



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Restoration of Voting Rights

Right to vote not lost for felonies

Maine
Vermont

Right to vote not lost for *certain* felonies

Mississippi¹

Right to vote automatically restored upon completion of sentence

Alaska	Idaho	Nevada ³	Rhode Island
Arizona ³	Illinois	New Hampshire	South Carolina
Arkansas	Indiana	New Jersey	South Dakota
California	Kansas	New Mexico	Texas
Colorado	Louisiana	New York	Utah
Connecticut	Maryland	North Carolina	Washington ⁴
District of Columbia	Massachusetts	North Dakota	West Virginia
Florida ²	Michigan	Ohio	Wisconsin
Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	
Hawaii	Missouri	Oregon	
	Montana	Pennsylvania	

Automatically restored after a waiting period

Delaware (5 years)²
Nebraska (2 years)

Must apply for restoration of voting rights upon completion of sentence

Alabama²
Tennessee²

Must apply for restoration after a waiting period

Wyoming (5 years)^{2,3}

Barred from voting for life, unless pardoned by the governor

Kentucky
Virginia

(1) In MS, the right to vote is lost permanently (absent a pardon by the governor) for the following offenses: murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, forgery, perjury, embezzlement, and bigamy. Felons convicted of any crime other than these do not lose the right to vote.

(2) For certain serious offenses, either the restoration of voting rights by a court or board, or a pardon, is necessary.

(3) Only for first-time offenders. Recidivists must petition for restoration of voting rights.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

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For more information, contact Jennie Drage Bowser at 303-364-7700.

(4) In Washington, certain offenders must apply with the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board for restoration of voting rights.