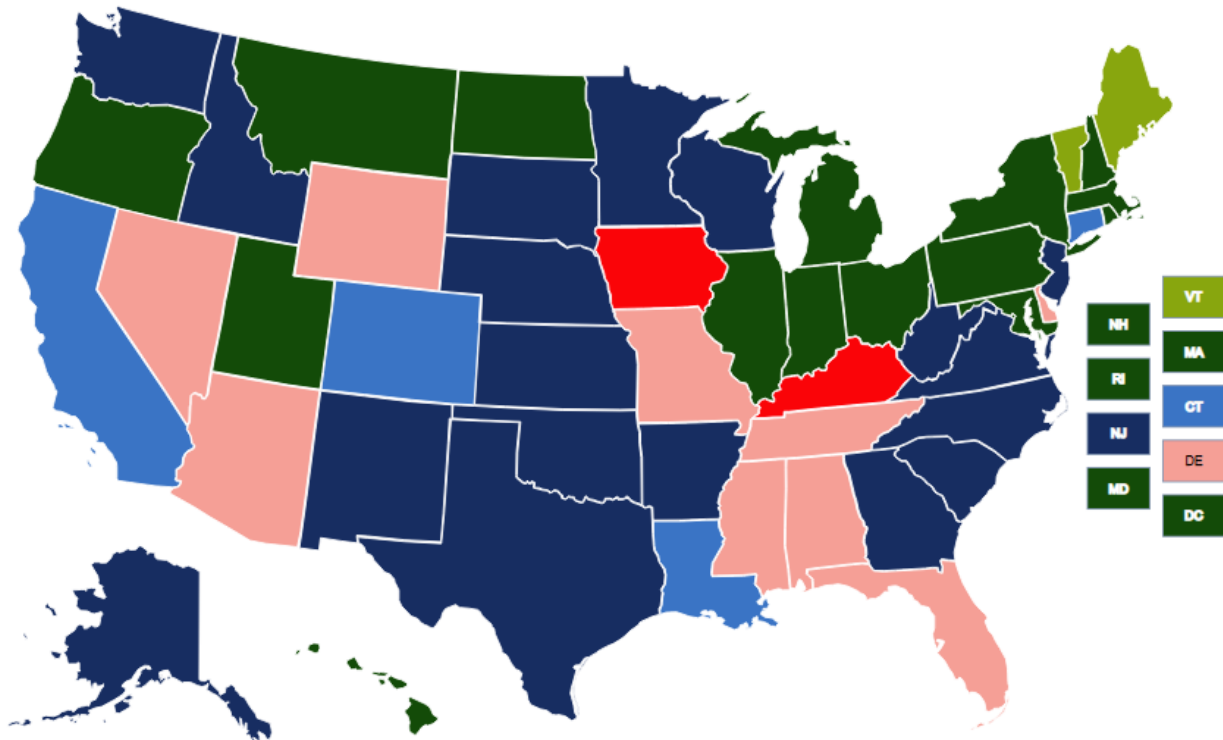


Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws Across the United States



- Permanent disenfranchisement for all people with felony convictions unless government approves individual rights restoration**
IA, KY
- Permanent disenfranchisement for at least some people with criminal convictions, unless government approves restoration** AL, AZ, DE, FL, MS, NV, TN, WY
- Voting rights restored upon completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation**
AK, AR, GA, ID, KS, MN, MO, NE*, NJ, NM, NC, OK, SC, SD, TX, VA**, WA, WV, WI
- Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison and discharge from parole (people on probation may vote)** CA, CO, CT, LA***
- Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison**
DC, HI, IL, IN, MA****, MD, MI, MT, NH, ND, NY*****, OH, OR, PA, RI, UT
- No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions** ME, VT

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.

These policies are not reflected in the above graphic.

* Nebraska imposes a two-year waiting period after completion of sentence. Nebraska also disenfranchises persons with treason convictions until they have their civil rights individually restored.


** Virginia's constitution imposes permanent disenfranchisement, but allows the governor to restore rights. The current governor's policy individually restores voting rights to those who have completed their sentences, prioritizing those with the earliest completed sentences and those who apply. See below for more details.

*** In 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.

**** Massachusetts disenfranchises persons with convictions for "corrupt practices in respect to elections" until they have their civil rights individually restored.


***** In New York, on April 18, 2018 Governor Cuomo announced that he would restore the right to vote to New Yorkers on state parole through executive order. Since then, he has restored voting rights for over 24,000 New Yorkers living and working in their communities. Prior to this announcement, New Yorkers were disenfranchised until the completion of incarceration and parole.

Last updated *November 7, 2018*

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

Iowa

Kentucky

 **Permanent disenfranchisement for at least some people with criminal convictions, unless government approves individual rights 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 legal financial obligations. 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.

Massachusetts: See below for Massachusetts.

Mississippi: People who are convicted of specified disqualifying offenses are permanently disenfranchised.


Nebraska: See below for Nebraska.

Nevada: Voting rights automatically restored to people completing sentences for most first-time felony convictions. People with certain felony convictions - including those defined as "category A" felonies - or with multiple felony convictions arising from separate instances are permanently disenfranchised unless they are pardoned or granted a restoration of civil rights from a court. Individuals that received a "dishonorable discharge" from parole or probation permanently lose voting rights unless pardoned.

Starting on January 1st, 2019, as a result of legislation passed in 2017, voting rights will be automatically restored for most first-time felony convictions regardless if they received a "dishonorable discharge" from probation or parole. Additionally, persons with certain "category B" felonies will have their voting rights automatically restored two years after completion of sentence.

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 after five years to people who complete sentences for first-time, non-violent felony convictions in 2016 or after. Applications are required from people who completed sentences for first-time, non-violent felony convictions before 2016, and from people convicted outside Wyoming, or under federal law. People with violent convictions or with multiple felony convictions 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

Minnesota

Missouri

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 Jersey

New Mexico

North Carolina

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


Texas

Virginia: Virginia is one of four states whose constitution permanently disenfranchises citizens with past felony convictions, but grants the state's governor the authority to restore voting rights. After a July 2016 Virginia Supreme Court decision invalidated an executive order restoring voting rights to over 200,000 citizens, the state's governor announced his plan to issue individual restorations for citizens who have completed the terms of their sentence, including probation and parole.

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

 **Voting rights restored automatically after release from prison and discharge from parole (people on probation may vote)**

California

Colorado

Connecticut

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**

Hawaii

Illinois

Indiana

Maryland: As of March 10th, 2016, voting rights restored automatically after release from prison.

Massachusetts: People with convictions for "corrupt practices in respect to elections" are permanently disenfranchised.

Michigan

Montana

New Hampshire

North Dakota

New York: On April 18, 2018, Governor Cuomo announced that he would restore the right to vote to New Yorkers on state parole through executive order. Since then, he has restored voting rights to over 24,000 New Yorkers living and working in their communities. Prior to this announcement, New Yorkers were disenfranchised until the completion of incarceration and parole.


Ohio

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Utah

 **No disenfranchisement for people with criminal convictions**

Maine

Vermont