



Restoration of Civil Rights Information

If you have lost the right to vote as a result of a felony conviction in a Virginia court or a U.S. District court, you must have your civil rights restored to qualify for voter registration. The restoration of civil rights restores the rights to vote, to run for and hold public office, to serve on juries and to serve as a notary public.

Effective August 22, 2016, by Executive Action the Office of the Governor provides process for the restoration of civil rights for offenders who may meet the Governor's standards for restoration if they have been convicted of a felony and are no longer incarcerated or under active supervision by the Department of Corrections (DOC) or other state agency for any and all felony convictions.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC) is giving priority consideration to individual who request the restoration of their civil rights. Those wishing to expedite restoration of their own civil rights may contact the SOC at <https://commonwealth.virginia.gov>.

The Governor's Office will release the names of newly restored individual's monthly. Additional information is available at [Restoration of Rights](#).

More about Restoration of Rights:

The restoration of civil rights:

- Does not restore the right to possess a firearm,
- Will not expunge or remove a criminal conviction (Virginia does not have an expungement process for felony or misdemeanor convictions. Va. Code §19.2-392.2)
- Is not a pardon.
- Restoration of rights is only necessary following felony convictions. Misdemeanor convictions and juvenile convictions do not result in the loss of civil rights.

A person who has been convicted of a felony must first have his or her rights restored in order to petition for a pardon. For more information on how to request a pardon, contact the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

To regain state firearms privileges, a convicted felon must apply to the circuit court of his or her jurisdiction of residence for a permit to possess or carry a firearm. Circuit courts may consider the restoration of firearms privileges only after civil rights are restored. (Va. Code §18.2-308.2)

Please contact the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Restoration of Rights Division toll-free at 1-855-575-9177 if you have any questions about the restoration process.