



# RIGHT TO VOTE

## Respecting the Voting Rights of people with felonies in their past

Kentuckians in every county, no matter what we look like or how much money we make, know that our democracy works best when elections are free and fair. Every adult in our state ought to have a say through their right to vote.

 [KFTC.org/VotingRights](http://KFTC.org/VotingRights)

 @kftc

 [kftc.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kftc.org)

 @kentuckiansforthecommonwealth



## RESPECT THEIR VOTE

Kentucky is one of only two states that permanently withholds the right to vote from people convicted of a felony. In most of the country, voting rights are automatically respected after a person completes a sentence. The right to vote is even taken away in cases of a class D felony, and only returned through a complicated process of seeking individual action by the Governor.

**Over 300,000 Kentuckians can't vote because of these laws— that's about 1 in 11 voting age Kentuckians.**

Kentucky has the nation's highest rate of Black voter disenfranchisement. 1 in 4 Black Kentuckians cannot vote due to the combination of lingering impact of the, tough-on-crime approach of past decades in communities of color and the regressive voting rights policy.

## CURRENT CONSENSUS

According to a recent poll by the League of Women Voters, 66% of Kentuckians favor restoring voting rights to people with felonies in their past including a majority of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

This legislation has passed the Kentucky House by as high a margin as 86 to 12 in recent years with strong majorities of both Democrats and Republicans in support.

## COMMUNITY

Restoring voting rights even contributes to crime prevention. People with felonies in their past who vote are statistically half as likely to commit future crimes than people who don't vote.

When you think about it, it makes sense. When someone feels like part of a community, they're less likely to act out against it.



## THESE ARE REAL PEOPLE

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth didn't set out to start a campaign on Restoration of Voting Rights for Former Felons – we set out to empower voters through voter registration and education. But every time we went door to door to register voters, we'd run into people who wanted to vote, but couldn't because of something they'd done, sometimes 10, 20, 30, or 40 years ago – and they and the communities they live in are still paying the price today.



**"As someone who serves in the US military, I could be asked to take a bullet for this Democracy at anytime... but I'm not allowed to participate in it."**

**ROBERT JONES,**  
Frankfort



**"I've got my children watching me. I've got my grandchildren watching me. I'm going to teach them the importance of voting."**

**TAYNA FOGLE,**  
Lexington



**"I think all people should have the right to vote, no matter what their troubles in the past. At least give them the chance to do the right thing."**

**MITCH FORD,**  
Louisville

## WE ARE KENTUCKIANS

Behind each of the 312,000 people who don't have their voting rights because of Kentucky's disenfranchisement laws, there is a story and a real person. Please help them by treating them like any other citizens after they've served their time.