

### Commission article cont. from page 3

The task force recommendations will focus on statutes, policies, regulations, and practices to reduce barriers to successful reintegration into society so that recidivism rates are significantly reduced. The Commission is also required to report on recommendations to reduce racial disparity in the criminal justice system. CCJRC would like to invite comments from our members in regards to any recommendations that you might wish to suggest to any committee.

Probation Task Force: will work to develop policy recommendations that will reduce the barriers for people on probation and increase the success rate on probation.

Transition Task Force: will look at the systemic and personal challenges that people face six months prior to and six months following release from jail or prison and the changes that could be implemented in order to reduce recidivism.

Incarceration Task Force: charged with making specific recommendations related to the governance of jails, prisons, and community corrections facilities in order to reduce recidivism.

Post-Supervision Task Force: will examine changes that could be made to current parole laws, the parole board, and the parole system in order to reduce recidivism.

The work of the Oversight Committee on Re-Entry will be conducted in three phases. In each phase, barriers to implementing evidence-based correctional practice will be identified along with strategies to remove the barriers. The Oversight Committee on Re-Entry will propose Phase 1 recommendations to the Colorado CCJJ by October 2008, in time for the commission's November 2008 report to the General Assembly.

Additional information about the Colorado CCJJ may be found at <http://cdpsweb.state.co.us/ccjij/>

### Record sealing article cont. from page 1

#### WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PETITION THE COURT TO HAVE A RECORD SEALED?

If there was more than one offense for which the defendant was convicted in a single case, every offense of conviction must be eligible for sealing in order for that case to be sealed. For example, if someone was convicted of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of 8 ounces of marijuana in a single case, s/he could petition the court to have the record sealed in that case because both of the crimes of conviction are for crimes that are eligible for sealing. If someone was convicted of burglary and possession of less than a gram of cocaine in a single case, s/he would not be able to petition to have the record sealed in that case because only one of the two convictions (drug possession) is eligible for sealing.

Ten years must have passed from the date the sentence/supervision was completed, including any period of parole.

There must not be any other arrests or convictions since the date the sentence/supervision was completed.

All restitution, fines, fees, court costs, or other fees ordered in the case now seeking to be sealed must be paid.

#### WHAT IS THE COURT PROCESS?

A petition must be filed in the court that entered the conviction.

**YES!** I want to join CCJRC and help stop perpetual prison expansion in Colorado. Enclosed is my **tax-deductible** annual membership or additional contribution:

**Annual membership dues:**

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Please charge my credit card monthly for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please return this form to:  
CCJRC, 1212 Mariposa St., #6, Denver, CO 80204

### Record sealing cont.

The petition must contain a list of each custodian of records to whom the sealing must be directed. The petition must contain complete information that identifies the record to be sealed.

A recent verified copy of the petitioner's criminal history must be filed with the petition or within 10 days after the filing.

The Office of the State Court Administrator is required to post on its website a list of all petitions to seal conviction records filed with a district court. A district court may not grant a petition to seal conviction records until at least thirty days after the posting. After the expiration of thirty days, information posted shall be removed.

The petitioner must also pay all filing fees. However, an individual can request that the court waive the filing fee.

The court will conduct a review to determine whether to hold a hearing. The court can deny the petition without a hearing if it finds that the petition is insufficient or the petitioner is not entitled to sealing. If the court denies the petition without a hearing, the court's order shall specify the reasons for the denial in writing.

If the court sets a hearing, the petitioner must notify by certified mail the prosecuting attorney, the arresting agency, and any other person or agency identified by the petitioner about the hearing date.

At the hearing, the court will determine whether the harm to the privacy of the petitioner or the dangers of unwarranted adverse consequences to the petitioner outweigh the public's interest in retaining the records. If the court finds that the petitioner's privacy interest outweighs the public's interest, then the court may order the sealing. If the court finds that the public's interest outweighs the petitioner's privacy interest, then the court may deny the petition to seal.

For convictions entered prior to July 1, 2008, the prosecuting attorney must not object to the sealing in order for the court to order the sealing. The petitioner must also pay the reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prosecuting attorney before the court can order a record sealed.

If the court orders that the record be sealed, the petitioner is required to provide the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and each custodian of the conviction records with a copy of the order to seal. The petitioner is also responsible for paying the cost of sealing the criminal records in the custody of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. The petitioner may request and the court may grant an order sealing the civil case in which the conviction records were sealed.

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A RECORD SEALED?

If a criminal record is sealed, the defendant and all criminal justice agencies may properly rely, upon inquiry, that conviction records do not exist with respect to the defendant.

Employers, state and local government agencies, officials, landlords, and employees shall not in an application, interview, or in any way require an applicant to disclose information contained in a sealed conviction record. An applicant who has had his/her record sealed may lawfully tell the employer, landlord, etc, that he/she has not been criminally convicted for any conviction that has been sealed. This does not apply if the person is applying to a criminal justice agency. The Bar Committee of the Colorado State Board of Law Examiners is also allowed to make further inquiries of an applicant regarding a sealed conviction if information comes to the attention of the bar examiners by other means.

#### WHO STILL HAS ACCESS TO A SEALED RECORD?

Any court, law enforcement agency, criminal justice agency, prosecuting attorney, or party or agency required by law to conduct a criminal history record check on an individual will still have access to records that have been sealed.

#### CAN A SEALED RECORD BE UNSEALED?

There are several situations where a sealed record can be subsequently unsealed, including:

Upon motion by the court or request by a prosecuting attorney in the event that a person is convicted of a new crime after a prior record has been sealed.

Upon petition by any member of the public who can show that circumstances have come into existence since the sealing that now makes the public's interest in disclosing the criminal record outweigh the defendant's interest in privacy.

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# COLORADO JUSTICE REPORT

Summer 2008

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION

1212 Mariposa St., #6, Denver, CO 80204  
303-825-0122 phone, 303-825-0304 fax  
[www.CCJRC.org](http://www.CCJRC.org) [info@ccjrc.org](mailto:info@ccjrc.org)

Founded in 1999, CCJRC is a network of organizations, faith communities and individuals working to reverse the trend of mass incarceration in Colorado.

### WE WANT YOU ...to Know YOUR Voting Rights!



Many people with a criminal conviction aren't sure about their voting rights. It's a confusing topic, mainly because the laws to disenfranchise voters vary from state to state. Even the people who should know sometimes get confused.

If you're not sure about your eligibility to vote in Colorado due to a criminal conviction, read on. We want you to know your voting rights.

First things first. In order to be eligible to vote, you must be 18 years of age on or before the date of the election in which you want to vote, be a citizen of the United States, and live in Colorado at your present address at least 30 days prior to the election.

Next, the key to knowing who is eligible to vote in Colorado is to understand who is not eligible. Here's what the statute says: *No person while serving a sentence of detention or confinement in a correctional facility, jail, or other location for a felony conviction or while serving a sentence of parole shall be eligible to register to vote or to vote in any election; however, a confined prisoner who is awaiting trial but has not been tried shall be certified by the institutional administrator and shall be permitted to register to vote by mail registration pursuant to part 5 of this article.* Colorado Revised Statutes §1-2-103(4). This means the people who are not eligible to vote in Colorado are those who have been convicted of a felony and have not yet completed the sentence for that felony, including parole.

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### It's A Wrap! Under The Gold Dome Legislative Session 2008

This legislative session was surprisingly active around criminal justice issues. The two biggest victories for CCJRC was the passage of HB 1082, the record sealing bill that Governor Ritter vetoed in 2007. The second was the passage of HB 1382, which will restore the possibility for all people paroled on or after 1/1/09 to be awarded earned time. Both bills are further described below.

The biggest disappointment was the veto by Governor Ritter of HB 1208, which would have made important changes to the process by which juveniles can be charged as adults. Under current Colorado law, a district attorney has the power to charge a juvenile as young as 14 years old as an adult for certain crimes. This is known as "direct file." HB 1208 would have raised the minimum age to 16 and would have permitted a "reverse transfer hearing" to allow the adult criminal court to consider whether the case should be transferred back to juvenile court. In his veto, Governor Ritter said he did not think the current process was being abused by district attorneys.

The Department of Corrections received a \$759.5 million budget, an increase of \$55.5 million (8%) over last year's budget of \$704 million. There was also significant discussion about Director Zavaras' projections that the state will need to invest over \$800 million over the next five years to build more prisons.

The pressure is on the legislature, the governor, and the Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice to enact reforms that will eliminate or greatly reduce the need for prison construction. CCJRC believes that reducing the need for more prisons does not always call for dramatic reform. For example, the restoration of earned time in HB 1382 is estimated to reduce the need for 1700 prison beds and could save over \$26 million in the next 5 years.

The Senate confirmed David Michaud as the new chairman of the parole board and two new parole board members, Celeste C de Baca and Rebecca Oakes. In mid-June 2008, the Legislative Audit Committee requested the State Auditor to conduct a limited audit of release decisions by the parole board. According to the State Auditor's office, the audit will be limited in scope and the specifics will not be released to the public. The audit won't likely be completed until the end of the year.

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### Record Sealing Bill Passes - Now What?

The following summary of the record sealing bill is intended to provide some information about eligibility and the process to petition the court. It is not legal advice. CCJRC suggests that people who think they might be eligible consult an attorney. The statutory changes from the bill will be found in Colorado Revised Statutes § 24-72-308.5, upon its publication.

WHAT CAN BE SEALED? Conviction records can be sealed, which includes arrest information and any records pertaining to a judgment of conviction.

WHAT CONVICTIONS ARE NOW POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR SEALING? The crimes covered under HB 1082 include only drug crimes for simple possession or dispensing (without monetary gain) that are:

- Petty offenses (for example, first offense for possession of less than 1 ounce or marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia)
- Misdemeanors - (for example, possession of 1-8 ounces of marijuana)
- Class 6 felonies - (for example, first offense for possession of 1 gram or less of a schedule I or II controlled substance)
- Class 5 felonies - (for example, first offense for obtaining a controlled substance through fraud and deceit)

Any drug offense that would be classified as a class 5 or class 6 felony in violation of article 18 in title 18, if the offense were to have occurred on or after July 1, 2008. For example, in 2003, possession of 1 gram or less of a schedule I or II controlled substance was lowered to a class 6 felony making this crime eligible for sealing even though it wasn't a class 6 felony until 2003.

Drug convictions for manufacturing, distribution, or sale of a controlled substance or attempt, conspiracy, or possession with the intent to manufacture, distribute or sell a controlled substance are not eligible for sealing. The examples given above are just a small sample of the types of crimes eligible for sealing. It is not an exhaustive list. Please consult the Colorado Revised Statutes § 24-72-308.5 and the provisions in the Uniform Controlled Substances Act contained in article 18 of title 18 in the Colorado Revised Statutes.

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# 2008 Legislative Vote Count

House of Representatives				
Representatives	DIST/PARTY	HB1082	HB 1382	HB 1208
Vote count		61-04	54-08-03	34-30-01
Balmer, David	39/R	Y	E	N
Benefield, Deb	29/D	Y	Y	Y
Borodkin, Alice	9/D	Y	Y	Y
Bruce, Doug	15/R	N	N	N
Buescher, B.	55/D	Y	Y	N
Butcher, Dorothy	46/D	Y	Y	Y
Carroll, Morgan	36/D	Y	Y	Y
Carroll, Terrance	7/D	Y	Y	Y
Casso, Edward	32/D	Y	Y	Y
Curry, Kathleen	61/D	Y	Y	Y
Ferrandino, Mark	2/D	Y	Y	Y
Fischer, Randy	53/D	Y	Y	Y
Frangas, Jerry	4/D	Y	Y	N
Gagliardi, Sara	27/D	Y	Y	N
Gallegos, Rafael	62/D	Y	Y	Y
Gardner, Bob	42/D	Y	Y	N
Gardner, Cory	21/R	Y	N	N
Garza-Hicks, S.	17/R	Y	Y	N
Green, Gwyn	23/D	Y	Y	Y
Hodge, Mary	30/D	Y	Y	Y
Jahn, Cheri	24/D	Y	Y	Y
Judd, Joel	5/D	Y	Y	Y
Kefalas, John	52/D	Y	Y	Y
Kerr, Andy	26/D	Y	Y	Y
Kerr, James	28/R	Y	Y	N
King, Steve	54/R	Y	Y	N
Labuda, Jeanne	1/D	Y	Y	Y
Lambert, Kent	14/R	Y	N	N
Levy, Claire	13/D	Y	Y	Y
Liston, Larry	16/R	Y	Y	N
Looper, Marsha	19/R	Y	Y	Y
Lundberg, Kevin	49/R	Y	N	N
Madden, Alice	10/D	Y	Y	Y
Marostica, Don	51/R	Y	Y	N
Marshall, Rosemary	8/D	Y	Y	Y
Massey, Tom	60/R	Y	Y	N
May, Mike	44/R	Y	Y	N
McFadyen, Buffie	47/D	Y	Y	Y
McGihon, Anne	3/D	Y	Y	Y
McKinley, Wes	64/D	Y	Y	Y
McNulty, Frank	43/R	Y	N	N
Merrifield, Mike	18/D	Y	Y	Y
Middleton, Karen	45/R	Y	Y	Y
Mitchell, Victor	35/D	Y	E	N
Peniston, C.	35/D	Y	Y	Y
Pommer, Jack	11/D	Y	Y	Y
Primavera, Dianne	33/D	Y	Y	N
Rice, Joe	38/D	Y	Y	Y
Riesberg, Jim	50/D	N	Y	Y
Roberts, Ellen	59/R	Y	Y	N
Rose, Raymond	58/R	N	N	N
Scanlan, Christine	56/D	Y	Y	E
Solano, Judy	31/D	Y	Y	Y
Sonnenberg, J.	65/R	Y	N	N
Soper, John	34/D	Y	Y	N
Stafford, Debbie	40/D	Y	Y	Y
Stephens, Amy	20/R	Y	Y	N
Summers, Ken	22/R	Y	Y	N
Swalm, Spencer	37/R	Y	Y	N
Todd, Nancy	41/D	Y	Y	Y
Vaad, Glenn	48/R	N	N	N
Weissmann, Paul	12/D	Y	Y	Y
White, Al	57/R	Y	Y	N
Witwer, Rob	25/R	Y	E	N
Romanoff, A.. (SP)	6/D	Y	Y	N

Senate				
Senators	DIST/PTY	HB 1082	HB 1382	HB 1208
Vote Count		26-9	25-09-01	18-16-1
Bacon, Bob	14/D	Y	Y	Y
Boyd, Betty	21/D	Y	Y	Y
Brophy, Greg	1/R	N	N	N
Cadman, Bill	10/R	N	N	N
Gibbs, Dan	16/D	Y	Y	N
Gordon, Ken	35/D	Y	Y	Y
Hagedorn, Bob	29/D	Y	Y	Y
Harvey, Ted	30/R	Y	N	N
Isгар, Jim	6/D	Y	Y	Y
Johnson, Steve	15/R	N	N	N
Keller, Moe	20/D	Y	Y	Y
Kester, Ken	2/R	Y	Y	N
Kopp, Mike	22/R	N	N	N
McElhany, A.	12/R	N	N	N
Mitchell, Sean	23/R	Y	Y	E
Morse, John	11/D	Y	Y	Y
Penry, Josh	7/R	Y	N	N
Renfroe, Scott	13/R	N	N	N
Romer, Chris	32/D	Y	Y	Y
Sandoval, Paula	34/D	Y	Y	Y
Schulthies, D.	9/R	N	Y	N
Schwartz, Gail	5/D	Y	Y	Y
Shaffer, Brandon	17/D	Y	Y	Y
Spence, Nancy	27/R	N	Y	N
Takis, Stephanie	25/D	Y	Y	Y
Tapia, Abel	3/D	Y	Y	Y
Taylor, Jack	8/R	Y	Y	N
Tochtrop, Lois	24/D	Y	Y	N
Tupa, Ron	18/D	Y	Y	Y
Veiga, Jennifer	31/S	Y	Y	Y
Ward, Steve	26/R	Y	E	N
Wiens, Tom	4/R	N	N	N
Williams, S.	28/D	Y	Y	Y
Windels, Sue	19/D	Y	Y	Y
Groff, P. (PRES)	33/D	Y	Y	Y

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## Bills Passed and Signed into Law

**HB 1082 Record sealing (CCJRC priority/support):** Allows people convicted of certain drug crimes to petition the court to seal the criminal record after 10 years from successfully completing any sentence, including any term of parole. (See article in this issue for more detail)

**HB 1382 Criminal procedure omnibus (CCJRC priority/support):** Restores earned time to everyone paroled or re-paroled on or after January 1, 2009. Prior to the passage of this bill, people convicted after 1993, only people convicted of a nonviolent offense are eligible for earned time on parole. With the passage of HB 1382, people paroled after 1/1/09 who were convicted of a violent offense and people re-paroled following a parole revocation will also be eligible for earned time. Unfortunately, this change will not apply to people currently on parole or people who will be paroled between now and 1/1/09.

HB 1382 also made some important procedural changes to better provide due process when the DOC wants to classify someone as a sex offender if the court makes a specific finding that there is no factual basis of a sex offense in the case. In the past, DOC overrode these findings by the court. HB 1382 allows the DOC to classify someone as a sex offender if there is concern about sexual misconduct (either historically or while incarcerated), but if there is no criminal conviction or if the court has not made a specific finding of a sex offense, this designation can only happen following an administrative hearing where the person is given notice and the hearing is conducted by a licensed attorney.

**HB 1119 Reducing racial disparity in criminal justice system (CCJRC priority/support):** Requires the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to study and make recommendations for the reduction of racial and ethnic disparity in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

**HB 1046 Applying for benefits while in Division of Youth Corrections (CCJRC support):** Would require the Division of Youth Corrections to submit applications for public benefits for eligible juveniles at least 120 days prior to release from custody.

**SB 07 Applying for benefits while in jail (CCJRC support):** Requires county jails to submit applications for public benefits for those eligible at least 120 days prior to release from custody.

**SB 06 Allows Medicaid benefits to be suspended, rather than terminated, if someone is incarcerated (CCJRC support):** Allows for Medicaid benefits to be suspended while someone is incarcerated, rather than terminated.

**HB 1363 Cap on private prison provider rate (CCJRC support):** Allows the DOC to negotiate a contract rate for private prisons but prohibits a contract rate from exceeding the maximum rate provided in the annual general appropriations bill.

### Bills Passed but Vetoed by Governor Ritter

**HB 1208 Changes to juvenile criminal law regarding direct file (CCJRC support):** Would have raised the minimum age from 14 to 16 for direct filing on a juvenile in adult court. It would allow the adult court to conduct a "reverse transfer hearing" to determine whether the case should be transferred back to juvenile court.

### Bills That Did Not Pass Either the House or the Senate

**HB 1004 Truancy (CCJRC priority/oppose):** Would have allowed police to take kids into "temporary custody" if they think they are truant. HB 1004 died in the House Judiciary Committee in February. Many thanks to Padres Unidos, Colorado Progressive Coalition, the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, and La Academia/Denver Inner City Parish for working with CCJRC to defeat this bill.

**HB 1022 Change to the escape law (CCJRC priority/support):** Would have repealed the mandatory consecutive sentence for escape convictions unless the escape is from a level III, IV or V security prison. Representative Terrance Carroll, the bill's sponsor, pulled this bill before it went to committee so it did not proceed. It is our understanding that he wanted to give the Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice the opportunity to weigh in on changes to the escape bill but that he is interested in running similar legislation in 2009.

### Other Bills of Interest Signed into Law

**SB 171 Parolees--biological substance testing:** Expands the kind of biological substance tests that can be required of people on parole. DOC would not be limited to just urine tests. For example, there is new technology that can drug-test using perspiration.

**HB 1067 Parole hearing officers--immunity:** Grants a parole administrative hearing officer protection by governmental immunity so long as he/she is acting within the scope of his or her duties as a public employee.

**HB 1192 Inmate co-pay:** Requires the DOC to establish written procedures outlining when inmates are required to pay a co-payment, not to exceed five dollars, for inmate-initiated medical, mental health, dental and optometric visits. Allows the DOC to specify services for which a co-payment will not be assessed and when a co-payment may be reduced or waived including, but not limited to, the inmate's ability to pay, the health needs of the inmate, and the public health and safety needs of the institution.

**HB 1352 Parole revocation placement--return to custody facility--technical parole revocation:** Makes a parolee with an active felony warrant, felony detainer, or new felony charges ineligible for placement in a community return-to-custody facility after revocation based on a technical violation.

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This also means the following people are eligible to vote in Colorado.

1. People with a criminal conviction who have served their sentence, including parole if required
2. People who are in jail as a pretrial detainee who have not yet been convicted
3. People currently on probation for either a misdemeanor or felony
4. People currently in jail serving a sentence for a misdemeanor sentence only

If you're eligible to vote in Colorado, we hope you will register to vote and vote. Your vote is your voice on the issues you care about, and it's how you get heard by politicians.

If you're not eligible to vote, we hope you will encourage your family and friends to vote.

## Identification Documents

When you register to vote, you probably will have to provide identification documents. If you are registering to vote in person, you must provide your Colorado driver's license or Department of Revenue number (state ID). It is not necessary to present the ID; it is sufficient to provide the number.

If you do not have either a valid driver's license number or Dept. of Revenue number, you must provide at least the last four digits of your Social Security number.

If your identification can not be established, you may also be required to provide a copy of an acceptable form of identification.

For more information about identification documents, call your county's office of the Clerk and Recorder or the Secretary of State's office at (303) 894-2200. If you have access to a computer, you can also check online at [www.sos.state.co.us](http://www.sos.state.co.us). Click on Election Center and then click on Election FAQs.

**Important Reminder!**  
Be sure you understand whether you are eligible to vote. It is a class 5 felony to vote in an election for which you are not legally eligible.

## Where to Get Help

If you think you are eligible to vote and are told you may not by an election clerk, please contact the Secretary of State's office for help. Their telephone number is (303) 894-2200. You may also contact CCJRC at (303) 825-0122 for assistance

**You need to register before July 14, 2008, in order to vote in the primary election and October 6, 2008, in order to vote in the general election.**

# CAN I VOTE? CAN I VOTE FROM JAIL?

CCJRC has written and distributed a voter education brochure titled CAN I VOTE? The following questions and answers from the brochure are to help people understand how a criminal conviction may or may not affect their current right to vote.

**I have a criminal conviction in my past. Can I vote?**  
In Colorado, you have the right to vote after you have served your sentence. Remember, if you were incarcerated for a felony, any period of parole is considered to be part of your sentence. The day you complete your sentence is the day you become eligible to register and vote.

**Will I be notified when I'm eligible to vote?**  
No. The right to vote is automatically restored, but you will not be notified.

**Do I have to prove I have completed my sentence (including parole) in order to register to vote or to vote?**

If your name still appears on the database as an incarcerated person, the voting official may ask you for proof that you have completed your sentence, including any parole. It's a good idea to bring your sentence or parole discharge document with you when you register to vote.

**What if I was convicted of a crime in another state?**

Election law varies from state to state, and your right to vote is determined by the state in which you live. If you are a resident of Colorado and you have completed your sentence, including parole, you can vote.

**If I was convicted of a federal crime, do I have the right to vote in a federal election?**

It does not matter if you were convicted in a state or federal court. Once you are eligible to vote in Colorado, you are eligible to vote in both state and federal elections.

**Do I have to pay off all of my restitution before I can vote?**

No. Payment of restitution is not a condition of voting eligibility.

**Do I have the right to vote if I am currently on probation?**

Yes. If you are on probation for either a misdemeanor or felony you may register to vote and cast your vote in any election.

**Do I have the right to vote if I am on bond and the criminal case is pending?**

Yes. You are eligible to vote if you are on bond as long as you are not convicted and serving a sentence in jail or prison for a felony at the time of the election.

**Do I have the right to vote if I am in jail?**

If you are serving a misdemeanor sentence in jail, you have the right to register to vote and vote in any election. This is true if on the date of the election you are in jail as a pretrial detainee and have not yet been convicted.

In order to vote, you will need to contact the clerk and recorder in the county of your legal residence and ask for a Colorado--Combination Voter Registration and Mail-in Ballot Application. (You can do this on your own or you may be able to get the form through jail personnel. If you are a pretrial detainee, an administrator in the jail where you are detained will also have to certify your eligibility.)

If you are not registered to vote, you will need to register before July 14, 2008, to vote in the primary election and October 6, 2008, to vote in the general election.

CCJRC has also been working on an educational campaign titled CAN I VOTE FROM JAIL? to help people incarcerated in jail, jail personnel, and election personnel understand who is eligible to vote while incarcerated in jail.

First, it is important to understand who is eligible to vote from jail in Colorado. This group includes people who are currently being held as pretrial detainees and people who are currently serving a sentence for a misdemeanor sentence only.

Second, people who believe they are eligible to vote from jail must meet the voting eligibility criteria for anyone who registers to vote. They must be 18 years of age or older at the time of the election in which they wish to vote, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Colorado for at least 30 days prior to the date of incarceration.

People who believe they are eligible to vote will need to register to vote, or re-register to vote, and request a mail-in (absentee) ballot through the Office of the Clerk and Recorder in the county of their legal residence.

It is important to remember that people who have already been convicted of a felony and have not yet completed the sentence for that felony, including parole, are NOT eligible to vote.

Contact CCJRC for more information about jail-based voting. A free brochure that explains the process in detail is available upon request.

## Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice Creates Task Forces

The Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was created by HB 1358 during the 2007 legislative session. The first meeting with all 26 members was held in January 2008, at which the commission presented its stated mission: to enhance public safety, to ensure justice, and to ensure protection of the rights of victims through the cost-effective use of public resources. The work of the commission will focus on evidence-based recidivism reduction initiatives and cost-effective spending necessary to bring those ideas to fruition.

After that January meeting, Executive Director Peter Weir determined that the first order of business was to educate the members of the commission about the realities of the criminal justice system in Colorado. He understood that most people who don't work in the system don't necessarily understand the intricacies of such topics as bonding, sentencing, parole, and incarceration practices. Thus, experts from across the nation and from within Colorado provided evidence-based research materials about the criminal justice arena in Colorado and other states, as well.

After several months of meetings, the commission formed the Re-Entry Oversight Committee. Under that umbrella, four separate task forces were put together to look at different aspects of the system and to consider how the systems may be strengthened through legislative or policy reform. Each task force has incorporated voices from the community in leadership roles and as task force members. CCJRC is represented on the Re-Entry Oversight Committee as well as on three of the four task forces.

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