



WELCOME



# COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION(CCJRC)

## Founded in 1999

- 501 (c) (3) state based nonprofit organization
- CCJRC is a nonpartisan organization with 10,000 supporters Statewide

## Our Mission

- To eliminate the overuse of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety

## Our Work – Criminal Justice Reform

- Public Policy
- Advocacy
- Criminal Justice Systems Navigation



CCJRC uses public education, community organizing, coalition building, research, policy advocacy, litigation, and lobbying as strategies for social change.

- Funding from individuals and grants.
- Advocacy work: Drug policy, Reentry, Sentencing, & Community Reinvestment.
- CCJRC is not a direct service organization
- Staff & Board have lived experience, have been directly impacted and/or formally incarcerated

## CCJRC CAMPAIGNS

Take Care  
Health  
Matters

Free Her

Community  
Reinvestment


Know Your DA

DA  
Accountability

Voting with  
Conviction

VOTER REGISTRATION  
DRIVE AND GOTV  
TRAINING

## WHY DO WE DO THIS?

- To focus on voter engagement of people with a criminal background.
  - To educate justice involved voters on their rights and eligibility to vote.
  - To increase the voter turnout from communities of color.
  - We want to help our communities better understand the issues and what's happening in our community.
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# CCJRC VRD/GOTV HIGHLIGHTS

2016: CCJRC registered over 300 people in the Denver jails through our JBV efforts.

2017: there was an off-year election. CCJRC did a GOTV push in Ward III in Aurora and helped increase the African American voter turnout. The African American Voter turnout was at an 18% which was a 2% increase in compared to other off year elections.

2018: CCJRC registered 790 people in the jails through our JBV efforts.

CCJRC partnered with the SOS office to implement rule making 7.4 that mandated all jails in each county to produce and have a voting plan/process put in place for voters in jails.

2019: CCJRC registered 34 people in the jails through our JBV efforts

CCJRC defeated the ballot measure 1A- which stopped Arapahoe County from expanding and building a new jail.

2020: CCJRC conducted the first time ever polling stations in the jails and had about 200 people vote in person in the jails.

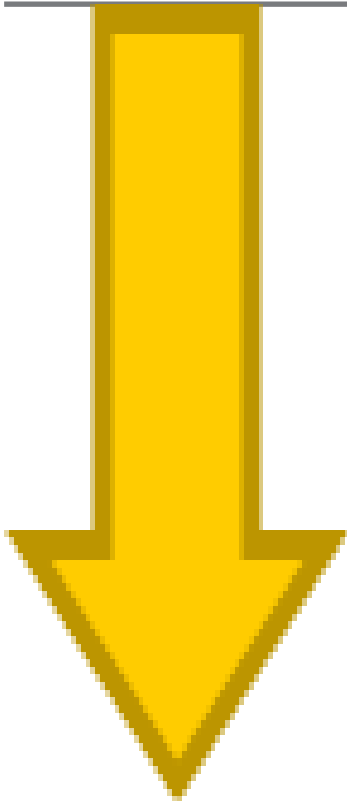
# COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION



**KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS!**



## DETAILS MATTER!



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There is a common misunderstanding that once a person has a criminal conviction s/he can never vote again. While this may be true in some states, it is **NOT TRUE** in Colorado!

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On any given day, there are over 125,000 adults in Colorado who are currently involved in the criminal justice system. - **MOST** are eligible to vote.

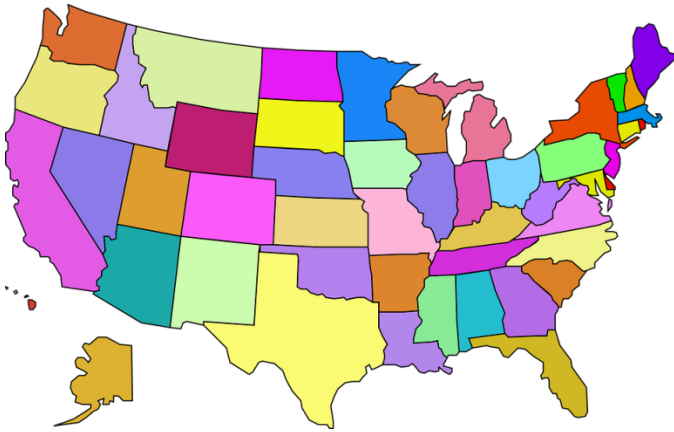
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Hundreds of thousands more have a past criminal conviction. **ALL OF THEM** are eligible to vote.

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# VOTING RIGHTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## State Overview



**Voting rights retained while in prison for a felony conviction in:** Maine, Vermont, and the District of Columbia

**Voting rights restored automatically upon release from prison in:** California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, and Virginia

**Voting rights restored automatically upon completion of sentence, including prison, and both parole, and probation in:** Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Washington\*, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

**Voting rights restoration can depend on the date or type of conviction, repayment of fines, the outcome of an individual petition to the government, or gubernatorial pardon in:** Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Delaware, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Wyoming.

To learn more please visit [Voting Rights for People with a Felony Conviction - Nonprofit Vote](#)

**What is the law in Colorado?**

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**Who can and cannot vote in  
Colorado if he/she has a criminal  
record?**

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**Why this is important?**

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# COLORADO LAW

**No person while serving a sentence of detention or confinement in a correctional facility, jail, or other location for a felony conviction is eligible to register to vote or to vote in any election. A confined prisoner who is awaiting trial but has not been tried or who is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction shall be certified by the institutional administrator, may register to vote pursuant to this article 2, and may list his or her confinement location as his or her ballot address in accordance with section 1-2-204(2) (f.3). An individual serving a sentence of parole is eligible to register to vote and to vote in any election.(5) A person confined in a state institution for persons with behavioral or mental health disorders shall not lose the right to vote because of the confinement**

# CCJRC PASSED A NEW LAW!

**As of July 1, 2019, the laws on voter eligibility for people on Parole has changed! HB19-1266 permits people on parole who have completed their sentence of incarceration to register to vote and vote.**

**The new law effects approximately 10,000 people in our state.**



# THERE ARE REAL CONSEQUENCES IF YOU TELL PEOPLE THE WRONG INFORMATION!!!

If you inadvertently tell someone that they **are ineligible** to vote but they are **eligible** to vote, you are contributing to

**MARGINALIZATION**  
and  
**DISENFRANCHISEMENT**



If you inadvertently tell someone that they **are** eligible to vote but they aren't, you put them at risk of being criminally charged since it is a class 5 felony to register to vote or vote in Colorado if you are not eligible.

**If you are:**



**On probation, parole or federal supervised release**



**In jail, on bond or summons awaiting trial**



**In jail serving a misdemeanor sentence**

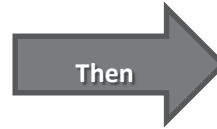


**Direct sentence to halfway house**



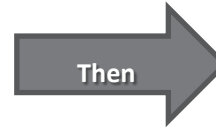
**Completed a past felony sentence**

**These are types of sentences that allows a person to live in the community**

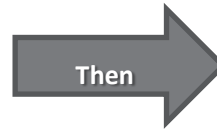


**YES, you can Vote in Colorado!**

**Bond/summons is when someone has a pending criminal case but is not incarcerated. If you haven't been convicted, you can vote.**

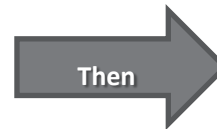


**YES, you can Vote in Colorado!**



**YES, you can Vote in Colorado!**

**Often called a diversion sentence./diversion client meaning they are getting the opportunity for rehabilitation and not punishment**



**YES, you can Vote in Colorado!**

**No matter where or what the conviction was for.**



**YES you can Vote in Colorado!**

**If you are:**



**In Prison**



**This includes jail  
for a felony  
conviction**



**NO you  
cannot Vote in Colorado!**



**Inmate status  
under  
community  
corrections  
living in a  
residential or  
non-residential  
community**



**Community  
corrections(half-way  
house) is a place some  
folks transition to from  
prison**



**NO you  
cannot Vote in Colorado!**





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Will I get an official letter telling me when I am eligible?**

**A: No. No one will tell you when you're eligible to vote.**

**What If I was convicted for a crime in another state?**

**A: Voting eligibility is based on Colorado state law. It does not matter what state you were convicted in or whether you were convicted in municipal, state or federal court.**

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

**A: No. Payment of restitution is not a condition of voting eligibility.**

**I was registered to vote before incarceration. Do I need to register again?**

**A: Yes. If you were registered to vote prior to your incarceration, there is a good chance that your name was removed from the Secretary of State's list of registered voters. You will need to re-register to vote.**

**If someone is diverted to a halfway house by the courts, meaning they never went to prison, are they eligible to register to vote and vote.**

**A: Yes, they are eligible.**

**If someone is coming out of prison and they get sent to a halfway house, are they eligible?**

**A: No, they are not eligible because their inmate status is under DOC watch. Meaning they are still serving time whether it's in a residential or nonresidential community.**



# WALK THROUGH OF VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

**Colorado Voter Registration Form** Fill out all fields marked with an asterisk (\*)

<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>1</b>	* Are you a citizen of the United States? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>If you answered "No", do not complete this form.</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>2</b>	Last Name _____ *First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Suffix _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I have a valid CO Driver's License or ID card. <b>Write that number here:</b> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a CO Driver's License or ID card. <b>Write the last four digits of your SSN here:</b> X X X - X X - _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a Colorado Driver's License, ID card, or a Social Security Number.
<b>Identification</b> Provide your birth date and your identification information.	<b>3</b>	Remember to write your birth date below. - - - - - *MM *DD *YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> I do not have a Colorado Driver's License, ID card, or a Social Security Number.
<b>The address where you live</b>	<b>4</b>	*Address (no P.O. Boxes) _____ Unit Number _____ *City or Town _____ CO _____ State _____ *Zip Code _____ Colorado County _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am homeless. This is a location I regularly return to. I have also provided a mailing address in Section 5.
<b>The address where you receive mail</b>	<b>5</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as above Address _____ City or Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
<b>The address to mail your ballot</b> The County will mail your ballot here until you say otherwise.	<b>6</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as above Address _____ City or Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
<b>Political affiliation</b> Choose only 7a or 7b	<b>7a</b>	I would like to be a member of the following political party: <input type="checkbox"/> American Constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Approval Voting <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Unity
	<b>7b</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be Unaffiliated, but I want to receive the following party's ballot in the next primary election: <input type="checkbox"/> All Major Parties' Ballots <input type="checkbox"/> American Constitution <input type="checkbox"/> Approval Voting <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Unity
<b>Updating a current record?</b> If so, you <u>must</u> provide the applicable changes here.	<b>8</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> I am not updating a current record <input type="checkbox"/> I am no longer overseas <input type="checkbox"/> I am no longer absent from Colorado due to military service Previous home address _____ Previous legal name _____ Previous mailing address _____ Previous party affiliation _____
<b>Declaration</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Warning: It is a Class 1 misdemeanor to swear or affirm falsely as to your qualifications to register to vote.</b> <b>Self-Affirmation:</b> I affirm that I am a citizen of the United States, I have been a resident of Colorado for at least twenty-two days immediately before an election I intend to vote in, I am at least sixteen years old, and understand that I must be at least seventeen and having eighteen on or before the date of the next general election to be eligible to vote in a primary election, and at least eighteen to be eligible to vote in any other election. I further affirm that the residence address I provided is my <b>sole legal place of residence</b> . I certify under penalty of perjury that the information I have provided on this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I have not, nor will I, cast more than one ballot in any election. _____ *Signature or mark _____ *Date _____ Witness Signature _____ Date _____ If you are unable to sign, you must make a mark and have the mark witnessed by another person.
<b>Optional information</b>	<b>10</b>	Phone number with area code _____ Gender identity _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be an election judge I want to receive election information by email: _____ (You will not receive a ballot by email) Email address _____

Secretary of State Approved 01-24-22 **Form 100** [Article 2, Title 1, C.R.S.]

# REGISTER ONLINE!

You can register under our voter register drive at [www.votingwithconviction.org](http://www.votingwithconviction.org)

Under the “Can I Vote Tab” click the box that says “Register to Vote”



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**USE YOUR  
VOICE  
REGISTER  
TO VOTE  
&  
VOTE!**

What do voters care about?

- Health care
- Economic justice
- Racial justice
- Criminal justice
- Environment
- Children
- Education

# HELPFUL MATERIALS!

Can I vote palm card

CCJRC Go Guide

JBV video clip-to view the whole video please visit [www.votingwithconviction.org](http://www.votingwithconviction.org) Click on the "Can I vote" tab.

CCJRC Colorado Voting Guide- You can find the whole article on ccjrc website under the tab called "Making Change" by scrolling down to voting with conviction



**COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION**

## Colorado Voting Guide

Founded in 1999, CCJRC is a network of organizations, faith communities, and individuals working to eliminate the excess of the criminal justice system and advance community health and safety in Colorado. 1212 Mariposa St., PA, Denver, CO 80204 | www.ccjrc.org | info@ccjrc.org | 303.825.4022

April 2023 - Inactive Role: Civic Engagement Manager

Since 2006, CCJRC has run the only civic engagement campaign in Colorado that focuses exclusively on helping people with criminal backgrounds figure out their vote rights so we can build a more just state. If you are CCJRC's civic engagement network, we're excited and happy because a lot of people think that having a criminal record makes someone ineligible to vote. This is not true in Colorado! We hope this guide will provide you with information and support you need for the experience and make a change!

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**What is Civic Engagement?**

Civic engagement is giving, investing in, and being your community. You can be done individually or with a group of the-minded people. There are many ways to engage. One important way is to participate in elections.

**The Importance of Voting**

Voting is one way of contributing to our democracy. Democracy means the power of the people, where a vote of government depends on the will of the people. For the last election in 2022, 66% of people eligible to vote in Colorado voted, which ranked us sixth highest in the nation behind Maine, Tennessee, Oregon, Wisconsin, and New Jersey. But that means over 34% of people didn't vote which is a lot of missing voices. There can be a lot of different reasons why people didn't vote.

- We may think that our vote doesn't matter.
- We may not have enough about the candidates to know who to vote for or we may not like any of the candidates running for election.
- We may not be registered to vote and may not know how to register to vote.
- Our busy lives, we may not think we have the time to vote.

There are many other reasons people didn't vote to vote. However, whatever those reasons are, here are some things we hope will encourage and inspire you to vote in all elections.

CCJRC Civic Engagement Voting Guide • Special Edition • 1