



2026 DC General Election VOTER GUIDE

*Prepared by Civic Vision Strategies for Community Awareness
In Partnership with Voices for a Second Chance (VSC)*

About This Guide

Voices for a Second Chance created this voter guide because we believe that returning citizens and justice-impacted communities deserve clear, accessible information about the candidates and choices on the ballot. Too often, the people most affected by government decisions are the least informed about who is making them.

This guide covers the November 3, 2026, Washington, D.C. general election. It includes candidates certified for the general election ballot from the Democratic, Republican, and DC Statehood Green parties, as well as independent and registered write-in candidates. Every candidate profiled receives the same format. Candidate information has been verified against DC Board of Elections (DCBOE) official candidate lists, write-in candidate lists, petition challenge records, and the election calendar, current as of September 11, 2026.^{1,2}

This guide is provided for informational purposes only and may not reflect the most current or accurate data. A small number of candidacies noted in this guide were still subject to pending DCBOE ballot-access challenges as of publication.³ For official, up-to-date information, please consult the District of Columbia Board of Elections at dcboe.org. VSC is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization and does not endorse any particular candidate, campaign, or political party.

Where detailed policy positions were not publicly available for a candidate, we note that clearly. We encourage all voters to visit candidate websites and attend community forums to learn more.

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Why This Matters

Every election shapes the systems that affect daily life — public safety, housing, reentry supports, youth programs, economic opportunity, and DC's ability to govern itself. Your vote helps determine the future of these systems and the wellbeing of our communities.

Voices for a Second Chance (VSC)

VSC supports individuals returning home from incarceration and their families through reentry services, advocacy, and community partnerships. This guide reflects VSC's commitment to ensuring that justice-impacted residents have access to the information they need to participate fully in the democratic process.

How This Guide Is Organized

To make it easier to compare candidates, we reviewed each candidate's publicly available positions through five issue areas that are especially relevant to the communities we serve. Not every candidate has taken a public position on every issue. Where a candidate's positions were available, we summarized them under these categories:

- **Public Safety & Justice:** Policing, violence prevention, accountability, alternatives to incarceration, and reentry.
- **Housing & Stability:** Affordable housing, homelessness, and supportive housing.
- **Economic Opportunity:** Jobs, small business support, workforce development, and opportunities for returning citizens.
- **Youth & Families:** Education, youth programs, family supports, and prevention.
- **DC Autonomy & Governance:** Home rule, federal interference, statehood, and the role of the office.

These categories reflect VSC's priorities. Individual candidates may emphasize different issues or use different language to describe their positions.



How Ranked Choice Voting Works

DC general elections use ranked choice voting (RCV), approved by voters through Initiative 83 in November 2024, for any race with three or more candidates.^{4,5} Here's what you need to know:

The Basics

- Instead of voting for just one candidate, you can rank up to five candidates in order of preference for each race with three or more candidates — or as many candidates as there are in the race, if there are fewer than five.
- Mark your favorite candidate as your 1st choice, your second favorite as your 2nd choice, and so on.
- You do not have to rank all five. You can rank as many or as few candidates as you like. Ranking just one candidate is still a valid vote.
- Races with only two candidates on the ballot (for example, Attorney General or Ward 6 Council this year) are decided by a simple vote-for-one, majority-take-all contest — RCV is not used.

How Votes Are Counted

- All first-choice votes are counted first. If any candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, they win.
- If no candidate reaches 50%, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated.
- If your top choice is eliminated, your vote moves to your next-ranked candidate.
- This process repeats until one candidate earns a majority and is declared the winner.
- The DC Council – At-Large race fills two seats at once, so it uses a modified, multi-seat tabulation process rather than the single-winner process described above.⁶

Important Tips

- Ranking additional candidates does not hurt your first choice. Your second choice is only counted if your first choice is eliminated.
- Do not give multiple candidates the same ranking.
- Do not rank the same candidate more than once.
- Do not skip rankings (for example, ranking 1st and 3rd but skipping 2nd).

Ranked choice voting means the winning candidate must earn broad support. It is designed to give voters more choices and more voice in the outcome.

RCV Technical Terms (For Outreach Workers)

Under Initiative 83 (D.C. Act 25-652), the following terms have specific meanings. Outreach workers should be familiar with these so they can answer voter questions:

- **Inactive Ballot:** A ballot becomes inactive if all of a voter's ranked candidates have been eliminated in counting rounds. The ballot is not thrown out — it simply has no remaining active candidate to transfer to. This is why ranking more candidates gives your ballot more chances to count.
- **Overvote:** If a voter gives the same ranking to more than one candidate (for example, marking two candidates as their 1st choice), that ranking and all lower rankings are not counted. The ballot counts only for rankings above the overvote.



- **Skipped Ranking:** If a voter skips a ranking (for example, ranking 1st and 3rd but leaving 2nd blank), the skipped ranking is ignored and the next valid ranking is counted. However, skipping can increase the risk of an inactive ballot, so voters should rank candidates consecutively.

Source: Initiative 83 (D.C. Act 25-652); D.C. Code § 1-1001.08a.⁵ Full text available at dcboe.org/elections/ranked-choice-voting.⁴

Why Your Vote Matters: Elections and Policy Enforcement

Voting is not just about picking a candidate. It is about choosing the people who decide whether the policies that affect your life get enforced. Here are real examples:

- **Housing:** DC has funding set aside for affordable housing for people leaving incarceration. But if the officials overseeing that money don't prioritize it, those dollars can sit unspent or get redirected.
- **Jobs:** DC law requires that certain jobs go to DC residents. But enforcement is inconsistent, and many returning citizens never see those opportunities.
- **Healthcare:** Gaps in healthcare coverage during the transition from incarceration to community can be life-threatening. The Mayor and Council decide how much funding goes to continuity of care.
- **Halfway Houses:** Halfway houses in DC are overcrowded and under-resourced. The officials you elect control the budget and oversight that determine whether conditions improve.
- **Voting Rights:** DC passed the Restore the Vote Act to let incarcerated residents vote.⁷ But incarcerated people and returning citizens still need access to election information in order to fully participate.

When elected officials know that returning citizens are paying attention, showing up, and holding them accountable, they are far more likely to follow through.



How to Vote If You Are Currently Incarcerated

DC is one of a small number of jurisdictions where incarcerated residents retain the full right to vote, including people with felony convictions. This is guaranteed by the Restore the Vote Amendment Act of 2020 (DC Law 23-277), authored by then-Councilmember Robert White, now the Democratic nominee for Delegate to the U.S. House.^{7,8} Here is a step-by-step guide:

If You Are in the DC Jail (Central Detention Facility / Correctional Treatment Facility)

- DC Department of Corrections (DOC) staff are required to offer voter registration during intake and at multiple points during your stay, and must automatically register eligible residents unless they decline.⁷
- The DC Board of Elections (BOE) is required to send every registered, eligible voter in DOC custody a ballot, a postage-paid return envelope, and educational materials — without you needing to submit an absentee-ballot application first.⁷
- DOC policy also allows eligible residents to vote in person, "as specified by the Board of Elections." In past elections, DOC and BOE have operated an in-person polling place inside the jail during early voting and on Election Day, with same-day registration available on site.^{9,10} As of this guide's publication, specific November 3, 2026 in-jail voting dates and hours had not yet been published on DCBOE's public vote center list — ask DOC staff or call BOE (below) to confirm before Election Day.¹¹
- People housed in Community Correctional Centers (halfway houses) may vote at designated polling locations.⁹
- If you have not received registration or ballot materials, contact DOC staff and request them. You can also ask a trusted visitor or advocate to contact BOE on your behalf.

If You Are in a Federal (BOP) Facility

- BOE is required to endeavor to provide the same registration and ballot materials to DC residents in BOP custody, delivered via legal mail.^{7,10}
- You can request a registration form or absentee ballot by writing to: DC Board of Elections, Restore the Vote Division, 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20003, or by contacting BOE through the Corrlinks system at outreachspecialist@dcboe.org.¹⁰
- Sign and date your ballot envelope exactly as instructed, and place it in legal mail early enough to be postmarked by Election Day, November 3, 2026.¹²
- If you move between facilities, notify BOE in writing of your new address, and again after release.¹⁰

Key Dates for Incarcerated Voters

- **October 13, 2026:** Voter registration deadline (same-day registration is also available during early voting and on Election Day).
- **October 19, 2026:** Deadline to request a mail ballot.
- **October 26 – November 1, 2026:** Early voting, 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM daily.
- **November 3, 2026:** Election Day, polls open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Mail ballots must be postmarked this day.
- **November 13, 2026:** Deadline for mailed ballots to be received by BOE.¹²



After release, the only step required to keep voting is updating your registration address with DCBOE — DC is one of just three jurisdictions nationwide (with Maine and Vermont) where a felony conviction never takes away the right to vote.^{13,10} You can check or update your registration at DCBOE's voter registration status tool at apps.dcbos.org/vrs.

For questions or help, contact the DC Board of Elections: (202) 727-2525 | Toll-free: 1-866-328-6837 | dcbos.org



What's on the Ballot?

Every registered DC voter receives the same general election ballot, regardless of party — unlike the primary, you do not need to be registered with a specific party to vote in November. The table below covers the citywide races that appear on every ballot. Ward Council seats, Shadow Senator, Shadow Representative, State Board of Education, and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner races also appear on your ballot depending on where you live — see "Other Races on Your Ballot."

Race	What This Office Does	Your Ballot
Mayor	Leads DC government agencies, proposes the citywide budget, oversees police, corrections, housing, and human services agencies, and signs or vetoes Council legislation.	Ranked choice voting — rank your preferred candidates (3 candidates on the ballot; 1 registered write-in candidate).
Attorney General	DC's chief legal officer. Represents the District in court, enforces consumer-protection and public-safety laws, and prosecutes certain juvenile cases.	Vote for ONE (2 candidates on the ballot).
Council Chairman	Presides over the 13-member Council, sets the legislative agenda, and casts a citywide (not ward-specific) vote on all legislation and the budget.	Vote for ONE (2 candidates on the ballot).*
DC Council – At-Large (2 seats)	Represents the entire District, not a single ward. No more than 3 of the 4 at-large seats (including the Chairman) may be held by members of one party.	Ranked choice voting — rank your preferred candidates; the top two vote-getters after tabulation win the two seats (4 candidates on the ballot; up to 2 additional independents pending a DCBOE challenge).*
Delegate to the U.S. House	Represents DC in the U.S. House of Representatives. Can introduce legislation and vote in committee, but cannot vote on the House floor. Advocates for DC statehood and budget autonomy.	Ranked choice voting — rank your preferred candidates (3 candidates on the ballot; 1 registered write-in candidate).

* See the Council Chairman and At-Large profiles below for details on candidates whose ballot status was still being finalized by DCBOE as of publication.³

Important Notes for Voters

- You do not need a photo ID to vote in DC — a valid form of ID or proof of address may be requested only if you are registering for the first time or your registration is being challenged.
- Same-day registration is available during early voting (October 26 – November 1) and on Election Day (November 3).¹²
- Every active registered voter is mailed a ballot automatically; you can also vote in person at any vote center, regardless of your home address.¹¹



- Returning citizens can vote, including people on probation, parole, or supervised release — DC never removes voting rights for a criminal conviction.¹³
- DC residents who are currently incarcerated can also vote — see "How to Vote If You Are Currently Incarcerated."
- Early voting runs October 26 – November 1, 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM daily. Election Day is November 3, 2026, 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM.¹²

Where to Learn More

- Check your registration status, find your vote center, or request a mail ballot at dcboe.org.
- Call the DC Board of Elections at (202) 727-2525 or toll-free at 1-866-328-6837.
- Contact Voices for a Second Chance for help understanding your voting rights as a returning citizen.



Mayor

Why the Mayor's Race Matters

The Mayor leads DC government agencies, proposes the citywide budget, oversees police, corrections, housing, and human services agencies, and signs or vetoes Council legislation. These decisions directly affect returning citizens, people under community supervision, and families navigating the criminal legal system. This race uses ranked choice voting: you may rank up to 5 candidates, and there is one registered write-in candidate. Candidates are listed alphabetically within each ballot category.

Democratic Nominee

Janeese Lewis George

Website: <https://janeesefordc.com/>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: Democratic nominee, on the ballot

Background: Ward 4 Councilmember; a third-generation Washingtonian and the daughter of a union postal worker.

Public Safety & Justice: Campaigns on a "Safe Communities For All" platform pillar.

Housing & Stability: Campaigns on a "Homes For All" platform pillar.

Economic Opportunity: Campaigns on a "Good Jobs For All" platform pillar.

Youth & Families: Campaigns on "Childcare For All" and "Excellent Schools For All" platform pillars.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Campaigns on "Let the people of DC govern DC."

Note: The DC Line reported that the DC Office of Campaign Finance imposed \$16,000 in penalties on her campaign over alleged improper coordination with an independent expenditure committee, a ruling under appeal.⁶

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

DC Statehood Green Nominee

Robert L. Gross

Website: <http://statehoodgreensofdc.org/candidate-robert-gross.html>

Party: DC Statehood Green

Ballot status: DC Statehood Green nominee, on the ballot

Background: A lifelong Washingtonian, IT professional and U.S. Air Force veteran, and community advocate, running on a "Human Life Standard" governance framework that measures policy by whether it improves residents' daily lives.¹⁴

Economic Opportunity: Seeks to "lead a new generation toward lasting prosperity" under his framework; no specific policies stated.

Youth & Families: States a vision that "no man, woman, or child is left further in poverty and that every resident has the opportunity to thrive."

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Independent Candidate

Dr. Rhonda L. Hamilton



Website: <https://rhondahamilton4dc.com/>

Party: Independent

Ballot status: Independent, on the ballot

Background: Small business owner for more than 20 years, founder and director of the nonprofit I.'s Keep (mental health advocacy, since 2015), and a former real estate franchise broker in Prince George's County.¹⁵

Public Safety & Justice: Supports law enforcement paired with transparency and accountability, and opposes excessive policing and federal immigration enforcement in DC.

Housing & Stability: Frames "housing is healthcare"; calls for more income-restricted units and audits of housing waitlists.

Economic Opportunity: Emphasizes small business support, noting small businesses make up roughly 48% of the DC workforce.

Youth & Families: Supports youth mentorship programs.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Invokes "taxation without representation" and says she is willing to work with the federal government.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Registered Write-In Candidate

A write-in candidate must register with DCBOE in advance; a vote for a write-in only counts if it matches a name on this registered list.

Charles Breedlove

Party: Independent

Ballot status: Registered write-in (not printed on the ballot; must be written in)

Background: Registered as a write-in candidate for Mayor on June 22, 2026.¹⁶

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

A separate candidate, Nadeem Adam Khan, campaigns publicly for Mayor as a write-in (khan4dc.org) but does not appear on DCBOE's certified candidate list or its registered write-in list as of publication.^{16,2} A vote written in for him may not be counted unless DCBOE's records change. Voters who encounter his campaign should confirm his status at dcboe.org before Election Day.



Attorney General

Why the Attorney General's Race Matters

The Attorney General is DC's chief legal officer — representing the District in court, enforcing consumer-protection and public-safety laws, and prosecuting certain juvenile cases. This office shapes how the District enforces laws that affect returning citizens and their families. This race has two candidates and is decided by a simple vote-for-one; ranked choice voting does not apply.

Democratic Nominee

Brian L. Schwalb

Website: <https://www.brianfordc.com/>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: Democratic nominee, on the ballot (incumbent)

Background: A third-generation Washingtonian and attorney with more than 30 years of experience; educated at Duke University and Harvard Law School; a former trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division and later Partner-in-Charge of a major law firm's DC office. He became DC's second elected, independent Attorney General in January 2023, succeeding Karl Racine.^{17,18}

Public Safety & Justice: States he has "prioritized making the District safer"; no specific reentry position was found on the pages reviewed for this guide.

Housing & Stability: States he has prioritized making the District "more affordable for everyone who lives in, works in, and visits" it.

DC Autonomy & Governance: In September 2025, filed suit challenging the federal military deployment to the District.¹⁸

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Republican Nominee

Manuel Rivera

Website: <https://dcgop.com/meet-dc-candidates/>

Party: Republican

Ballot status: Republican nominee, on the ballot

Background: An attorney with roughly 40 years of legal experience; an immigration lawyer who helped establish DC workers' compensation coverage for undocumented workers, and a former Democrat.^{19,14}

Economic Opportunity: Helped establish workers' compensation access for undocumented workers in DC.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)



Council Chairman

Why the Chairman's Race Matters

The Council Chairman presides over the 13-member DC Council, sets the legislative agenda, and — like the at-large Council members — represents the entire District rather than a single ward. This race has two candidates on the ballot and is decided by a simple vote-for-one; ranked choice voting does not apply.

A third candidate, Calvin Gurley (Independent), filed nominating petitions, but DCBOE's official challenge list records the outcome of an August 2026 challenge to his petitions as "Denied Ballot Access." DCBOE's separate candidate list had not been updated to reflect that outcome as of publication, so the two DCBOE records are inconsistent; independent tracking by Ballotpedia lists only Mendelson and Prudent as general-election candidates.^{3,2,20} Voters who see Gurley's name should confirm current ballot status at dcboe.org.

Democratic Nominee

Phil Mendelson

Website: <https://dccouncil.gov/council/chairman-phil-mendelson/>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: Democratic nominee, on the ballot (incumbent Chairman)

Background: A Councilmember since 1998 and Chairman since 2012, re-elected as Chairman in 2014, 2018, and 2022. He chaired the Judiciary Committee from 2005 to 2012, with oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Corrections.²¹

Public Safety & Justice: Authored legislation creating the Department of Forensic Science, wrote DC's post-Heller gun laws, and co-introduced the NEAR Act. In 2026, he introduced and later withdrew emergency legislation touching the tabulation process for the two-seat At-Large race.⁶

Economic Opportunity: Associated with minimum-wage coordination work on the Council.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Authored budget-autonomy and statehood legislation.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Republican Nominee

Abi-Ananiah Prudent

Website: <https://prudentforchair.com/>

Party: Republican

Ballot status: Republican nominee, on the ballot

Background: A grassroots and nonprofit leader with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies focused on Criminal Justice; works for a national advocacy organization.^{22,19,14}

Public Safety & Justice: Would fund violent-crime reduction strategies, target repeat violent offenders, invest in youth prevention, strengthen Council oversight, and require transparent crime reporting.

Housing & Stability: Supports transit investment aligned with housing and job growth.

Economic Opportunity: Supports small business participation in city events.

Youth & Families: Focuses on literacy and math outcomes and on retaining school administrators.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)



DC Council – At-Large (Two Seats)

Why the At-Large Race Matters

At-large Council members represent the entire District, not a single ward, and vote on all citywide legislation and the budget. This is one contest that fills two seats simultaneously. DC law caps the number of at-large Council seats (including the Chairman) that may be held by members of one political party at three of four, which is one reason the two winners are likely to come from different parties.^{23,24} This race uses a modified, multi-seat ranked choice tabulation (sometimes called a "bottoms-up" method) rather than the single-winner process used in other races; DCBOE's official explanation of this process was not available on its website at the time of publication, so the description here draws on independent reporting and should be treated as less authoritative than the single-winner RCV explanation earlier in this guide.⁶ You may rank up to 5 candidates. Candidates are listed alphabetically within each ballot category.

Democratic Nominee

Oye Owolewa

Website: <https://www.vote4oye.com/>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: Democratic nominee, on the ballot

Background: A pharmacist, former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, and DC's current shadow U.S. Representative.¹⁴

Housing & Stability: Supports affordable housing.

Economic Opportunity: Supports tuition-free UDC and restoring DC Medicaid.

Youth & Families: Tuition-free UDC is his stated education commitment.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Supports DC statehood and campaigns to "Stand Up to Donald Trump."

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Republican Nominee

Darrell Green

Website: <https://dcgop.com/meet-dc-candidates/>

Party: Republican

Ballot status: Republican nominee, on the ballot

Background: A lifelong DC resident, retired Metropolitan Police Department officer, and co-owner of a local bar.^{19,14}

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

DC Statehood Green Nominee

Darryl! L.C. Moch

Website: <https://4thepeople4achange.wordpress.com/>

Party: DC Statehood Green



Ballot status: DC Statehood Green nominee, on the ballot

Background: DC Statehood Green Party chair, pastor, and frequent candidate, running to "bring justice, progress, and accountability to the Council."¹⁴

Housing & Stability: Calls housing "a human right"; would promote social housing and community land trusts, create permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, and curb subsidies that drive displacement of long-term residents.

Economic Opportunity: Would adjust tax rates for equity (particularly on large corporations and developers), expand incentives for locally reinvesting small businesses, support eliminating the sub-minimum tipped wage, and establish a DC Public Bank.

Youth & Families: Would boost income support to reduce child poverty and supports "excellent schools."

DC Autonomy & Governance: Advocates statehood and wants to ensure the at-large seat reserved for a non-majority party actually goes to a non-majority candidate.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Independent Candidates

Elissa Silverman

Website: <https://www.elissafordc.com/>

Party: Independent

Ballot status: Independent, on the ballot

Background: Served on the Council from 2015 to 2023 and won the June 2026 special election for the remainder of a previous at-large term; a former journalist.^{24,14}

Economic Opportunity: Lead champion of DC's paid family leave program; emphasizes reducing red tape, past COVID-era aid delivery, and government accountability.

Youth & Families: Paid family leave is the family-related accomplishment she highlights.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

The two independent candidates below had ballot status subject to a pending DCBOE petition challenge as of September 2, 2026 — the most recent DCBOE challenge records available at the time of publication.³ Confirm their final ballot status at dcboe.org before Election Day.

Nina Taylor

Website: <https://www.ninataylordc.com/>

Party: Independent

Ballot status: Independent; ballot status subject to a pending DCBOE petition challenge as of publication

Background: A nonprofit leader and innovator.¹⁴

Housing & Stability: Campaigns on "equitable development."

Economic Opportunity: Campaigns for "economic stability for DC's working families."

DC Autonomy & Governance: Describes DC as "undeniably state-ready."

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Danielle Urey



Website: <https://www.danielleureyfordc.com/>

Party: Independent

Ballot status: Independent; ballot status subject to a pending DCBOE petition challenge as of publication

Background: Served two terms as an at-large Commissioner in Cottage City, Maryland.¹⁴

Economic Opportunity: Platform pillar: "Economic Independence & Small Business Growth."

Youth & Families: Platform pillar on financial literacy and youth advancement.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Platform pillar on "DC Home Rule & Local Representation," emphasizing community representation, accountability, and self-governance.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)



Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives

Why This Race Matters

DC's Delegate represents the District in the U.S. House of Representatives, can introduce legislation and vote in committee, but cannot vote on the House floor. The Delegate is a leading voice for DC statehood and budget autonomy in Congress. This race uses ranked choice voting: you may rank up to 5 candidates, and there is one registered write-in candidate. Candidates are listed alphabetically within each ballot category.

Democratic Nominee

Robert White

Website: <https://www.joinrobertwhite.com/>

Party: Democrat

Ballot status: Democratic nominee, on the ballot

Background: A current At-Large Councilmember, attorney, and former congressional aide who won the June 2026 Democratic primary with 63% of the vote.^{14,25}

Public Safety & Justice: Would "balance accountability with prevention," invest in youth violence-prevention programs, and protect residents from federal overreach. He authored the Restore the Vote Amendment Act, which restored voting rights to all incarcerated District residents.^{26,8}

Housing & Stability: Proposes a "DC Forward Economic Plan" covering affordable housing.

Economic Opportunity: The same plan covers workforce development and jobs for residents without college degrees.

Youth & Families: Supports youth violence-prevention programming.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Lists statehood as a top priority and pledges to safeguard DC's local budget from federal interference.

Note for justice-impacted voters: As a Councilmember, White authored the law that restored voting rights to incarcerated DC residents, described earlier in this guide.⁷

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Republican Nominee

Denise Rosado

Website: <https://dcgop.com/meet-dc-candidates/>

Party: Republican

Ballot status: Republican nominee, on the ballot

Background: A former FCC attorney, former Arizona Assistant Attorney General, and former administrative law judge.^{19,14}

Economic Opportunity: Wants a federal income tax exemption for Washingtonians and increased AI investment.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Opposes DC statehood.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

DC Statehood Green Nominee

Kymone Freeman



Website: <https://www.freeman4congress.com/>

Party: DC Statehood Green

Ballot status: DC Statehood Green nominee, on the ballot

Background: A native Washingtonian, playwright, community activist, and co-founder of a DC independent radio and TV studio, with more than three decades of advocacy on equity and self-determination in the District. He was the party's 2024 nominee.¹⁴

Public Safety & Justice: Frames "crime and poverty" as "symptoms of systemic neglect" and would address root causes by investing in economic opportunity, mental health resources, and ending the school-to-prison pipeline, prioritizing housing, healthcare, and education over policing and displacement.

Housing & Stability: Identifies housing costs among the District's key inequities and would fund housing over policing and displacement.

Economic Opportunity: Calls for shifting city priorities "from corporate handouts to community investment."

Youth & Families: Supports investing in youth and ending the school-to-prison pipeline.

DC Autonomy & Governance: Campaign slogan "No Representation, No Taxes"; would escalate the fight for statehood through direct economic action.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)

Registered Write-In Candidate

Rebekkah Green

Party: Independent

Ballot status: Registered write-in (not printed on the ballot; must be written in)

Background: Withdrew as a filed candidate in July 2026 and registered the same day as a write-in candidate for Delegate.^{2,16}

Detailed policy positions on the issues covered in this guide were not publicly available at the time of publication. Voters are encouraged to visit the candidate's website or contact their campaign directly for more information.

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)



Other Races on Your Ballot

These races appear on your ballot depending on where you live in the District. This section gives a brief summary of each; visit each candidate's website for more detail.

Ward Council Seats

Each of DC's eight wards elects one Council member representing that ward. Four ward seats are on the November 2026 ballot: Wards 1, 3, 5, and 6.

Ward 1 — 4 candidates, ranked choice voting applies

- Aparna Raj (Democrat) — aparnafordc.com
- Jett James Jasper (Republican) — jettjasperfordcward1.com
- Jude Crannitch (DC Statehood Green) — [party page](#)
- Ryan Prince (Independent) — no campaign website found as of publication

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)²

Ward 3 — uncontested

- Matthew "Matt" Frumin (Democrat, incumbent) — no other candidate or registered write-in is on DCBOE's lists for this race.^{27,2}

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)²

Ward 5 — 3 candidates, ranked choice voting applies

- Zachary Parker (Democrat, incumbent) — zacharyparker2026.com
- Jeffrey Kihien-Palza (Republican) — jeffward5.com
- Joyce Robinson-Paul (DC Statehood Green) — [party page](#)
- Registered write-in: George Jackson (Independent)¹⁶

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)²

Ward 6 — 2 candidates, vote for one

- Charles Allen (Democrat, incumbent) — charlesallen2026.com
- Dr. Jorge Rice (Republican) — jorgericeforward6.com

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE)²

Shadow Senator — uncontested

DC's shadow delegation lobbies Congress for statehood but does not hold voting seats in Congress.

- Paul Strauss (Democrat, incumbent) — paulstrauss.org. No Republican, Green, or registered write-in candidate filed for this race.^{28,2}

Shadow Representative — uncontested



- Franklin Garcia (Democrat) — a three-term former shadow representative (2015 – 2021) and president of the DC Latino Caucus. No Republican, Green, or registered write-in candidate filed for this race.^{29,30}
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State Board of Education (Nonpartisan)

The State Board of Education sets DC's academic standards and policy but does not run day-to-day schools. Four of the board's seats are up in 2026; SBOE races are nonpartisan and are not decided by ranked choice voting.³¹

- **Ward 1** — Ben Williams (incumbent), unopposed.
- **Ward 3** — Eric Goulet (incumbent, board Vice President) vs. Aaron Wesolowski.
- **Ward 5** — Jonathan "Jon" Alfuth vs. Dr. Lynn Jennings.
- **Ward 6** — Joshua Wiley, Dr. Amber A. Williams, and David Parker (no public biography found).

Last verified: September 11, 2026 (DCBOE; sboe.dc.gov)²

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANCs)

ANCs are the most local level of DC government, made up of unpaid, elected neighborhood representatives who advise the city on local issues like zoning, liquor licenses, and public space. ANC races are nonpartisan and specific to your single-member district. Because there are close to 300 ANC seats citywide, this guide does not profile individual ANC candidates. Look up your ANC district and candidates at dcboe.org.



Common Questions: A Quick Reference for Outreach

Q: Do I need to be registered with a political party to vote in the general election?

A: No. Unlike the primary, the general election ballot is the same for every registered voter, regardless of party.

Q: Can I vote if I have a felony conviction?

A: Yes. DC never removes the right to vote because of a criminal conviction — this includes people who are currently incarcerated, on parole, on probation, or under supervised release.¹³

Q: Can I vote if I am currently in the DC Jail or a federal (BOP) facility?

A: Yes. See "How to Vote If You Are Currently Incarcerated" earlier in this guide for step-by-step instructions.

Q: Do I need a photo ID to vote?

A: No. DC does not require photo ID for in-person voting. ID or proof of address may be requested only if you are registering for the first time or if your registration is challenged.

Q: What is the deadline to register to vote?

A: October 13, 2026 for advance registration. Same-day registration is available during early voting (October 26 – November 1) and on Election Day (November 3).¹²

Q: When is Election Day and what are the hours?

A: Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.¹²

Q: How does ranked choice voting affect my ballot?

A: In races with three or more candidates, you may rank up to five candidates in order of preference. Races with only two candidates (Attorney General and Ward 6 Council this year) are simple vote-for-one contests.

Q: What if I move or am released from custody close to the election?

A: Update your registration address with DCBOE as soon as possible, either online at dcboe.org or by mail. This ensures your ballot and voting information reach you.

Q: Where can I get help if I have questions about my rights as a returning citizen?

A: Contact Voices for a Second Chance, or call the DC Board of Elections at (202) 727-2525 or toll-free at 1-866-328-6837.



Sources & Verification

This guide was compiled from DC Board of Elections (DCBOE) official records, candidate campaign websites (linked directly in each candidate's profile), and independent news coverage. Candidate websites are cited once in each profile above via the "Website" link; the numbered sources below cover DCBOE records, government sources, legal authority, and news coverage cited throughout this guide.

DCBOE Official Documents

- 2026 General Election candidate list (certified July 15, 2026)
- 2026 General Election write-in candidate list (July 22, 2026)
- List of challenges, 2026 General Election (updated September 2, 2026)
- 2026 General Election calendar
- 2026 General Election vote centers and drop boxes list
- DCBOE ranked choice voting overview

Legal Authority

- Initiative 83 / D.C. Act 25-652 and D.C. Code § 1-1001.08a (ranked choice voting)
- D.C. Code § 1-204.01 (at-large Council party-balance rule)
- D.C. Law 23-277, the Restore the Vote Amendment Act of 2020
- DC Department of Corrections Program Statement 4020.4B (inmate voting process, effective September 17, 2025)

Additional Sources

Additional facts in this guide were drawn from candidate campaign websites and public party pages (linked in each candidate profile); the DC Corrections Information Council; the DC Council's official website; the State Board of Education's website; and news coverage from The DC Line, The 51st, WTOP, Washingtonian, DC News Now, Ballotpedia, Wikipedia, Politics1, and NWTRCC.

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Your Vote, Your Voice: Every election is a chance to shape the systems that affect your daily life. Whether you are voting for the first time, voting after incarceration, or voting on behalf of your family and community, your voice matters. We encourage you to research candidates further, ask questions, and make the choice that reflects your values and priorities.



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