



Voting Rights Restoration

Call To Action Goal (Florida)

The call to action is to amend the Florida constitution to permit persons with prior criminal convictions to regain the right to vote upon release from prison, via a ballot initiative process that will result in a vote in November 2018. Currently, individuals with certain felony convictions are effectively barred from voting for life. To place the constitutional amendment on the 2018 ballot, one million valid signatures need to be collected by December 31, 2017, and we are currently on track to meet that target. With continued People Power support, we can expand voting rights in Florida.

The amendment would strike a death blow to a bar on voting that was born in 1868, as Florida fought efforts to enfranchise black Americans. It would pave the way for 1.5 million Floridians - 25% of the nation's disenfranchised - to regain the vote.

Call To Action Plan (Florida)

To get acquainted with the Let People Vote call to action for Florida, People Power volunteers/activists will:

- watch the livestream/recording of the October 1, 2017 Let People Vote launch event; and
- review and discuss [background materials](#) on voter restoration in Florida, and on proper, lawful and effective petition signature gathering techniques; and
- sign up to [host](#) or to [join](#) a petition gathering event.

In the coming months, People Power activists/volunteers will work in partnership with the ACLU of Florida, ACLU of Florida Chapters, Floridians for a Fair Democracy, and other partner organizations to achieve our goal of restoring the vote. The ACLU of Florida, Floridians for a Fair Democracy and other partner organizations will periodically post important events, such as petition gathering events, at www.map.peoplepower.org, and you will be invited to attend via email, text message and/or phone call.

Our goal is simple: We need to gather 1 million signatures from registered Florida voters by December 31, 2017. If we get the required signatures, this issue will be on the November 2018 ballot, and we can vote to change the law.

Take action TODAY through the [Second Chances Campaign Hub!](#)

Sign up to attend an upcoming event [here](#). Sign up to host your own event [here](#).

Important Reminder

Mail all completed petitions to the ACLU of Florida at 4343 W. Flagler St., Suite 400, Miami, Florida 33137

Background

In many states, individuals with prior criminal convictions are deprived of the right to vote, and while options may exist to restore their voting rights, those procedures and eligibility requirements are often very onerous. Many of these rights deprivations originated in the Jim Crow era to disenfranchise

African-Americans. Today more than 6 million U.S. citizens lack voting rights due to prior convictions - more than a third are black. Most of this population is no longer incarcerated. These people, our families, friends, neighbors, are living, working and raising families in our communities, yet lack access to the ballot. 16 states and the District of Columbia immediately grant the right to vote to all citizens who have been released from prison, and states like Vermont and Maine never strip incarcerated individuals of the vote. We must broaden these policies.

Key Reasons to Support Voting Rights Restoration

Democracy: To sustain a strong, vibrant democracy, we need the participation of the broadest possible base of voters. The history of this nation is one in which we have progressively expanded the right to vote, which has made the nation stronger.

Fairness: Governments make decisions that impact the lives and prospects of individuals with prior criminal convictions (e.g. whether such persons can access public housing). Individuals affected by these decisions ought to be able to influence them.

Challenge Historic Racism: Disenfranchisement laws have a distinct place in the history of repressive laws meant to disadvantage racial minorities. Eliminating them would help turn the page decisively on unfortunate chapters in U.S. history.

Community Reintegration: Through reengaging in civic life, individuals can reestablish ties to the broader population and contribute more to economic and social progress. Individuals can become full stakeholders in their communities, which improves public safety.

Pd. pol. adv. paid for and provided in-kind by American Civil Liberties Union, Inc., c/o 4343 W. Flagler St., Suite 400, Miami, Florida 33137, and approved by Floridians for a Fair Democracy.

For questions, feel free to contact us at info@peoplepower.org.

www.peoplepower.org