



LetNYvote.org

RESTORE VOTING TO PEOPLE ON PAROLE

Voting is a fundamental right and should be accessible to all New Yorkers, regardless of their past. The Let NY Vote coalition is pushing to **restore the vote to New Yorkers on parole through permanent legislation so that no community should be denied a voice in determining their government.**

WHAT IS VOTING RESTORATION FOR PEOPLE ON PAROLE?

The right to vote should not be conditional on prior convictions or one's ability to navigate complicated bureaucracies. Restoring voting rights post-incarceration automatically allows New Yorkers to vote as soon as they are released without having to overcome additional hurdles.

NEW YORK STATE LAW DISENFRANCHISES PEOPLE ON PAROLE

16 other states and D.C. restore voting rights post-incarceration. In April 2018, Governor Cuomo signed an executive order restoring the rights of people on parole, but this provision is not permanent and can be rolled back by future administrations. New York State should affirm the right of all citizens to vote by putting into state law the automatic re-enfranchisement of people on parole.

NEW YORKERS HAVE A RIGHT TO JUST AND CLEAR ELECTION LAW

New York law does allow for people on probation to vote, while those on parole are barred. This elusive distinction sows widespread confusion among both formerly incarcerated people and election officials, barring full citizens of our communities from voting. Approximately 35,000 New Yorkers are on parole, nearly three-quarters of whom are African-American or Latino. When New Yorkers finish their term of incarceration and are living in and contributing to their communities, they should also have a voice in elections.

WHY RESTORE VOTING TO PEOPLE ON PAROLE THROUGH STATE LAW?

- Restoring voting rights to people on parole will enfranchise historically underrepresented groups and help undo the legacy of repressive voting laws and systems.
- Re-enfranchising New Yorkers on parole will create a more diverse electorate, not just in terms of race, ethnicity, and language, but also in terms of experiences.
- Codifying re-enfranchisement in state law will prevent future administrations from rolling back this right.
- The current bills **S960/A5367** in the legislature not only codify the law permanently, but also include provisions for notifying individuals of their right to vote upon release from prison and immediately given an opportunity to register to vote. They will also be notified by a judge of their right to vote. The current EO has confusing and complex methods to restoring the vote and does not have any educational provisions.

What Is Let NY Vote?

Let NY Vote is a statewide coalition of grassroots groups, established organizations, and everyday citizens fighting to modernize New York's elections. Our goal is to pass simple solutions to improve our elections and make registering and voting more accessible for all eligible New Yorkers.