



In Colorado, most people with a criminal record can vote!

Tips for Voter Registration Drives

If someone tells you that they cannot register to vote (or vote) because they have a criminal record you can respond by asking them if you can talk to them more about their right to vote since laws in Colorado have recently changed.

There is a lot of misunderstanding about voter eligibility.

The one question you might ask is whether they are currently on inmate status and living in a halfway house or on non-residential status.

If the answer is NO, then they can register to vote and vote.

The only time when someone is not allowed to vote in Colorado is when they are serving a sentence in prison, jail or on inmate status in a halfway house for a felony. If they are:

On Probation? They can vote.

On Federal Supervised Release or state parole? They can vote.

In Jail serving a misdemeanor sentence? They can vote.

In Jail, awaiting trial? They can vote.

On bond or summons and awaiting trial? They can vote.

Finished their sentence? They can vote.

It's important to know the law.

It is a class 5 felony to register or vote in an election if you are not eligible.

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Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions and answers may help you understand more about the right to vote for people with criminal records.

I was recently released on parole. Do I have to prove that in order to register to vote or vote?

The law recently changed and, as of July 1, 2019, people on parole are eligible to register to vote and vote. If your name shows up on the database as still being incarcerated in the Department of Corrections, you may be asked to provide a copy of your parole release papers in order to register to vote and vote.

I was registered to vote before I went to prison. Do I have to re-register?

If you were a registered voter before you were incarcerated you will have to re-register. You can automatically register when you get your Colorado ID or driver's license, or when you enroll for benefits such food stamps or Medicaid.

Do I have to pay off all of my restitution before I can vote?

No. Payment of restitution is not a condition of voting eligibility.

I'm in a halfway house. I don't think I can vote.

If you are a direct sentence from the courts, you can vote. If you are there as a condition of parole, you can vote. If you are a transition client from prison and still on inmate status you cannot vote until you are on parole.