



Restoration of Voting Rights: A Campaign of Civil Rights

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky continues to advocate for the restoration of voting rights for justice-involved Kentuckians. Kentucky is one of only 3 states that **permanently** bans people from voting after a felony conviction. The League has been Kentucky’s leading source of comprehensive data and polling. With the assistance of The Sentencing Project, the League issued its first of many statewide reports in October 2006 to help educate the public about this prevalent issue that disproportionately affects Black voters. Before the Governor’s 2019 Executive Order, more than 26% of Black Kentuckians had been permanently banned from voting, even after having completed their entire sentence. After the executive order, over 15% of Black Kentuckians remain permanently banned from voting.

The good news is that the number of Kentuckians who support the automatic restoration of voting rights upon completion of sentence has been steadily increasing. A 2006 poll by the UK Research Center reported a majority of Kentuckians support automatic voting rights restoration, with 56% approving. A survey by Mason Dixon Polling and Strategy in 2021 reveals that approval among Kentuckians has continued to increase from 66% in their 2018 poll to 67% in the most recent poll.

To permanently secure the voting rights of non-violent justice-involved Kentuckians and to also restore voting rights to ALL justice-involved Kentuckians after completing their entire sentence, the Kentucky Constitution must be amended. The League of Women Voters is advocating for the public to be able to voice their opinion on this matter.

We advocate for citizens to be able to vote on whether they approve an amendment to restore voting rights, by placing this issue on the ballot.

Our Work

The League’s educational outreach work for the past 18 months has focused on helping persons who have been convicted of a felony be able to have their voting rights restored in accordance with Executive Order 2019-003, and passage of a bill to allow Kentuckians to vote on changing the Kentucky Constitution to provide automatic restoration of voting rights.

VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION Impact 2020-21

67% of Kentuckians AGREE

Voting Rights Should be AUTOMATICALLY RESTORED after completing a felony sentence

5 RADIO SHOW APPEARANCES

15.1% of African Americans of voting age in KY are banned from voting

FELONY DISFRANCHISEMENT REPORT

Over 4235 CARDS DISTRIBUTED

450+ Community Organizations contacted to distribute voting rights information

Polling information and the League’s reports can be found at: www.lwvky.org/voting-rights-restoration
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