

Right to Vote – HB 70

Restoration of Voting Rights for Former Felons



In most states, when people serve their time, they get their voting rights back automatically.

In Kentucky, even a class D felony is enough to lose someone their voting rights **forever** unless they can get a pardon from the Governor.



Kentucky is **one of the 2 most difficult** states for someone with a felony in their past to get their voting rights back in. Only Iowa has as difficult of a process.

An estimated **312,000** Kentuckians can't vote because of these laws—disproportionately from low-income communities. This takes away tremendous voting power from these same communities.

We believe that after someone has served their time, they should be given back their right to vote – because that's the fair thing to do and because it make's Kentucky's Democracy stronger.

Restoring voting rights even contributes to **crime prevention**. People with felonies in their past who vote are statistically half as likely to recidivate (commit future crimes) than people who don't vote. When you think about it, it makes sense. When a former felon feels like part of a community, they're less likely to act out against that community.

Co-sponsoring organizations of the Restoration of Voting Right Coalition: NAACP, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC), KY AFL-CIO, League of Women Voters of Kentucky, Catholic Conference of KY, AFSCME Council 62, KY Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Addiction Recovery Advocates of Kentuckiana (ARAK), KY Council of Churches, Citizens for a Just KY, People Advocating Recovery (PAR), KY Mental Health Coalition, Fairness Campaign , Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Kentucky, KY Domestic Violence Association, Central KY Council for Peace and Justice, Lexington Diocesan Council for Peace and Justice, Kentucky Women's Network, American Civil Liberties Union of KY, KY Jobs with Justice, KY Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (KCIRR), Kentucky United Nations Association, KY Protection and Advocacy, Canaan Community Development Corporation, Network Center for Community Change, United Nations Association of the USA KY Division, Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass (TIA), KY Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (KBC-LEO).

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



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 real people after they've served their time.

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth
www.KFTC.org/VotingRights