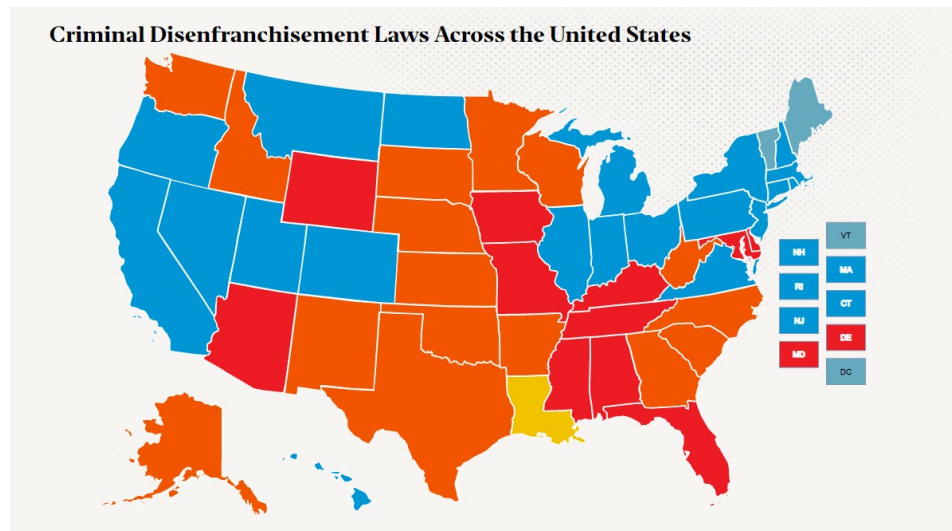


## Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws Across the United States<sup>1</sup>

*\* On April 7, 2021, Washington Gov. Inslee signed a law that will automatically restore voting rights upon release from prison when it goes into effect in January 2022. Because it is not yet effective, that change is not reflected on the map below.*



- **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 upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation:** AK, AR, GA, ID, KS, MN, NE, NM, NC, OK, SC, SD, TX, WA\*, WV, WI
- **Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison:** CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, IN, MA, MI, MT, NV, NH, NJ, NY, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT, VA

- **Voting rights restored for those on probation or parole who have not been incarcerated during the last five years:** LA
- **No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions:** ME, VT, DC

## 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**

**Washington:** On April 7, 2021, Gov. Inslee signed a law that will automatically restore voting rights upon release from prison when it goes into effect in January 2022. That law will restore voting rights to an estimated 20,000 people.

**West Virginia**

**Wisconsin**



**Voting rights restored for those on probation or parole who have not been incarcerated during the last five years:**

**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:**

**California**

**Colorado**

**Connecticut**

**Hawaii**

**Illinois**

**Indiana**

**Massachusetts**

**Michigan**

**Montana**

**Nevada**

**New Hampshire**

**New Jersey**

**New York**

**North Dakota**

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

**Oregon**

**Pennsylvania**

**Rhode Island**

**Utah**

**Virginia:** On March 16, 2021, Governor Ralph Northam [took executive action](#) to restore the right to vote to all Virginians who are not currently incarcerated, and he has stated his intention of continuing this practice going forward for all Virginians upon their release from prison. Virginia is one of

three states whose constitution otherwise permanently disenfranchises all citizens with past felony convictions, but grants the state's governor the authority to restore voting rights. Northam's action follows the General Assembly's passage of a [constitutional amendment](#) that would cement the automatic restoration of voting rights upon release from prison. In order to take effect, that amendment must be passed again after a new legislature is seated following the 2021 elections, and then approved by a majority of Virginia voters.



### **No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions:**

**Maine**

**Vermont**

**Washington, D.C.**

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<sup>1</sup> 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.