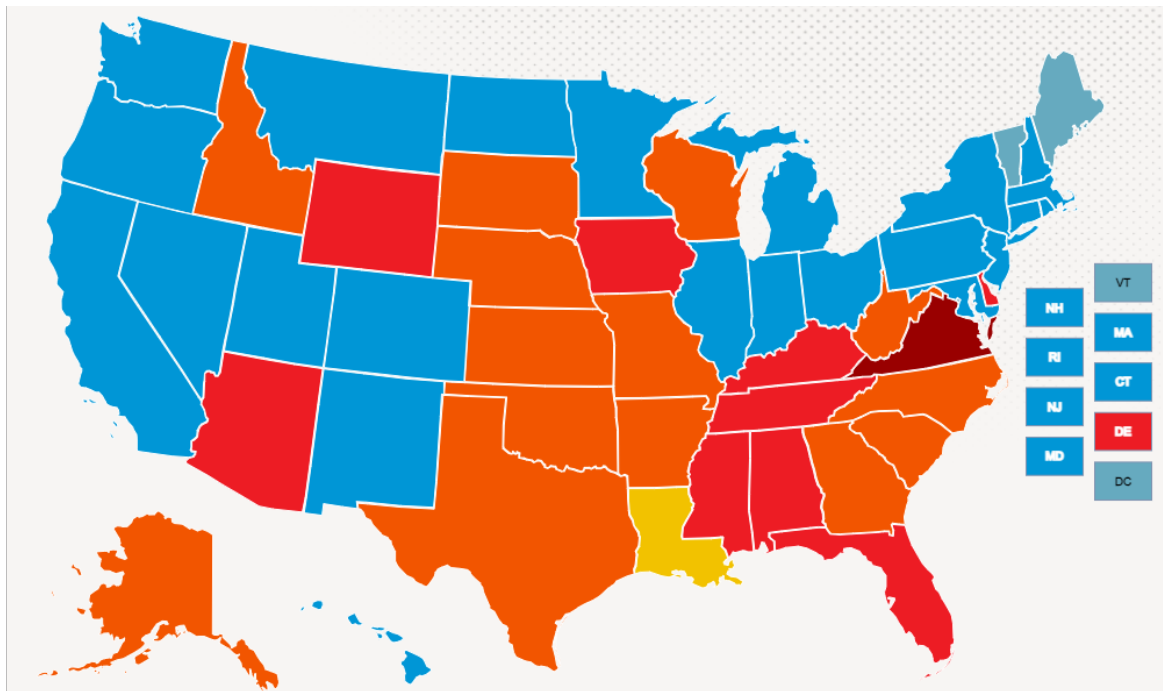


## Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws Across the United States<sup>1</sup>



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

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

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

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

**Voting rights restored automatically upon release from prison: CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, IN, MA, MD, MI, MN, MT, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, ND, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT, WA**

**No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions: ME, VT, DC**

## State-by-State Breakdown

### ● **Permanent disenfranchisement for all 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 sometime 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 policy change makes Virginia the only state in the nation that permanently disenfranchises all people with felony convictions unless the government approves individual rights restoration. A state-maintained webpage with information regarding Virginia's rights restoration process can be accessed [here](#).

### ● **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, including prison, parole, and probation and payment of fines, fees, and restitution. People convicted of some specific crimes (e.g., murder, rape, treason, and crimes involving children) are permanently barred from voting unless pardoned.

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

**Delaware:** People with most felony convictions have their voting rights restored automatically upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation. People who are convicted of certain felonies (e.g., murder, bribery, and sexual offenses) are permanently barred from voting unless pardoned. People convicted of election offenses are disenfranchised for 10 years following their sentences.

**Florida:** People with most felony convictions have their voting rights restored automatically upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation and payment of all fines, fees, court costs, and restitution ordered by the court at the time of sentencing. People convicted of [certain murder or felony sexual offenses](#) are permanently barred from voting unless granted clemency. More information about Florida's rights restoration process can be accessed [here](#).

**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 voting rights to most people with felony convictions who have completed their terms of incarceration, probation, parole, or special sentence. People convicted of certain homicide offenses are permanently barred from voting unless the governor approves individual rights restoration. A state-maintained webpage with information regarding Iowa's rights restoration process can be accessed [here](#).

**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 voting rights to most people with felony convictions who have completed the terms of their sentence, including prison, parole, and probation. The order is both retrospective and prospective. People who are convicted of treason, bribery in an election, or certain violent offenses are permanently barred from voting unless the governor approves individual rights restoration. A state-maintained webpage with information regarding Kentucky's rights restoration process can be accessed [here](#).

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

**Tennessee:** People with most felony convictions who have completed the terms of their sentence and paid off certain legal financial obligations may apply for rights restoration. Completion of sentence means the person is no longer in prison or on probation or parole. The relevant financial obligations are court costs, restitution, and child support. However, people convicted of certain types of felonies (e.g., rape, murder, bribery, or treason) are permanently disenfranchised unless pardoned. Those categories of permanently disqualifying felonies depend on the date of conviction. A state-maintained webpage with information regarding Tennessee's rights restoration process can be accessed [here](#).

**Wyoming:** Voting rights automatically restored to people convicted of first-time, nonviolent 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, nonviolent felony convictions before January 1, 2010. People convicted of first-time, nonviolent felony offenses in another state or a federal court must also apply for restoration. 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**

**Missouri:** People who are convicted of election-related offenses are permanently disenfranchised unless pardoned.

**Nebraska:** Voting rights are restored two years after the completion of sentence. People who are convicted of treason are permanently disenfranchised unless pardoned. Beginning July 18, 2024, people convicted of a felony other than treason will have their voting rights restored automatically upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation.

**North Carolina**

**Oklahoma:** People 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. People who are convicted of election-related offenses are disenfranchised until they have completed their terms of incarceration, probation, or parole.



## **Voting rights restored automatically upon release from prison:**

**California**

**Colorado**

**Connecticut:** People who are convicted of a violation of Connecticut's election laws are disenfranchised until they have completed their terms of incarceration, probation, or parole.

**Hawaii**

**Illinois**

**Indiana**

**Maryland:** People who are convicted of buying or selling votes are permanently disenfranchised unless pardoned.

**Massachusetts**

**Michigan**

**Minnesota**

**Montana**

**Nevada**

**New Hampshire**

**New Jersey**

**New Mexico**

**New York**

**North Dakota**

**Ohio:** People who have been twice convicted of a violation of Ohio's election laws are permanently disenfranchised unless pardoned.

**Oregon**

**Pennsylvania:** People who are convicted of a violation of Pennsylvania’s election laws are disenfranchised for four years after the date of their conviction.

**Rhode Island**

**Utah**

**Washington**



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

**Maine**

**Vermont**

**Washington, DC**

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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 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.