



STRENGTHEN MISSOURI COMMUNITIES

Restore the Right to Vote for People on Probation or Parole

SUPPORT

HB 617

REP. STINNETT
(R-Springfield)

SB 714

SEN. GREGORY
(R-Marshall)

Restore Voting Rights to Individuals on Probation or Parole

Missouri currently denies voting rights to individuals who have completed their sentence of incarceration, but are still on parole or probation. Restoring voting rights post-incarceration improves public safety and civic participation.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Reduces Recidivism & Increases Public Safety** – Studies show that individuals in states that permit voting restoration post-incarceration are less likely to reoffend compared to individuals in states that continued to restrict the right to vote after incarceration.¹
- **Strengthens Trust in Government** – Restoring the right to vote for people on parole or probation fosters engagement in communities and encourages participation in the democratic process.²
- **Eliminates Confusion & Simplifies Voting Laws** – Confusion and misinformation around the rules for voting after being incarcerated can lead many people with past convictions – and election officials – to wrongly believe a voter cannot register or cast a ballot, even if they are eligible. A clear, inclusive policy would prevent unnecessary disenfranchisement.³

A Key to Successful Reentry

Voting plays a crucial role in community reintegration. Studies show that restoring voting rights strengthens an individual's commitment to become a contributing community member. Justice-involved individuals who vote report feeling more engaged and valued in their communities.

Conversely, those barred from voting often feel like outsiders, disconnected from decisions that affect their lives. By restoring voting rights, Missouri can promote a stronger sense of civic responsibility and help justice-involved individuals successfully reintegrate into society.⁴

To learn how you can help, visit missouriappleseed.org or email Liza Weiss at LWeiss@appleseednetwork.org

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¹ The Sentencing Project. *Increasing Public Safety by Restoring Voting Rights*. Retrieved from <https://www.sentencingproject.org/policy-brief/increasing-public-safety-by-restoring-voting-rights/>

² Campaign Legal Center. *It's Time to Abolish Felony Disenfranchisement. Here's Why*. Retrieved from <https://campaignlegal.org/update/its-time-abolish-felony-disenfranchisement-heres-why>

³ The Sentencing Project. *New Report Reveals 4 Million Americans Denied Voting Rights Due to Felony Convictions*. Retrieved from <https://www.sentencingproject.org/press-releases/new-sentencing-project-report-reveals-4-million-americans-denied-voting-rights-due-to-felony-convictions/>

⁴ Missouri Independent. *Restoring Voting Rights in Missouri is a Step Toward Justice and Public Safety*. Retrieved from <https://missouriindependent.com/2024/03/12/restoring-voting-rights-in-missouri-is-a-step-toward-justice-and-public-safety/>