Voting

Felony disenfranchisement denies political standing beyond the sentence imposed by law.

THE POSITION

Maine, Vermont, and the District of Columbia already follow the strongest rule: a felony conviction does not end the right to vote, even during incarceration. Matilda Law supports this no-loss model.

At minimum, voting rights should return automatically upon release, without an application, fee, waiting period, or payment requirement. Pennsylvania and New Jersey restore rights upon release. Nebraska restores eligibility after the full sentence, including parole, is complete. Political standing should not depend on payment or a confusing restoration process after punishment ends.

SOURCES

National Conference of State Legislatures
Explains how voting rights after a criminal conviction differ by state.

Pennsylvania Department of State
Official voter information, including eligibility after incarceration.

New Jersey Division of Elections
Official information on voter registration and restored voting rights.

Nebraska Rev. Stat. § 29-112
Restores voting rights after a person completes the full sentence.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This guide gives general information, not legal advice or representation. Laws and deadlines vary by place and circumstance. Check current official sources before acting.