Formerly Incarcerated Voters

**How a Formerly Incarcerated Person in Texas Can Restore Their Voting Rights?**

In Texas, eligibility to vote is granted to Texans who are US citizens, residents of the county where registration is made, and at least 18 years old on the scheduled election date. Residents who have been convicted of a felony must have been –

- Fully discharged from their sentence, including any term of confinement, supervision, or parole, or completed probation; or
- Fully pardoned or released from the disability to vote.

The right to vote is restored automatically upon becoming “fully discharged” or “off papers” from their sentence. Also, in order to be eligible to vote, a prospective voter must be considered mentally competent. If a person is considered an eligible voter, that person has the ability to register to vote through the same means as all other eligible voters in the state of Texas.

**Felon Voting Law in Texas**

A person who is convicted of a felony cannot register to vote until (s)he has been pardoned, or (s)he has successfully completed his or her sentence, including any period of:

- Confinement
- Parole
- Term of Probation, or
- Supervision.

Individuals can still vote if a conviction on appeal is in process because it is not considered a conviction. Individuals on deferred adjudication may also vote as “Deferred adjudication” is not a final felony conviction, per Article 42.12, Section 5 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

Finally, prosecution, indictment, and similar procedures which lead up to, but have not yet resulted in a felony conviction, are not considered finalized and therefore the individual can still vote. If that is the case, you have the ability to register to vote through the same means as all other eligible voters in the state of Texas.