

WE MATTER 2

THE DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF CONVICTED CITIZENS



A NOTE

**THIS ZINE WILL BE REFERRING TO THOSE
IN THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN
INCARCERATED AS **CONVICTED CITIZENS**.**

**THE TERMS “OFFENDER” OR “FELON”
HAVE A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION, AND CONVICTED
CITIZENS DESERVE THE SAME HUMANIZATION
AS THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.**

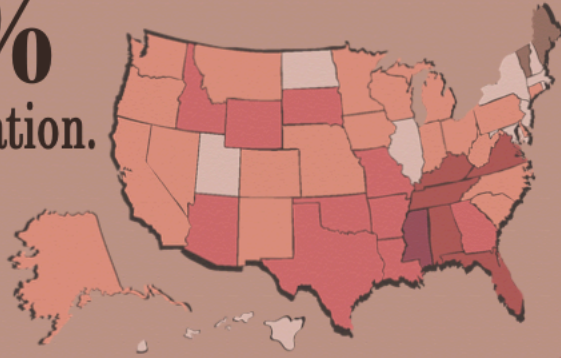
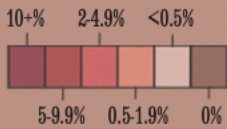
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5.2 MILLION people in the US
can not vote due to voting restrictions for
those convicted with a felony.

In some states, that is
as much as **10%**
of the voting population.



19 states

restore voting rights vote only after
prison time, parole, and probation.

18 states

restore voting rights vote after
completion of prison time.

9 states

rarely restore voting rights to those convicted.

2 states

restore voting rights after prison and parole.

2 states

do not have voting restrictions for those
convicted.

BUT, many convicted citizens have large sums of fees
or fines they must pay before their vote is restored.

In other words, **30 STATES** restrict voting rights
not only for those in prison, but also for those on parole
and those who have already served their time.

The number of convicted citizens who have been able to recover their right to vote is growing,

BUT THERE ARE STILL MILLIONS WHO DO NOT HAVE A VOICE

Even after the requirements for restoration are met, convicted citizens may not remember how to register, know what their state's voting laws are, or be discouraged by voter suppression.



Those housed in or supervised by government facilities are **directly** affected by those who are placed in office,

AND THEY DESERVE TO BE HEARD



**IF
WE
WERE
HEARD**

Disenfranchisement of convicted citizens disproportionately effects

BLACK AND BROWN AMERICANS

1 in 16 of black citizens can not vote because of felony level conviction, compared to **1 in 59** of non-black voters.

In other words, black citizens are almost **4X** more likely to lose their right to vote than non-black citizens.



Latinx American votes are also increasingly restricted, as both Latinx and black citizens are incarcerated at higher rates than other Americans.

As of 2020, an estimated **560,000** Latinx citizens will be disenfranchised due to a felony conviction, accounting for over 2% of the total voting population.

Black and brown citizens who have lost their right to vote account for

more than 40%

of the entire disenfranchised population.



SENTENCING PROJECT.COM

“Locked out 2020: Estimates of People Denied Voting Rights due to a Felony Conviction”

“Voting in Jails”

“Expanding the Vote: Two Decades of Felony Disenfranchisement Reform”

“Free the Vote”

EMANCIPATION INITIATIVE.ORG

“Ballots Over Bars: The Fight For a Voice”

The Constitutional Convention Debates
(transcript of debate over restriction of voting rights)

NCSL.COM

Felon Voting Rights: Restoration of Voting Rights for Felons

FELONVOTING.PROCON.ORG

“Are Felons More Likely to Vote for Democrats over Republicans?”

The Voting Rights Act

“Is Voting a Privelege and not a Right?”

VOTE.ORG

- for all federal and state-specific voting laws and resources to find polling places, how to get a mail in ballot, and more -

WHAT

#DONATEYOURVOTE

Check out how to “donate” your eligible vote to an incarcerated/convicted person in the 2020 election at EMANCIPATIONINITIATIVE.ORG

KNOW YOUR STATE

Make sure you know your state’s voting laws, not only for yourself but for everyone! All American citizens deserve a say in the election of government officials that will directly affect their every day lives!

ADVOCATE FOR RESTORATION EFFORTS

Contact your congressperson to support the restoration of voting rights for convicted citizens, volunteer to get ballots to those in jail, or to help convicted citizens registered to vote!

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,

VOTE

for officials and policies that will restore the voice to convicted persons.

YOU

CAN

DO

