

Voting Rights for People with a Criminal Record

A Guide for Canvassers

Anyone not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction CAN VOTE in Georgia.*

If someone says they can't vote because they have a felony, ask them 3 questions:

1. Have you completed your sentence, including probation and parole (including any period on non-report status)?

- If yes: you are off paper, and can vote! Just be sure to re-register before the deadline.
- If not sure: talk to your [probation officer](#) and request a [Certificate of Sentence Completion](#).
- If no or not sure: ask questions 2 & 3 to learn more.

2. Were you sentenced under the First Offender Act or Conditional Discharge?

- If yes, and the status has not been revoked: you can register and vote *while still serving* that sentence because it's not considered a conviction unless the status was revoked.
- If no, ask question #3.

3. Have you been on probation for more than 3 years?

- If Yes: You may qualify for early termination of probation under a new law that took effect May 2021.
- Go to [GJP.org/Probation](#) for self-advocacy information and details on criteria for early termination (3 years on probation, no new arrests, no revocations for 24 months, paid all restitution).
- Talk to your [probation officer](#) about early termination.
- Email early.termination@DCS.ga.gov if you are experiencing issues requesting early termination.
- Email Probation@GJP.org if completed these steps and are still having problems.
- If your probation gets terminated, you can register and vote.

NOTE: According to the Secretary of State, if a person was on probation, all fines are automatically cancelled upon completion of probation, so someone is eligible to register to vote as soon as they complete probation. It also does not matter if they owe still restitution or other fees – they can vote if their sentence is complete.

Difficulty registering or unsure if sentence is complete? Ask the [Dept. of Community Supervision](#) (Probation/Parole) for a **Certificate of Sentence Completion** and bring it to [your county's Voter Registrar's Office](#).

LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Voting Rights & Criminal Records: [GJP.org/Voting](#) (QR code below left)
- Early Termination of Probation (SB 105): [GJP.org/Probation](#) (QR code below right)
- Find your Probation Office/Dept. of Community Supervision: DCS.georgia.gov/locations/field-office
- Find your County Voter Registration Office: mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/county-election-offices

QUESTIONS? Canvassers or potential voters can call or email Georgia Justice Project with questions.

- Voting:** Ann@GJP.org 404-827-0027 ext 248
- Probation:** Probation@GJP.org 404-827-0027 ext 231

*if they also meet the [other requirements](#) for voting eligibility

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