



# Can I Vote?



Many people believe that once you have a criminal record you can never vote in Colorado.

**This is not true!**

CCJRC strongly encourages people to register and vote as soon as they are eligible.

**Your vote and your voice matter!**

If you believe that you are eligible to vote and are told by an election official that you are not eligible please contact CCJRC for help.

*Colorado law states that: 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 person 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 Statute §1-2-103 (4)*

This means the following people are eligible to register and vote in Colorado:

- People with a past criminal conviction who have completed their sentence, including parole (if required)
- People currently in jail pretrial (pending the outcome of the criminal case)
- People currently on probation for either a misdemeanor or felony
- People currently in jail serving a misdemeanor sentence only

# Frequently Asked Questions

***Do I have the right to vote if I am presently incarcerated for a felony or if I am on parole?***

No. You may not register to vote or vote if you are incarcerated for a felony or while you are on parole.

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

Yes. People on probation may register to vote and cast their vote in any election.

***Do I have the right to vote if I am in jail serving a sentence for a misdemeanor conviction?***

Yes. An individual in jail serving a misdemeanor sentence has the right to register to vote and vote in any election.

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

Yes. People who are in jail pending the outcome of a criminal case are eligible to vote.

***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.

***Will I get an official letter telling me when I'm eligible to vote?***

No. No one will tell you when you're eligible to vote.

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

Voting eligibility is based on Colorado state law. It does not matter what state you were convicted in or whether you were convicted in municipal, state or federal court.

***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.

***I was registered to vote before I was incarcerated. Do I need to register again?***

Yes. If you were registered to vote prior to your incarceration, there is a good chance that your name was removed from the Secretary of State's list of registered voters. You will need to re-register to vote.

***What is the charge in Colorado if someone illegally registers to vote and votes in an election?***

It is a class five felony crime to register to vote or vote in an election for which a person is not legally eligible. (Colorado Revised Statute §1-13-704.5)