

FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT IN MINNESOTA

Over 51,000 Minnesotans living in our communities are prohibited from voting.

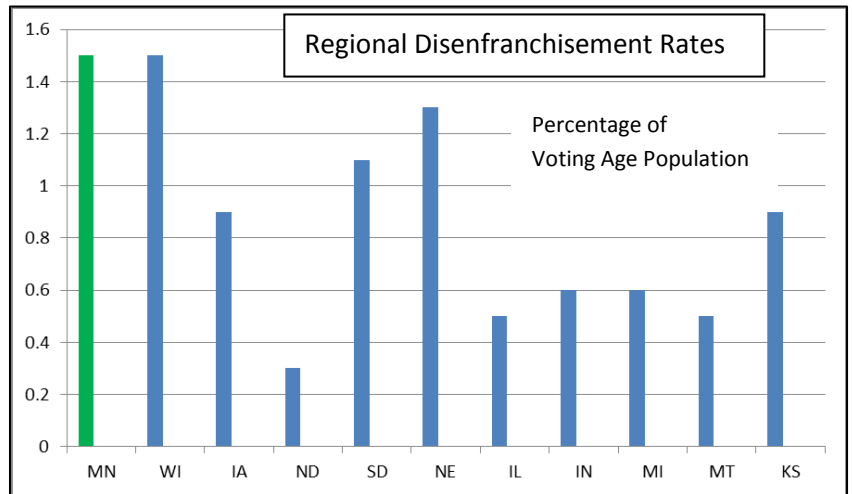
Minnesotans convicted of any felony offense¹ are not allowed to vote while they are incarcerated or in the community under correctional supervision.²

About 63,000 Minnesotans are unable to vote due to a felony conviction, 1.5% of the voting age population. About 51,000 (81%) live in the community on probation or supervised release. An estimated 64% live outside of Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. About 70% of those disenfranchised are White, 24% African American, and 6% Hispanic and Native American.

COMPARISON TO OTHER STATES

20 States have less restrictive policies, either never disenfranchising (Maine or Vermont), or allowing those on probation and/or parole to vote. Minnesota's policy is shared by a total of 18 states. 12 States have more restrictive policies in that they somehow limit voting even after community supervision is completed.

Minnesota has one of the two highest rates of disenfranchisement in the region and the 22nd highest rate in the U.S. We have the 15th highest rate of correctional control in the U.S.



RACIAL DISPARITIES

7.3% of African-American and 5.9% of Native Americans Minnesotans of voting age are disenfranchised (compared to 1.1% of White Minnesotans). **Minnesota has the 15th highest rate of African American disenfranchisement in the U.S.**

HISTORY

In the 1860's: There were less than 75 felony crimes in statute. There was no probation, so all felony convictions resulted in prison. Just over 30 people were in prison, about .02 percent of the voting age population then. Today: There are 368 felony crimes. About 75 percent of felony convictions result in probation. About 1.5% percent of our voting age population is disenfranchised. **Minnesota's disenfranchisement rate is over four times what it was just 40 years ago.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.restorethevotemn.org

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¹ A felony is any crime that carries a sentence of one year or greater.

² Minnesota's constitution bars from voting those "convicted of treason or felony until restored to civil rights." Minnesota Statute 609.165 restores the "full right to vote and hold office" upon discharge from sentence.



Restore the Vote is a diverse coalition working to change Minnesota policy so that people can vote as soon as they are released from incarceration.

Public Safety/Legal/Government

Association of Minnesota Counties
Conflict Resolution Center of Minnesota
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
ISALAH
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing)
Minnesota Catholic Conference
Minnesota Council of Churches
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance
Muslim American Society of Minnesota
Transform Minnesota
Westminster Presbyterian Church Social Justice Team

Direct Service Organizations

A Place at the Table
African Immigrant Services
American Indian OIC
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
Twin Cities Rise!
Volunteers of America – MN and WI

Civic Engagement and Advocacy Organizations

Advocates for Human Rights
AFSCME (Council 5)
African American Leadership Forum
ACLU of Minnesota
Asian American Organizing Project
Blue Republican Minnesota
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota
Common Cause MN
Growth & Justice
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc.
Land Stewardship Project
League of Women Voters Minnesota
Liberty Minnesota
Minneapolis branch of the NAACP
Minneapolis Urban League
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE)
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnesota Council on Foundations
Minnesota Innocence Project
MN Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC)
MN Second Chance Coalition
Minnesotans Standing Together to End Poverty (MNSTEP)
MPIRG
Minnesota Voice
NAACP St. Paul Branch
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
World Without Genocide