



# VOTING RIGHTS FOR PERSONS WITH **CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS** (ACLU of Wisconsin, Oct. 13, 2016)

## **1. Am I allowed to vote in Wisconsin?**

In Wisconsin, you can register and vote if:

- You're a U.S. citizen;
- You'll be 18 or older on Election Day;
- You will have been a Wisconsin resident for at least 10 days on Election Day;
- A court hasn't taken away your right to vote because you are incompetent; and
- You're *not currently in jail or prison, or on probation, parole, or extended supervision, for a felony* (or for any treason or bribery conviction).

## **2. I was convicted of a misdemeanor. Can I vote?**

- If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor (except for misdemeanor treason or bribery), you do not lose your right to vote.
- This means *you can vote even if you are in jail or prison, or "on paper"* (on probation, parole or extended supervision) for a misdemeanor.

## **3. I've been charged with a felony, but I haven't been convicted yet. Can I vote?**

- If you have been charged with a felony but not yet convicted, you can vote.
- If you've been convicted of a felony but haven't been sentenced, you *cannot* vote.

## **4. I am in jail. Can I vote?**

- Maybe. If you're in jail for a misdemeanor, or if you're in jail because you're waiting for your trial but haven't been convicted yet, you can vote. (If you're in jail and you've been convicted of a felony, you cannot vote.)
- Persons who are in jail and are eligible to vote, can apply to vote absentee by mail.

## **5. I was convicted of a felony. Can I vote?**

- If you have been convicted of a felony (or any crime of treason or bribery), you can vote after you have finished your sentence and are "off paper" (off probation, parole or extended supervision).
- If you're not sure if you are "off paper," ask your parole/probation officer.

## **6. Do I have to get a pardon or permission from the government to vote, once I'm "off paper" for my felony?**

- You do NOT have to get a pardon to get your voting rights back. Your voting rights are automatically restored as soon as you complete your felony sentence and are "off paper."

## **7. Is there anything else I have to do to vote in Wisconsin?**

- You have to register to vote. Even if you were registered before you were convicted of a felony, you have to register again.
- Most voters need to get "photo ID" to vote (for more information, see "Top 10 Voter ID questions" handout).

-----

- If you have other questions or concerns about your voting rights, "Like" **Wisconsin Election Protection** on Facebook or follow **@EPWisconsin** on Twitter and post your questions or concerns there.
- If you do not have access to Facebook or Twitter, you can email questions or concerns to [vote@aclu-wi.org](mailto:vote@aclu-wi.org) and we will respond as soon as we can.
- You can also call the Wisconsin Elections Commission at 1-866-VOTE-WIS (1-866-868-3947) or check out their voter information center, <http://www.gab.wi.gov/voters>