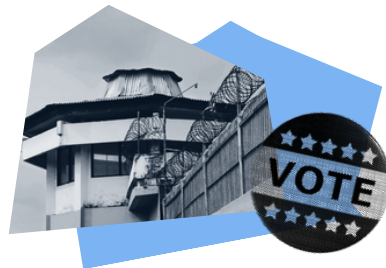


KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

Voting with a Felony Conviction

Last updated: Oct 1, 2026



Thanks to a new court ruling in an ACLU of Virginia lawsuit, more than 90% of Virginians who were not previously eligible to vote because of a felony conviction – more than a quarter million people – may now be eligible to register to vote. You may be one of them!

Can I vote if I have a felony conviction in Virginia?

Anyone who has **never** been convicted in Virginia of murder under Virginia Code 18.2-32, voluntary manslaughter under Virginia Code 18.2-35, or involuntary manslaughter under Virginia Code 18.2-36 may be able to vote if they also meet the following criteria:

- Are a United States Citizen;
- Reside in Virginia;
- Are at least 18 years old; and
- Have not been declared mentally incompetent by a court.

However, if you have **ever** been convicted in a Virginia state court of murder, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter, you are not eligible to vote, but you can still petition to have your rights restored by the governor upon your release. You won't be able to vote until your rights are restored.

Can I register to vote in Virginia if I have a felony conviction in a state other than Virginia, or if I have a federal felony conviction?

Yes, if you have **never been convicted** under Virginia state law of murder, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter, then you have the right to register and vote.

Can I register to vote in Virginia if I'm on probation or parole?

Yes, as long as you are on probation or parole for a conviction in Virginia of a felony other than murder, voluntary manslaughter, or involuntary manslaughter, you have the right to register and vote.

Can I register to vote in Virginia if I'm currently incarcerated?

No, currently people who are incarcerated in Virginia cannot register to vote.

However, if you meet all of the above criteria and are interested in voting while in prison, you should email intake@acluva.org or send us a letter to notify us: ACLU of Virginia, PO Box 26464, Richmond, Virginia 23261.

Can I register to vote in Virginia if the record of my felony was sealed or expunged?

Yes, if your record was sealed or expunged, and your conviction was not for murder, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter, then you have the right to register and vote.

If the record of my conviction was sealed or expunged, do I still need to declare it when I register?

Yes, even if your record was sealed or expunged, when you register to vote, you must check the **YES** box on the registration form under, “Do you have a felony conviction?”

How do I register to vote now that I'm eligible?

If you're eligible to vote after previously losing your voting rights to a felony conviction, here is what your registration form would look like:

Virginia Voter Registration Application

Use blue or black ink

Starred (*) items are required. If you do not complete all of the items that are marked with *, your application may be denied (See instructions on reverse side).

1. ☐ YES ☐ NO * I am a citizen of the United States of America.		* Full social security number <table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td></tr></table> ☐ No SSN was ever issued.	N	N	N	N	-	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	N	* Date of birth <table border="1"><tr><td>M</td><td>M</td><td>/</td><td>D</td><td>D</td><td>/</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td><td>Y</td></tr></table>	M	M	/	D	D	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	* Gender _____
N	N	N	N	-	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	N															
M	M	/	D	D	/	Y	Y	Y	Y																		
2. * Last name _____ Jr. Sr. II III IV (Circle if applicable)																											
* First name _____		* Middle name _____		☐ None																							
* Residence address (May not be a P.O. Box) _____		Apt # _____																									
* City/Town _____		* ZIP _____																									
E-mail _____		Phone <table border="1"><tr><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td><td>N</td></tr></table>		N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N										
N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N	-	N	N	N	N														
3. * Have you ever been convicted of a felony or judged mentally incapacitated and disqualified to vote? ☒ YES ☐ NO If YES, has your right to vote been restored? ☐ YES ☒ NO																											

- If you have ever been convicted of a felony, you should check **YES**.
 - Even if your conviction was sealed or expunged, you should check **YES**.
- If your right to vote has never been restored, or if you are not sure, you should check **NO**.
 - If you have received clemency from the governor, you should check **YES**.

To finish registering, fill out the rest of the form and submit it physically to your local voter registration office. Or you can register online, where you will be asked the same sets of questions.

You should answer all the questions completely and truthfully, no matter whether you register online or on a paper form.

What should I do if I tried to register to vote but was told I couldn't?

If you have trouble registering or voting on election day, contact the Election Protection Coalition at 866-OUR-VOTE. If you believe your rights were violated, you should email intake@acluva.org or send us a letter to notify us: [ACLU of Virginia, PO Box 26464, Richmond, Virginia 23261](#).