

### Q: CAN I VOTE IN ALABAMA IF I HAVE A MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION?

**A:** Yes. No matter what kind or how many misdemeanors you were convicted of, you do not lose your right to vote. If you are incarcerated for a misdemeanor conviction, you can vote by absentee ballot. To request an absentee ballot write or visit your local Absentee Election Manager (usually the Circuit Clerk) to request an absentee ballot. Detailed information on absentee voting is available at [www.aclualabama.org/vote](http://www.aclualabama.org/vote).

### Q: CAN I VOTE IN ALABAMA IF I HAVE A STATE FELONY CONVICTION?

**A:** *It depends on the felony of which you were convicted.*

If you were convicted of one of the following state felonies, *you never lost your right to vote:*

- aiding/permitting/facilitating a prisoner to escape.
- doing business without a license
- driving under the influence
- possession of any drug or controlled substance
- simple assault and violation of liquor laws

If you were convicted of a felony other than one of those stated above, you must apply to have your voting rights restored, using one of the two methods explained in this brochure.

### Q: WHAT IF I WAS CONVICTED OF A FEDERAL FELONY?

**A:** A federal felony conviction is treated the same as an Alabama felony conviction, so the same rules apply as for a state conviction.

### Q: WHAT IF I WAS CONVICTED IN A STATE OTHER THAN ALABAMA?

**A:** An out-of-state felony conviction is treated the same as an Alabama felony conviction, so the same rules apply as for a state conviction.

### Q: HOW DO I APPLY TO GET MY RIGHT TO VOTE BACK?

**A:** There are two ways to regain your right to vote. The method you use depends on the felony conviction involved.

In the case of most felony convictions, you can apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to Register to Vote or CERV. If, however, you were convicted of one of the following felonies, you must seek a pardon: Enticing a child to enter a vehicle for immoral purposes, impeachment, incest, murder, parents/guardians permitting children to engage in obscene matter, possession with intent to distribute child pornography, production or possession of obscene matter, rape, sexual abuse, sexual torture, sodomy, soliciting a child by computer and treason.

#### 1. *Certificate of Eligibility to Register to Vote*

If your felony is not one of those requiring a pardon, you can apply for a CERV. To be eligible to apply for a CERV, you must have fully completed your sentence, including any period of probation or parole, and have paid all fines, court costs, fees and victim restitution.

To apply, submit an application to the Board of Pardons & Paroles, either by contacting the ACLU of Alabama at 866-454-VOTE (8683) for an application, or by downloading one from our website at [www.aclualabama.org/vote](http://www.aclualabama.org/vote). We recommend

sending the application to us—we will submit the form to the Board on your behalf and will track its progress. Once you have applied, the Board must grant your request, and furthermore, *must* do so *within* 50 days.

#### 2. *Pardon*

If convicted of one of the felonies specified above, you need to seek a pardon from the Board of Pardons & Paroles. To apply, contact the Board at 334-353-7318 to begin the application process on the phone or visit our website at [www.aclualabama.org/vote](http://www.aclualabama.org/vote) for the information necessary to apply by mail. *You must state on the application that you seek restoration of voting rights. If the Board grants a pardon without stating that the right to vote is restored, the pardon will not allow you to vote.* Applications are assigned to a Board officer for an investigation. They are then considered by the Board. The Board has discretion to decide whether to grant the pardon. There is no specific limit on how long this process can take.

## GENERAL VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### Q: WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

**A:** You can get a voter registration form at your local post office, DMV, public library, county court house, WIC program, probation or parole office, welfare office, community center or NAACP chapter. You can also download a form from [www.aclualabama.org/vote](http://www.aclualabama.org/vote) or you can call the Secretary of State's office at 1-800-274-8683 and request a voter registration form.

### Q: WHEN CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE?

**A:** You can register to vote at any point during the year. It takes ten days for your registration form to process, so be sure to register at least ten days in advance of any upcoming election. To vote in the 2008 Presidential election, you must register to vote by October 24, 2008.

### Q: WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE VOTER REGISTRATION FORM ASK FOR?

**A:** You must provide your name, address, date of birth and either your Alabama driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number. You will also be asked to swear that you are eligible to vote.

### Q: WHERE DO I MAIL MY COMPLETED VOTER REGISTRATION FORM?

**A:** Mail or drop off your application to the voter registrar's office in your county. A list of county registrars is available at [www.aclualabama.org/vote](http://www.aclualabama.org/vote).

### Q: WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

**A:** Vote to empower yourself, your family and your community. Vote so that the needs of your community are addressed by those in office. Vote because your voice is important and deserves to be counted.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### ACLU of Alabama

207 Montgomery St., Suite 910  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
[www.aclualabama.org](http://www.aclualabama.org)  
866-454-VOTE (8683)

### Pardon and CERV Applications

Board of Pardons & Paroles  
301 South Ripley Street  
PO Box 302405  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2405  
[www.pardons.state.al.us/](http://www.pardons.state.al.us/)  
334-353-7318 (or -7771, -8067)

### Voter Registration Forms

Secretary of State, Elections Division  
P.O. Box 5616  
Montgomery, AL 36103-5616  
[www.sos.state.al.us/election/](http://www.sos.state.al.us/election/)  
334-242-7200

### Local County Registrar

A list of county registrars is available at [www.aclualabama.org/vote](http://www.aclualabama.org/vote). You can also look under "Voter Registration" in the Blue Pages of the phone book for your local registrar.

# Voting Guidelines for People with Felony Convictions in Alabama



[www.aclualabama.org/vote](http://www.aclualabama.org/vote)

866-454-VOTE (8683)



[www.aclualabama.org/vote](http://www.aclualabama.org/vote)

866-454-VOTE (8683)

