

# Parole Status by State

STATE	DOES THE PAROLE BOARD HAVE DISCRETION?	COMMENT
ALABAMA	YES	The Board cannot parole on life w/o parole or some other sentences.
ALASKA	YES	
ARIZONA	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Only have discretion for those who committed an offense prior to January 1, 1994.
ARKANSAS	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Only discretion for cases whose crimes were committed prior to 1994.
CALIFORNIA	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Only had 10 paroled in 1997, 12 in 2000 and in 2001, respectively.
COLORADO	YES	Mandatory parole periods (up to 5 years) except certain sex offenders who committed their crime after 11/1/98, who have lifetime supervision. Mandatory parole applies to all inmates subsequent to 1993, except sex offenders who are discretionary.
CONNECTICUT	YES	Inmates with sentences exceeding two years who have been convicted of non-capital felonies are eligible for parole.
DELAWARE	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Parole has been abolished for all those convicted individuals who committed their crime after 6/30/90. There are still 400 persons in the system eligible for parole. The Board recommends modification of sentences to sentencing courts upon DOC application. The Board has authority over parole and mandatory release violators.
FLORIDA	NO, <i>still some authority</i>	Abolished parole in 1983 with the implementation of sentencing guidelines. The Board did retain paroling authority over pre 1983 inmates. The Board still does medical paroles, sets terms and conditions of supervision for statutorily mandated released inmates. There were 5961 parole eligible inmates in the system in 1997. Effective 10/1/97 the Board may order five year re-interviews for certain categories of inmates as opposed to a two year interview previously required.
GEORGIA	YES, <i>limited</i>	A 1994 law mandated a minimum 10 year prison sentence on first conviction for anyone convicted of the 7 most violent crimes. There is no parole for this group. The second conviction of this type is a life sentence without parole. All others are eligible for parole. Felony offenders convicted of nay fourth felony are not eligible for parole.
HAWAII	YES	Court does impose mandatory minimum sentences at their discretion for repeat offenders and those crimes which under statute have mandatory minimum sentences attached to the conviction.
IDAHO	YES	

Source: Association of Paroling Authorities International, Parole Board Survey 2002

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ILLINOIS	NO, <i>with some authority</i>	All individuals who committed a crime after 2/1/78 are on determinate sentences. About 480 inmates in a prison population in 1997 of 40,000 remained eligible for parole. The Board is the paroling authority for juvenile offenders in the system. For those inmates serving determinate sentences the Board sets conditions of release, determines when violators are to be returned to prison, screens and makes recommendations for clemency petitions to the Governor.
INDIANA	NO	Discretionary parole was abolished in 1977, but still have parole supervision. Board may grant parole to offenders for crimes committed prior to 10/1/77 and re-parole those who fall within this guideline.
IOWA	YES	Life means natural life.
KANSAS	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Individuals whose crimes were committed after 7/1/93 receive a determinate sentence.
KENTUCKY	YES	Certain violent offenders must serve a minimum time before eligible for parole. Deleted all forms of early parole consideration except for medical paroles. Final discharges from parole are no longer issued prior to reaching maximum expiration date of sentence. Parole consideration for defined violent offenders was increased from 50% to 85%. Life without parole for capital offenses. Sex offenders can not be paroled until they have completed treatment. No person who commits a certain specified offenses who was armed or wore body armor can not be paroled.
LOUISIANA	YES	All crimes against person cannot be paroled.
MAINE	NO	They abolished parole in 1976 and only a few cases that still can be considered for parole.
MASSACHUSETTS	YES	The Board has parole authority over all cases except a few sex offenders who under an old law are not eligible.
MARYLAND	YES	Certain crimes of violence and repeat offenders are not eligible for parole.
MICHIGAN	YES	Once the prisoner serves the minimum sentence less good time, the Board has jurisdiction to parole. The Board may now parole certain lifers sentenced for 650 grams or more of cocaine after 15 to 20 years depending on other prior convictions and cooperation with police.
MINNESOTA	NO	Discretionary release programs are in jeopardy. Intensive Community Supervision has been shut down and the Challenge Incarceration Program and Work Release Program have had their criteria significantly tightened.
MISSOURI	YES, <i>with limits</i>	Statutes restrict some cases from parole eligibility. The offender must be sentenced under the specific statute before restrictions apply. Drug trafficking first degree for some methamphetamine offenders are no longer eligible for parole.

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MISSISSIPPI	YES, <i>very limited</i>	The Board has discretion only if the crime was committed prior to 7/1/95. There were 3715 still in prison in 1997 eligible for parole.
MONTANA	YES	Lifers do have to serve a minimum time before they are eligible for parole.
NEBRASKA	YES	Individuals are eligible for consideration after serving ½ of their minimum term. No such reduction of sentence shall be applied to any term imposing a mandatory minimum
NEVADA	YES	The Board has discretion until the last year of the prison term then parole is mandatory.
NORTH CAROLINA	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Only on cases prior to 4/10/94.
NORTH DAKOTA	YES	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	YES	
NEW MEXICO	YES, <i>with limits</i>	
NEW JERSEY	YES	All inmates are eligible after serving 1/3 of their sentence except life without parole for 1st degree murder, and for habitual offenders, whereby the sentencing judge can set parole eligibility.
NEW YORK	YES, <i>new limits</i>	The majority of the inmates are serving indeterminate sentences and subject to discretionary release. However, second violent offenders get determinate sentences and are not eligible for parole. A recent sentencing reform acts have limited the Parole Board's discretionary release authority. It extended determinate sentencing to first time violent felony offenders. Inmates with determinate sentences may be conditionally released when 6/7ths of the sentence has been served.
OHIO	YES, <i>very limited</i>	All sentenced for crimes committed after 7/1/96 are not eligible for parole. The Board does set conditions for those released on determinate sentences. The Board is empowered to impose "bad time" for institutional rule infractions that would be a criminal offense outside prison. "Bad Time" extends the sentence imposed by the sentencing court and may be imposed in increments of 15, 30, 60, 90, days per infraction with accumulation not to exceed half of the original determinate sentence.
OKLAHOMA	YES, <i>very limited</i>	The Board only recommends to the Governor, who is the final releasing authority. Anyone committing certain violent offenses on or after March 1, 2000 will have to serve 85% of their sentence (generally offenders serve 1/3 ) before parole eligibility.
OREGON	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Only for crimes committed before 1989. Only a small number remain eligible.

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PENNSYLVANIA	YES	Offenders become eligible for parole at the expiration of their minimum sentence. Offenders with sentences of less than two years remain under the courts jurisdiction.
RHODE ISLAND	YES	All inmates are eligible after serving 1/4 of their sentences except life without parole. The Board now has the responsibility of sexual offender community notification. The Board determines the risk level for reoffense and carries out community notification with local police.
SOUTH CAROLINA	YES, <i>some limits</i>	Discretionary parole was abolished for certain crimes sentenced to 20 years or more committed after 1/1996.
SOUTH DAKOTA	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Only inmates who committed their crime prior to 7/1/96 are eligible.
TENNESSEE	YES, <i>limited</i>	There is no parole for a person who committed a crime against persons of-fense on or after 7/1/95. Others must serve a minimum time before they are eligible.
TEXAS	YES	The board has authority over who is released on parole or discretionary mandatory supervision, conditions of supervision, and revocation. They also make executive clemency recommendation to the Governor
UTAH	YES	Life without parole and death sentences that are commuted shall have life without parole.
VIRGINIA	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Only those who committed a crime prior to the 1995 abolishment of parole are eligible.
VERMONT	YES	
WASHINGTON	YES, <i>very limited</i>	Parole was abolished in 1984. Only those who committed a crime prior to 1984 are still eligible and in 1997 about 700 were still in the system.
WEST VIRGINIA	YES	Must see everyone yearly, except lifers who can be given a three year set-off.
WISCONSIN	YES, <i>very limited</i>	The truth and sentencing law that took effect in January of 2000 eliminated parole for individuals arrested after that date. Anyone sentenced to less than one year is eligible. The Board still has authority over old code cases.
WYOMING	YES	Inmates must serve a minimum before paroled. Cannot parole lifers.
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	NO	Congress abolished parole for certain felonies committed on or after 8/5/00. U.S. Parole Commission took over parole function 8/5/98.
U.S. PAROLE COMMISSION	YES, <i>limited</i>	Offenses committed on or after 11/1/87 are not eligible for parole. There were still 5888 in the system who were eligible for parole in 1997. On 8/5/98 the Commission assumed paroling authority over some 7000 District of Columbia cases.

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