

RESTORE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE IN

OREGON

FOR WHAT CRIMES OR TYPES OF CRIMES CAN I LOSE MY RIGHT TO VOTE?

Any felony conviction will result in the loss of voting rights.

CAN I VOTE WHILE I'M INCARCERATED?

No. Your right to vote is suspended from the date of sentencing until you are discharged or paroled, or until the conviction is set aside. You also cannot vote if the court stays the execution of your sentence for any purpose other than probation.

CAN I VOTE WHILE I'M ON PROBATION?

Yes.

CAN I VOTE WHILE I'M ON PAROLE?

Yes. However, your right to vote is automatically withdrawn, if you are subsequently incarcerated for violating the terms of your parole.

CAN MY RIGHT TO VOTE BE TAKEN AWAY PERMANENTLY?

No. In Oregon, your right to vote is automatically restored upon discharge from your sentence of imprisonment.

HOW DO I RESTORE MY RIGHT TO VOTE?

Your right to vote is automatically restored. However, you must register to vote.

WHEN DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You must register to vote at least 21 days before the election.

WHERE DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

You can obtain a registration form from your county elections office or at a designated state agency, including the Department of Motor Vehicles, some service agencies, and online at <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/other.info/vreg.htm>. The completed voter registration form can be returned by mail to your county elections office or in person to your county elections office or any designated service agency. Contact the county elections office in the county where you reside to find out which service agencies provide voter registration.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTY REGISTERING TO VOTE OR TO REPORT A PROBLEM

Contact one of the following individuals or organizations:

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Voting Rights Project
1401 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
(202)662-8600
(888)299-5227 (toll free)
(202)783-5130 (fax)
www.lawyerscomm.org

United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Post Office Box 66128
Washington, D.C. 20035

(202) 307-2767 (tel)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

Secretary of State
Elections Division
141 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97310
(503) 986-1518 (tel.)
(503) 373-7414 (fax)
<http://www.sos.state.or.us/sos/elections>

FELON DISENFRANCHISEMENT STATISTICS

What is the impact of felon disenfranchisement in Oregon?

Total Felons	Rate for Total*	Black Men	Rate for Black Men**
7,300	0.3%	900	4.5%

* Percentage of the adult population.

** Percentage of black men who are disenfranchised.

Human Rights Watch and The Sentencing Project. Losing the Vote, the Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in the United States (1998), at http://www.hrw.org/reports98/vote/usvot98o-01.htm - P101_2428

What are the demographics of Oregon?

White	86.6%
Black	1.6%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1.3%
Asian	3.0%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.2%
Hispanic/Latino	8.0%
Other	4.2%

US Census Bureau, American Factfinder (2000): <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND FELON DISENFRANCHISEMENT LAWS

Oregon Const. Article 2, § 3. Rights of certain electors.

A person suffering from a mental handicap is entitled to the full rights of an elector, if otherwise qualified, unless the person has been adjudicated incompetent to vote as provided by law. The privilege of an elector, upon conviction of any crime which is punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary, shall be forfeited, unless otherwise provided by law.

Oregon Statutes § 137.275. Effect of felony conviction on civil and political rights of felon.

Except as otherwise provided by law, a person convicted of a felony does not suffer civil death or disability, or sustain loss of civil rights or forfeiture of estate or property, but retains all of the rights of the

person, political, civil and otherwise, including, but not limited to, the right to vote, to hold, receive and transfer property, to enter into contracts, including contracts of marriage, and to maintain and defend civil actions, suits or proceedings.

Oregon Statutes § 137.281. Withdrawal of rights during term of imprisonment; restoration of rights.

(1) In any felony case, when the court sentences the defendant to a term of imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections and execution of the sentence is not suspended, or execution is suspended upon condition that the defendant serve a term of imprisonment in the county jail, the defendant is deprived of all rights and privileges described in subsection (3) of this section from the date of sentencing until:

- (a) The defendant is discharged or paroled from imprisonment; or
- (b) The defendant's conviction is set aside.

(2) In any felony case, when the court sentences the defendant to a term of imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections and execution of the sentence is suspended upon any condition other than imprisonment in the county jail, if the sentence of probation is revoked and the suspended portion of the sentence is ordered executed, the defendant is deprived of the rights and privileges described in subsection (3) of this section from the date the sentence is ordered executed until:

- (a) The defendant is discharged or paroled from imprisonment; or
- (b) The defendant's conviction is set aside.

(3) The rights and privileges of which a person may be deprived under this section are:

- (a) Holding a public office or an office of a political party or becoming or remaining a candidate for either office;
- (b) Holding a position of private trust;
- (c) Acting as a juror; or
- (d) Exercising the right to vote.

(4) If the court under subsection (1) of this section temporarily stays execution of sentence for any purpose other than probation, the defendant nonetheless is sentenced for purposes of subsection (1) of this section.

(5) A person convicted of any crime and serving a term of imprisonment in any federal correctional institution in this state is deprived of the rights to register to vote, update a registration or vote in any election in this state from the date of sentencing until:

- (a) The person is discharged or paroled from imprisonment; or
- (b) The person's conviction is set aside.

(6) The county clerk or county official in charge of elections in any county may cancel the registration of any person serving a term of imprisonment in any federal correctional institution in this state.

(7) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 10.030, the rights and privileges withdrawn by this section are restored automatically upon discharge or parole from imprisonment, but in the case of parole shall be automatically withdrawn upon a subsequent imprisonment for violation of the terms of the parole.