

DCBOE: Non-citizen Voting Townhall

When: Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 2pm

Where: Virtual in Board Room

Format: 45 minutes to 1 hour (at most) virtual townhall with a short presentation from DCBOE and Q&A

Who: DCBOE Presentation (Comms, OGC, VEOD) will focus on the following: 15-20 minutes

Run of Show:

Intro: Comms (2-3 min)

- Welcome and Agenda Setting

History/legal overview: OGC (5-7 mins)

- What offices can non-citizens vote for? Which ones can they not vote for?

Voter Registration and Voter Rights/Responsibilities: VEOD (5-7 mins)

- How does voter registration work? Steps and options on how to register to vote.
- What kind of language access resources does DCBOE provide for voter registration?
- Ballots: show a sample

Language Access: Jay, (5-7 mins)

- General language access overview
- Election Day resources for Language Access: what does the DCBOE provide?

Election must knows (Comms): 3-5 minutes

- Important dates and deadlines including ballots mailed, voter registration, party affiliation, Early Voting hours, and Primary Election Day

Public Q&A with Comms moderating: 20-30 minutes

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FAQ:

Q: Non-citizens voting in elections is awful. Why is DCBOE allowing this?

A: DCBOE's mission is to enfranchise all eligible DC residents, including non-citizen DC residents. We are simply following the law.

Q: How is non-citizen DC resident voter information stored and managed differently from citizen voters?

A: Non-citizen DC resident voter information is stored in a separate component within our Voter Focus database system. In addition, the physical voter registration form is a different color (yellow) and the ballots are marked the letter “L” and “LOCAL”

Q: How many non-citizen DC residents have registered to vote so far?

A: As of April 30, 372 non-citizen DC residents have registered to vote.

Q: How will registering to vote impact my immigration status if I’m in the process of becoming a citizen?

A: DCBOE cannot offer legal advice. We suggest you speak to your immigration attorney or your legal counsel for potential impacts.

Q: What voter registration is public information?

A: In the District of Columbia, some voter registration data—such as a voter’s name, home address, party affiliation, and voting record (a record of if you voted and the method in which you voted in previous elections)—is public information, unless it has been made confidential in accordance with District of Columbia rules and regulations. We do not share Personal Identifiable Information (PII).

Q: Can non-citizen be an Election Worker?

A: Yes, a non-citizen can be an election worker. Requirements are:

- A DC resident
- At least 16 years of age and attends or has graduated from a public or private secondary school or institution of higher education
- Be able to speak English

Q: Do I need an ID to vote on Election Day?

A: No, you did not need an ID to vote. However, if you are registered to vote in the District of Columbia for the first time and submit an application by mail or electronically, you may be required to provide identification that shows your name and current address the first time you vote in an election in the District of Columbia. You can find required proof of residence documents at dcboe.org/noncitizenvoter.

Q: What happens if I don't have proof of residence on Election Day when I go to register to vote or vote for the first time. Can I still cast a ballot?

A: Yes, you can still vote by Special Ballot. Here is how:

1. In order to vote a Special Ballot, you must complete the right side of the Special Ballot Envelope at the Vote Center.
2. Once you have done so, the Ballot On-Demand Clerk will provide you with a special ballot.
3. After you have voted your special ballot, you will place it inside a secrecy envelope, place the secrecy envelope inside the completed Special Ballot Envelope, and insert the Special Ballot Envelope in the Special Ballot Box.

If you vote a Special Ballot, the Board will determine whether to count your special ballot based on the information you provided on the Special Ballot Envelope.

Q: I voted by Special Ballot. How do I find out whether it was counted?

A: The day after Election Day, you may visit the Special Ballot Status page of our website, or call 1-866-DC VOTES (1-866-328-6837), to learn of the Board's preliminary determination to either count or reject your Special Ballot. If the Board rejects your Special Ballot, you may challenge this decision by scheduling an appeal hearing. If you do not win your appeal, you have one business day after the Board makes its final determination to appeal the decision to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Important links:

- Election Information: Check out our homepage with our new Primary Election dashboard or visit <https://dcboe.org/elections/2024-elections>
- How to check your voter registration: <https://apps.dcboe.org/VRS>
- Voter registration (general): www.dcboe.org/registertovote
- Non-citizen DC resident voter information: www.dcboe.org/noncitizenvoter
- Election Worker application: <https://www.dcboe.org/election-workers/election-worker-applications>
- Vote Center/Mail Ballot Drop Box locator: <https://www.dcboe.org/voters/find-out-where-to-vote/vote-center-locator-tool>
- Upcoming Voter Registration events: www.dcboe.org/events
- Latest News: www.dcboe.org/news