

**WASHINGTON, D.C.
2024 ELECTIONS:**

YOUR VOICE, YOUR FUTURE

BY

A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH



As we gear up for the 2024 elections, remember: **your vote can really shape the future of our nation's capital.** Sure, D.C. might not participate in U.S. senatorial elections, but our local and presidential elections make a huge difference when it comes to daily life here.

WHO WE ARE

We're New Deal for Youth (ND4Y), a movement led by young people, for young people, pushing for new systems, policies, and investments that reimagine what life can look like for young people in America—including those disenfranchised and marginalized.

HOW YOU CAN USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is your go-to for navigating the D.C. elections like a pro. Knowing the basics will make you feel more confident when you vote. You've got this—your voice matters, so let's make it heard!

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH D.C. ELECTIONS?

Washington D.C. is unique. We're not a state, but we do have our own local government with an elected mayor and council members. Who we elect in D.C. directly affects the city's services, policies, and your everyday life.

HOW D.C. COMPARES TO OTHER ELECTIONS:

- Just like every state, we vote for President!
- While our representative doesn't vote in Congress, they still advocate for D.C.
- We don't vote for Senators.
- Our mayor is kind of like a state governor but just for D.C.
- Similar to a state legislature, our council decides on local laws.

THE 2024 ELECTION RUNDOWN

Here's what you'll be voting on:

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION:

We get to help pick the President! D.C. has 3 votes in the Electoral College.

REPRESENTATIVE ELECTION:

We elect a non-voting member of the House of Representatives.

MAYORAL ELECTION:

The Mayor runs the city, so this vote really matters for things like schools, public safety, and housing.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

These folks make the rules that impact your neighborhood.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ELECTION:

This is D.C.'s top lawyer and a big deal for local justice issues.

LOCAL REFERENDUMS AND INITIATIVES:

Sometimes, we get to vote directly on new laws or changes—your chance to make a direct impact!

WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS

NATIONAL & LOCAL IMPACT:

The President affects us all, but our local elections change things right here at home – like public transportation, schools, and safety.

D.C. REPRESENTATION:

Voting helps amplify our voice in a city where “taxation without representation” is a real issue.

CHANGE STARTS HERE:

Local leaders decide on policies that impact everyday stuff. Want better roads or more youth programs? This is where you make that happen!

WHAT D.C. NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH CHANGEMAKERS ARE SAYING...

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As a mom, I think about my kids’ future, so by me voting, I’m choosing what’s best for their future!!! Go vote so our kids can have a bright future.

– DARLECIA

I’m not sure of the significance of voting in DC. ‘Taxation without Representation.’... I don’t want to be pessimistic as I say this, but depending on social class and the resources you have access to, voting may not matter at all. Personally, I barely vote as it is. The only time I’ve voted was in 2016 & 2020. At the time, I thought my voice was my vote.

– JOSEPH

Voting in DC is uniquely important because as residents of DC, we can vote on issues on the state/local and national level.

Voting is uniquely important in DC because we are in the nation’s capital that is driven mostly by capitalism but we can make an impact voting on the national & local levels.

Voting in DC is also uniquely important because we are regularly among council members and our votes can directly impact/ make changes in future policies, laws, and regulations.

Voting is uniquely important in DC due to the positive/strong influence community and grassroots organizations have in the DC area that can lead to [an increased] number of voters on Election Day.

– CHRIS

KEY DATES FOR THE 2024 ELECTION CYCLE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

① VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

October 15 (online or by mail), or in-person at a voting location during Early Voting or on Election Day

② EARLY VOTING:

October 28 - November 3

③ GENERAL ELECTION DAY:

November 5

④ PRIMARY ELECTIONS:

Usually in June or July

MORE INFO

Check out these resources for all your voting questions:

D.C. BOARD OF ELECTIONS:

dcboe.org - Get official info on voter registration, polling locations, and election dates.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

oag.dc.gov - Learn more about legal rights and election-related issues.

D.C. OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE:

ocf.dc.gov - Get the scoop on campaign finance and candidate info.

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION:

eac.gov - Offers general information about voting rights and election processes for U.S. citizens, including those in D.C.

LOCAL ELECTION OFFICES:

Check out the D.C. Board of Elections website for contact info specific to your neighborhood or ward. These offices have the latest updates on local voting details.

F.A.Q.

WHO CAN VOTE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

- You must be a **U.S. citizen** living in D.C., and **18+** on Election Day.
- **Be registered to vote in D.C.** and have lived there for **at least 30 days** before the election.
- Even if convicted of certain felonies, you can **restore your voting rights** after completing your sentence.

HOW DOES THE VOTING PROCESS WORK IN D.C.?

- **Register to Vote:** Sign up with the D.C. Board of Elections. It's super easy, and you can even do it online before October 15!
- **Head to Your Polling Place:** On Election Day, go to the place listed on your registration card.
- **Bring Your ID:** You might not need a valid photo ID to vote, but make sure you bring one just in case.
- **Fill Out Your Ballot:** Most ballots are paper-based. Just mark your choices for each office and any referendums.
- **Submit Your Ballot:** Drop it in the secure ballot box or use the electronic machine to scan it.
- **Other Options:** Can't make it on Election Day? D.C. offers early voting and absentee voting for those who qualify.

HOW IS VOTING IN D.C. DIFFERENT FROM OTHER STATES?

- Unlike states, D.C. **doesn't get to elect U.S. Senators. Our Mayor works similarly to a state governor but just for D.C.**
- D.C. elects a **City Council that handles local laws**—unlike state legislatures which have broader state jurisdiction.
- We elect a non-voting Delegate to the House of Representatives, so **we don't have full voting power in Congress.**
- We have our own **unique local ballot measures and referendums**, which can differ a lot from state-level propositions.

A NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH

Want to do more? Here are some ideas:

- **Attend community meetings** and town halls to share your opinions and learn about what's happening in your neighborhood.
- **Stay informed** about local news to know what's up in D.C.
- **Volunteer** for a local campaign or advocacy group that you care about!

Now that you're in the know, it's time to make your voice heard. Your vote is powerful—let's use it to shape the future of D.C.!