

## **2016 Caucus Resolution Restoring the Right to Vote**

Whereas, approximately 57,000 Minnesotans are denied the right to vote under Minnesota law due to a past felony<sup>1</sup> conviction and about 47,000 of those individuals are living in the community;

Whereas, since 1974, the percentage of voting age Minnesotans disenfranchised as a result of a criminal conviction has increased over 400%;

Whereas, as a result of disproportionate conviction rates, disenfranchisement overwhelmingly affects communities of color – African-Americans make up roughly five percent of the Minnesota population and represent over a quarter of the total number of those disenfranchised and American Indians, less than two percent of the population, account for more than six percent of those individuals who are disenfranchised;

Whereas, involvement in civic life logically results in stronger ties to the community, and research has shown that persons with past criminal convictions are less likely to be arrested again in states that restore voting rights after release from incarceration;

Whereas, a policy that permits all individuals who have served their time in jail or prison to vote reduces confusion among voters and election officials about who can vote, thereby easing election administration and reducing government costs; and

Whereas, thirteen states already disenfranchise only those persons who are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction, not those on probation or parole.

Therefore, be it resolved that the \_\_\_\_\_ Party supports restoring voting rights to Minnesotans convicted of a felony when they are on probation or parole.

---

<sup>1</sup> A felony is any crime with a sentence of greater than 1 year.

Restore the Vote Minnesota is a coalition of groups who believe that restoring the right to vote for those living in the community will make the law more clear and equitable, save government resources, and encourage positive participation. We advocate changes to the law that would allow people who have served their time and are living in their community to vote.

Association of Minnesota Counties	MN	League of Women Voters Minnesota
Conflict Resolution Center of Minnesota	Catholic Charities of St. Paul and	Liberty Minnesota
Legal Rights Center	Minneapolis	Minneapolis branch of the NAACP
Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense	EMERGE Community Development	Minneapolis Urban League
Lawyers	Goodwill/Easter Seals MN	Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Community Corrections	L.I.F.E. In Recovery	Minnesota Association of Professional
Association	Loaves and Fishes Community of Duluth	Employees (MAPE)
Minnesota Corrections Association	Mad Dads Minneapolis	Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota County Attorneys Association	MN Adult and Teen Challenge	Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
State Public Defender	MN Community Action Partnership	Minnesota Council on Foundations
CHUM Duluth	Minnesota Recovery Connection	Minnesota Innocence Project
ISALAH	The Neighborhood Hub	MN Neighborhoods Organizing for Change
Jewish Community Action	Northside Achievement Zone	(NOC)
Jewish Community Relations Council of	Open Access Connections	MN Second Chance Coalition
Minnesota and the Dakotas	SOAR Career Solutions	Minnesotans Standing Together to End
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition	St. Stephen's Human Services	Poverty (MNSTEP)
MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on	Summit OIC	MPIRG
Affordable Housing)	Twin Cities Rise!	NAACP St. Paul Branch
Minnesota Catholic Conference	Advocates for Human Rights	People for the American Way
Minnesota Council of Churches	African American Leadership Forum	Prison Policy Initiative
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social	ACLU of Minnesota	R3 Collaborative
Justice Alliance	Asian American Organizing Project	Republican Liberty Caucus Minnesota
Muslim American Society of Minnesota	Blue Republican Minnesota	Richfield Human Rights Commission
Transform Minnesota	Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota	SEIU Local 26
Westminster Presbyterian Church Social	Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota	SEIU Minnesota
Justice Ministry Team	Common Cause MN	TakeAction Minnesota
A Place at the Table	Council on Crime and Justice	Ten25Fifty
African Immigrant Services	Growth & Justice	Voices for Racial Justice
American Indian OIC	Integrated Community Solutions, Inc.	World Without Genocide
Amicus Services of Volunteers of America	Land Stewardship Project	

For more information, to get updates on voting restoration work, or to have your organization added to this list, contact Mark Haase, 612-819-0738, or [contact@restorethevotemn.org](mailto:contact@restorethevotemn.org)