Most people with criminal records are eligible to vote in Colorado. Unfortunately, this is not widely known. According to a survey commissioned by the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, there is significant public confusion surrounding the voting rights of individuals currently involved in the justice system.

Who Can Vote?

Colorado residents who are U.S. citizens and 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote if:

- they have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor and have completed their sentence;
- they are currently on probation for a felony or misdemeanor conviction; or
- they are currently in jail serving a sentence for a misdemeanor conviction or awaiting trial for any offense.

They are NOT eligible to vote if they are currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction—either in prison or on parole—but they will become eligible again after completing their sentence.

Key Areas of Public Confusion

The following findings are based on a survey of 600 Colorado voters conducted by Public Policy Polling from August 24-26, 2018. The margin of error is plus or minus four percentage points.

Only a small majority of Coloradans (57%) know that individuals who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor are eligible to vote once they have completed their sentence. That number drops to just over one-third (36%) among Colorado voters who identify as neither white nor Hispanic/Latino.

Fewer than half of Coloradans (43%) know that individuals who are currently on probation for a felony or misdemeanor conviction are eligible to vote.

Four out of 10 Coloradans (43%) do NOT know that individuals currently in jail for misdemeanor convictions are allowed to vote from jail. Only 41% of Coloradans know that individuals in jail awaiting trial are also eligible.