

SUPPORT VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION FOR PEOPLE WITH FELONIES IN THEIR PAST

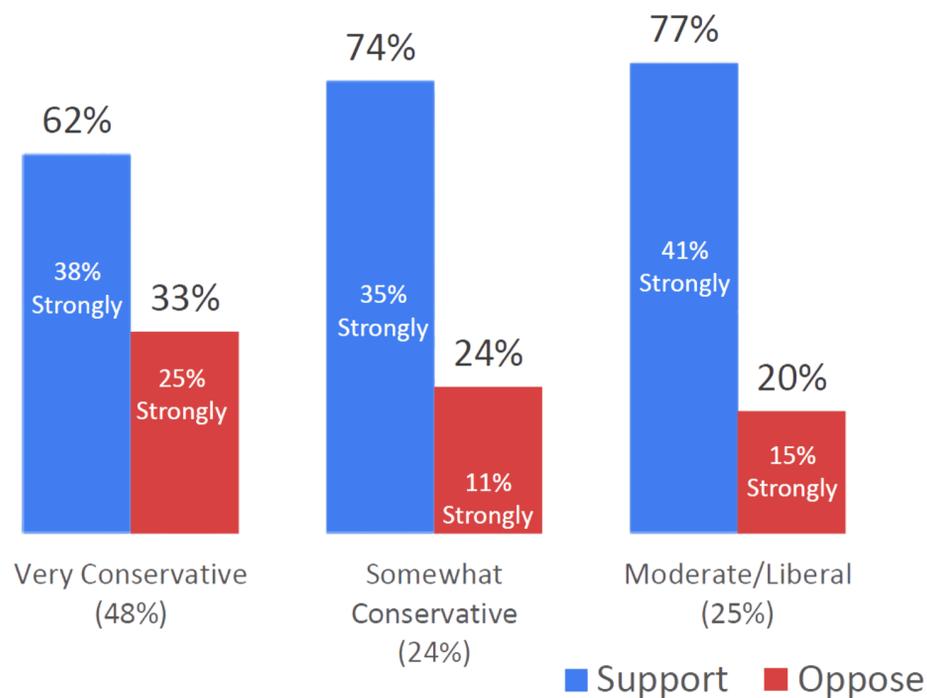
153,618 Kentuckians cannot vote.

In most states, when people serve their time, they get their voting rights back automatically. With voting rights on the ballot in Virginia this November, **Kentucky will soon be one of only two states to permanently deny the right to vote to everyone with a felony in their past.**

Even a Class D felony is enough to lose voting rights forever unless they can get a pardon from the Governor. Kentuckians need a Constitutional Amendment to make access to voting deeper and clearer than Governor Andy Beshear's 2019 Executive Order made possible. And, really, it shouldn't be up to the Governor.

This is a racial justice issue. Racism in our criminal legal system means Black Kentuckians are harmed most. Felony disenfranchisement started in the South to take voting rights away from Black people.

Voting rights restoration has been shown to reduce recidivism and encourage community reintegration, which keeps communities safer and families together.

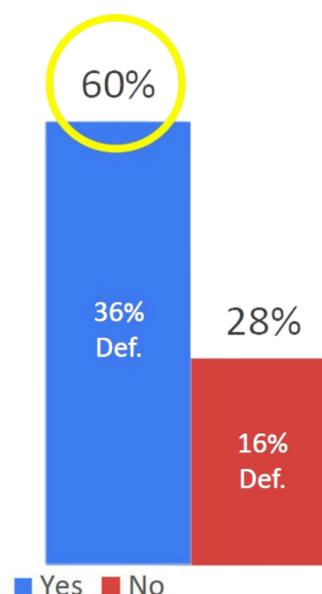


Primary voters across political ideology overwhelmingly support voting rights restoration for people with felonies in their past.

Source: <https://www.securedemocracyusa.org/poll-shows-kentucky-voters-support-restoration-of-voting-eligibility-to-those-with-past-convictions>

70%

of GOP primary voters want the legislature to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot to find a permanent solution for voting rights restoration.



60% of GOP primary voters report they will vote **YES** on a Constitutional Amendment restoring the right to vote for people with felonies in their past.

Source: <https://www.securedemocracyusa.org/nov-2022-ky-hearing-and-poll-rights-restoration-release>



The Kentucky Voting Rights Coalition believes voting is a right that should never be denied.



"I know what it feels like to have my voice taken away. And I know the power, dignity, and hope that comes rushing back the moment you get it restored."

**Angelique Victor
Hopkinsville**

"I care because no one should be silenced – every person deserves the power to shape their community"

**Erica Davenport
Georgetown**



There are 2 bills filed in this year's General Assembly:

- HB 420 (Brown) would restore voting rights to all but a handful of people immediately after completion of any sentence. Other civil rights would be restored after 5 years.**
- SB 80 (Higdon) would restore voting rights to many upon completion of sentence – exclusive of restitution and fines – but leave out large categories of people.**

The Voting Rights Coalition is endorsing neither bill, but instead is pushing for the strongest possible bill to restore voting rights to as many people as possible.

