

DO YOU KNOW A FELONY EX-OFFENDER WHO WANTS TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

South Carolina citizens who have completely served their sentences, including probation or parole, CAN register to vote.

If the ex-offender was never registered to vote in South Carolina:

When his or her full sentence, including probation/parole/restitution is completed, he or she can simply register to vote, by mail or in person.

If the ex-offender was once registered to vote in South Carolina:

When the S.C. State Elections Commission Voter Services division receives a conviction file from SC Court Administration or the U.S. District Court, the following steps are taken to place the voter in the status of "inactive due to a conviction":

- The conviction file is compared to the Statewide Voter Registration database
- Voters who match are placed into the status of inactive due to a conviction
- Counties and convicted felons are notified by letter that their status has been changed
- Voters with this status are not printed on any election lists and will not be allowed to vote until they have served their sentence including all probation time and payment of any restitution.¹

The following process should be followed for a voter who desires to be re-instated as an active voter and has served all time, including probation, for a conviction of a felony or crimes against the election laws of SC:

- The voter must request to be re-instated as an active registered voter. This request should be made to the county voter registration board.
- The county voter registration board should make the final determination of whether a voter is eligible for re-instatement.
- The county voter registration board may ask the voter for proof of time served, but this is not required by law.
- If the county voter registration board is not sure if all time has been served and the voter does not have proof requested, the county may ask the voter to complete another voter registration application attesting to the oath on the form.
- If the county voter registration board determines that the voter should be re-instated to active status, this request should be given to the State Election Commission for processing. Voters removed for reason of conviction cannot be re-instated at the county level.

Get contact information for your county election/voter registration office in the blue pages of your phone book or at <http://scvotes.org/> Visit <http://www.vote411.org/>, the League of Women Voters' "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public, with both general and state-specific information on the election process.

¹ September 23, 2004 advice from the S.C. Attorney General's office is that a person should not be registered or permitted to vote until he has completed all of his sentence by release from imprisonment, completion of probation and parole, and the full payment of restitution imposed by the sentence of the court.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
PO Box 8453, Columbia, SC, 29202, (803) 251-2726, www.lwvsc.org

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.