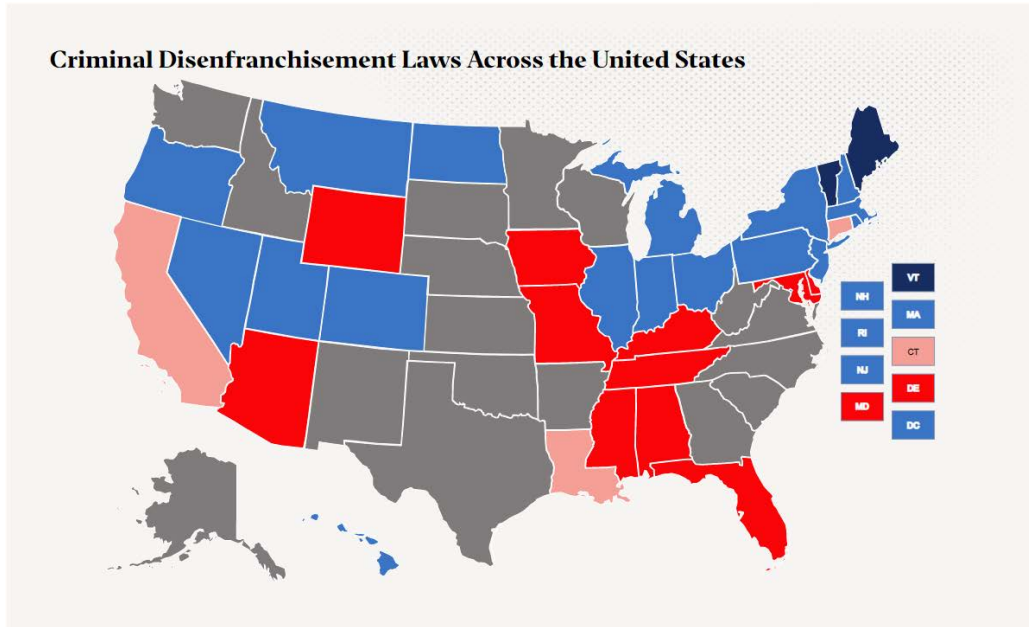


Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws Across the United States¹



Permanent disenfranchisement for at least some people with criminal convictions, unless government approves restoration: AL, AZ, DE, FL, IA, KY, MD, MO, MS, TN, WY

Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison and discharge from parole (people on probation may vote): CA, CT, LA

Voting rights restored upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation: AK, AR, GA, ID, KS, MN, NE, NM, NC, OK, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, WV, WI

No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions: ME, VT

Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison: CO, DC*, HI, IL, IN, MA, MI, MT, NV, NH, NJ, ND, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT

Last updated *August 5, 2020*

*Pending permanent legislation, see below details

State-by-State Breakdown



Permanent disenfranchisement for at least some people with criminal convictions, unless government approves restoration:

Alabama: People with certain felony convictions involving moral turpitude can apply to have their voting rights restored upon completion of sentence and payment of fines and fees; people convicted of some specific crimes - including murder, rape, treason, and crimes involving children - are permanently barred from voting.

Arizona: People convicted of one felony can have their voting rights restored upon completion of sentence, including all prison, parole, and probation terms and payment of all restitution. People convicted of two or more felonies are permanently barred from voting unless pardoned or restored by a judge.

Delaware: People with most felony convictions have their voting rights restored automatically after completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation. People who are convicted of certain disqualifying felonies - including murder, bribery, and sexual offenses - are permanently disenfranchised. People convicted of election offenses are disenfranchised for 10 years following their sentences.

Florida: Florida voters approved a November 2018 constitutional amendment which automatically restores the right to vote to 1.4 million individuals with felony convictions in their past. The amendment restores the right to vote for people with felony convictions, except individuals convicted of murder or felony sexual offenses, once they have completed the terms of their sentence, including probation and parole.

Iowa: Iowa is one of three states whose constitution permanently disenfranchises citizens with past felony convictions, but grants the state's governor the authority to restore voting rights. On August 5, 2020, Governor Reynolds signed an executive order to automatically and prospectively restore the right to vote to tens of thousands of Iowans with past convictions, except individuals convicted of felony homicide offenses, once they have completed their terms of incarceration, probation, parole, or special sentence.

Kentucky: Kentucky is one of three states whose constitution permanently disenfranchises citizens with past felony convictions, but grants the state's governor the authority to restore voting rights. On December 12, 2019, Governor Beshear signed an executive order to automatically restore the right to vote to more than 140,000 Kentuckians with past convictions for non-violent offenses if they have completed incarceration, probation, and parole. The order is both retrospective and prospective.


Maryland: As of March 10, 2016, voting rights are restored automatically after release from court-ordered sentence of imprisonment. People who are convicted of buying or selling votes are permanently disenfranchised.

Mississippi: People who are convicted of specified disqualifying offenses are permanently disenfranchised unless pardoned by the governor or their right to vote is restored by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.

Missouri: People with most felony convictions have their voting rights restored automatically after completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation. People who are convicted of election-related offenses are permanently disenfranchised.

Tennessee: Tennessee has one of the most complex disenfranchisement policies in the country. People completing sentences for some felony convictions, who have paid all restitution and court costs, and are current with child support payments may apply for rights restoration. Individuals with certain types of convictions, including rape, murder, and bribery, among others, are permanently disenfranchised.

Wyoming: Voting rights automatically restored after five years to people who complete sentences for first-time, non-violent felony convictions in 2016 or after. Applications are required from people who completed sentences for first-time, non-violent felony convictions before 2016, and from people convicted outside Wyoming, or under federal law. People with violent convictions or with multiple felony convictions are permanently disenfranchised, unless pardoned by the governor.



Voting rights restored upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation:

Alaska

Arkansas

Georgia

Idaho

Kansas

Minnesota

Nebraska: In Nebraska, voting rights are restored two years after the completion of sentence. Nebraska disenfranchises persons with treason convictions until they have their civil rights individually restored

New Mexico

North Carolina

Oklahoma: In Oklahoma, citizens are disenfranchised for the time period set out in their original sentence. Voting rights are restored once this time period has elapsed.

South Carolina

South Dakota

Texas

Virginia: Virginia is one of three states whose constitution permanently disenfranchises citizens with past felony convictions but grants the state's governor the authority to restore voting rights. After a July 2016 Virginia Supreme Court decision invalidated an executive order restoring voting rights to over 200,000 citizens, the state's governor now issues individual restorations for citizens who have completed the terms of their sentence, including probation and parole.

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin



Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison and discharge from parole (people on probation may vote):

California

Connecticut

Louisiana: Voting rights are restored for those on probation or parole who have not been incarcerated during the last five years. Practically speaking, this means many if not most people on probation are eligible to vote and a small number of people on parole for more than five years are eligible



Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison:

Colorado

Hawaii

Illinois

Indiana

Massachusetts

Michigan

Montana

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Jersey

North Dakota

New York: On April 18, 2018, Governor Cuomo announced that he would restore the right to vote to New Yorkers on state parole through executive order. Since then, he has restored voting rights to over 24,000 New Yorkers living and working in their communities. Prior to this announcement, New Yorkers were disenfranchised until the completion of incarceration and parole.

Ohio: Persons who have been twice convicted of a violation of Ohio's elections law are permanently disenfranchised.

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Utah

Washington, D.C.: On July 22, 2020, the D.C. Mayor signed emergency legislation into effect that eliminates criminal disenfranchisement even for those in prison. However, we continue to classify D.C. as restoring voting rights upon release from prison because that emergency legislation will expire on October 20, 2020, prior to the general election. The City Council has expressed an intention to enact permanent legislation, but has not yet done so.



No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions:

Maine

Vermont

¹ Even with these general categories, there are variations in when states restore voting rights, including differing policies regarding whether citizens with pending legal financial obligations (LFOs) relating to their conviction are eligible to vote, how long citizens must wait after incarceration for restoration, and whether and in what circumstances misdemeanors are disenfranchising.