

VOTING

After A Felony Conviction in Iowa

Good news! Most Iowans with felony convictions can now vote after you've discharged your sentence.

What changed?



As of August 5, 2020, if you were convicted of nearly any felony in Iowa, you are now eligible to vote—as long as you have discharged your sentence, including completing probation, parole, supervised release, and any other special sentencing.

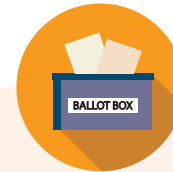
That's a new development. Until that date, Iowa took away voting eligibility from Iowans convicted of any felony, for life.* But that changed with Gov. Kim Reynolds' signing an executive order.

Who exactly can vote?



If you were convicted of a felony, you are now automatically eligible to vote in Iowa IF:

- You have discharged your sentence, meaning you're not incarcerated, not on probation, parole, supervised release, or subject to a special sentence,
- You were not convicted of a felony under Iowa Code Chapter 707. Some examples of those felonies are murder, voluntary manslaughter, felony involuntary manslaughter, and homicide, or serious injury by a vehicle.



You must also meet the other general requirements to vote in Iowa:

- U.S. citizen
- Iowa resident
- At least 18 years old on Election Day

What if my felony was under Iowa Code Chapter 707?

You can apply individually to the Governor's office to have your voting rights restored.

Do I have to pay off my fines first?

No. To vote, you do not have to pay off or be on a payment plan for fines, fees, or restitution. To be clear, your obligation to pay those hasn't gone away; it's just that those debts are no longer tied to your eligibility to vote.



How do I go about voting?

Before you actually vote, you have to be registered to vote. There are multiple ways to do that:

- In person at your county auditor's office, by filling out a voter registration form there
- Online, if you have an Iowa driver's license or non-operator ID. mymvd.iowadot.gov/voterregistration
- By mail. Get a voter registration form at <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/voteapp.pdf> or at your county auditor's office, your local library, or school. Or call your county auditor and ask them to mail one to you. Complete it and mail it to your county auditor.
- When you are at the driver's license station or at state agencies that provide public assistance (such as Medicaid, WIC, and food stamps) or services to people with disabilities. You also may be able to register at many other state and federal offices and agencies;
- You can also register on Election Day, at the polls, right before you vote.

What if my voting rights were restored previously?



If your voting rights were restored previously under another executive order or you applied for and were granted restitution of voting rights by the Iowa governor, nothing has changed. You can vote.

What if I'm in jail?

You can vote by absentee ballot.

What ID do I need to vote?

In Iowa, you have to show ID in order to vote. You can use the following:

- An Iowa Voter ID card. Any registered voter can get an Iowa Voter ID card for free from their county auditor.

Any of the following, as long as the ID contains your photo. Normally, they could not be expired, but because of COVID-19, the state is allowing their use for the November 2020 election as long as they didn't expire before 2020.

- Driver's license or non-operator ID card from Iowa or another state
- U.S. passport
- Tribal, military, or veteran's identification card

- A signed tribal ID card or other tribal enrollment document issued by a federally recognized tribe or nation
- ID card issued by an employer

If your photo ID doesn't have your current address in the precinct, you must also show one of the following documents to prove residency:

- Residential lease or property tax statement
- Utility bill or bank statement
- Paycheck or government check
- Other government document

The residency document must show your name and current address in the precinct, be dated, and show that you lived there within the last 45 days.

What if I don't have any of the above ID?

Another registered voter in your precinct may vouch for your identity and residency by signing an attestation. The signer must show an ID. You can then cast a regular ballot.

Another option is casting a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is a ballot given to a voter whose eligibility to vote is not immediately established.

Questions?

Call, visit, or email your county auditor. If you're not sure how to do that, contact the Johnson County Auditor's office at 319-356-6004 or elections@co.johnson.ia.us.

*** Before that date, people had to apply individually to the Governor's office to get your right to vote restored.**

Find out more at www.youcanvoteiowa.org.