



The Minnesota Participation Project: Nonpartisan Nonprofit Voter Mobilization

Registering people with prior felony-level conviction

In Minnesota one cannot vote while serving a sentence as result of a felony conviction. Once the full sentence has been completed, **including parole and probation**, known as “off paper” the right to vote is automatically reinstated. If a person resides in Minnesota and is “off paper” his or her voting rights are restored, even if the felony conviction was in another state. If unclear about his or her status, the person should check with their parole officer.

It is a felony to register to vote before civil rights have been restored

A person should not register to vote until he or she has fully completed terms of sentence, including parole and probation, **even if their civil rights will be restored by Election Day.**

Status may be challenged

When they go to register and vote they may have their status challenged if the county elections office was not notified that their civil rights have been restored. If this happens, they should ask for the head elections judge, explain their situation, and ask to take an oath swearing their right to vote. Once they have done this they should be able to vote.

Options to register

Once a person’s civil rights have been restored, they have the two different registration options available to all, pre-registration and Election Day Registration. If possible, pre-registering is the best option for those who have just had their civil rights restored, so problems may be resolved concerning eligibility before Election Day. They also have the option of Election Day registration provided they have the correct proof of residence.