

# FELONY LARCENY LAW REFORM

## END THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY

### WHAT ARE FELONY LARCENY LAWS?

A felony conviction results in a lifetime ban on voting, along with hundreds of other collateral consequences outside of sentencing. It can destroy a person's family, chances at finding work and access to housing. Felony larceny convictions happen automatically for thefts over \$500 or three petit larceny convictions of any amount.

### THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA

Virginia's felony larceny threshold is just \$500 – one of the lowest in the nation. The Virginia General Assembly has increased the threshold only once since 1980, and the raise didn't even keep up with the rate of inflation.

Additionally, when a person is convicted of three counts of petit larceny, they are automatically felonized on the third offense, no matter the circumstances. **Communities of color and people with low income continue to be disproportionately impacted by Virginia's low felony larceny threshold and three-strike law.**

### OUR GOALS

Further criminalizing poverty does nothing to address the root causes of theft. **We call on the Virginia General Assembly to raise the felony larceny threshold to at least \$1,500 and eliminate the three-strike larceny statute.** People should not lose their right to vote and suffer other long-lasting consequences because they make a mistake of stealing more than \$500 worth of property.

**39 states and the District of Columbia have raised their felony larceny thresholds since 2000, leaving Virginia with one of the lowest thresholds in the nation.**

### FACT

**RAISING THE FELONY THEFT THRESHOLD HAS NO IMPACT ON OVERALL PROPERTY CRIME OR LARCENY RATES.**

*Source: Pew Research Center*

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Here are a few things you can do to get involved:**

- Stay up-to-date on this issue through our social media.
- Subscribe to our email list: [acluva.org](https://acluva.org).
- Take action through our Lobby Guide: [acluva.org/lobby-guide](https://acluva.org/lobby-guide).
- Become a member: [acluva.org/join](https://acluva.org/join)
- Start a People Power group to work on this issue: [peoplepower.org](https://peoplepower.org)

**ACLU**  
Virginia