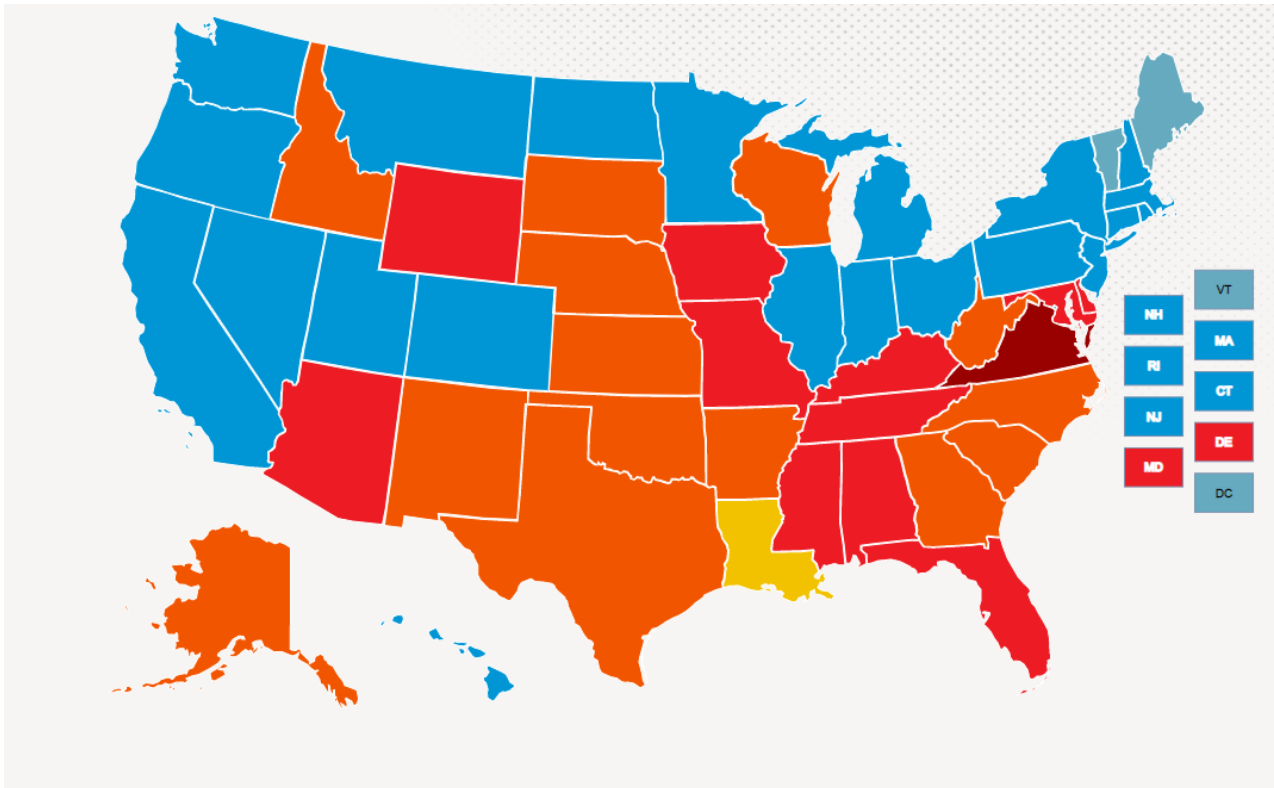


**Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws Across the United States<sup>1</sup>**



**Permanent disenfranchisement for all people with felony convictions, unless government approves individual rights restoration: VA**

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

**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: CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, IN, MA, MI, MN, MT, NV, NH, NJ, NY, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT, WA**

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

**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:**

**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. On March 16, 2021, former Gov. Ralph Northam took executive action to automatically restore the right to vote to all Virginians who are not currently incarcerated. Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who took office on January 15, 2022, quietly terminated that practice some time after May 20, 2022. Individuals convicted of a felony who did not have their rights restored under the previous practice must now apply to the governor to have their rights restored on an individual basis. This change in policy makes Virginia the only state in the nation that permanently disenfranchises all people with felony convictions, unless the government approves individual rights restoration.



### **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, Gov. Kim 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, Gov. Andy 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 to people convicted of first-time, non-violent felony offenses in a Wyoming state court who completed their sentence, including probation and parole, on or after January 1, 2010. Applications are required from people who completed sentences, including probation and parole, for first-time, non-violent felony convictions before January 1, 2010. People convicted of first-time, non-violent felony offenses in another state or a federal court must also submit an application. People with violent convictions or with multiple felony convictions not arising out of the same event 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**

**North Carolina**

**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:** On March 30, 2023, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed a law that will automatically restore voting rights upon release from prison when it goes into effect in July 2023. Because it is not yet effective, that change is not reflected on the map above.

**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**

**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**

**Minnesota**

**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**

**Washington**



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

**Maine**

**Vermont**

## **Washington, D.C.**

<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.