

# NC VOTING RIGHTS GUIDE:

## People in the Criminal Justice System

### I am currently serving a felony sentence

When you are convicted of a felony in North Carolina you **cannot vote or register to vote** until you have completed **all the terms** of your felony sentence, including any probation or parole.

**Attempting to register to vote or voting while you are serving a felony sentence is a felony.**

### I have completed my felony sentence

Once you have completed your felony sentence or have been pardoned, you are eligible to vote and may register. You can ask your releasing officer for your *Certificate of Restoration of Forfeited Rights of Citizenship*. It is not required to register to vote, but will prove your eligibility to vote if you are challenged.

### I am currently incarcerated

You may still vote when you are incarcerated, as long as you are not serving a felony sentence. When you fill out the voter registration form, your *residential address* is the address of the place where you live when not incarcerated and where you intend to return when you are released. If you do not have a residence to return to, use the address of the place where you are incarcerated. Absentee by-mail voting is available before all elections in even-numbered years and most municipal elections in odd-numbered years.

### Am I eligible to vote?

- You must be 18 years old or older by the general election, or you are at least 16 years old and understand you must be 18 years old by the general election.
- You must be a U.S. citizen.
- You must not be serving an active felony sentence, including any probation or parole. No special document is required.
  - NOTE: When you are **convicted of a misdemeanor** in North Carolina, you **DO NOT** lose your right to vote, even if you are incarcerated.
- You must have lived in the precinct for at least 30 days before the election.

### How do I register to vote?

1. Fill out a voter registration form at your county board of elections, public library or [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov).
  2. Sign and mail your form to the county board of elections in the county where you reside. Find county board information at [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov).
  3. Voter registration forms must be received at least 25 days before the election to vote in that election.
  4. You will receive a voter card in the mail with your precinct and polling place.
- You may also register to vote and vote on the same day at any One-Stop early voting site in your county. One-Stop information can be found before an election at [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov).