



# District of Columbia

*Help America Vote Act  
(HAVA) Complaint  
Process Guide*

*Provided by*

VOTER  
REFERENCE   
FOUNDATION

# State Guide to HAVA & Election Complaint Process

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and other election related complaints.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in the individual state guides or the information linked to on the state site.

This guide was last updated on 03/05/2024.

## CONTENTS:

[What is the Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)?](#)

[How do I file a HAVA complaint?](#)

[How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?](#)

[Who do I contact regarding election-related complaints?](#)

# **What is the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)?**

[Link to HAVA Statute](#)

[Link to Election Assistance Commission](#)

According to the EAC.gov website:

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 was passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election. HAVA mandates that EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections.

HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration. The law provides funding to help states meet these new standards, replace voting systems and improve election administration. HAVA also established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to assist the states regarding HAVA compliance and to distribute HAVA funds to the states. EAC is also charged with creating voting system guidelines and operating the federal government's first voting system certification program. EAC is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. HAVA requires that the states implement the following new programs and procedures:

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures

# **How do I file a HAVA complaint?**

[Link to Complaint Process](#)

[Link to HAVA Plan \(pp 50-51\)](#)

Complainants alleging a violation of title III of HAVA by the District of Columbia's Chief Election Official (CEO) shall file notarized complaints with the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics.

# **How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?**

[Link to Statutes](#)

[Link to Complaint Process](#)

The General Counsel of the Board shall, following approval by the Board, issue and revise complaint and petition forms and instructions to ensure presentation of adequate information required for the understanding and processing of complaints and petitions.

The Board has the discretion to hear any case brought before it under the District of Columbia Election Act or the Campaign Finance Act of 2011 by a one-member panel, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(g) (2016 Repl.).

If someone interferes with your right to vote through threats, intimidation, or coercion, or you become aware of any interference with the right of D.C. residents to vote, dial 911 or the Metropolitan Police Department. You can also contact OAG at (202) 442-9828 or email us at [consumer.protection@dc.gov](mailto:consumer.protection@dc.gov).

## Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

### District of Columbia Board of Elections

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Physical Address:</b> | 1015 Half St. SE, Suite 750<br>Washington, D.C. 20003  |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>  | District of Columbia Board of Elections<br>1015 Half Street, SE, Suite 750<br>Washington, D.C. 20003 |
| <b>Phone Number:</b>     | 202-727-2525   |
| <b>Fax Number:</b>       | 202-347-2648   |
| <b>E-mail:</b>           | <a href="mailto:director@dcboe.org">director@dcboe.org</a>   |
| <b>Webform contact:</b>  | <a href="https://dcboe.org/contact">https://dcboe.org/contact</a>                                    |

### Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Mailing Address:</b> | Office of the Attorney General<br>Office of Consumer Protection<br>400 6th Street, NW<br>Washington, DC 20001 |
| <b>Phone Number:</b>    | 202-727-3400  |
| <b>Fax Number:</b>      | 202-347-8922  |
| <b>E-mail:</b>          | <a href="mailto:oag@dc.gov">oag@dc.gov</a>  |