

Explaining voter rights

Writing information to explain rights to voters with a felony conviction or other interaction with the criminal justice system

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Overview

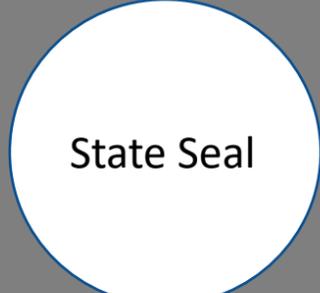
This presentation shows ways to improve the content of your website for voters in the criminal justice system on three pages of your website:

- voter eligibility
- restoration of rights
- frequently asked questions

These recommendations are based on a review of existing state elections websites. The layout and content can be adapted to your website design. They do not depend on specific laws or eligibility rules

1: Voter Eligibility Information

Integrating restoration of rights information into the page or section with general information about voter eligibility.



State Seal

Voter Information

Election Information and
Statistics

Candidate Information

Election Resources

Party and Committee
Information

College Students

Frequently Asked Questions

Registering to vote

To be eligible to vote you must:

- Be a Citizen of the United States
- Be a legal resident of the state of Hamilton
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Not be a person serving a term of confinement in any state or federal correctional institution.
- Not be adjudicated incapacitated by a court of law.



Voter information

Registering to Vote

Voting at a Polling Place

Absentee Voting

Accessible Voting

College Students

Language Support

Overseas Voters

Justice-involved Voters

Frequently Asked Questions

Registering to Vote

Am I eligible to vote?

- Are you a United States citizen
- Do you live in the State of Hamilton?
- Are you at least 18 years old?
- If you have been convicted of a felony, are your voting rights restored?

To learn about voting after being convicted of a crime, please visit the [Information guide for voters with felony convictions.](#)

If you have answered yes to all these questions, you can vote! Follow the steps to register below.

Recommendations for presenting eligibility

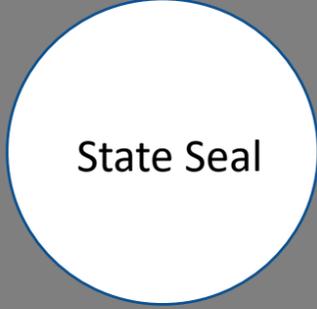
The screenshot shows the 'State of Hamilton Elections and Voting' website. The header includes the State Seal and the text 'State of Hamilton Elections and Voting' and 'Recommended'. A left sidebar contains a navigation menu with items: 'Voter information', 'Registering to Vote', 'Voting at a Polling Place', 'Absentee Voting', 'Accessible Voting', 'College Students', 'Language Support', 'Overseas Voters', 'Voters with Criminal History', and 'Frequently Asked Questions'. The main content area is titled 'Registering to Vote' and features a question 'Am I eligible to vote?' with a circled '1' next to it. Below this are four bullet points: 'Are you a United States citizen?', 'Do you live in the State of Hamilton?', 'Are you at least 18 years old?', and 'If you have been convicted of a felony, are your voting rights restored?'. A link is provided: 'To learn about voting after being convicted of a crime, please visit the [Information guide for voters with felony convictions.](#)' with a circled '2' next to it. At the bottom, it says 'If you have answered yes to all these questions, you can vote! Follow the steps to register below.' A circled '3' is placed to the left of the 'Overseas Voters' menu item.

1. Make the information clearer by listing the voter qualifications in a question format. This also eliminates the need to have negative requirements
2. Include a clear, descriptive link to a page for voters with a criminal history.
3. Include a link for restoration of rights information. Putting this in the navigation menu with other special audiences will ensure that it is easy to find.

The text for the link to the page for rights information is adapted from Pennsylvania and North Carolina's sites.

2: Justice-involved voters page

Create a separate page where you have room to provide complete explanations and links as needed.



State Seal

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Voters with Criminal History

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Restoration of Voting Rights

In General

Under [Assembly Bill 1234](#) any Hamilton resident who is convicted of a felony is immediately restored the right to vote upon the individual’s release from prison. There is no waiting period or action required by the individual. The restoration of voting rights is automatic and immediate upon the individual’s release from prison, regardless of the category of felony committed.

Individuals who have had their voting rights restored must meet all the other eligibility requirements in order to register to vote. In order to be eligible to register to vote in Hamilton, an individual must:

- Be a U.S. citizen;
- Be at least 18 years old by the date of the next election (or at least 17 years old if preregistering to vote);
- Have continuously resided in Hamilton and the county for at least 30 days before the next election; and
- Any individual who has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a term of imprisonment cannot register to vote or otherwise participate in the voting process while the individual is in prison.



- Voter information
- Registering to Vote
- Voting at a Polling Place
- Absentee Voting
- Accessible Voting
- College Students
- Language Support
- Overseas Voters

Can I register to vote?

You can register to vote if you have been convicted of a felony and completed your sentence. This includes completing probation and parole.

You have not lost your rights and can vote if you are

- in jail and awaiting trial
- in jail for a misdemeanor.

How do I register to vote?

If you were registered to vote before your conviction, your registration was canceled at the time of your conviction. You will need to reregister in order to vote. If you are eligible, you can [register online](#).

What address should I use when registering to vote?

If you have completed your sentence: use the address that you are currently living.

If you are in jail or registering from prison: use your most recent address from before your confinement.

How will I vote?

If you are currently in jail you will vote by absentee ballot.

If you are not in jail or prison, you will vote at your polling place.

- [Find your polling place](#)
- [Learn about absentee voting](#)
- [Contact your county election office](#)

Recommendations for presenting details

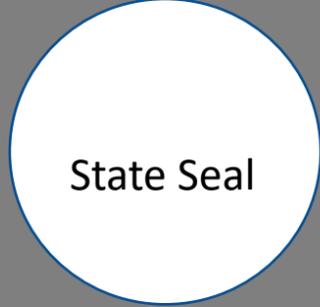
Hamilton Voter Information Guide: Voters in the Criminal Justice System Recommended	
Voter information	Can I register to vote? 1 You can register to vote if you have been convicted of a felony and completed your sentence. This includes completing probation and parole. You have not lost your rights and can vote if you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In jail and awaiting trial• In jail for a misdemeanor.
Registering to Vote	
Voting at a Polling Place 2	
Absentee Voting	
Accessible Voting	
College Students	
Language Support	
Overseas Voters	
Justice-involved Voters	
Frequently Asked Questions	
	How do I register to vote? 3 If you were registered to vote before your conviction, your registration was canceled at the time of your conviction. You will need to re-register in order to vote. If you are eligible, you can register online .
	What address should I use when registering to vote? 4 If you have completed your sentence: use the address that you are currently living. If you are in jail or registering from prison: use your current address from before your confinement.
	How will I vote? 5 If you are currently in jail you will vote by absentee ballot. If you are not in jail or prison, you will vote at your polling place. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find your polling place• Learn about absentee voting• Contact your county election office

The text for the link to the page for rights information is adapted from Pennsylvania and North Carolina's sites.

1. Use a page title that the audience can identify with
2. Break up the text with questions on the left and answers on the right to make the page easier to scan.
3. Include links to other relevant pages.
4. Many voters may be currently serving in jails and still be eligible to vote. Including information about addresses prevents confusion and ensures that eligible voters can register accurately.
5. Include information about absentee voting for people registering and voting from jail.

3: Questions and Answers

Including information for voters involved with the justice system in any general Q&A page provides another entry point to detailed information.



- Voter Information
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- Candidate Information
- Election Resources
- Party and Committee Information
- College Students
- Voters with Criminal History
- Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions: Voter Registration

- [What Do I need to know?](#)
- [What are the Qualifications?](#)
- [Can a Person Convicted of a Felon Register to vote?](#)
- [Can I Register If I don't have a fixed Address](#)
- [When Can I register to vote?](#)
- [When can I change my political party?](#)
- [What are the deadlines?](#)
- [What are my responsibilities?](#)
- [Ho can I cancel my voter Registration?](#)

Can A Person Convicted of a Felon Register to Vote?

- If convicted of a felony offense in Hamilton or any other state, your voting rights are restored upon completion of all terms of a sentence including parole or probation pursuant to section 4., Art. VI of the Hamilton Constitution.
- To determine if you have completed all the terms of your sentence including parole or probation as to one or more felony conviction(s), contact one or more of the following offices as may be applicable: [Hamilton Department of Corrections](#), and /or the clerk of the court in the jurisdiction(s) in which you were convicted whether that be a [circuit court in Hamilton](#), a court in another state, or a federal court.

Can I Register If I don't have a fixed Address?

- Yes. If you don't have a fixed residence or are homeless and otherwise qualified to vote in Delaware, you may register by completing the proper registration form. If registering in-person you must provide two pieces of identification containing your name.



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Frequently Asked Questions: Voter Registration

- ▶ What Do I need to know?
- ▶ What are the Qualifications?
- ▼ Can I Register to Vote if I Have Been Convicted of a Felony?
 - If you have been convicted of a felony in Hamilton or any other state, you can register to vote once you have completed all terms of your sentence including probation and parole. To learn more about your voting rights, please visit the [Information guide for voters with felony convictions](#).
 - If you are unsure weather, you have completed all terms of your sentence please contact your probation officer or [Hamilton Department of Corrections](#).
- ▶ Can I Register If I don't have a fixed Address?
- ▶ When Can I register to vote?
- ▶ When can I change my political party?

Recommendations for FAQs

State of Hamilton
Elections and Voting

Recommended

Frequently Asked Questions: Voter Registration 1

Voter Information ▶ What Do I need to know?

Election Information and Statistics ▶ What are the Qualifications?

Candidate Information ▼ Can I Register to Vote if I Have Been Convicted of a Felony? 2

- If you have been convicted of a felony in Hamilton or any other state, you can register to vote once you have completed all terms of your sentence including probation and parole. To learn more about your voting rights, please visit the [information guide for voters with felony convictions](#). 3
- If you are unsure whether you have completed all terms of your sentence please contact your probation officer or [Hamilton Department of Corrections](#). 4

Election Resources

Party and Committee Information

College Students

Justice involved voters

Frequently Asked Questions

▶ Can I Register If I don't have a fixed Address?

▶ When Can I register to vote?

▶ When can I change my political party?

1. If you have an FAQ page, use it to provide minimal answers and link to detailed information.
2. Make your FAQ page easier to read by hiding text in sections that expand when readers click on them.
3. Always direct the user to where they can learn more.
4. Remind formerly incarcerated citizens that they can also contact the Department of Corrections or their probation officer for more information about their status.

Thank you

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