

# SUPPORT VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION FOR PEOPLE WITH FELONIES IN THEIR PAST

**161,696 Kentuckians cannot vote.**

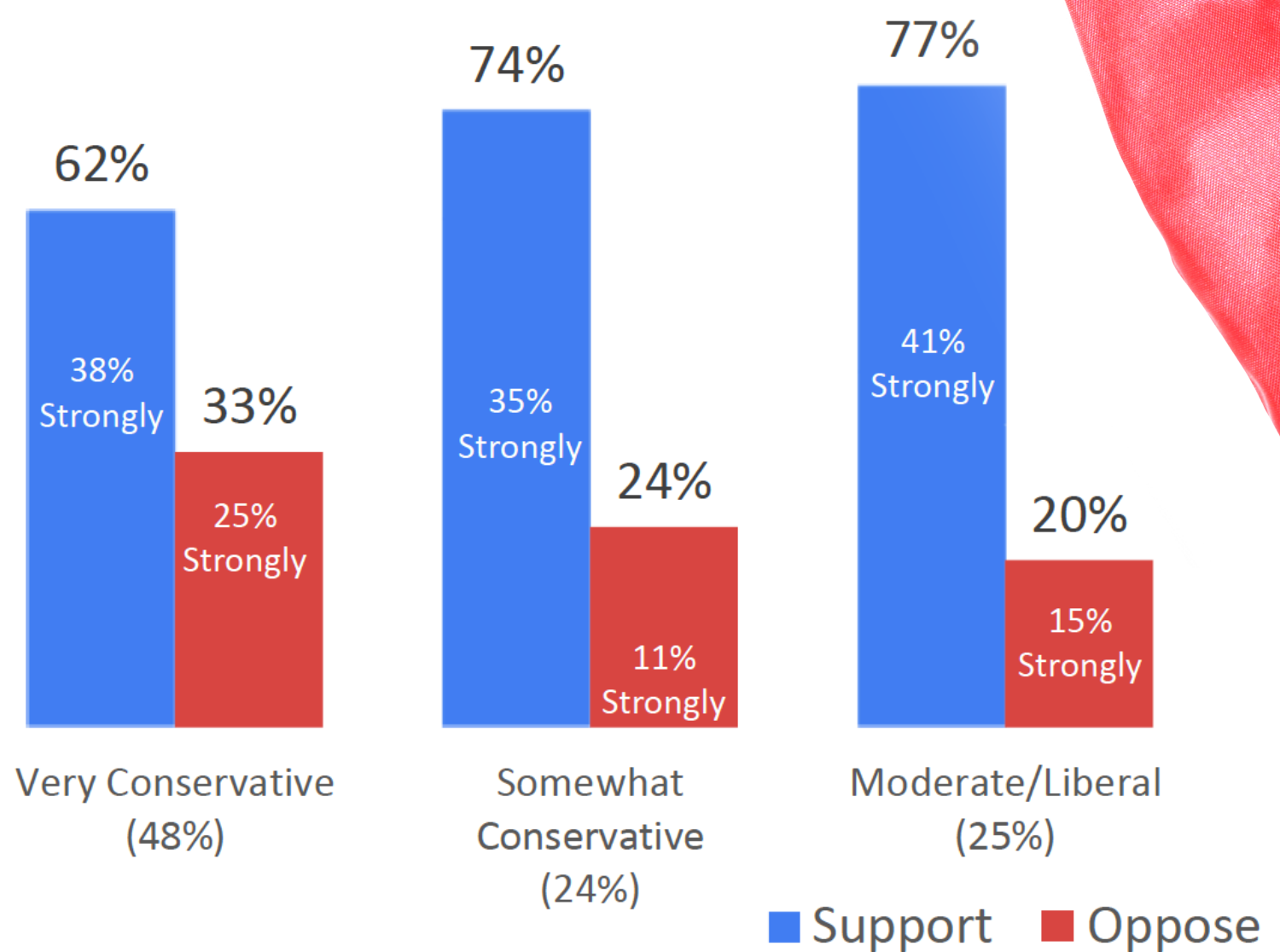
In most states, when people serve their time, they get their voting rights back automatically. **Kentucky is one of the two most difficult states** for people with felonies in their past to get their voting rights back. Even a Class D felony is enough to lose voting rights forever unless they can get 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.

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

**"We pay taxes. It makes all the sense in the world that we should be able to vote, too."**

**- Kenny Jenkins, Lexington**

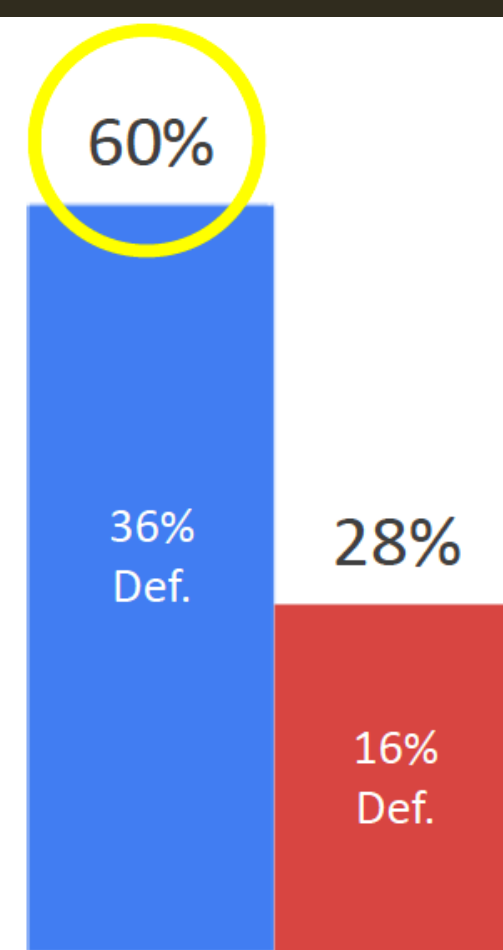


Primary voters across political ideology overwhelmingly support voting rights restoration for people with felonies in their past.

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.**

**HB 97**, sponsored by Representative Keturah Herron, is a proposed Constitutional Amendment to restore voting rights to nearly all Kentuckians upon completion of prison time, probation, and parole, with exceptions for treason, bribery in an election, and felony election fraud. The right to run for office and serve on a jury would be restored a few years later.

**Senator Brandon Storm plans to file similar legislation in the coming days.**

**Representative Brown George Brown plans to file an even stronger version of the bill to that would uphold the right to voting right of all Kentuckians. Under this bill, a felony conviction would never lead to the loss of voting rights. This language will replace HB 250, already filed.**

**We encourage legislators to support and cosponsor both bills.**

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**Sponsored by the Kentucky Voting Rights Coalition, including:**

**ABLE (Advocacy Based on Lived Experience), ACLU of Kentucky, All of Us or None of Us Kentucky, Black Lives Matter Louisville, Dream.org, Fairness Campaign, Free Nyame, The Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass, IUE-CWA, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, Kentucky Black Caucus/Local Elected Officials (KBC/LEO), Kentucky Council of Churches, Kentucky Mental Health Coalition, Kentucky Poor People's Campaign, Kentucky Unitarian Universalist Justice Action Network (KUJAN), Kentucky Women's Network, League of Women Voters of Kentucky, Lexington-Fayette NAACP, Life Coach Each One Teach One Reentry Fellowship, People Advocating Recovery, Shepherd's House, United We Stand, VOCAL-Kentucky**

