

Most people with criminal records are eligible to vote in Colorado. Unfortunately, this is not widely known. According to a survey commissioned by the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, there is significant public confusion surrounding the voting rights of individuals currently involved in the justice system.



Between 70 million and 100 million people in the United States have some type of criminal record. That's one out of every three Americans.

Source: The Sentencing Project, "Americans With Criminal Records"

Who Can Vote?

Colorado residents who are U.S. citizens and 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote if:

- they have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor and have completed their sentence;
- they are currently on probation for a felony or misdemeanor conviction; or
- they are currently in jail serving a sentence for a misdemeanor conviction or awaiting trial for any offense.

They are NOT eligible to vote if they are currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction—either in prison or on parole—but they will become eligible again after completing their sentence.



There are approximately 77,000 adults on probation in Colorado.

Source: Colorado Judicial Branch, "Annual Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2018"

Key Areas of Public Confusion

The following findings are based on a survey of 600 Colorado voters conducted by Public Policy Polling from August 24-26, 2018. The margin of error is plus or minus four percentage points. See pages 2-7 for the full results of the survey.



Criminal Records

Only a small majority of Coloradans (57%) know that individuals who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor are eligible to vote once they have completed their sentence. That number drops to just over one-third (36%) among Colorado voters who identify as neither white nor Hispanic/Latino.



Probation

Fewer than half of Coloradans (43%) know that individuals who are currently on probation for a felony or misdemeanor conviction are eligible to vote.



Jail

Four out of 10 Coloradans (43%) do NOT know that individuals currently in jail for misdemeanor convictions are allowed to vote from jail. Only 41% of Coloradans know that individuals in jail awaiting trial are also eligible.



There are thousands of people in Colorado jails who are eligible to vote.

Source: CCJRC estimate based on most recent jail population statistics

Know your rights!

Find out if you can vote at:

Voting With Conviction.org



Colorado Survey Results

Q1 To the best of your knowledge, do you think an individual who has been charged with a crime and is currently in jail awaiting trial is eligible to vote in Colorado, or not?

Yes..... 41%
 No..... 47%
 Not sure 12%

Q2 To the best of your knowledge, do you think an individual who is currently in jail for a misdemeanor conviction is eligible to vote in Colorado, or not?

Yes..... 57%
 No..... 32%
 Not sure 11%

Q3 To the best of your knowledge, do you think an individual who is currently in prison or on parole for a felony conviction is eligible to vote in Colorado, or not?

Yes..... 15%
 No..... 73%
 Not sure 12%

Q4 To the best of your knowledge, do you think an individual who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor and has fully completed their sentence is eligible to vote in Colorado, or not?

Yes..... 57%
 No..... 30%
 Not sure 13%

Q5 To the best of your knowledge, do you think an individual who is currently on probation for a felony or misdemeanor conviction is eligible to vote in Colorado, or not?

Yes..... 43%
 No..... 42%
 Not sure 15%

Q6 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
 Man..... 47%

Q7 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent, press 3.

Democrat 37%
 Republican 36%
 Independent 27%

Q8 If you are Hispanic or Latino, press 1. If white, press 2. If other, press 3.

Hispanic / Latino 14%
 White 78%
 Other..... 8%

Q9 If you are 18-29 years old, press 1. If 30-45, press 2. If 46-65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 12%
 30 to 45..... 27%
 46 to 65..... 34%
 Older than 65 27%

Q10 Mode

Phone 71%
 Internet..... 29%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Think Individual Charged With Crime and in Jail Awaiting Trial Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	41%	39%	44%
No	47%	46%	48%
Not sure	12%	15%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Think Individual Currently in Jail for Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	57%	59%	55%
No	32%	30%	34%
Not sure	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Think Individual Currently in Prison Or On Parole for Felony Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	15%	16%	13%
No	73%	72%	74%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Think Individual Who Completed Felony or Misdemeanor Sentence Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	57%	59%	54%
No	30%	31%	29%
Not sure	13%	10%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Think Individual On Probation for Felony or Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	43%	46%	39%
No	42%	39%	47%
Not sure	15%	16%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Think Individual Charged With Crime and in Jail Awaiting Trial Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	41%	46%	26%	54%
No	47%	38%	66%	33%
Not sure	12%	15%	8%	13%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Think Individual Currently in Jail for Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	57%	65%	48%	59%
No	32%	24%	42%	30%
Not sure	11%	11%	10%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Think Individual Currently in Prison Or On Parole for Felony Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	15%	22%	12%	8%
No	73%	63%	81%	76%
Not sure	12%	15%	6%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Think Individual Who Completed Felony or Misdemeanor Sentence Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	57%	63%	54%	51%
No	30%	25%	35%	31%
Not sure	13%	12%	11%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Think Individual On Probation for Felony or Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	43%	50%	36%	42%
No	42%	34%	54%	40%
Not sure	15%	16%	11%	18%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic / Latino	White	Other
Think Individual Charged With Crime and in Jail Awaiting Trial Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	41%	49%	39%	45%
No	47%	45%	48%	42%
Not sure	12%	6%	13%	14%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic / Latino	White	Other
Think Individual Currently in Jail for Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	57%	60%	59%	36%
No	32%	31%	33%	22%
Not sure	11%	9%	8%	42%





	Base	Race		
		Hispanic / Latino	White	Other
Think Individual Currently in Prison Or On Parole for Felony Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	15%	25%	13%	14%
No	73%	55%	78%	56%
Not sure	12%	19%	9%	30%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic / Latino	White	Other
Think Individual Who Completed Felony or Misdemeanor Sentence Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	57%	62%	58%	36%
No	30%	23%	31%	35%
Not sure	13%	14%	12%	29%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic / Latino	White	Other
Think Individual On Probation for Felony or Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No				
Yes	43%	43%	42%	47%
No	42%	38%	45%	31%
Not sure	15%	20%	13%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Think Individual Charged With Crime and in Jail Awaiting Trial Eligible to Vote Yes / No					
Yes	41%	54%	40%	41%	36%
No	47%	35%	46%	48%	52%
Not sure	12%	11%	13%	11%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Think Individual Currently in Jail for Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No					
Yes	57%	58%	51%	65%	52%
No	32%	29%	31%	28%	40%
Not sure	11%	12%	18%	7%	8%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Think Individual Currently in Prison Or On Parole for Felony Eligible to Vote Yes / No					
Yes	15%	21%	17%	13%	12%
No	73%	55%	70%	74%	83%
Not sure	12%	24%	13%	13%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Think Individual Who Completed Felony or Misdemeanor Sentence Eligible to Vote Yes / No					
Yes	57%	57%	48%	59%	62%
No	30%	29%	31%	29%	31%
Not sure	13%	14%	21%	12%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Think Individual On Probation for Felony or Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No					
Yes	43%	50%	41%	49%	34%
No	42%	38%	38%	36%	56%
Not sure	15%	12%	21%	15%	10%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Think Individual Charged With Crime and in Jail Awaiting Trial Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	41%	42%	39%
No	47%	48%	45%
Not sure	12%	10%	17%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Think Individual Currently in Jail for Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	57%	58%	55%
No	32%	33%	29%
Not sure	11%	9%	16%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Think Individual Currently in Prison Or On Parole for Felony Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	15%	13%	18%
No	73%	76%	65%
Not sure	12%	10%	18%



	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Think Individual Who Completed Felony or Misdemeanor Sentence Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	57%	59%	50%
No	30%	30%	31%
Not sure	13%	11%	19%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Think Individual On Probation for Felony or Misdemeanor Eligible to Vote Yes / No			
Yes	43%	45%	37%
No	42%	44%	39%
Not sure	15%	11%	24%