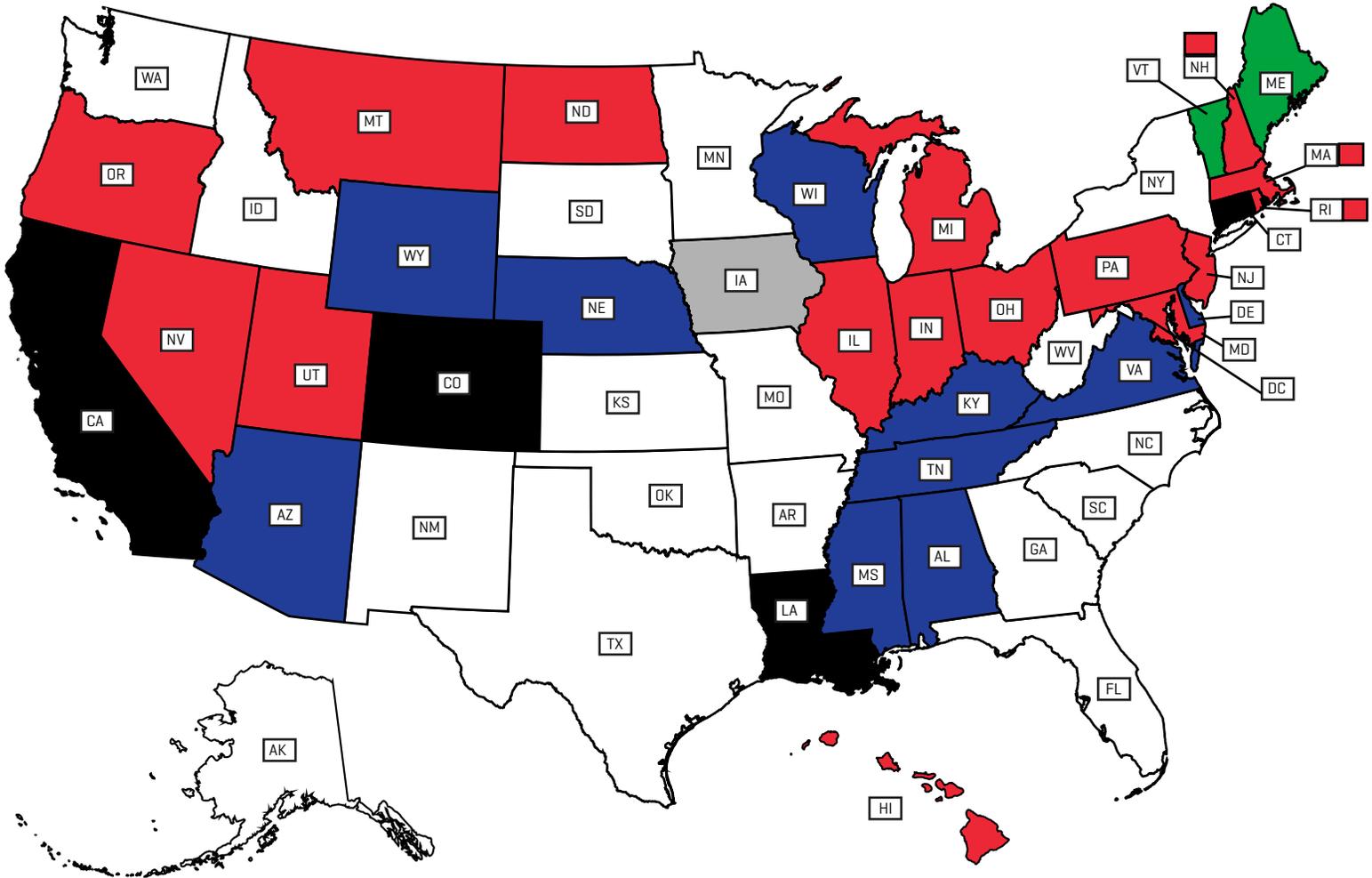


# FELON VOTING LAWS



## MAP KEY:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Never lose right to vote  |  Lost only while incarcerated. Automatic restoration after release   |
|  Lost until completion of sentence (parole and probation). Automatic restoration after   |  Voting rights are restored automatically after release from prison and discharge from parole (people on probation may vote) |
|  Lost until completion of sentence. In some states a post-sentencing waiting period additional action required for restoration |  Permanently lose right to vote (unless government give individual approval)   |

## TIPS FOR REGISTERING FELONS:

- If the felon doesn't know their status (did I complete probation?) then don't register them to vote. Give them our card and tell them to register at [HeadCount.org](http://HeadCount.org) once they find out if their civil rights have been restored.
- There are a lot of variations by state to these laws and broad categories may not be the best reflection of the felon's ability to register. See state-by-state details, which will note certain types of felonies or frequency of felonies that may impact voter registration.
- For  , the states may require additional time or actions prior to restoring voting rights. **DO NOT REGISTER IN THE FIELD.** Have them check with their attorney or the state and, once rights are restored, they can register at [HeadCount.org](http://HeadCount.org).

# STATE-BY-STATE DETAILS

**Alabama:** People with certain felony convictions involving moral turpitude can apply to have their voting rights restored upon completion of sentence and payment of fines and fees; people convicted of some specific crimes – including murder, rape, treason, and crimes involving children – are permanently barred from voting.

**Arizona:** People convicted of one felony can have their voting rights restored upon completion of sentence, including all prison, parole, and probation terms and payment of legal financial obligations. People convicted of two or more felonies are permanently barred from voting unless pardoned or restored by a judge.

**Delaware:** People with most felony convictions have their voting rights restored automatically after completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation. People who are convicted of certain disqualifying felonies – including murder, bribery, and sexual offenses – are permanently disenfranchised. People convicted of election offenses are disenfranchised for 10 years following their sentences.

**Florida:** Only register Florida Felons with a FLORIDA voter registration form. As of July 1, 2019, felons who register to vote in Florida and have any outstanding fines or fees associated with their sentence may be charged for fraudulently registering to vote. It is critical that they are sure of their status before registering to vote. In Nov 2018 Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment which automatically restored voting rights to most felons at the completion of their sentence, except those convicted of murder and felony sexual offenses.

**Kentucky:** In 2019 felon rights in Kentucky were restored via executive order from the governor. HeadCount HQ will keep you up-to-date on any challenges to the law, but cautiously register voters while legal challenges unfold. Some violent felonies, including rape and murder, are excluded from the restoration order.

**Louisiana:** Voting rights are restored for those on probation or parole who have not been incarcerated during the last five years. Practically speaking, this means many if not most people on probation are eligible to vote and a small number of people on parole for more than five years are eligible.

**Maryland:** As of March 10, 2016, voting rights are restored automatically after release from court-ordered sentence of imprisonment. People who are convicted of buying or selling votes are permanently disenfranchised.

**Mississippi:** People who are convicted of specified disqualifying offenses are permanently disenfranchised unless pardoned by the governor or their right to vote is restored by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.

**Missouri:** People with most felony convictions have their voting rights restored automatically after completion of sentence, including prison, parole, and probation. People who are convicted of election-related offenses are permanently disenfranchised.

**Nebraska:** In Nebraska, voting rights are restored two years after the completion of sentence. Nebraska disenfranchises persons with treason convictions until they have their civil rights individually restored.

**Nevada:** As if July 1, 2019, any felon who is not currently in prison may register to vote.

**New Jersey:** On March 17, 2020, New Jersey felons who are on probation or parole are eligible to vote. This law was signed on Nov. 25, 2019 but has a 90 day waiting period before it becomes active.

**New York:** On April 18, 2018, Governor Cuomo announced that he would restore the right to vote to New Yorkers on state parole through executive order. Since then, he has restored voting rights to over 24,000 New Yorkers living and working in their communities. Prior to this announcement, New Yorkers were disenfranchised until the completion of incarceration and parole. If you are on Parole and would like to vote, check your status on the state's Parolee Lookup website to see if you have been pardoned and can vote.

**Oklahoma:** In Oklahoma, citizens are disenfranchised for the time period set out in their original sentence. Voting rights are restored once this time period has elapsed.

**Ohio:** Persons who have been twice convicted of a violation of Ohio's elections law are permanently disenfranchised.

**Tennessee:** Tennessee has one of the most complex disenfranchisement policies in the country. People completing sentences for some felony convictions, who have paid all restitution and court costs, and are current with child support payments may apply for rights restoration. Individuals with certain types of convictions, including rape, murder, and bribery, among others, are permanently disenfranchised.

**Virginia:** Virginia is one of four states whose constitution permanently disenfranchises citizens with past felony convictions but grants the state's governor the authority to restore voting rights. After a July 2016 Virginia Supreme Court decision invalidated an executive order restoring voting rights to over 200,000 citizens, the state's governor now issues individual restorations for citizens who have completed the terms of their sentence, including probation and parole.

**Wyoming:** Voting rights automatically restored after five years to people who complete sentences for first-time, non-violent felony convictions in 2016 or after. Applications are required from people who completed sentences for first-time, non-violent felony convictions before 2016, and from people convicted outside Wyoming, or under federal law. People with violent convictions or with multiple felony convictions are permanently disenfranchised, unless pardoned by the Governor.

**Sources:** Brennan Center – National Conference of State Legislatures – State Websites