



VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION CHECKLIST

Many states are reforming their voting laws to restore voting rights to people with past convictions. In order to be most effective, these reforms must be accompanied by a robust implementation plan to ensure that these previously disenfranchised voters are informed of their rights and able to register to vote with ease. Below is a checklist of tasks that can guide efforts to implement successfully a voting rights restoration law. The following checklist is based on implementation of a law restoring the right to vote to everyone post-incarceration.

I. Update official materials to state accurately the eligibility criteria.

- Update state voter registration form(s).
- Send updated state-specific instructions to the Election Assistance Commission for the national voter registration form.
- Update Secretary of State website and all other SOS materials that advise voters of eligibility requirements.
- Advise local officials to update their websites and other voter education materials.
- Advise all voter registration agencies under the NVRA (e.g. DMV, Medicaid, etc.) or any automatic voter registration law of the new eligibility requirements and provide training to these agencies.

II. Conduct voter education on the new eligibility requirements.

- Create and disseminate voter education materials—including a Know Your Rights poster and an FAQ—on new voter eligibility requirements.
- Post voter education materials such as the KYR poster and FAQ in local elections offices, DMVs, other voter registration agencies under the NVRA or any automatic voter registration law, libraries, and other public spaces.
- Disseminate KYR poster and FAQ to correctional authorities (including federal authorities) for distribution to people in prison or leaving prison.
- Advise nonprofit voter registration partners of the new eligibility requirements and provide voter education materials to them for distribution.
- Consider billboards, radio ads, social media ads, or other public service announcements (with an emphasis on reaching minority communities and the previously incarcerated).

III. Conduct targeted outreach to previously disenfranchised voters.

- Send notice by mail (and email where available)—with FAQ and voter registration form—to each voter previously denied registration or purged because of a conviction. Under the NVRA, the Secretary of State must have these records for at least the last two years.
- Coordinate with correctional authorities to send notices like those described above to everyone currently on parole or probation.
- Coordinate with correctional authorities to send notices like those described above to everyone released from Nevada prisons (or federal prisons in Nevada) in the past two years.
- Coordinate with correctional authorities to ensure that all people released from prison going forward receive a notice explaining their voting rights and a voter registration form. The preferred form of notice should be separate from other release paperwork and come from the Secretary of State or local election official.

IV. Update voter registration systems to avoid erroneous disenfranchisement.

- Create a system of data sharing between correctional authorities and the Secretary of State that allows the Secretary to suspend the voter registration of people with felony convictions currently serving time in prison and to reinstate their registration upon release from incarceration. The reinstatement can, where applicable, include an updated address based on the voter's release address. A notice or reinstatement should be sent to the voter at their release address.
- Absent an automatic reinstatement system, create a system that provides the SOS or local election officials with a regular list of people released from incarceration (state or federal) and send those people a notice of voting rights and a voter registration form.
- Train all local election officials on the new law and ensure that local election officials do not reject voters based on past felony convictions.
- Ensure that local election officials are able to distinguish voters that are incarcerated for felony convictions and those serving time for misdemeanors or awaiting trial. Local election officials must be trained that not all requests for mail-in ballots from jails or prisons are invalid.