

2019 Caucus Resolution

Restoring the Right to Vote

Whereas, approximately 53,000 Minnesotans are denied the right to vote under Minnesota law due to a past felony conviction and are living in the community;

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

Whereas, as a result of disproportionate conviction rates, disenfranchisement overwhelmingly affects communities of color; and African-Americans make up roughly 6 percent of the Minnesota population and represent nearly a quarter of the total number of those disenfranchised; and American Indians make up 1 percent of the population and account for nearly 6 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, 13 other states only disenfranchise 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.



RESTORE THE VOTE COALITION

Public Safety/Legal/Government

Association of Minnesota Counties
City of Saint Paul
Conflict Resolution Center of Minnesota
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage
Domestic Abuse Project
Legal Rights Center
Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense
Lawyers
Minnesota Community Corrections Association
Minnesota Corrections Association
Minnesota County Attorneys Association
State Public Defender

Faith-based Organizations

CHUM Duluth
CTAC Social Justice Ministry
ISALAH
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Community Relations Council of MN & the Dakotas
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing
Minnesota Catholic Conference
Minnesota Council of Churches
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance
Muslim American Society of Minnesota
National Coalition of Jewish Women Minnesota
Next Step Services
Shir Tikvah Congregation
Transform MN | The Evangelical Network
Westminster Presbyterian Social Justice Ministry Team

Direct Service Organizations

A Place at the Table
African Immigrant Services
American Indian OIC
Amicus Services of Volunteers of America MN
Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
EMERGE Community Development
Goodwill/Easter Seals MN
L.I.F.E. In Recovery
Loaves and Fishes Community of Duluth
Mad Dads Minneapolis
MN Adult and Teen Challenge
MN Community Action Partnership
Minnesota Recovery Connection
The Neighborhood Hub
Northside Achievement Zone

Open Access Connections
SOAR Career Solutions
St. Stephen's Human Services
Summit OIC
Tubman
Twin Cities Rise!
Volunteers of America – MN and WI
Ujamaa Place

Civic Engagement and Advocacy Organizations

ACLU of Minnesota
Advocates for Human Rights
African American Leadership Forum
AFSCME (Council 5)
Asian American Organizing Project
Black Civic Network
Black Votes Matter
Blue Republican Minnesota
CAPI USA
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
Citizens for Election Integrity
Common Cause Minnesota
Growth & Justice
Innocence Project of Minnesota
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc.
Land Stewardship Project
League of Women Voters Minnesota
Liberty Minnesota
Minneapolis Urban League
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Council on Foundations
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
MN Second Chance Coalition
Minnesotans Standing Together to End Poverty
MPIRG
NAACP Minneapolis
NAACP St. Paul
People for the American Way
Prison Policy Initiative
R3 Collaborative
Republican Liberty Caucus Minnesota
Richfield Human Rights Commission
SEIU Local 26
SEIU Minnesota
TakeAction Minnesota
Ten25Fifty
Voices for Racial Justice
Women's March Minnesota
World Without Genocide

For more information on Restore the Vote or to have your organization added to this list, contact Anika Bowie, 651-373-8161, contact@restorethevotemn.com.