

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key penal provisions found within the District of Columbia Code and Regulations

- Intimidating, impeding, or interfering with a public official's duties, or attempting to do so, is a felony.
- Open or concealed carrying of a firearm into a polling place is unlawful: a felony if unlicensed and a misdemeanor if licensed.
- Intimidating or interfering with a voter at an election is a felony.

VOTING HOURS

Election Day
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2024 ELECTION DATES

Republican Presidential Primary (party-run): March 3

Democratic Presidential and other Primaries: June 4

General Election: November 5

For other election dates:

dcboe.org/elections/2024-elections

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

D.C. Board of Elections:
(866) 328-6837; dcboe.org

D.C. Office of the Attorney General:
(202) 442-9828;
consumer.protection@dc.gov

(a) For the purposes of this section, the term:

(1) "Family member" means an individual to whom the official or employee of the District of Columbia is related by blood, legal custody, marriage, domestic partnership, having a child in common, the sharing of a mutual residence, or the maintenance of a romantic relationship not necessarily including a sexual relationship.

(2) "Official or employee" means a person who currently holds or formerly held a paid or unpaid position in the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of government of the District of Columbia, including boards and commissions.

(b) A person who corruptly or, by threat or force, or by any threatening letter or communication, intimidates, impedes, interferes with, or retaliates against, or attempts to intimidate, impede, interfere with, or retaliate against any official or employee, while the official or employee is engaged in the performance of his or her duties or on account of the performance of those duties, shall be fined not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(c) A person who stalks, threatens, assaults, kidnaps, or injures any official or employee or vandalizes, damages, destroys, or takes the property of an official or employee, while the official or employee is engaged in the performance of his or her duties or on account of the performance of those duties, shall be fined not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01 or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both, in addition to any other penalties authorized by law.

(d) A person who stalks, threatens, assaults, kidnaps, or injures a family member or vandalizes, damages, destroys, or takes the property of a family member on account of the performance of the official or employee's duties, shall be fined not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01 or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both, in addition to any other penalties authorized by law.

Carrying concealed weapons; possession of weapons during commission of crime of violence; penalty.

D.C. Code § 22-4504

(a) No person shall carry within the District of Columbia either openly or concealed on or about their person, a pistol, without a license issued pursuant to District of Columbia law, or any deadly or dangerous weapon. Whoever violates this section shall be punished as provided in § 22-4515, except that:

(1) A person who violates this section by carrying a pistol, without a license issued pursuant to District of Columbia law, or any deadly or dangerous weapon, in a place other than the person's dwelling place, place of business, or on other land possessed by the person, shall be fined not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01 or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

Prohibitions on carrying licensed pistols. D.C. Code § 7-2509.07

(a) No person holding a license shall carry a pistol in the following locations or under the following circumstances:

(5) A polling place while voting is occurring

Interference with registration and voting. D.C. Code §1-1001.12

No one shall interfere with the registration or voting of another person, except as it may be reasonably necessary in the performance of a duty imposed by law.

Electioneering prohibitions. D.C. Code § 1-1001.10 (b) (2) (A)

(b) (2)

(A) No person shall canvass, electioneer, circulate petitions, post any campaign material or engage in any activity that interferes with the orderly conduct of the election within a Vote Center or within a 50-foot distance from the entrance and exit of a Vote Center. The Board, by regulation, shall establish procedures for determination and clear marking of the 50-foot distance.

(B) A person who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both.

Political activity at voting places. DCMR 3-707

707.1 The Site Coordinator [the official in charge of each Vote Center] shall have full authority to maintain order, pursuant to the Election Act, the regulations contained in this section, and directives of the Executive Director, General Counsel and their designees, including full authority to request police officials to enforce lawful orders of the Site Coordinator.

707.2 The only persons who shall be permitted to be present in voting places or ballot counting places are the following:

- (a) Designated representatives of the Board;
- (b) Police officers or security personnel engaged by the Board;
- (c) Duly qualified poll watchers and election observers;
- (d) Persons actually engaged in voting; and
- (e) Other persons authorized by the Board.

707.3 The only activity which shall be permitted in the portion of any building used as a voting place or ballot counting place shall be the conduct of the election. No partisan or nonpartisan political activity, or any other activity which, in the judgment of the Site Coordinator, may directly or indirectly interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, shall be permitted in, on, or within a reasonable distance outside the building used as a voting place or ballot counting place.

Poll watchers and election observers

DCMR 3-706

706.15 A poll watcher shall be allowed to perform the following acts:

- (a) Observe the count;
- (b) Unofficially ascertain the identity of persons who have voted (unless the information needed to do so would undermine the grant of confidential voter status);
- (c) Report alleged discrepancies to the Site Coordinator; and

(d) Challenge voters in accordance with the procedures specified in this chapter, if the watcher is a registered qualified elector.

706.16 An election observer shall be allowed to perform the following acts:

(a) Observe the count;

(b) Unofficially ascertain the identity of persons who have voted (unless the information needed to do so would undermine the grant of confidential voter status); and

(c) Report alleged discrepancies to the Site Coordinator.

706.17 No poll watcher or election observer shall, at any time, do any of the following:

(a) Touch any official record, ballot, voting equipment, or counting form;

(b) Interfere with the progress of the voting or counting;

(c) Assist a voter with the act of voting;

(d) Talk to any voter while the voter is in the process of voting, or to any counter while the count is underway; provided, that a watcher or observer may request that a ballot be referred for ruling on its validity to a representative of the Board;

(e) In any way obstruct the election process; or

(f) Use any video or still cameras inside voting and counting locations if such use is determined by the Site Coordinator to be disruptive or to interfere with the election administration process.

Prohibited election practices.

D.C. Code § 1-1001.14

(a) Any person who shall register, or attempt to register, or vote or attempt to vote under the provisions of this subchapter and make any false representations as to the person's qualifications for registering or voting or for holding elective office, or be guilty of violating § 1-1001.07(d)(2)(D), § 1-1001.09, § 1-1001.12, or § 1-1001.13, or be guilty of bribery or intimidation of any voter at an election, or being registered, shall vote or attempt to vote more than once in any election so held, or shall purloin or secrete any of the votes cast in an election, or attempt to vote in an election held by a political party other than that to which the person has declared himself or herself to be affiliated, or, if employed in the counting of votes in any election held pursuant to this subchapter, knowingly make a false report in regard thereto, and every candidate, person, or official of any political committee who shall knowingly make any expenditure or contribution in violation of subchapter I of Chapter 11 of this title, shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$10,000 or be imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

Crowding, obstructing, or incommoding.

D.C. Code § 22-1307

(a) It is unlawful for a person, alone or in concert with others:

(1) To crowd, obstruct, or incommode:

(A) The use of any street, avenue, alley, road, highway, or sidewalk;

(B) The entrance of any public or private building or enclosure;

(C) The use of or passage through any public building or public conveyance; or

(D) The passage through or within any park or reservation; and

(2) To continue or resume the crowding, obstructing, or incommoding after being instructed by a law enforcement officer to cease the crowding, obstructing, or incommoding.

(b) (1) It is unlawful for a person, alone or in concert with others, to engage in a demonstration in an area where it is otherwise unlawful to demonstrate and to continue or resume engaging in a demonstration after being instructed by a law enforcement officer to cease engaging in a demonstration.

(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term "demonstration" means marching, congregating, standing, sitting, lying down, parading, demonstrating, or patrolling by one or more persons, with or without signs, for the purpose of persuading one or more individuals, or the public, or to protest some action, attitude, or belief.

(c) A person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01, imprisoned for not more than 90 days, or both.