

# Voting Restrictions for People with Felony Convictions

**STATES HAVE ABSOLUTE POWER TO DECIDE** whether someone with a criminal record can vote. *All but two states place some restrictions on the right to vote for people with felony convictions.*

- 12 states have lifetime bans on voting for some or all people convicted of crimes, 5 states prohibit voting for life by those convicted of certain classes of crimes; 7 states have a lifetime bar that may be lifted only if the state grants a formal “restoration of civil rights.”
- 18 states bar people from voting while they are incarcerated or serving parole or probation sentences.
- 6 states bar people from voting while they are incarcerated or on parole.
- 12 states deny voting rights to people only while they are incarcerated.

No restrictions	Cannot vote while incarcerated	Cannot vote while incarcerated or on parole	Cannot vote until completion of sentence	Lifetime bar that can be lifted	Lifetime bar for some or all crimes
Maine Vermont	Hawaii Indiana Illinois Massachusetts Michigan Montana New Hampshire North Dakota Ohio Oregon South Dakota Utah	Alaska California Colorado Connecticut New York Wisconsin	Arizona Arkansas Florida Georgia Idaho Kansas Louisiana Minnesota Missouri New Jersey New Mexico North Carolina Oklahoma Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina Texas West Virginia	Alabama Iowa Nebraska Nevada Virginia Washington Wyoming	Delaware Kentucky Maryland Mississippi Tennessee

**Source:** Legal Action Center. “After Prison: Roadblocks to Re-Entry—A Report on State Legal Barriers Facing People with Criminal Records.” New York, NY: Legal Action Center, 2004.