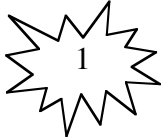


# VOTING

## *Participation, Representation!*



### **I am an ex-offender. Can I vote?**

- YES, if you are a D.C. resident.
- You CAN vote, even if you were an ex-offender.
- In Virginia and Maryland, convicted felons are prevented from voting, or have restrictions on voting.
- If you are in D.C. Jail or the Correctional Treatment Facility for a misdemeanor, you can vote as an absentee.
- If you are in D.C. Jail or the Correctional Treatment Facility for a felony, you cannot vote.



### **Why is it important to vote?**

- If you do not vote, then no one can hear your voice.
- Around the country, we incarcerate more minorities, proportionately, than non-minorities. Thus, in many states, minorities do not have a strong political voice.
- In DC, you can restore your right to vote when you leave prison.
- You have an impact when you vote, especially in local elections and if the concern is split between two political parties.



### **How can I get a voter registration card?**

- You can call (202) 727-2525 and ask to have the form sent to you, or you can go to the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics, 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. Suite #250, Washington, D.C. 20077-0151.
- Also, your voter registration card can be used as proof and that you are a D.C. resident when you go to get a driver's license or non-driver's license identification.

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**For questions about this topic, please contact DCPLSP at (202) 775-0323.**

**DISCLAIMER: This document is not intended to replace the advice of any attorney. This document does not represent legal advice by the DCPLSP, and should not be relied upon as an ex-offender's sole resource in dealing with voting issues.**