



PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED? OFF PAPER? YOU CAN VOTE!

I have a felony conviction. Can I register to vote and cast a ballot?

Yes! In the state of Texas, **your right to vote is restored** immediately upon completion of your sentence, including parole and probation, in addition to any fines/costs, or restitution. You must be “off paper,” and meet the five general qualifications* that apply to all voters.

What do I need to do to “restore my vote”?

You just have to register to vote by the election deadline! If you were registered to vote before the felony conviction, you will need to register to vote again.

I know someone who is awaiting trial in county jail. Can they vote before they are sentenced?

Yes! As long as they are not on parole or probation and do not have any fines related to another offense, they can vote while in county jail. They will need to request a Ballot by Mail be sent to the jail if they expect to be there when elections are held.

Why is it important that I vote?

Voting is an important way to integrate back into your community, contribute, and stand up for its needs. Local elections matter the most to your daily life. For example, you would have the opportunity to choose your judges and sheriff. Studies have shown a strong correlation between voting and decreasing recidivism. The more involved you feel in your community, the less likely you may get in trouble with the law. You are an important member of society. Your voice matters. Voting is a great way to exercise it.

*** FIVE QUALIFICATIONS THAT MUST BE MET BY EVERY ASPIRING VOTER IN TEXAS**

Everyone who wishes to register and vote must be:

- a United States citizen
- a resident of the Texas county in which you apply
- at least 18 years old on Election Day
- not finally convicted of a felony, or, if you have been convicted, you must have completed all of your sentence or received a pardon
- not determined by a final court judgment to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.