

# LET ME VOTE

GET YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE BACK

TENNESSEE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## A GUIDE TO VOTING WITH A FELONY CONVICTION IN TENNESSEE

NOTE: YOU ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE WITH A  
MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION IN TENNESSEE

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than two million members dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws.

The ACLU does not endorse or oppose any candidate or party, but believes that no civil right is more important in our democracy than the right to vote.

### Tennessee Secretary of State:

(615) 741-7956

(877) 850-4959

[www.sos.tn.gov/elections](http://www.sos.tn.gov/elections)

### ACLU-TN:

(615) 320-7142

<http://www.aclu-tn.org/legal-assistance/>

### Election Protection:

866-OUR-VOTE (687-8683)

### US Department of Justice:

(800) 253-3931

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Tennessee

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Tennessee

## A TN LAW MAKES IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE WITH FELONY CONVICTIONS TO VOTE

**Unless you were convicted of certain felonies (see below), your right to vote can be restored when:**

- Your sentence is complete.
- You have finished your probation and parole.
- You have paid all court-ordered fines, fees, restitution and court costs.
- You are current on court-ordered child support.
- You obtain and file a Certificate of Restoration and Voter Registration form (see “How to Register to Vote” below).

## WHO CANNOT VOTE IN TN

If you were convicted of the following crimes during the dates listed, you cannot have your right to vote restored:

- First-degree murder, aggravated rape, treason and voter fraud if you were convicted between July 1, 1986 and June 30, 1996.
- Murder, rape, treason and voter fraud if you were convicted between July 1, 1996 and June 30, 2006.
- Murder, rape, treason, voter fraud, any violent sexual offense designated as a felony where the victim of the offense was a minor, and offenses against the administration of government (official misconduct) by elected or appointed officials if you were convicted on or after July 1, 2006.

## HOW TO RESTORE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

**1. Obtain a Certificate of Restoration application from your:**

- Local county election office.
- The Tennessee Secretary of State website. <https://sos-tn-gov-files.s3.amazonaws.com/forms/ss-3041.pdf>

**2. Have a Certificate of Restoration form completed by:**

- Your probation/parole officer or an agent or officer of the supervising or incarcerating authority certifying that your sentence is complete, including all terms of probation and parole, AND
- The circuit or criminal court clerk or their agent, or the probation/parole officer, or an agent or officer of the supervising or incarcerating authority certifying that all court-ordered costs and restitution are paid in full.

**3. Deliver your completed Certificate of Restoration application to the local Election Commission office.**

They will send it to the State Election Commission for their review and to make sure all child support obligations are current. You will be notified that your right to vote has been restored or that your restoration application has been denied and why.

## HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

**4. If your right to vote has been restored, obtain a Voter Registration form from the local election commission office or the Tennessee Secretary of State website and fill it out:**

<https://sos-tn-gov-files.s3.amazonaws.com/forms/ss-3010.pdf>

- Include your name and street address. (A P.O. box is not acceptable. If you are homeless, ask a local shelter or community organization to allow you to list their address).
- Fill in your birth date and social security number. Check that this is a new registration.
- Check that you have been convicted of a felony. Sign your name.

**5. Deliver your completed Voter Registration form with your approved Certificate of Restoration to the local Election Commission office in the county in which you live or send it to the address listed on the form.**

Be sure to keep a copy of both forms for your records.

**NOTE:** To vote in an election, you must complete the process above and register at least 30 days before the election.

## REGISTERED VOTERS

**After you register to vote**

You will receive a card informing you that your registration was completed (only in some counties).

OR

You will receive a voter card in the mail.

OR

You will receive a letter asking for more information. If you don't respond to the letter, you may not be allowed to register.

**NOTE:** Call the local Election Commission office if you do not receive any notice within two weeks from the date you turned in the forms.

## Information about candidates

Sample ballots are published in the local newspaper. You can also contact your local Election Commission to learn if a sample ballot has been posted on the Internet. They will also be able to tell you where to vote and the hours the polls are open.

## VOTER ID

**Do I have to show ID?**

- Most likely. If you are voting in person, you must show a government-issued ID that includes your name and photo.
- You won't need to show a photo ID if you live and vote in a nursing home, vote by mail, are hospitalized, have a religious objection to being photographed, or are low-income and don't have enough money to pay for a photo ID.
- You may obtain a free ID by going to the nearest Driver Service Center, showing them your proof of citizenship (such as a birth certificate) and two proofs of Tennessee residency (such as a copy of a utility bill, vehicle registration/title, or bank statement) and signing an affidavit stating that you do not have a valid government-issued photo ID for voting purposes.
- If you are low-income and can't afford a copy of the documents required to get a free photo ID, you may still vote if you sign a form stating under oath that you are indigent and have been unable to get a photo ID for voting without paying a fee.