



American Probation and Parole Association

A Force for Positive CHANGE

c/o The Council of State Governments • P.O. Box 11910 • Lexington, KY, 40578-1910 • Ph. (859) 244-8203 • Fax (859) 244-8001 • E-mail: appa@csg.org

March 6, 2011

PRESIDENT

Barbara Broderick
Arizona

Florida Office of Executive Clemency
4070 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2450

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Scott Taylor
Oregon

Dear Governor Scott, Attorney General Bondi, Officer Atwater, and Commissioner Putnam:

VICE-PRESIDENT

Carmen Rodriguez
Illinois

I am writing on behalf of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) to urge you to retain Rule 9 of the Florida Rules of Executive Clemency and continue to automatically restore voting rights to eligible Floridians who have fully completed their criminal sentences and met all obligations to the state. APPA strongly believes that the right to vote is an integral part of successful rehabilitation into society. Restoring an individual's right to vote after a criminal conviction helps to prevent recidivism and protect public safety.

PAST-PRESIDENT

Gary Hinzman
Iowa

The APPA is an international non-profit with members from the United States, Canada and other countries who work in probation, parole and community-based corrections. Our members supervise more than 5 million adults across the country, including over 200,000 in Florida.

SECRETARY

Susan Burke
Utah

TREASURER

Bruce VanderSanden
Iowa

With nearly 40 years of experience in the criminal and juvenile justice field, I strongly believe that full civic participation by citizens living in our community protects public safety. There is credible evidence that former offenders who have the right to vote are less likely to re-offend. The adoption of Rule 9, extending automatic restoration of civil rights for certain offenders, sent a message that people who have served their sentences of incarceration are welcome as integral members of their home communities. Bringing people into the political process invests them in our democracy and encourages them to lead law-abiding lives, thereby decreasing recidivism.

AT-LARGE AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE

Carl Fox
Arizona

In 2007, the APPA passed a resolution endorsing voting rights restoration after release from prison. I have attached a copy of the resolution for your reference. Other criminal justice and law enforcement agencies, including the American Correctional Association, the National Black Police Association and the Association of Paroling Authorities International, have all passed similar resolutions.

AT-LARGE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

William Ashe
Washington, D.C.

Eriko Preuitt
Oregon

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carl Wicklund

As an organization that shares the Office of Executive Clemency's interest in the successful reentry of people after prison, APPA urges you to maintain automatic restoration of voting rights under Rule 9. Sound criminal justice policy calls for encouraging full reintegration into the community. Creating additional barriers and obstacles to reintegration endangers successful reentry, and therefore, public safety. I would be happy to discuss this important issue with you further, and to answer any questions you might have about our position.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Wicklund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" being more prominent and the last name "Wicklund" following in a similar style.

Carl Wicklund
Executive Director