Thirty-five felons working with OAR (Offender Aid and Restoration) of Fairfax filled out a Questionnaire for us. The questions, answers and the comments they made are listed below.

Questions:

1. Did anyone or any organization give you support when you left jail or completed probation?
   - yes: 7
   - no: 23
   - no answer: 5

2. Does the state government give you any support?
   - yes: 4
   - no: 30
   - no answer: 1

3. Have you tried to get your civil rights restored? Do you know how to?
   - yes: 3
   - no: 31
   - no answer: 1

4. Has anyone encouraged or discouraged you from applying for civil rights restitution?
   - yes: 4
   - no: 30
   - no answer: 1

5. Is getting your civil rights restored important to you?
   - yes: 18
   - no: 6
   - no answer: 11

6. Please say why. See responses below

7. Have you or anyone you know had their civil rights restored?
   - yes: 1
   - no: 20
   - no answer: 14

8. Can you share your story? None did.

9. Do you think civil rights should be automatically restored?
   - yes: 32
   - no: 1
   - no answer: 2

10. Do you know of groups or individuals who help people with the restoration of their civil rights?
    - yes: 4
    - no: 30
    - no answer: 1

11. Do you know of persons who have had their civil rights restored who might be willing to talk to us?
    - yes: 2
    - no: 21
    - no answer: 12

12. What comments do you have about the present system and how could the present system be improved?
    - comments not tabulated
    - see responses below

Comments from questions 5 & 6:
- “I would like to feel like this is not being held against me for the rest of my life.”
- “Knowing have the right to vote is important because it helps having a chance in the community.”
- “I want to vote.” “Yes, I have kids to take care of.” “I would like to be able to vote to voice my opinion.” I would like my vote to count.” “I would love to vote.” “Yes, my say has value.”
- “I feel people have an automatic prejudice against felons, when in fact plenty of people commit felonies everyday and might not even know it.” I don’t know what it means to have our civil rights restored.”
- “No, I have many more important issues.”

Comments from question 12:
- “The present system is strict and has no help for the mistake made once in a lifetime.”
- “I feel once a person finishes their sentence their civil rights should be restored or at least considered because that person would have paid their debt to society.”