

VOTING RIGHTS FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE

Some people held in Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities keep their **right to vote**

BOP gives more information about your voting rights during A&O, and during its **Release Orientation Program**

You **may** be able to get your voting rights back upon release from prison if you lost them while in custody

Rules are different from state to state. This is an **overview**. Please ask for more info related to your specific state

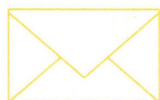
If you have questions about your voting rights, voting by mail, absentee ballots, or registering to vote, please contact the Reentry Affairs Coordinator (RAC) or your unit team.



Your Incarceration Status and Right to Vote:

Serving a sentence for a Felony: Many states take away the right to vote for all voters with felony convictions while they are in prison, but that is not true everywhere. In some states, people with felony convictions can still vote, and in other states, losing your voting rights depends on the details of your conviction.

Pretrial Detention: Your voter status does not change while in pretrial detention. Ask for more info on how to vote while in pretrial status.



Serving a sentence for a Misdemeanor: People serving sentences for misdemeanor convictions can still vote in most cases. This means that, if you could vote before your misdemeanor conviction, you still can vote while you serve your sentence, in most cases.



Incoming and Outgoing Voter Mail:

MAIL FROM ELECTION OFFICIALS LABELED "OFFICIAL ELECTION MAIL," "OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT," "BALLOT ENCLOSED," OR WITH SIMILAR WORDS TO SAY THAT THE ENVELOPE CONTAINS AN ELECTION BALLOT, WILL BE TREATED AS LEGAL MAIL



Getting your Voting Rights Back:

If you were registered to vote but then lost your right to vote due to a felony conviction, you will need to re-register if you want to vote again.

Because state laws differ on if and when people convicted of crimes may vote, you should look at resources for your state before trying to register or vote.

In the District of Columbia, Maine, Vermont, and Puerto Rico, people convicted of a felony never lose their right to vote, even while they are in prison and no matter what the offense.

Many states are different on the rules for getting voting rights back. There are different ways this happens and you should ask for help from staff to find out what your states rules are.

Registering to Vote or Requesting Absentee Ballot:

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE WHILE IN PRISON, YOU MUST **REGISTER TO VOTE BEFORE YOU CAN REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT. YOU MUST USE YOUR HOME ADDRESS AS THE "RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS", NOT YOUR PRISON ADDRESS, WHEN FILLING OUT YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION.**

ONCE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE, YOU SHOULD LIST THE JAIL OR CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ON YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION AS THE "MAILING ADDRESS."

YOU CAN FIND MORE VOTING MATERIALS POSTED ON **TRULINCS**. YOU CAN ALSO FIND THIS AND OTHER MATERIAL IN THE REENTRY RESOURCE LIBRARY. BOP WILL UPDATE INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING RIGHTS CHANGES AS THEY ARE MADE.

Helpful Tip

RestoreYourVote.org is a helpful resource for returning citizens who want more information about their eligibility to vote.

