

VOTING RIGHTS IN JAIL

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE:

- Once you have a criminal record you can never vote in Colorado
- You cannot register to vote while incarcerated.
- You cannot vote while incarcerated.

THESE ARE MYTHS!

Colorado law states: No person while serving a sentence of detention or confinement in a correctional facility, jail, or other location for a felony conviction or while serving a sentence of parole shall be eligible to register to vote or to vote in any election; however, a confined person who is awaiting trial but has not been tried shall be certified by the institutional administrator and shall be permitted to register to vote by mail registration pursuant to part 5 of this article. Colorado Revised Statute §1-2-103(4)

In Colorado the following **are eligible** to register and vote:

- People in jail pretrial (pending the outcome of the criminal case)
- People serving a county jail sentence for a misdemeanor, petty, or traffic offense.
- People convicted of or on a deferred sentence for misdemeanor, petty or traffic offenses.
- People convicted of a felony, **IF** they have completed their sentence of incarceration and any period of parole, if required
- People on probation or a deferred sentence for a felony conviction, unless either is revoked and a prison sentence is imposed.
- People on bond

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN JAIL

Request a voter registration form from a deputy or program administrator. Return the completed form to:

Colorado Department of State
Elections Division
1700 Broadway, Suite 550
Denver, CO 80290

In approximately 20 days, you will receive an official information card confirming your voter registration.

If you were previously registered to vote, you must re-register in jail.

HOW TO VOTE IN JAIL

If you are registered to vote at least 8 days prior to election day, you will automatically receive a mail-in ballot. After completing the ballot, you can **return it by mail** in the provided envelope. All ballots must be **received** no later than 7 P.M. on election day. To ensure that your ballot is received in time, election officials recommend that you mail your ballot back at least 1 week prior to election day.

If the jail you are at has a ballot drop box on site, you can simply drop your ballot there.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

- Individuals convicted of a felony offense and currently incarcerated or on parole, are not eligible to vote.
- It is a class 5 felony for a person to vote or register to vote in an election when they are not legally eligible to do so.
- You to be eligible to register to vote you must have lived in Colorado for at least 22 days prior to the election you wish to vote in.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) provide protection against disability-based discrimination in the voting process, including access to register to vote and to vote, when eligible. You can request disability- related reasonable accommodations to assist with either process, if necessary.