



# Released from Incarceration?

## How to Restore Your Right to Vote

### Who Can Vote?

A person is eligible to have their voting privileges restored upon release from incarceration in a correctional institution.

### Restoration of Voting Rights

U.S. citizens on probation, parole or in a community residence may restore their rights.

**Important Exception:** If convicted of a felony and incarcerated for a **violation of Connecticut election statutes** (Title 9), a person cannot register to vote until they have been discharged from parole and/or probation.

### Restoration Process

#### **Voter Registration Options:**

- Fill out a voter registration form and submit it to the Registrars of Voters in the town where you live either: (1) in person or (2) by mail.
- Register online with a valid CT driver's license or non-driver ID at [MyVote.CT.gov/register](https://MyVote.CT.gov/register).
- Register at the DMV when you apply for a CT license or non-driver ID.
- Obtain a voter registration form from your Registrar of Voters, any public library, the Department of Social Services, or any other voter registration agency.

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation in the mail within three weeks. If you do not, contact the Registrar of Voters in your town.

A PERSON LOSES THEIR RIGHT TO BE A VOTER IN CT IF THEY HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY  
**AND** ARE CURRENTLY INCARCERATED IN A CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

## RELEVANT STATUTORY AUTHORITY

### **Sec. 9-45. Removal from registry list of certain convicted felons who are committed to custody of Commissioner of Correction.**

(a) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all persons who, during the preceding calendar month, have been (1) convicted in the Superior Court of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility, or (2) returned to confinement in a correctional institution or facility from parole or special parole, release pursuant to section 18-100, 18-100c, 18-100e, 18-100h or 18-100i or furlough pursuant to section 18-101a. Such lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such persons, with the dates of their conviction and the crimes of which such persons have been convicted, or the dates of the violation of their parole, special parole, release or furlough and the nature of such violation, as applicable. The Secretary of the State shall transmit such lists to the registrars of the towns in which such persons who have been convicted or returned to confinement, as applicable, resided at the time of their conviction or violation of parole, special parole, release or furlough and to the registrars of any towns where the Secretary believes such persons may be electors. The registrars of such towns shall compare the same with the list of electors upon their registry lists and, after written notice mailed by certified mail to each of the persons named at the last-known place of address of such person, shall erase such names from the registry lists in their respective towns or voting districts.

(b) Any person who procures such person or another to be registered after having been disfranchised by reason of conviction of crime and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and any person who votes at any election after having forfeited such privileges by reason of conviction of crime and confinement, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not more than one year.

### **Sec. 9-46. Forfeiture of electoral rights.**

(a) A person shall forfeit such person's right to become an elector and such person's privileges as an elector upon conviction of a felony and (1) committal to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional institution or facility, but not a community residence, (2) committal to confinement in a federal correctional institution or facility, or (3) committal to the custody of the chief correctional official of any other state or a county of any other state for confinement in a correctional institution or facility, but not a community residence, in such state or county.

(b) If a person has forfeited such person's privileges as an elector under subsection (a) of this section, has regained such privileges under section 9-46a and is subsequently returned to confinement in a correctional institution or facility, but not a community residence, from parole or special parole, release pursuant to section 18-100, 18-100c, 18-100e, 18-100h or 18-100i or furlough pursuant to section 18-101a, such person shall again forfeit such privileges.

(c) No person who has forfeited and not regained such person's privileges as an elector as provided in section 9-46a, or who has regained such privileges and again forfeited such privileges as provided in subsection (b) of this section may be a candidate for or hold public office.

### **Sec. 9-46a. Restoration or granting of electoral privileges.**

(a)(1) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to confinement in a correctional institution or facility of the federal government or of another state shall have such person's electoral privileges restored once such person has been released from confinement.

(2) A person who has been convicted of a felony and is committed to confinement in a community residence of the federal government or of another state shall have such person's electoral privileges restored if such person had previously forfeited such electoral privileges.

(b) (1) Upon the release from confinement in a correctional institution or facility of a person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction, (A) the person shall have the right to become an elector, (B) the Commissioner of Correction shall give the person a document certifying that the person has been released from such confinement, (C) if the person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and, after such release, is residing in the same municipality in which the person resided at the time of such felony conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored, and (D) if the person was an elector at the time of such felony conviction and, after such release, is residing in a different municipality or if the person was not an elector at the time of such felony conviction, the person's electoral privileges shall be restored or granted upon submitting to an admitting official satisfactory proof of the person's qualifications to be admitted as an elector. The provisions of subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision shall not apply to any person convicted of a felony for a violation of any provision of this title until such person has been discharged from any parole or probation for such felony.

(2) A person who has been convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and is confined in a community residence shall have such person's electoral privileges restored if such person had previously forfeited such electoral privileges.

(c) The registrars of voters of the municipality in which a person is admitted as an elector pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, within thirty days after the date on which such person is admitted, shall notify the registrars of voters of the municipality wherein such person resided at the time of such person's conviction that such person's electoral rights have been so restored.

(d) The Commissioner of Correction shall establish procedures to inform those persons who have been convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said commissioner for confinement in a correctional institution or facility or a community residence, and are eligible to have their electoral privileges restored or granted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, of the right and procedures to have such privileges restored. The Commissioner of Correction shall, within available appropriations, inform such persons who are on parole or special parole, or confined in a community residence, of their right to become electors and procedures to have their electoral privileges restored, which shall be in accordance with subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

(e) The Commissioner of Correction shall, on or before the fifteenth day of each month, transmit to the Secretary of the State a list of all persons convicted of a felony and committed to the custody of said commissioner who, during the preceding calendar month, have (1) been released from confinement in a correctional institution or facility, or (2) begun confinement in a community residence. Such lists shall include the names, birth dates and addresses of such persons, with the dates of their convictions and the crimes of which such persons have been convicted. The Secretary shall transmit such lists to the registrars of the municipalities in which such convicted persons resided at the time of their convictions and to the registrars of any municipalities where the Secretary believes such persons may be electors.