

Report on felony disenfranchisement activities

Knowing that success requires constant communication over a long period, the campaign of conversations to persuade people about the need to allow a constitutional amendment to be placed on the November 2022 ballot continues. Our goal this year is to raise Kentuckians' awareness of the need for this legislation and obtain more cosponsors.

\$9,450 grants

The League received \$9,450 from two grants. One \$4,450 grant from Kentucky Civic Engagement Table to conduct a poll and print copies of the 2021 felony disenfranchisement report, and one from The Sentencing Project to create 3 videos to be distributed and promoted through social media to support this issue.

Videos

Nikki Shore and Tip Moody worked with videographer David Disponett to create 3 videos. You can review the videos at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-9zF5L5cTIZ3eLXKqJXZ7Q/featured>

2021 Felony Disenfranchisement Report

The League released *An Update: Felony Disenfranchisement in the Commonwealth of Kentucky*, on January 28, 2021.

The report shows that 197,672 Kentucky citizens, formerly convicted of a felony, remain disenfranchised despite the Governor's 2019 Executive Order 2019-003 that enabled 178,397 to regain the right to register and vote.

It also shows that our Commonwealth ranks the fourth worst state for restoring voting rights and has the seventh highest rate of disenfranchisement of African-Americans in the nation. Of the 256,024 African-Americans of voting age in Kentucky, 38,665 or 15.1% are disenfranchised.

Statewide Poll

This majority of Kentuckians, across political affiliation, gender and age categories, support the automatic restoration of voting rights for persons who complete their felony sentence. Overall support is 67% in favor and 28% opposed, according to a February 2021 statewide poll of Kentucky registered voters conducted by the Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida from February 1 through February 4, 2021.

The number of people in Kentucky who support automatic restoration of voting rights upon completion of sentence is increasing. The current 67% approval of automatic restoration by Kentucky voters has increased from the 66% approval in the 2018 Mason-Dixon poll and the 56% approval in a 2006 poll of Kentucky voters conducted by the UK Survey Research Center.

Access to the report and the poll

The poll results and the 2021 League's Felony Disenfranchisement Report, along with the 2020, 2019, 2017, 2013 and 2006 Reports, are available at [Felony Disenfranchisement — League of Women Voters of Kentucky \(lwvky.org\)](https://www.lwvky.org/felony-disenfranchisement)

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