Fact Sheet
RESTORATION OF Ex-FELON VOTING RIGHTS

Arizona

Introduction: The legal ability of people with felony convictions to vote varies from state to state. Some states allow felons to vote from prison while other states permanently ban felons from voting even after being released from prison, parole, and probation, and having paid all their fines.

• No federal laws exist on felon voting per se. Felon voting has not been regulated federally although some argue that Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act can be applied to felon disenfranchisement and that Congress has the authority to legislate felon voting in federal elections.

• 10 states and the District of Columbia also restrict some people with a misdemeanor conviction from voting.

Arizona
Right to Vote
Under Arizona law, a person who has been convicted of a felony offense has their civil rights suspended. Those rights include the right to vote or to seek and hold public office, the right to serve on a jury and the right to possess a gun or firearm, among other rights, A.R.S. § 13-904. After a felony conviction, a person may have their right to vote restored. The procedures are as follows:

Automatic Restoration (Single Felony Conviction)
If the person has been convicted of one single felony offense, regardless of the classification of the offense, the process is easy. Please note that this does not mean only one criminal case number. A person may be convicted of more than one felony offense in a single case number. If a person has only been convicted of a single felony offense, the right to vote is automatically restored as soon as the court-imposed sentence has been completed. The person must fully complete the sentence before the automatic restoration of the right to vote applies. For example, if a prison sentence was imposed, the person must also complete the parole or community supervision period before they are eligible. If a fine or restitution was imposed, that fine and/or restitution must be paid in full. When the individual has completed the sentence, in this situation, the only action they need to take to be eligible to vote is to complete and submit a new registration form. In this situation, the person does not have to apply to the court to have the right to vote restored; it is automatic. Source: A.R.S. § 13-912.

Judicial Restoration (Two or More Felony Convictions)
If the person was convicted of two or more felony offenses, either in a single criminal case or in separate cases, the individual (or their attorney) must petition the court that sentenced them for restoration of their civil rights, including the right to vote. For example, if a person was sentenced in Maricopa County, they must petition the court in Maricopa County; they may not petition the court in Pima County.

If you have multiple felony convictions and served time in a state correctional institute, you must wait two years from the date you obtain an absolute discharge to apply for your rights to be restored. You must have your "Certificate of Absolute Discharge" to submit to the court where you were sentenced for restoration of rights. If you have multiple felony convictions, you must file separately for each one.