



The Ultimate Freedom: **The Right To Vote** Restoration of Voting Rights of Convicted Felons

LOSS OF VOTING RIGHTS

A) Convicted Out of State / Federal Court – A person shall forfeit their right to remain a voter or to become a voter if they have been:

- convicted of a felony; and
- committed to confinement in a federal or out of state correctional institution or facility.

B) Convicted in the State of Connecticut – A person shall forfeit their right to remain a voter or to become a voter if they have been:

- convicted of a felony; and
- committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction in the State of Connecticut for confinement in a correctional institution or facility.

C) Return to Confinement - If a person has forfeited their right to remain a voter, has regained their privileges and is subsequently returned to confinement in a correctional institution or facility from parole or special parole, release or furlough, such person shall again forfeit their right to remain a voter.

Note: *If you have lost your voting rights in the past because of a felony conviction only, you can follow the instructions below to have your voting rights restored.*

RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

A) Convicted Out of State / Federal Court – A person who has been:

- convicted of a felony; and
- committed to confinement in a federal or out of state correctional institution or facility shall be eligible to have such person's voting privileges restored upon release from confinement.

B) Convicted in the State of Connecticut – A person who has been:

- convicted of a felony; and
- committed to confinement in a State of Connecticut correctional institution or facility shall be eligible to have such person's voting privileges restored upon release from confinement.

RESTORATION PROCESS

- 1) Contact the [Registrars of Voters](#) in the town where you live to obtain a voter registration card. You can also obtain voter registration cards from any public library, the DMV, DSS or any other voter registration agency.
- 2) Fill out the voter registration card and submit the card to the [Registrars of Voters](#) in the town in which you live either: (1) in person or (2) by mail.
- 3) You should receive a confirmation within three weeks. If you do not, contact the [Registrars of Voters](#) in your town hall.

IMPORTANT EXCEPTION

If convicted of a felony and committed for confinement for a violation of [Title 9 of Connecticut Election statutes](#), your electoral privileges cannot be restored until you have fulfilled all of the requirements set forth above and have been discharged from parole and/or probation.

RELEVANT STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Sec. 9-45. Removal from registry list of 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.

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