

**THE UNITED STATES HAS ONE OF
THE MOST PUNITIVE JUSTICE
SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD.**

It has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, and among other policies, many citizens with felony convictions have their voting rights restricted.

According to the Sentencing Project, 6.1 million Americans with felony convictions have note had the right to vote as of 2016. This disproportionately impacts Black Americans, as one in every 13 Black adults had been disenfranchised for this reason — a rate four times greater than non-Black Americans.

*Represent Justice's Surrogates and Ambassadors are proud to present **FREE OUR VOTE**, a guide to voting for and by people impacted by the justice system.*



**OVER 6.1
MILLION**

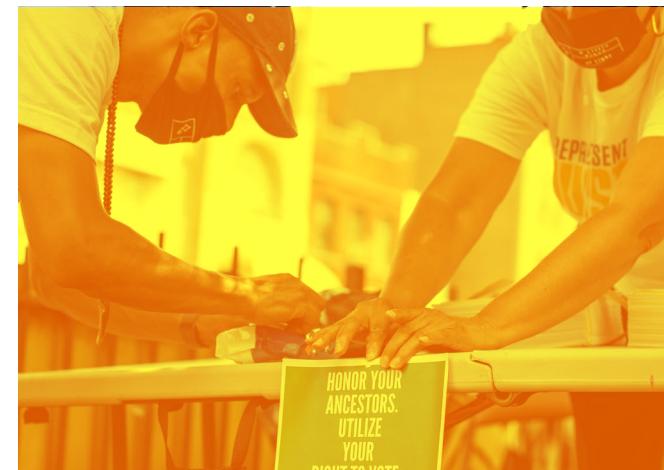
Americans have lost the right to vote because of a felony conviction.

REPRESENT **JUSTICE**



@werefjustice
representjustice.org
#FreeOurVote

REPRESENT
JUSTICE



FREE **OUR VOTE**

A VOTER TOOLKIT FOR THE
SYSTEM-IMPACTED COMMUNITY

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA | 1-888-839-8682

Spanish

1-866-OUR-VOTE | 1-866-687-8683

English

PROTECTION HOTLINE. YOUR WAY TO VOTE, YOU CAN CALL THE ELECTION WITNESS OR EXPERIENCE HARASSMENT ON

reasonable accommodations to help you vote. Can bring you a chair. If you need a quiet place to vote, an election official is required to make lines are long and you can't stand, an official

- Ask a poll worker to meet your needs. If the know you've brought someone to help.

at the polls. Just be sure to let the poll worker bring a friend or family member to assist you at the polls. Just be sure to let the poll worker

- Bring a friend or family member to assist you at the polls. Just be sure to let the poll worker know you've brought someone to help.

IF YOU ARE A VOTER WITH A DISABILITY, YOU CAN:

count your provisional ballot. Ask for a provisional ballot. If you are eligible and registered to vote, officials are required to correct polling place.

- Ask them to help you confirm you are at the ask for a supplemental list of voters.

Ask them to double check. Ask for a supplemental list of voters.

ON THE LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS, YOU CAN:

the polls from a person of their choice. Writing in English can receive in-person help at law says voters who have a hard time reading or writing in English to speak English to vote. Federal law doesn't have to speak English to vote. Federal mistake on yours.

- You can request a new ballot if you make a have the right to cast your ballot.

If the polls close while you're in line, you still be able to do it. You can request a new ballot if you make a

WHILE YOU ARE IN LINE AT THE POLLS:

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
AT THE POLLS**

allinforvoting.com/mail-in-ballot.

about your state's rules and how you can sign up to vote by mail, or request a ballot head to: in 43 states will be able to vote by mail. To learn more about your state's rules and how you can sign up to vote by mail, or request a ballot head to: has been expanded for the November election. Voters spaces — even for something as critical as voting —

The COVID-19 pandemic has made gathering in public profoundly risky. Voting by mail using an absentee ballot

3. REQUEST YOUR BALLOT

same-day registration.

state — some are a month in advance and some allow for ID number. Check the registration deadline for your

is your name, address, and social security number or

Registering to vote is simple — all you'd need to provide

online in most states at allinforvoting.com/register-to-vote.

If you are eligible to register to vote, you can do so

2. REGISTER TO VOTE

campaignlegal.org/restoreyourvote.

You can find out if you are eligible to vote by visiting Campaign Legal Center and using their free tool at

to vote, but in other states they are eligible.

With felony convictions might not be eligible to register can be complicated for citizens. In some states, those

For systems-implemented citizens, learning if you can vote

1. CHECK IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

VOTE
HOW TO

state's justice system toward reform.

Governors have the elected executive head of each state. They have the power to grant clemency in their states for people convicted of felonies who have received extreme or unfair sentences by reducing a person's sentence or parole.

GOVERNORS

City councils, composed of elected members from the community, are responsible for proposing and passing bills, laws and resolutions that help

govern the city. They can have the power to close jails, expand the use of alternatives to jail, and redirect resources to social services like mental health

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

outsize impacts on the local criminal justice system.

Mayors are the elected heads of a city, town, or municipality. Typically, mayors appoint the chief of police in their city and have a say in police practices and the police department's budget. Mayors can also enact policies that have

MAYORS

unique police chiefs, sheriffs typically do not report to mayors or other elected officials. Depending on the county, sheriffs can control if people in jail are allowed to vote, if they coordinate with ICE, and much more. Many sheriffs can serve for long periods of time, often with few checks on their authority. Since sheriffs can control if people in jail are

detainees, oversee local jails, and manage the transportation of inmates. Sheriffs are typically elected and preside over a county where they investable dismissals.

SHERIFFS

into a diversion program to help them rebuild their lives, or to have charges initialed against them. They can also decide to file criminal charges and the severity of those cases. It is DAs who decide to file criminal charges and the number of cases. DAs preside over entire counties. Nationally, 84% of DAs run criminal cases. DAs sometimes called Prosecutors, are elected officials that prosecute

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

to the polls. A judge's general stance on criminal reform before heading seek out a judge's general stance on criminal justice reform before heading

the slate system, which means these judges hold a lot of power. Judges are not always allowed to slate. About 85% of criminal cases are decided in terms varies from slate to slate. Almost all slate court judges are elected. The length of judges' legal authority. Almost all slate court judges are where they have of appointment differ by jurisdiction, the geographic area where they have and application of the law. Their powers, functions, training, and methods judges preside over court proceedings and are in charge of the interpretation of the law.

JUDGES

Below, we lay out a few key positions to be aware of before you vote. We encourage you to do more research the specific candidates in your district.

However, knowing who you get to vote for and what each position does can be complicated. The duties of these positions can change from slate to slate.

There are many elected officials that work within the criminal justice system. However, knowing who you get to vote for and what each position does can be complicated. The duties of these positions can change from slate to slate.

THE BALLOT

BREAKING DOWN