

# **Congressional Home Buyers: How To Buy Vacant Property In Washington DC**

When buying property in Washington DC you will find that you have to compete with many other buyers. Due to the business and government interests in the area, property is pretty popular. But there is a type of property you may not have considered during your search.

Vacant property in Washington DC is a thing despite all of the local government's efforts to ensure all property is properly used. But many counts of vacant property aren't published in real estate listings or newspapers. This can stem from a number of reasons, such as businesses going under or people holding onto property without a plan for what to do with it.

So if these properties aren't listed how do you go about finding them? You have several options available to you.

## **Vacant Property Auctions**

Auctions for vacant property are regularly held both by the Washington DC government and private organizations. These auctions are the easiest way to find vacant properties as they have a variety of listings to choose from. In addition to that, as they are auctions, you can often find great deals on property.

In addition to the ease of finding a property with an auction, there is another benefit. Many auctions post the listing of properties to be sold online before the actual event. That means you can look at the options and research them before you bid on them. You won't have to waste your time going to an auction where you won't find a property you want.

## **Ask People In The Neighborhood**

If you have a specific property in mind, there is an easy way to start trying to find the owner of Washington DC vacant property. Go around to the neighbors, whether businesses or homes and speak with the people there. Most of the time

neighbors aren't interested in having vacant property in their neighborhood and are eager to tell you who owns the property if they know.

It is especially helpful if the neighbor has been there a while and knows the owner.

### **Look For Property Owners Online**

If you know a vacant property in Washington DC or drive by one that isn't for sale, that doesn't mean that you can't buy it. You just have to work to locate the buyer. There are a number of tools that you can use for that.

Washington DC's government website is the home to the majority of tools to find a property owner. Here's the link: <https://dc.gov/page/real-property-data>. On that site you can find tools such as Land Records and Deeds Database, an interactive page that lets you search for the holder of liens or deeds.

You can also visit or call the Washington DC Department of Tax and Revenue to get some of this information over the phone.

A number of private services exist online to assist with finding owners. These services mostly use the same tools that you have access to.

### **Use A Real Estate Agent**

Real estate agents take a commission during a sale or purchase but they do a lot of work for you. If you approach a real estate agent and tell them that you want to buy a specific vacant property, they can help you along in that process. Real estate agents have access to industry tools that will help them to determine who owns a property.

In addition to that, real estate agents can start reaching out to others to try and find information. Whether it's to reach out to former owners, the government, or another body, they can do it all.

It is important to take note that in many of these steps that you probably won't find contact information. You might have to continue to do digging once you find the name or names of owners of vacant properties.

While vacant properties in Washington DC and around the country were once hard to find, that is no longer true. As you can see you have a number of tools and options available to you. More. And more options are becoming available as people start to fight the presence of vacant properties in Washington DC. So don't give up hope if you find a Washington DC property that you want to purchase.

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