



Can I Vote?

Tips for Voter Registration Drives

If someone tells you they cannot register to vote (or vote) because they have a criminal record, you may want to see if they'd be willing to talk more about this with you. There is a lot of misunderstanding.

The first question to ask is,

Are you currently involved in the criminal justice system?

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

If the answer is YES, you will need to ask if they are currently:

<p>on Probation</p> <p>Probation is a type of sentence that allows a person to remain in the community under supervision of a probation officer.</p> <p>YES you can vote</p>	<p>on Bond/Summons</p> <p>Bond/summons is when someone has a pending criminal case but is not incarcerated.</p> <p>YES you can vote</p>	<p>in Jail</p> <p>People in jail serving a misdemeanor sentence (not felony) and people awaiting trial/sentence, (pre-trial detainee).</p> <p>YES you can vote</p>
<p>in Prison/on Parole</p> <p>Parole is a period of supervision after release from prison. In Colorado parole is considered part of the prison sentence.</p> <p>NO you cannot vote</p>	<p>on Federal Supervised Release</p> <p>A period of supervision following release from a federal prison.</p> <p>NO you cannot vote</p>	<p>living in a Halfway House</p> <p>Community corrections (halfway house) is an alternative to jail or prison.</p> <p>NO you cannot vote</p>

UNCLEAR? If the person is on home detention for a felony conviction, a diversion client in community corrections on non-residential status, or in jail awaiting a revocation hearing for a probation violation the person should contact an elections official for clarification on eligibility.

KNOW THE LAW!!!

If you are unsure about whether somebody is eligible to register or vote, call CCJRC, an election official or the Secretary of State's office. It is a class 5 felony to register or vote in an election if you are not eligible.

CCJRC · www.ccjrc.org · info@ccjrc.org · 303-825-0122

Frequently Asked Questions

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

I recently completed my parole. Do I have to prove that in order to register or vote?

In Colorado, you're eligible to register to vote the day you are released from parole. If your name still shows up on the database as being in the Department of Corrections, you may be asked to provide a copy of your discharge papers in order to register to vote.

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

If you were a registered voter before you were sentenced to prison or community corrections your registration was probably cancelled. You must re-register to vote.

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 on paper. I don't think I can vote.

That depends. You may be able to vote depending on your current involvement in the criminal justice system. If you are on parole or supervised release, then no, you cannot vote until you complete your sentence. However, if you are on probation then you can vote.

I have a criminal record from another state, can I vote?

It doesn't matter what state you were convicted in or the crime of conviction. If you are eligible to vote under Colorado law you can register and vote.