



District of Columbia

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

Provided by

VOTER
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FOUNDATION

Disclaimer: 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 this guide or the information linked to on the state site.

This guide was last updated on 03/01/2026.

Table of 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)?

According to the [Election Assistance Commission](#):

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 HAVA Complaint Process](#)

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

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 non-HAVA 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.

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

District of Columbia Board of Elections

Physical/Mailing Address:

1015 Half Street, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20003

Phone Number:

202-727-2525

Email Address:

director@dcboe.org

Website:

<https://dcboe.org/>

Office of the Attorney General

Physical/Mailing Address:

400 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Phone Number:

202-727-3400

Email Address:

oag@dc.gov

Online Address:

<http://oag.dc.gov>