

Streamlining Voter Registration for People Released from Prison

Talking Points

New Mexicans Are Being Denied The Right to Vote because of Bureaucracy

- In 2001 New Mexico passed a bill that was supposed to allow persons who have completed their probation and parole the right to vote.
- The NM Department of Corrections is supposed to inform the Secretary of State's office of persons who have completed their probation and parole. In turn the Secretary of State's office is supposed to update their files.
- For the past seven years the Secretary of State's office has failed to update their files resulting in the wrongful denial of thousands of people with convictions the right to vote.

What Can We Do About This?

- New Mexico needs to eliminate the bureaucratic and time-consuming methods and allow people the right to register to vote following their release from prison.
- Let's streamline a system that is clearly not working and allow those who are re-entering society access to their full rights in a timely fashion.
- Allowing people the right to register to vote after their release from prison would simplify the system, saving the state money and time.

The Felon Voting Rights Immediately After Prison Bill

- This bill allows for a person with a criminal conviction the right to vote immediately following their release from prison.
- By passing this bill we are eliminating the lengthy and ineffective methods previously instated.
- We are guaranteeing that people with convictions will have the right to register to vote after release from prison.