



TAKE BACK YOUR MY VOTE!

Messages around Re-Enfranchisement of People with Felony Convictions in Virginia

- The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. Election Day is the one time we are all equal: Black, Hispanic or white, rich or poor, young or old, we all have an equal voice in the voting booth.
- Virginia permanently takes away from citizens of this fundamental right upon being convicted of a felony offense. Over 450,000 Virginians who have paid their debts to society will be unable to participate in this critical presidential election.
- Only Governor McDonnell has the power to restore voting rights and he has promised to review all applications within 60 days of receipt. People with felony convictions must start the restoration process immediately if they are to have any chance of casting a vote in this presidential election.
- One in five African Americans in Virginia is disenfranchised due to past felony conviction.
- Even if the governor approved one application every hour of every day, it would still take him 51 years to get through them all.
- Voting is our most sacred and fundamental right. Virginia must change this law and implement automatic restoration of civil rights for those who have paid their debt to society.

Compelling stories:

- Rev. Mercedes Harris got hooked on drugs while coping with the death of his brother and was in and out of prison for over a decade. But he has cleaned up his act. He has joined the ministry, become a substance abuse counselor and a community advocate, and he is in college working toward a degree in Psychology. He wants his rights restored so he can run for office one day and help people in his local community.
- Tony Suggs was on his way to becoming a champion boxer before being convicted of a felony for drug possession. Since leaving prison, he has become active in his church and is a well-respected member of his community. He had his rights restored in 2006 and has voted in every election since, large and small.

For more information and one-on-one assistance:

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1-855-LET-VOTE