



Know Your Rights! Voting with a Felony Conviction in Virginia

As of September 11, 2026, Virginia no longer denies the right to vote to all people convicted of felonies; instead, only those with three felony convictions lose the right to vote. This means that hundreds of thousands of Virginians who have been previously told that they cannot vote because of a felony can now register and vote for the 2026 elections.

Felony Disenfranchisement in Virginia

Virginia used to disenfranchise everyone with felony convictions until they received personal clemency from the Governor. But earlier this year a federal court found that Virginia's old felony disenfranchisement scheme violated federal law.¹ ***So, starting September 11, 2026, only state court convictions for murder, voluntary manslaughter, and involuntary manslaughter take away the right to vote. No other convictions are disqualifying. This means that even if you have previously been told that you were ineligible because of a different felony conviction, you now have the right to vote.***

Who is now eligible to vote in Virginia?

Under Virginia law, you have the right to vote if: you are a United States citizen; you reside in Virginia; you are at least 18 years old; you have not been legally declared "mentally incompetent" by a court; and you have not been convicted of a *disqualifying* felony.

This means that even if you are still serving a felony sentence, including probation or parole, (*see note*),² you have the right to vote so long as you have not been convicted of one of the three disqualifying convictions.

The only convictions that are currently **disqualifying** and take away the right to vote are:

Murder

**Voluntary
Manslaughter**

**Involuntary
Manslaughter**

¹ *King v. O'Bannon*, No. 3:23-cv-00408-JAG (Va. E.D. 2026).

² Virginia officials are currently not processing voter registrations from eligible voters who are incarcerated in prison. If you or a loved one believe you are eligible to vote and are trying to complete a registration application from prison, please contact us at restoreyourvote@campaignlegal.org or (202) 857-0314 or (888) 306-8683.



I do not have a disqualifying conviction... now what?

Now that you are eligible to vote, you will only need to complete a voter registration form. The registration deadline is October 23, 2026, but you can also register to vote at a polling place through Election Day.

When filling out the registration form, you must admit to having a felony conviction by checking “yes” when the form asks: “Have you ever been convicted of a felony or judged mentally incapacitated and disqualified to vote?”

Unless you have received clemency from the Governor, or not sure, answer “no” to the question: “If YES, has your right to vote been restored?”

You can find more information about the law change, at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/felony-convictions-and-voter-eligibility/>.

What if I have one of the disqualifying felonies, can I ever vote?

If you have been convicted of one of the three disqualifying felonies (murder, involuntary manslaughter, voluntary manslaughter), the only way to restore your right to vote is by applying for clemency from the Governor. You can do so at <https://ror.solutions.virginia.gov/search>.

In November 2026, voters will get to decide on a constitutional amendment that would restore voting rights to Virginians who are not currently in prison for any felony conviction. Visit RestoreYourVote.org in November for an update on the amendment and whether it affects your right to vote.

If you have questions, need help navigating this process, or believe your application has been wrongfully denied, contact us at RestoreYourVote@CampaignLegalCenter.org or (202) 857-0314 or (888) 306-8683.

What if I have trouble registering and/or voting on Election Day?

Contact the Election Protection Coalition at 866-OUR-VOTE.