



State of Iowa
Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER FORTY-TWO

- WHEREAS,** the right to vote is the foundation of a representative government; and
- WHEREAS,** under the Constitution of the State of Iowa, an individual convicted of a felony or aggravated misdemeanor is denied the right to vote, a disability which may continue long after a sentence has been fully served; and
- WHEREAS,** tens of thousands of Iowans who are living, working, and paying taxes in the state are denied the right to vote as a result of a prior conviction; and
- WHEREAS,** disenfranchisement of offenders has a disproportionate racial impact thereby diminishing the representation of minority populations; and
- WHEREAS,** research indicates ex-offenders that vote are less likely to re-offend; and
- WHEREAS,** restoration of the right to vote is an important aspect of reintegrating offenders in society to become law-abiding and productive citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** Iowa is one of only five states that does not currently provide an automatic process for restoring voting rights for offenders upon discharge of their sentences; and
- WHEREAS,** the current means by which offenders seek to have their rights restored is unnecessarily time consuming and not used by all offenders that are eligible; and
- WHEREAS,** Article IV, section 16 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa authorizes the Governor of Iowa to restore the rights of citizenship that were forfeited by reason of conviction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me by the laws and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, do hereby order and direct as follows:

- I. The rights of citizenship, including that of voting and qualification to hold public office, which were forfeited by reason of conviction shall be restored for all offenders that are completely discharged from criminal sentence, including any accompanying term of probation, parole, or supervised release, as of July 4, 2005, but have not made an application pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 914. This executive order shall serve as evidence of restoration of citizenship rights for such individuals.
- II. From this date forward, offenders that wholly discharge their criminal sentence, including any accompanying term of probation, parole, or supervised release, will be given consideration for a restoration of citizenship rights without undue delay.

