



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

PRESIDENT
Barbara Broderick
Arizona

November 11, 2010

Governor-Elect Terry Branstad
PO Box 3747
Urbandale, IA 50323

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Scott Taylor
Oregon

Dear Governor-Elect Branstad:

VICE-PRESIDENT
Carmen Rodriguez
Illinois

On behalf of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), I write to urge you to maintain Executive Order 42 and continue to automatically restore voting rights to all lowans who have been discharged from probation and parole. The APPA strongly believes that the right to vote is an integral part of successful rehabilitation, and restoring the right to vote 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 several thousand individuals in Iowa.

SECRETARY
Susan Burke
Utah

With nearly 40 years of experience in the criminal justice 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 2005 restoration of the right to vote in Iowa sent a message that people who have served their sentence of incarceration are welcome as integral members of their home communities and invests them in our democracy. Bringing people into the political process makes them stakeholders in their communities and encourages them to lead law-abiding lives, thereby decreasing recidivism.

TREASURER
Bruce VanderSanden
Iowa

In 2007, 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 AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE
Carl Fox
Arizona

As someone who shares your interest in the successful reentry of people after prison, the APPA urges you to maintain Executive Order Forty-Two. Sound criminal justice policy calls for encouraging full reintegration into the community; creating additional barriers and obstacles to reintegration brands people as political outsiders and endangers successful reentry. I would be happy to discuss this important issue with you further, and to answer any question you might have about our position.

AT-LARGE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
William Ashe
Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Preuitt
Oregon

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Carl Wicklund

Carl Wicklund
Executive Director

Resolution



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Restoration of Voting Rights

Enacted: Sep 2007

WHEREAS, many citizens who have been convicted of felonies and have completed their sentences, including community supervision, do not have the right to vote;

WHEREAS, many states have some restrictions on voting privileges for felons;

WHEREAS, the loss of the right to vote is not based on a need to protect the integrity of the electoral process and the justice system;

WHEREAS, disenfranchisement of felons is disproportionately affecting an increasingly large segment of the population and their families;

WHEREAS, disenfranchisement laws work against the successful reentry of offenders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Probation and Parole Association advocates the restoration of voting rights upon completion of an offender's prison sentence and advocates no loss of voting rights while on community supervision.