

Hosted by:



# VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION CLINIC

SATURDAY APRIL 28, 2018

9AM-12PM

1937 W. ADAMS STREET

PHOENIX, AZ

85009

Know someone who lost their voting rights?

Receive free help in completing your voting rights restoration paperwork!

## WHAT TO BRING

- Case number
- Date of conviction
- Date you completed probation or date of absolute discharge from prison\*

\*in order to apply, absolute discharge date must be at least two years ago

To RSVP or for more information email [RSVP@ACLUAZ.ORG](mailto:RSVP@ACLUAZ.ORG)





## **Felony Disenfranchisement in Arizona**

In Arizona, over 221,000 individuals on probation, in prison or on parole cannot vote. A first-time offender has their right to vote restored automatically upon completion of sentence, as long as there are no outstanding financial obligations to the state. Individuals with multiple felony convictions are barred from voting, unless they seek to have their rights restored through a court process or a pardon. Arizona has more restrictive felony disenfranchisement laws than 40 other states, including New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Texas and California. Arizona's voter restoration process is complex and challenging for individuals seeking to reinstate their voting rights.

### **Why Voting is Important**

Voting demonstrates an individual's commitment to the institutions of American democracy. The irony of felony disenfranchisement is that the very behavior that society strives to encourage – the commitment to the larger social and political collective – is undermined by a policy that requires people who desire to engage in that behavior to relinquish the right to vote.

### **Racial Impact**

A vast majority of Arizona's disenfranchised population are not in prison or jail, but live in Arizona's communities. One out of 9 voting age African-Americans is disenfranchised in Arizona, compared to 1 out of 23 voting age Arizonans. As a result, Arizona has the ninth highest rate of African-American disenfranchisement in the United States. African Americans comprise 11.2% of the disenfranchised population, even though they comprise only 3% of the state's voting age population.

### **Why Support Restoration of Voting Rights for Individuals with a Felony?**

- Individuals who vote make a community more vibrant
- Disenfranchisement makes the individual's return to the community more challenging
- Surveys show that the public supports voting rights restoration

### **How can I get involved?**

- Stay informed and educate others about restoring voting rights
- Contact your elected officials and urge them to reform the process in Arizona
- Assist people with felony convictions in the application process
- Get involved with an advocacy group for voter restoration rights such as ACLU People Power

### **About the Let People Vote Campaign**

Arizona's Let People Vote campaign is focused on increasing voter restoration numbers across the state, raising awareness of voter disenfranchisement policies in the state, and organizing around restoration to eventually allow for a legislative automatic voter restoration push in 2019.

*For More Information Contact: [peoplepower@acluaz.org](mailto:peoplepower@acluaz.org)*



## RESOURCE LIST

### BOOKS

Sunbelt Justice by Mona Lynch about Arizona's system of punishment and perspectives on crime and law, 2009

Dog Whistle Politics—How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism & Wrecked the Middle Class by Ian Haney Lopez, 2014

Hard Bargains: The Coercive Power of Drug Laws in Federal Court by Mona Lynch, 2016

### DOCUMENTARIES

13th by Ava DuVernay, available on Netflix, 2016

Oprah Interview of Ava DuVernay, available on Netflix

### WEB ARTICLES

Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in the U.S.:

<http://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/felony-disenfranchisement-laws-in-the-united-states/>

How Criminal Record Keeps You Unemployed for Life: <https://www.thenation.com/article/boxed-how-criminal-record-keeps-you-unemployed-life/>

Too Poor to Vote: How Alabama's 'new poll tax' Bars Thousands of People from Voting: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/oct/04/alabama-voting-poll-tax>

### YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Felon Voting Laws by State: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPZBJ4cF\\_kU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPZBJ4cF_kU)

Mass Incarceration, Visualized: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u51\\_pzax4M0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u51_pzax4M0)

Mass Incarceration: Why Does The U.S. Jail So Many People?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzxTaRkY6z4>

Shocking Facts About The US Prison System - Animated Infographic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-VArD0iu8k>

Why Virginia's Restoration of Voting Rights Matters:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDnKDjiP0\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDnKDjiP0_M)