and 19% were submitted at another voter registration agency.²

Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number? The applicant will be assigned a unique voter registration number; if the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered, but will have to show identification at the polls.³

How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number? The applicant will be assigned a unique voter registration number. If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered, but will have to show identification at the polls.

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? The applicant will be assigned a unique voter registration number. If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered, but will have to show identification at the polls.

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records? Identifying number, full name, and date of birth.

How precise is the match standard? The District of Columbia has not yet determined how substantial a match will be needed to match information on voter registration forms.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? The process for matching information on voter registration forms depends entirely on a manual search.

Description of matching process: Once per day, the DMV will send updated motor vehicle information to the Registrar of Voters, where an official will manually attempt to match new applicants' voter registration information to the DMV records. The District of Columbia has not yet determined the criteria by which a match will be sought.

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered provisionally registered. Unless she provides identification before the voter registration deadline, she will need to show photo identification at the polls.

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form? Yes, but the applicant must submit a photocopy of identification with name and address.

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match? Yes, but the applicant must submit a photocopy of identification with name and address.

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? No.

Description of notice and correction process: The District of Columbia will send a notice to the home address of any applicant with incomplete, illegible, or unmatched identifying information, directing the applicant to provide a photocopy of current identification that shows the applicant's full name and address. If the applicant does not provide this information before the voter registration deadline, she will have to provide photo identification at the polls to vote a regular ballot. If both the notification and a subsequent follow-up notification sent to all known addresses are returned undeliverable, the registration will be cancelled.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? Every voter who did not provide a verified identification number will have to provide identification at the polls.⁴

What forms of identification are accepted? Every voter whose identification number was not verified (and who did not submit a photocopy of current identification with name and address) before the voter registration deadline will have to provide current and valid photo ID at the polls. Voters who did not provide an identification number may submit current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.

Forms of ID:

voters whose identifying number was not verified:	current and valid photo ID
voters who provided no identifying number:	current and valid photo ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address other gov't document w/ name, address

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? A first-time voter registering by mail may vote a provisional, or "special," ballot. This ballot may be counted, at the discretion of the Board of Elections and Ethics, if the voter is deemed eligible after a review of the available evidence.⁵

Statutes and Regulations

D.C. CODE ANN. §§ 1-1001.05 and 1-1001.07 generally concern registration. D.C. CODE ANN. § 1-1001.05(a)(1) directs the Board of Elections and Ethics to develop and administer a statewide voter registration database. There are no applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ D.C. CODE ANN. § 1-1001.07(g).

² Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

³ D.C. CODE ANN. § 1-1001.07(a-1)(2).

⁴ Although District of Columbia policy is reflected in the text above, the relevant statute mandates only that first-time voters who registered by mail and whose identifying numbers have not been verified must show identification at the time of registration or at the polls. *Id.* § 1-1001.07(i)(6).

⁵ *Id.* §§ 1-1001.07(i)(6), 1-1001.09(e).

Mail-In Voter Registration Form

You can use this form to:

- register to vote in the District of Columbia
- let us know that your name and address has changed
- register with a party or change parties

To register to vote in the District of Columbia you must:

- be a U.S. citizen
- be a D.C. resident
- be at least 18 years old on or before the next election
- not be in jail for a felony conviction
- not have been adjudged “mentally incompetent” by a court of law
- not claim the right to vote anywhere outside D.C.

Questions? Call 727-2525

or visit www.dcboee.org

Hearing-impaired people with TDD, call 639-8916

Información en español: Si le interesa obtener este formulario en español, llame al 727-2525.

Important! New Federal Requirement:

IDENTIFICATION -- Federal law now requires that all voter registration applications must include either the applicant's driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number. If you do not have a driver's license, you must provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you have neither, please check the appropriate box on this voter registration form and the District will assign you a number.

Failure to complete section #8 or 8a of this form may prevent your application for voter registration from being processed.

Keep your record up-to-date! If the Board of Elections and Ethics does not have your current address, your name may be removed from the voter roll. Your name must be on the voter roll, to vote in the next election.

Use this form to send in your change of name, address, or change your party.

(Use a pen to complete this form)

1	Check one: Are you a U.S. Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		2	Reason for completing this form		Voter ID Number		
	Will you be 18 years of age on or before the next Election? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			<input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> Party Change <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change		Reg. Date	Clerk	
If you checked 'no' in response to any of the questions above, do not complete this form.								
3	Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Suffix Jr. Sr. II III IV
4	Address Where You Live Circle One NE NW SE SW				Apartment Number		Zip Code	
5	Address Where You Get Your Mail (If different from #4)						Zip Code	
6	Date of Birth	7	Daytime Telephone Number	8 Driver's License Number, or the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number				
9	Party Registration – Check one box		PLEASE NOTE: To vote in a primary election in the District of Columbia, you must be registered with the Democratic, Republican or D.C. Statehood Green Parties.		8a <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a Driver's License Number or a Social Security Number. Please assign me a number.			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party <input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party <input type="checkbox"/> D.C. Statehood Green Party <input type="checkbox"/> No Party (independent) <input type="checkbox"/> Other Party (write <u>name</u> below)				12 Voter Declaration — read and sign below			
10	Optional: If you have a disability that requires assistance with voting, please indicate type: _____							
11	Name and Address on Last Registration							
	(If outside D.C., include county and state)							
				Signature _____		Date _____		
WARNING: If you sign this statement even though you know it is untrue, you can be convicted and fined up to \$10,000 and/or jailed for up to five years.								